

4:00-5:45 pm

Public EmployeesDesoto A
Public unions have unique strengths and weaknesses. Meet here to share ideas with one another on how to handle budget fights and defend our benefits.

PostalRoyce
From new technology to outsourcing to consolidation, postal workers constantly face attack from management. How can we stave off the corporatization of the postal service, and defend our jobs (and private medical information) in this environment?

Auto (P)Regency C
Autoworkers' unions have failed to step up to the crises in the industry. What are the possibilities for action? Two-tier contracts, the strike at American Axle, and supporting the Freightliner Five are among the topics to be discussed.

Bus DriversPierce
Meet and talk with other bus drivers from several unions about bargaining trends and union democracy inside transit unions.
Facilitator: Glenn Gaven, ATU Local 1091

Building Trades (S)Bugatti
Workers in the building and construction trades will meet to discuss obstacles facing members in building trades unions, including struggles for union democracy and how to develop solidarity across the trades.

Campus WorkersDesoto B
With budget cuts looming, colleges and universities are getting leaner and meaner. Join campus workers of all kinds (clerical, health care, service, maintenance, and faculty) to discuss common challenges and strategize about overcoming obstacles to effective solidarity.

Health Care WorkersSteamer
This cross-union meeting will give all health care workers a space to speak about challenges they face on the job and in the union. Let's develop the networks we need across certifications and job titles to fight for better conditions in our workplaces and for our patients.

SEIURegency A
As one of the largest unions in the country, SEIU plays a critical role in today's labor movement. Where is the union headed? What role will rank-and-file members play in charting its course? Join us for a discussion of the current state and future direction of SEIU.

Railroad WorkersStearns
Following up on the April 11 Railroad Workers United founding convention, organizers invite rail union members for further discussion.
Facilitator: Ed Michael, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

Teamsters (S)Rolls
From UPS and DHL to freight and carhaul, it's an important time for Teamsters. How will today's contracts affect tomorrow's Teamsters? Join activists from across the country and a variety of Teamster industries to discuss how to rebuild power in the union.

Longshore (S)Regency D
Longshore workers from both coasts will meet to discuss the ILWU contract negotiations, the ILA contract (which expires in 2010), the impact of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential card, and health and safety issues on the job. The Longshore Workers Coalition will also give a report on their activities.
Facilitator: Leonard Riley, ILA Local 1422 and Co-Chair, Longshore Workers Coalition

TeachersStanley
From high stakes testing and shrinking state budgets to expanding merit pay and charter school programs, today's teachers are getting squeezed from every direction. In this meeting teachers from around the country—and from both major teacher unions (AFT and NEA)—will share ideas on fighting back against these attacks on unionized teachers and public education itself.

Airline WorkersCord
Nearly all major airline contracts expire over this year and the next. Come talk with other workers in the industry about how to build solidarity and strength between different work groups and unions in the high-pressure days to come.
Facilitator: Joshua Freeze, Association of Flight Attendants

UFCWKnight
The UFCW settled many of its major contracts in the grocery industry this year. UFCW locals have also been consolidating into mega-locals at a dizzying rate. Both trends have made for negative fallout for workers wanting to build democracy and power in their workplaces. Come talk about the impacts on your life as a union member—and strategize ways to rock the boat.

SteelworkersRoyale
With mergers right and left and a renewed focus on growth in the USW, how can members ensure the union is still theirs? Get together with fellow Steelworkers from across a variety of industries to share your struggles and make sure bargaining, organizing deals, and the internal life of the union belongs to members.

Verizon WorkersRegency B
A meeting for Verizon workers and supporters to talk about the upcoming Verizon East contract campaign. There will be discussion of mobilization plans, contract issues, building community support, and efforts to win recognition for Verizon Business workers.

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Black/Brown Dialogue (§)Regency C

An open session to further dialogue and alliance-building efforts among Blacks and Latinos. Using a fishbowl method, participants will discuss experiences and insights of groups involved in alliance-building and will spark dialogue on a power-building framework.

