

10:00-5:00 pm

Pre-conference meeting for “China Hands”: An in-depth exchange (M) Bugatti

An open exchange between activists and academics who are directly engaged with the issues of the Chinese labor movement. Topics will include: the changing labor demographics of rural, urban, and migrant workers; forms of worker organization and resistance; the status and prospects of independent labor NGOs; the ACFTU’s potential to reform in the face of market-based labor relations; the growing engagement of U.S. and international labor federations with the ACFTU; the role of progressive labor activists in these relationships; assessment of the impact of code of conduct and anti-sweatshop campaigns for workers in China.

Note: This meeting is primarily intended for those with experience in this field, but will be open for interested participants.

Fighting Racism (§)Stanley

How do workers confront racism on the job or at the union hall? Come hear how one local has tackled this challenge. The presenter will discuss specific workplace struggles, and how they spurred the development of a full-scale internal education program inside the union.

Elizabeth Ortega, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU

Building Labor Solidarity with PalestineCord

In July 2005 over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations, including the vast majority of unions, issued a call for an international campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions until Israel meets its obligations under international law. Unions around the world are answering this call. Hear about the labor situation in occupied Palestine, particularly on the difficulties in organizing under occupation. This will be followed by short updates and analysis of the growing solidarity movement within labor in Canada and the United States.

Peter Brogan, Organizer, American Federation of Teachers
Abdel Rahim Khatib, Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions

Katherine Nastovski, Canadian Union of Public Employees
Local 3903, Labour for Palestine

Facilitator: Julia Barnett, Steward, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79, Labour for Palestine

Internal OrganizingSteamer

It’s not enough to tell your co-workers to “get involved.” Locals need methods and structures to be a presence in the workplace and to make the union real from bottom to top. Learn about building a stewards council and building on-the-job networks for member-to-member communication.

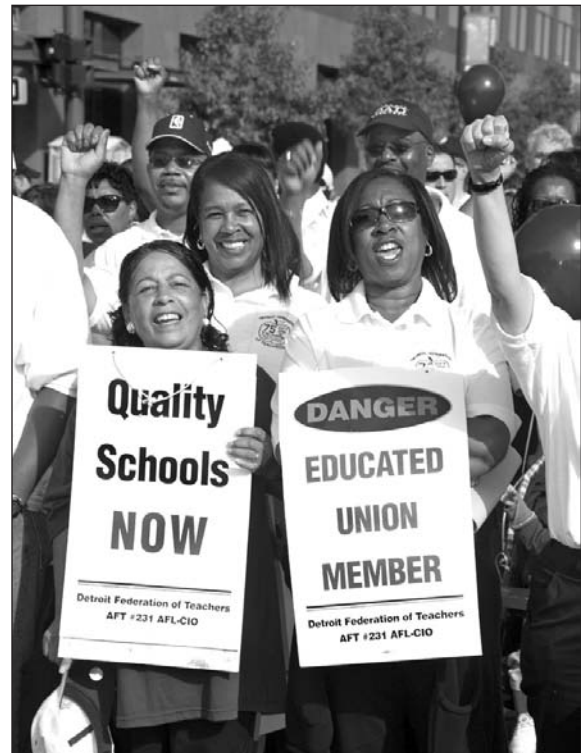
*Paul Krehbiel, labor organizer

Globalization: The Roots of Workers’

Immigration (§)Regency A

Globalization is driving more than 100 million workers around the globe to leave their homes. We will examine the political and economic factors behind this unprecedented displacement as well as organizational approaches by the labor movement and community-based organizations.

Jon Hunt, Campaign for Labor Rights
Ian Robinson, Professor, University of Michigan Department of Sociology



Credit: Jim West.

*Appears in A Troublemaker’s Handbook 2