

Workshops & Meetings at a Glance

FRIDAY

Pre-Conference Meetings

9:00-5:00 Railroad WorkersRoyale
10:00-5:00 "China Hands" (M)Bugatti
1:00-5:00 Telecommunication Workers ..Knight

Workshops A 1:00 - 2:45 pm

Fighting Racism (§)Stanley
Internal OrganizingSteamer
Labor Solidarity with PalestineCord
Globalization: The Roots of Workers'
Immigration (§)Regency A

Workshops B 3:00 - 4:45 pm

Labor in Latin America (§-E)Desoto B
Online Tools for OrganizingDesoto Foyer
How to Lose Your Next ElectionSteamer
The Pension CrisisCord
Organizing in Right-to-Work States (§) .Regency A
Organizing Immigrant Workers (§) ..Regency B
Black Labor History (§)Regency D
Getting Ahead of Globalization (§) ...Regency C
Film ScreeningArrow

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Labor TechiesDesoto Foyer
Workers Centers Meeting (§)Steamer
Film ScreeningArrow
International Guests Orientation (§,M,P)
.....Regency A

5:45 - 7:15 pm

United Healthcare Workers-West Reception
.....Regency D

9:00 pm

Freightliner Five ReceptionRegency A
International Guests ReceptionRotunda

SATURDAY

8:00 - 9:00 am

LGBT CaucusStanley

Workshops C 10:15 - 12:00 pm

International Solidarity: Asia (M)Desoto A
Labor and Politics (§)Desoto B
Fighting Raids and No-Match Letters (§) ..Bugatti
Pumping Up the Public SectorRoyale
Immigration and the Building Trades (§) ..Steamer
Patients' Rights, Workers' RightsPierce

Member-Driven OrganizingCord
"Blame the Worker" Safety Programs ...Stearns
Solidarity Under AttackKnight
Contract Campaigns (§)Regency A
Building Alliances Between Unions and
Workers Centers (§)Regency B
Trends in Auto (P)Regency C
Black Workers and Workplace Organization

.....Stanley
Lessons from Labor HistoryRoyce
Assertive Grievance HandlingRegency D
Film ScreeningArrow

Lunch 12:00 - 1:45 pm

Latino/Immigrant Solidarity (§-E)Desoto B
Black Workers CaucusRegency A
Art in Action TrainingRegency C
Nurses MeetingSteamer
Film ScreeningArrow

Workshops D 2:00 - 3:45 pm

Flyers and NewslettersDesoto A
Student Labor SolidarityPierce
Women's Issues at Work (§)Stanley
Bargaining for Social JusticeRoyale
Fixing the Broken Health Care System (§) .Steamer
Innovative Organizing Strategies: Building
Unions from the Bottom Up (§)Cord
Labor's Role in Ending the WarStearns
Fighting Privatization (§)Knight
Neutrality Agreements and Organizing Deals
.....Marquis
Shop Floor TacticsArrow
Labor/Environmental CoalitionsRolls
Running for Union OfficeRoyce
Immigration Training for Labor Activists (§)

.....Regency A
Creative TacticsRegency B
Chinese Labor Movement (§,M)Regency D

Union, Industry, & Sector Meetings 4:00 - 5:45 pm

Public EmployeesDesoto A
Building Trades (§)Bugatti
TeachersStanley
Health Care WorkersSteamer
Airline WorkersCord
Railroad WorkersStearns
Campus WorkersDesoto B
UFCWKnight
Bus DriversPierce
Teamsters (§)Rolls

Workshops & Meetings at a Glance

PostalRoyce
 SteelworkersRoyale
 SEIURegency A
 VerizonRegency B
 Auto (P)Regency C
 Longshore (§)Regency D
 Physicians for a National Health Program
Franklin
 Film ScreeningArrow

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Discovering Robeson—Performance
 by Tayo AlukoDesoto A & B
 Black/Brown Dialogue (§)Regency C
 Health Care ReformSteamer
 Consult an Expert: “Ask Us Anything About...”
Regency B
 Meet the Authors: Books on the Labor
 MovementStanley

10:00 pm

Open Mic Talent ShowRotunda

SUNDAY

7:30 - 9:00 am

Meeting with Chinese Organizer (M) ...Desoto A

8:00 - 9:00 am

Meet the Labor Notes EditorsCord
 Meet International Auto Workers (P) ...Steamer

Interest Meetings 9:00 - 10:30 am

Chinese Labor Movement (M)Desoto A
 Continental Living Wage Campaign (§) ...Bugatti
 Fighting Wal-Mart (§)Royale
 Staff UnionsKnight
 Labor Media and New TechnologyStanley

