

Saturday 12:00 - 1:45 pm

Black Workers CaucusRegency A
“Organizing in the Face of Neoliberalism, Labor Retreat, and the Corporatization of Everything.”
After some discussion, we hope to form a more functional Black workers network.

Sandra Jaribu Hill, Executive Director, Mississippi Workers’ Center for Human Rights
Angaza Laughinghouse, United Electrical Workers Local 150 and Black Workers for Justice
Leonard Riley, Jr., International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1422
*Tim Schermerhorn, Transport Workers Union Local 100
Facilitator: Nathanette Mayo, United Electrical Workers Local 150 and Black Workers for Justice

Latino/Immigrant Solidarity (S-E)Desoto

BLatinos and immigrants of all backgrounds have faced attacks in the form of raids on their workplaces and communities, along with general backlash. By forming diverse coalitions and developing new organizing models, Latinos and immigrants are seizing opportunities to have a voice in society within the electoral process, the labor community, and social justice processes.

The meeting, conducted in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English, will touch on issues such as the elections, union liaisons and accountability, multicultural and multinational coalitions, immigration reform, workers centers, and May 1 marches and actions.

Facilitators: Julio César Guerrero, Labor Notes
Yanira Merino, Laborers’ International Union

Art In Action TrainingRegency C

Whether you’re an experienced artist or a beginner, you’ll find an opportunity to contribute and learn at this lunch-time training. Make your own activist button and take part in the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ (CIW) petition campaign by helping to create a banner for their upcoming action against Burger King. Help the CIW fight modern-day slavery in the fields in honor of the 200th anniversary of the U.S. ban against the importation of slaves.

Nurses Meeting Steamer

RNs occupy a unique role in the delivery of health care, charged with the well-being of patients as well as the many tasks the managed-care system has unloaded on us. This meeting will focus on the particular concerns of nurses and the strategies unions are developing to meet them.

Facilitator: Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, New York State Nurses Association

Flyers and NewslettersDesoto A
This nuts-and-bolts workshop will cover the basics and a few advanced tips for writing flyers and newsletters. We’ll see examples of the best and the worst, and offer practical tips for communications that will both get your point across and get read.

*Craig Merrilees, Communications Director, ILWU
*Rand Wilson, labor communicator

The Chinese Labor Movement (S,M)Regency D

One in every four workers on the planet is Chinese; some believe the labor movement can not rebuild its power without the participation of Chinese workers. What do you need to know about workers in China—their conditions and their resistance? What about the official union, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions? What is the best strategy for solidarity? With Chinese worker-organizers as our guests, as well as respected activists and experts with direct experience in China, this workshop will cover a broad range of issues. Bring your questions and your ideas for a workshop designed to maximize active interchange.

*Facilitator: Ellen David Friedman, Visiting Lecturer, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

Creating Labor/Environmental CoalitionsRolls

The adage “united we stand, divided we beg” has never been more true. Opportunities abound for building unity beyond the shop floor by creating coalitions with environmental groups. A variety of models are already in place around toxics, global warming, and quality of life on the job. This workshop will examine labor/environmental coalitions that exist and aim to give participants tools to build coalitions in their unions and communities.

Les Leopold, Labor Institute and Public Health Institute
Mark Dudzic, Labor Party
Jennifer Krill, Rainforest Action Network
Bill Onasch, Amalgamated Transit Union, retired
Facilitator: *Simone Sagovac, Labor Notes Policy Committee

Shop Floor TacticsArrow

Unions’ basic strength is in the workplace. How can we build confidence through on-the-job actions? Learn about fun, strength-building actions that start from where workers are at, escalate, and are strategic enough to make a difference.

*Frank Halstead, Teamsters Local 572
*Paul Krehbiel, labor organizer
Lorene Scheer, Field Coordinator, SEIU 503

Innovative Organizing Strategies: Building Unions from the Bottom Up (S)Cord

You’ll hear from activists who are taking on the boss before they’ve achieved union recognition, in health care, the public sector, restaurants, and other industries. Learn how to use your right to “concerted activity” and discuss the advantages and pitfalls of this “nonmajority union” approach. Learn how to help workers in your industry or area get organized by building a union from the ground up—even without a contract or collective bargaining rights.

Marilyn Albert, National Nurses Organizing Committee (NNOC)
Saru Jayaraman, Restaurant Opportunities Center United
Nathanette Mayo, United Electrical Workers Local 150
Joel Murgo Huerta, Frente Autentico de Trabajo (FAT), Mexico
Facilitator: Judy Atkins, United Electrical Workers District 2, retired

Creative TacticsRegency B

This workshop will give you hands-on practice for coming up with creative, humorous, and mischievous tactics that can make a difference in your contract campaign, job action, or internal or recognition organizing drive. We'll share examples of effective tactics, talk about why they work, and apply the ideas to some current struggles represented in the room. Be prepared to leave with your head buzzing.

