Our Dear Friend Anne Feeney Catches the Westbound


Since the RWU Founding Convention in 2008, Anne faithfully showed up and would lead us in singing labor’s anthem, “Solidarity Forever,” at the close of each Convention and would stick around for the post-Convention activities, providing entertainment at our hospitality suite in the evenings.

Her Irish grandfather was a mineworkers’ organizer and a fiddle player, who often put his music toward the cause of labor, having a great influence upon Anne.

Feeney was a member of the Travelling Musicians Union (AFM) Local #1000, and also a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). She served as president of the Pittsburgh Musicians’ Union in the late 1990s. In 2005, she was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Labor Heritage Foundation. Her business cards described her as "Performer, Producer, Hellraiser."

Beginning in 1991, Feeney toured North America and the world to perform and participate in political and labor rallies and events. From an interview in 2008 (when RWU was just getting organized): "I think music is a fantastic way of empowering people and giving them strength and energy. I've spent a good part of my life trying to find and write music that will empower people to resist and stand up for what's right." RWU can attest that she did a great job. We will miss you Sister Anne Feeney! Rest in peace, and rest in power!