IWWFranklin
 Environmental Working GroupStearns
 Fighting RICO SuitsRolls
 Post-Katrina Labor Solidarity (§)Pierce
 Labor Educators Swap MeetCord
 VidaViva Health & Safety (P)Regency A
 Canadian LabourRegency B
 RetireesRegency C
 Labor Against the WarRegency D
 On the Campaign Trail—Labor and the 2008
 ElectionMarquis
 Young Workers and ActivistsSteamer
 Film ScreeningArrow

Workshops E 10:45 - 12:30 pm

Democracy Is Power (§)Desoto A
 Contract Campaigns and Bargaining Table
 TacticsDesoto B
 Organizing in a Multiracial Workplace (§) Stearns
 Health and Safety for Immigrant Workers (§-E)
Bugatti
 Dealing with the MediaRoyale
 Taking Control of the Workplace (§)Stanley
 Building International Solidarity (§)Steamer
 Untangling the Web of Private EquityCord
 Workers Centers: Building Power for Low-Wage
 Workers (§)Regency B
 Passing the Leadership TorchRegency C
 Social Movement Unionism and Black Political
 ConsciousnessRegency D
 Film ScreeningArrow

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Global Unionism: Prospects for International
 Grassroots Solidarity (§,M,P)Desoto B



Credit: David Bacon.

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 Palestine Cord

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 Organizing Steamer

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

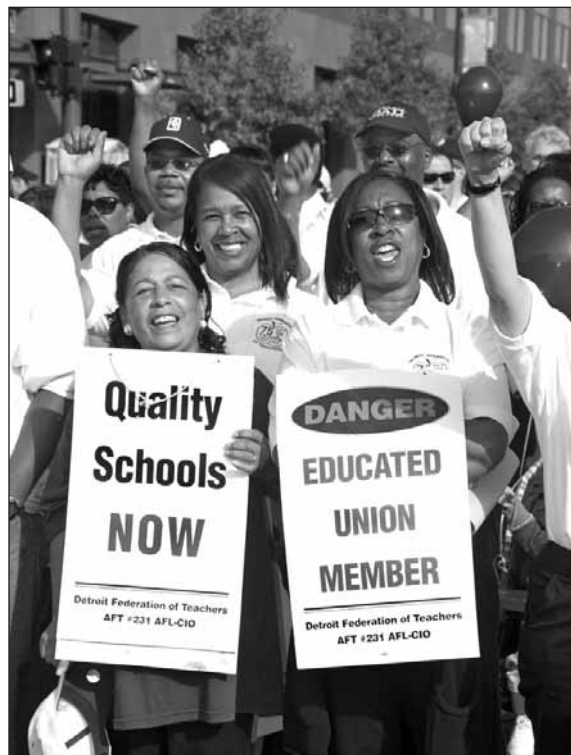
Globalization: The Roots of Workers’

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*

Black Labor History: Lessons since the Civil Rights Era (§)Regency D

How did the Black freedom struggle press the AFL-CIO toward becoming a genuine labor federation?

Kenneth Page, Assistant General Counsel, Transport Workers Union Local 100

Getting Ahead of Globalization (§)Regency C

What does globalization really mean for workers and the labor movement? We now see a wide range of jobs outsourced overseas—how will your industry be impacted? This interactive workshop will look at how corporations have been able to gain power at the expense of workers around the globe, and what that means in terms of job security, outsourcing, wages and working conditions, and immigration. How can we organize in a global economy? Is globalization “inevitable”? What can you do to change the balance of power between corporations and workers?

Benedicto Martinez, General Secretary of STIMAHCS, Frente Autentico de Trabajo (FAT), Mexico

*Jeff Crosby, IUE-CWA Local 201, North Shore Labor Council

*Stephanie Luce, University of Massachusetts Labor Center and the Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY

How to Lose Your Next Union ElectionSteamer

It's sad but true: getting out of local union office can sometimes be quicker for opposition activists than getting in. Discuss and strategize ways to avoid the pitfalls reformers can encounter when taking local office.

Facilitator: Dan Campbell, Teamsters for a Democratic Union

Labor in Latin America (§-E)Desoto B

Left-leaning and progressive governments have been elected across Latin America, and while these governments have made great strides in the areas of human rights, and some small steps in labor rights, they have done little to change the conservative, pro-business policies of their predecessors. How have unions responded to the challenge of supporting progressive political movements, while maintaining their independence, and not giving these governments a free pass? Of special interest to anyone worried about unions rolling over as soon as the Democrats get elected.

