

**Welcome!**

**Take Action Webinar:  
Occupy Corporate Personhood**

**February 3rd 2015**

**The webinar will begin in a few moments.**

## Webinar Orientation & Participation Tips

- **You should be hearing audio now:** turn up your computer speakers OR use conference call line (long distance charges apply):
  - Number: 213-416-1560 | Attendee Access Code: 533997180
- **Questions:** Type your questions - chat bar at bottom.
- If you have **any technical difficulties** viewing the webinar, type your question using the chat bar. If that isn't enough, please e-mail support at [support@anymeeting.com](mailto:support@anymeeting.com)

# Agenda

1. Quick Overview of Move to Amend
2. Introduction to Civil Disobedience/Direct Action
3. Why we're doing what we're doing
4. What we're doing
5. When we're doing it
6. How you can be involved

## **Mission**

Move to Amend is a coalition of hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands of individuals committed to social and economic justice, ending corporate rule, and building a vibrant democracy that is genuinely accountable to the people, not corporate interests.

## Goals

- Pass the **We the People Amendment** to make clear that *artificial entities do not have Constitutional rights* and that *money is not speech*.
- Provoke discussion and organizing about how to make real the promise of American democracy through Constitutional renewal.

# **Our Principles & Values**

- 1.** Anti-Oppression and Solidarity Organizing
- 2.** Coalition and Movement Building
- 3.** Grassroots Organizing
- 4.** Dedication to Political Education
- 5.** Political and Economic Independence

## **Days of Action**

May marks the 129th anniversary of Santa Clara County vs. Southern Pacific Railroad Supreme Court Case.

Happy Birthday to the Oldest Person in the World - the Corporate "Person" (129 Years of Corporate Personhood is Enough!)

# Civil Disobedience / Direct Action

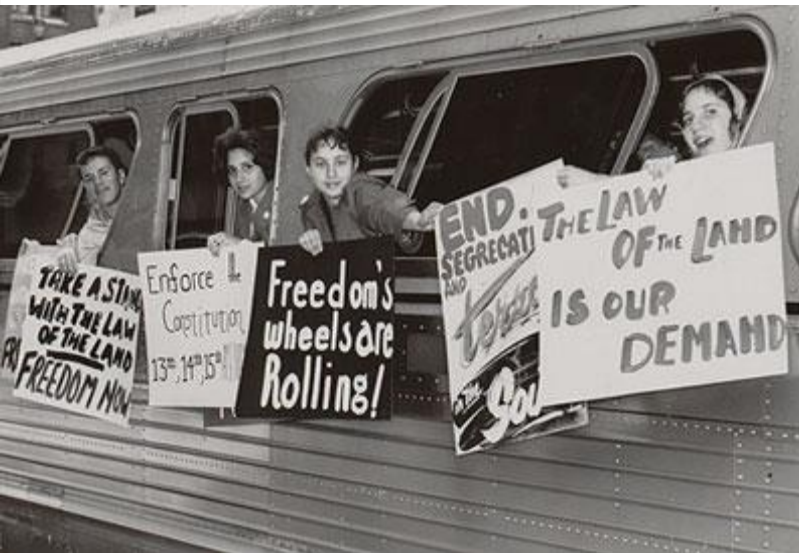
- Climate March
- #BlackBrunch
- Tar Sands Blockade
- Occupy





# Historical Examples

- Lunch counter sit ins
- Freedom rides
- International general strikes



## **129th Anniversary of *Santa Clara County vs Southern Pacific Railroad (1886)***

“The Court does not wish to hear argument on the question of whether the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which forbids a State to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws, applies to corporations. We are all of the opinion that it does.”

This statement by the Supreme Court before the hearing began gave corporations inclusion in the word “person” in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and claim to equal protection under law. (The case was decided on other grounds.)

# Why Occupy Corporate Persons?

- Bring attention to the absurdity of corporate personhood
- Draw attention to Santa Clara case anniversary and the birth of corporate personhood
- Develop tools for future direct action/civil disobedience and bird-dogging
- Expand Move to Amend's base of support through social media and links to [MovetoAmend.org](http://MovetoAmend.org)

# How you can participate

- Menu of action ideas - some developed by committee already - seeking creative ideas
- Participate in actions
- Video actions and submit to Move to Amend
- Apply to be on the committee (Committee is specifically looking for detail-oriented people with social media, graphic design, press release writing, video production, internet skills, and legal experience.)

# Examples of Action Ideas

This is both a physical and virtual campaign, which will require participants to video record their particular action.

## **Birthday Party (Low-level risk of arrest):**

- Lining the entrance of a corporate bank with birthday cupcakes
- Writing a message in chalk on the sidewalk in front of corporate business, to draw attention to harms
- Having members read selections from *We the People Speak* (Howard Zinn)

# Examples of Action Ideas

## **Surprise Party (Mid-level risk of arrest):**

- Converge on a corporate business to sing “Happy Birthday” with party favors and/or possibly large posters/scrapbooks that highlight notable moments in life of the corporation.
- Retirement/Layoff party

# Examples of Action Ideas

## **Wake/Funeral Procession (High-level risk of arrest):**

- Give funeral rites to a corporation and hold a solemn ceremony to say goodbye
- Zombie birthday party with multiple people in zombie dress explaining how corporations must be undead because of all of the things they have survived e.g. lawsuits (Shell, Exxon, BP)
- Having a piñata birthday party where the piñata is filled with flyers and cards that detail the corporation's misdeeds

# When?

**Sunday, May 10 is Mother's Day -- not the best day for actions.**

Encourage you to plan an action for May -- you determine the best date for your schedule.

We have also discussed additional opportunities for action around Independence Day (July 4) and Constitution Day (September 17) that could have a connection with the May actions.



# Next Steps

- Think of creative action items - start discussing with your group
- Let us know if you don't have a group and need help forming one
- Look out for committee application (coming next week)
  - Communications and Media
  - Civil Disobedience Advisory (legal)
  - Materials
  - Outreach
- Look out for more info to come!

Questions? Call Jessica at the MTA national office at 707.269.0984 or email [info@movetoamend.org](mailto:info@movetoamend.org).

# Questions?