Facilitators: Ajamu Dillahunt, Black Workers for Justice, and Beatriz Maya, Farm Labor Organizing Committee

Discovering RobesonDesoto A & B

Check out the U.S. premiere of the U.K. play by Tayo Aluko. It tells the story of Paul Robeson—actor, athlete, singer, writer and activist—a monumental figure in 20th century U.S. history and the Black liberation movement.

Consult an Expert: “Ask Us Anything About...”

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* **Grievances and Arbitrations:** *Richard de Vries, Teamsters Local 705*, will field questions on how to anticipate an arbitrator’s reaction. Learn about resources for you to become a persuasive presenter of grievances and arbitrations and learn how to research a question. A must for the activist thinking about running for steward or higher office.

* **Inside Strategies:** *David Cohen, International Representative, United Electrical Workers*. Your contract has two years to go and your employer is attacking the union and making changes. How do you fight back if you can’t go on strike? Cohen will answer questions on how to fight inside your workplace. What is legal, what’s illegal, and how to do what works.

* **Union Democracy:** *Attorney Barbara Harvey* specializes in union democracy law, and will field any questions you may have on your legal rights within the union—free speech, voting rights on contracts, union elections and running for office, stewards’ rights, and union officers’ fiduciary duty.

* **General Employment and Wage and Hour Complaints:** *John Philo, Legal Director of the Maurice & Jane Sugar Law Center*, will field wage and hour questions, meal and lunch break issues, and other general employment law matters, including discrimination complaints, plant closing and layoff notice issues, severance pay, final paycheck, and unemployment insurance issues.

Meet the Authors: Books on the Labor Movement

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Meet the authors of books that cover some of the most important labor issues and movements of the day!

* **Jane Slaughter**, Labor Notes co-founder, coordinated and edited submissions from 72 writers for *A Troublemaker’s Handbook 2*. She will be on hand to sign copies and answer questions.

* **Sheila Cohen**, National Union of Journalists, is a union activist, labor educator, and organizer of the National Shop Stewards’ Network in Britain. She will be signing her recent book, *Ramparts of Resistance: Why*

Workers Lost Their Power and How to Get it Back, which looks back to the 1968-74 labor upsurge in both Britain and the U.S.

* **Bill Fletcher** will sign copies of *On the Global Waterfront: The Fight to Free the Charleston 5* by Susan Erem and E. Paul Durrenberger, “...a story that demonstrates how race still matters in parts of our country and how circumstances propel ordinary people to do extraordinary things.” - Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC)

* **Paul Krehbiel** is a long-time union activist and organizer. He was recently a labor representative for SEIU. *Shades of Justice* is a coming-of-age memoir about a young worker who turned against the Vietnam War and became an organizer in the anti-war movement in the 1960’s.

* **Anita Chan** is the author of *China’s Workers Under Assault: The Exploitation of Labor in a Globalizing Economy*. This book details the exploitation, resistance, and struggle for labor rights in contemporary China.

* **Les Leopold**, director of the Labor Institute and the Public Health Institute in New York and author of *The Man Who Hated Work and Loved Labor: The Life and Times of Tony Mazzocchi*. It explores the life of Mazzocchi, a key figure in the occupational safety and health movement—sometimes called the father of OSHA—and a pioneer of labor-environmental alliances.

* **Kim Moody** was a co-founder of Labor Notes. He is author of *U.S. Labor in Trouble and Transition* and is currently on the editorial board of *Solidarity*, a union magazine of the U.K.

Health Care ReformSteamer

The cost of health care is enormous for many working people, while access to benefits continues to slip. How can unions fight for a just health care system? Presenters will give a glimpse of what’s gone wrong, provide an international context, and discuss current campaigns for health care reform.

Michael Carano, Teamsters Local 348, Ohio Single-Payer Action Network regional coordinator

Dr. Susan Rosenthal, International Health Workers for People Over Profit

10:00 pm

Open Mic Talent ShowRotunda

We want your talent! Join us for an open mic/talent show to showcase your talent and share in the performances of your fellow labor activists. Located in Rotunda on the 16th floor—take the Rotunda elevator in the lobby.

Language Key

§: Spanish/English interpretation.

§-E: Session conducted in Spanish, with English interpretation.

M: Mandarin/English interpretation.

P: Portuguese/English interpretation.