Erin Byrd, Black Workers For Justice and Fruit of Labor
*Ricardo Levins Morales, Northland Poster Collective

Neutrality Agreements and Organizing Deals:

Salvation or Sell-Out?Marquis

Trying to form a union? Today's companies are ready with every trick in the book—legal or not—to beat you back. Many unions have responded by abandoning NLRB elections and pressuring companies to remain “neutral” and recognize the union when a majority of workers sign union cards. What are the pros and cons of these organizing deals? You'll hear the good, the bad, and the ugly from the frontlines at AT&T, UPS Freight, Magna, and the California nursing home industry.

John Borsos, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU
Sam Gindin, York University
Michael Savvoir, Teamsters Local 41
Cindy Vines-Harrity, CWA Local 1298

Fighting Privatization and Free Trade (§) . . .Knight

Public policies that seek to deregulate business, privatize public services, and blindly promote free trade agreements have gotten the U.S. into its latest economic mess.

Governments everywhere have bought into this economic worldview, and keep pushing free trade and privatization, but unions aren't taking it sitting down. Examples from Latin America, Europe, and the U.S. will be discussed.

Ricardo Calderon, Frente Sindical Salvadoreño, El Salvador
Karsten Ditlevsen, Graphical Workers Union, Denmark
Eliás Costilla, International Dockworkers Council, Peru
*Phyllis Walker, AFSCME Local 3800
Facilitator: Joe Sexauer, Teamsters Local 743

Bargaining for Social JusticeRoyale

How can unions win gains on the issues needed by women, lesbian and gay workers, and people of color? Find out some strategies that resulted in concrete gains. Hear how to make your contract LGBT-friendly, how to win childcare, and how North Carolina factory workers won Martin Luther King Day as a paid holiday.

*Gene Bruskin, Justice@Smithfield Campaign Director, UFCW
Donna Cartwright, Pride at Work, AFL-CIO
Maya Morris, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU
Eve Weinbaum, Massachusetts Teachers Association/NEA
Facilitator: *Stephanie Luce, University of Massachusetts Labor Center and the Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY

Student Labor SolidarityPierce

Whether it's on our own campuses or halfway around the world, students are a key link in the fight for workers' rights. Presenters will discuss how students are organizing locally and globally, including the challenges involved in building alliances with unions, workers centers, and other segments of the broader movement for social justice.

Mishy Leiblum, Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts
Zach Knorr, United Students Against Sweatshops
Meghan Cohorst, Student/Farmworker Alliance

Running for Local Union OfficeRoyce

Learn the ins and outs of running for union office, and hands-on ways for using elections to organize members as well as to retire incumbents. Lessons from reformers' campaigns will be discussed.

Alfredo Gomez, Teamsters Local 743
Joel Jordan, United Teachers of Los Angeles
Facilitator: *David Pratt, NYCOSH

Fixing the Broken Health Care System (§) . . .Steamer

As costs escalate, many unions are acknowledging that the fight for health care can't stop at the bargaining table. Politicians have proposed treating health insurance like car insurance, but they don't explain what happens if you can't afford it. How can we find our way out of this mess?

Dr. Oliver Fein, Physicians for a National Health Program
John Horgan, IBEW Local 2222/Healthcare Now, Massachusetts
Paul Kumar, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU
Malinda Markowitz, California Nurses Association
Facilitator: Michael Carano, Teamsters Local 348, Ohio Single-Payer Action Network

Immigration, Wall Street, and Labor: Training on

Immigration for Labor Activists (§) . . .Regency A

This workshop provides information for those who are unsure about what to think about immigration and tools for those who are trying to build more support for immigrants in their own unions, organizations, or communities. We will focus on the shared self-interest of U.S.-born and immigrant workers by explaining the major role that Wall Street has played in pitting union members and immigrants against each other. The aim is to train participants to bring the discussion back to their own unions and communities.

Facilitator: Joann Lo, Enlace International

The Labor Movement's Role in Ending the War (§)

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It'll take more than a resolution and a picket sign! With 70% of the public in favor of withdrawal from Iraq, what will it take to transform public sentiment into active opposition? Getting the AFL-CIO to oppose the war and call for return of the troops in 2005 was historic—necessary but not sufficient. How do we move the rank and file into action to end the occupation, oppose the militarization of our economy, and demand a radical reordering of national priorities? This workshop will also look beyond Iraq to the larger issue of labor's foreign policy—aligning labor's global role with its solidaristic principles. U.S. Labor Against the War's new slide show, “The Real Price of Military Occupation,” will be presented.

Women's Issues at Work (§)Stanley

What are the nitty gritty problems women face on the job every day? Speakers will address the issues that they and their union sisters encounter at work, whether it is the long work day, abuse, or harassment. Discussion will focus on how facing these gender issues can help us build solidarity in the workplace.

Julia Barnett, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79
Erin Small, CWA Local 1101
Nichele Fulmore, Teamsters Local 391, Teamsters for a Democratic Union
Facilitator: Stephanie Ross, York University Labor Studies, Toronto