

## Breakfast Meetings

- 7:30 - 9:00 Conversation with a Chinese Organizer (M) ..... Desoto A  
 8:00 - 9:00 Meet the Labor Notes Editors ..... Cord  
 Meet International Autoworkers (P) ..... Steamer

**Chinese Labor Movement (M)** .....Desoto A  
 This meeting is for people already involved with, or wishing to become involved with, Chinese labor movement solidarity at some level. The focus of discussion will be on strategies, tactics, obstacles, opportunities, and the future.

**Continental Living Wage Campaign (§)** .....Bugatti  
 This meeting is for people interested in building international labor solidarity through coordinated wage campaigns in Mexico, the U.S., and Canada. Although the Mexican Constitution guarantees workers a living wage, about 25% of the Mexican workforce is paid less than the minimum wage. In the U.S. and Canada, the real value of the minimum wage has fallen far below the amount needed to keep a family above the poverty line. In 2006, a group of Mexican activists called for a continental campaign to raise wages in all three countries. Come discuss ideas to build it.

\*Stephanie Luce, University of Massachusetts Labor Center and the Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY  
 Richard Roman, Toronto Continental Living Wage Committee  
 Edur Velasco Arregui, former secretary-general of SITUAM (Independent Union of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana)

**Fighting Wal-Mart in the U.S. and Abroad (§)** Royale  
 Wal-Mart has built its empire by squeezing workers and fighting unions everywhere it does business. Learn what people are doing in their communities to fight Wal-Mart and other big-box stores. Hear from a Costa Rican farm worker who produces for Del Monte and a Bangladeshi garment worker who sews Wal-Mart school uniforms. Leave with concrete action steps.

Phal Savil, garment factory worker from Cambodia who produces for Wal-Mart  
 Didier Leiton, SITRAP, Costa Rica, with experience working in banana and pineapple plantations  
 Facilitator: Trina Tocco, International Labor Rights Forum

**Labor Against the War** .....Regency D  
 We'll discuss the practical work of building opposition to the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, the threat of military action against Iran, and the phony "war on terror in the labor movement." Members and affiliates of U.S. Labor Against the War are invited to use this opportunity to caucus about USLAW's program and priorities in 2008. Those interested in USLAW affiliation by their union, labor council, or other labor organization, or who want to become individual associate members, are urged to attend to learn more about USLAW's work.

**Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)** .....Franklin  
 Meet up with the Wobblies. The meeting will take up direct action organizing and the role of "dual carders" inside the IWW today.

Facilitators: Jenny Peshut, IWW Milwaukee Branch  
 Bob Adams, IWW Twin Cities Branch

**Staff Unions** .....Knight  
 How can union staffers address the issue of top-down unions and work toward building democratic bottom-up unions that empower their members at the worksite? How can staff who are and are not in their own unions contribute to this process? How can staff ensure they are treated with the same respect that we demand from all employers?

Facilitators: Mike Dalton, Progressive Organization for Workplace and Employee Rights  
 \*Paul Krehbiel, labor organizer

**Fighting RICO Suits against Unions** .....Rolls  
 In the wake of Smithfield Foods' "racketeering" lawsuit against unions and Jobs with Justice, and other RICO lawsuits against unions for so-called corporate campaigns, JwJ is mobilizing unions and allies concerned about free speech and workers' right to organize. Such suits are a threat to anyone who seeks to educate the public about a cause and garner support. Learn about the campaign and how you can get involved.

Facilitator: \*Russ Davis, Massachusetts Jobs with Justice

**On the Campaign Trail** .....Marquis  
 Join activists from across the country to discuss the nitty-gritty of the 2008 election, and what labor activists are doing in their unions and beyond to affect the results come November.

**Labor Media, New Technology, and Strategy For the Labor Movement** .....Stanley  
 How can new technology help break the information blockade? From Youtube to Facebook, the internet has become a vital tool for getting labor's stories out at home and for connecting with workers around the world. Come hear what rank-and-file activists are doing with new media, and how local activists and their unions can put this new communications technology to work.

\*Doug Cunningham, Workers Independent News  
 Julian Peebles, California School Employees Association  
 Barb Ingalls, CWA-ITU Detroit Typographical Union  
 Steve Dondley, Prometheus Labor Communications and communicateordie.com  
 Michael Whitty, University Of Detroit-Mercy, Detroit labor radio host  
 Facilitator: Steve Zeltzer, Labor Video Project, LaborTech

**Environmental Working Group** .....Stearns  
 Environmental issues affect our jobs, and our jobs affect the environment. Join others who are interested in building labor strategies for working against environmental hazards and building union power in the expanding field of clean energy production.

Facilitator: Gail Francis, AFT Local 223, Center on Wisconsin Strategy

**Post-Katrina Labor Solidarity (§)** .....Pierce  
 More than two years have passed, and conditions in the Gulf Coast are rarely in the national spotlight. But the struggle for jobs, housing, fair wages, and safe working conditions continues. Join labor activists from the Gulf Coast and around the country to discuss the ongoing fight for a just reconstruction.

**Labor Educators Swap Meet** .....Cord  
Looking for some new ideas? Have some gems you want to share? Join labor educators from around the country for a swap meet of field-tested training materials, curricula, and experiences.

**Young Workers and Activists** .....Steamer  
Young people are getting involved in the labor movement in a myriad of ways—from campus labor solidarity to rank-and-file unionism to holding jobs as union organizers. In a changing movement, youth are figuring out where they fit in. In this meeting, youth involved in many types of labor activism will come together to talk about challenges and opportunities facing young people engaged in fights for worker power.

**VidaViva Health & Safety Meeting (P)** .....Regency A  
VidaViva is a project that has united over 130 unions in Brazil in an effort to improve working conditions and gain power inside and outside of the workplace through the innovative use of health and safety strategies. VidaViva is based on the understanding that health and safety issues brought on by work are equal matters of concern for family and community. Through this approach they have managed to build a rank-and-file movement in industries such as banking, information technology, transportation, and food processing. This project has now spread to Mozambique, Germany, France, and Mexico—and hopefully, soon, the United States.

**Canadian Labour** .....Regency B  
Canadian workers continue to face the major challenges of manufacturing job loss, privatization of public services, stagnant union density, and the reelection of neoliberal provincial and federal governments. At the same time, important differences have emerged within the labour movement over how to meet these challenges. This meeting is an opportunity to take stock of our strategies, discuss what kinds of activism are working, and think about what kinds of activism we need. Topics will be shaped by the participants, but will include strengthening cross-union networks of activists, and preparing for the upcoming CLC convention, as well as what role Labor Notes might play in supporting this work.

Facilitators: Sarah Declerck, Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union  
Stephanie Ross, Labour Studies Programme, York University

**Retirees** .....Regency C  
With the daily assault on pensions and health benefits, who knew the golden years would be so much work? What role can retired union members play in rebuilding labor's power? Join retirees from across the union movement to share experiences and ideas.

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## Workshops E, Sunday

## 10:45 am - 12:30 pm

**Organizing in a Multiracial Workplace (§)** ...Stearns  
Management uses divide-and-conquer tactics to keep unions from getting a toehold. How do workers and organizers overcome divisions and build unity in an organizing drive?

\*Gene Bruskin, Justice@Smithfield Campaign Director, UFCW  
Marti Garza, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU  
Fekkak Mamdouh, Restaurant Opportunities Center United

**Contract Campaigns and Bargaining Table Tactics** .....Desoto B  
Learn key skills and strategies that will help your members and your bargaining team win a strong contract. Issues include preparing for bargaining, finding pressure points, planning timelines, balancing different interests among the membership, two-way communication during bargaining, and confronting demands for concessions.

\*Sandy Pope, President, Teamsters Local 805  
Louie Rocha, President, CWA Local 9423

**It's a Dangerous Job: Health and Safety for**

**Immigrant Workers (§-E)** .....Bugatti  
Learn how to identify the many obstacles to workplace safety, deal with health and safety violations, and navigate resources for injured workers. Designed for immigrant workers but open to all who want to learn about the rights immigrants have at work.

\*Marisela Garcia, Southeast Michigan Committee on Occupational Safety and Health  
Anel Gonzalez, Regional ADA Center of the University of Illinois at Chicago  
Dennis Soriano, New Orleans Worker Center for Racial Justice

**Building International Solidarity (§)** .....Steamer  
Learn about several important campaigns uniting workers across borders. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee won the right to represent guest workers in Mexico before they enter the U.S. to pick tobacco and cucumbers. The U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project is working with Untraflores, the Colombian flower sector union at Dole plantations, to win union recognition and improve working conditions. Public sector unions across Europe have joined together in a militant network to protect public services and defend public sector workers.

James Daria, Farm Labor Organizing Committee  
Charity Ryerson, U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project  
Dora Acero, Untraflores, Colombia  
Nicolas Galepides, European Public Services Network, France  
Facilitator: Robin Alexander, Director of International Labor Affairs, United Electrical Workers

**Untangling the Web of Private Equity** .....Cord  
Is the company you work for owned by another company that really calls all the shots? In an era of corporate restructuring, refinancing, and backdoor deals, how can labor respond? Learn more about the mechanisms of private equity, and how you can be better prepared if your company or union is affected by corporate restructuring. Hear from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, who during their campaign against Burger King (whose principal shareholders include Goldman Sachs, Bain Capital, and Texas Pacific Group), had to learn a new bag of tricks.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers  
Heather L. Slavkin, Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, AFL-CIO  
Office of Investment