Dirceu Travesso, Conlutas, Brazil

Alejandro Vega, CILAS, Mexico

Marcos Garcia, Second Secretary for Labor Affairs

Embassy of Venezuela

Facilitator: Daniel Ximenez, Taller de Estudios Laborales, Argentina

Online Tools for OrganizingDesoto Foyer

This workshop is for activists who need to understand the available technologies, not programmers. We'll explore the pros and cons of websites, e-mail, blogs, wikis, and social networking sites in internal union organizing and campaign building. What works, what doesn't, and where to go to get your union, caucus, or campaign online.

Derek Blackadder, LabourStart.org and Canadian Union of Public Employees

Lee Siu Hin, National Immigrant Solidarity Network

Ellen Lalucerne, Workers Independent News

Organizing Immigrant Workers (§)Regency B

Immigrant workers are millions strong but face difficult barriers to joining unions. Unions are often unable to understand these barriers and are slow to welcome immigrants. Learn about the organizing efforts that immigrant workers are involved in, and what do—and to avoid—in building a union that fights for all workers' rights.

Jacob Horowitz, New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice

Leticia Marquez Prado, United Electrical Workers

Andrés Puerta, New York District Council of Carpenters

Organizing in Right-to-Work States (§) . .Regency A

Labor's stumbling block has long been its organizing defeats south of the Mason-Dixon line, and now anti-union forces are on the offensive, pushing right-to-work laws in other states. But some unions have managed to fight and even win under these repressive conditions. Hear their strategies for building support in a hostile environment, and engaging a reluctant public.

Angaza Laughinghouse, United Electrical Workers Local 150

Judy Lerma, National Nurses Organizing Committee

Franklin Torrence, UAW Local 3520/Freightliner Five

The Pension CrisisCord

Pensions and retiree benefits continue to be under sustained attack. Learn about how givebacks and changes in the law may affect your retirement benefits—and some ways unions are fighting back.

Ann Thompson, attorney

*David Cohen, United Electrical Workers

5:00-6:30 pm

Labor TechiesDesoto Foyer

An informal meeting for web stewards and those interested in online organizing tools. Open format, bring your tips, tricks, experiences, and opinions. And coffee.

Derek Blackadder, LabourStart.org and Canadian Union of Public Employees

Workers Centers Meeting (§)Steamer

As the economy and worker demographics continue to change, new structures are emerging to build power for workers on the lowest rungs of the economic ladder. Lacking a legal infrastructure and adequate resources, however, these organizations are often struggling to stay afloat. This meeting, for members of workers centers, will bring workers centers from across the U.S. to discuss some of the successful models for building grassroots worker power.

Facilitator: José Oliva, Interfaith Worker Justice National Workers' Centers Network

8:00-9:00 am

LGBT CaucusStanley
Come and meet other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers. Share your stories, make connections, build our work together! Join us for coffee and juice; bring pastries from the Grand Foyer or other food from the coffee shop.

Facilitator: Donna Cartwright, Pride at Work

Ain't Misbehavin': Confronting Management's

'Blame the Worker' Safety Programs ...Stearns
Management blames workers for safety problems, through safety incentive programs, injury discipline policies, post-injury drug testing, and behavior-based safety observation. These programs discourage reporting of injuries, focus attention away from the real hazards, and undermine union solidarity. Learn how to prevent or abolish harmful programs; and redirect the focus toward holding management accountable.

*Facilitator: Nancy Lessin, United Steelworkers' Tony Mazzocchi Center

Black Workers and Workplace Organization

.....Stanley
Come discuss how black workers organize on the job, and what changes this requires in our unions and the labor movement as a whole.

Nathanette Mayo, United Electrical Workers Local 150 and Black Workers for Justice

Malik Miah, Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association Local 9

*Tim Schermerhorn, Transport Workers Union Local 100

Sarah White, UFCW, Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights

Facilitator: Nichele Fulmore, Steward, Teamsters Local 391

Building Alliances between Unions and Workers

Centers (§)Regency B
Workers centers are a fixture in today's labor movement, often going where unions are unable or unwilling to go. From national agreements to local coalitions, unions and workers centers are finding new ways to partner that strengthen organizing across the movement. Hear from workers center activists about the successes and stumbling blocks in creating alliances that work.

Julian Gonzalez, Make the Road New York

Eric Rodriguez, Latino Union, Chicago

Representative, New York Taxi Workers Alliance

Facilitator: *José Oliva, Interfaith Worker Justice National Workers' Centers Network

Member-Driven OrganizingCord

Whether it's a local organizing drive or a coordinated national campaign, members are key to new organizing. Presenters will discuss the advantages—and challenges—of building an organizing program around existing or soon-to-be union members.

Cindy Vines-Harrity, CWA District 4

Tenaya Lafore, UNITE HERE Local 2

Glenna Swinford, UAW Local 3520/Freightliner Five

Contract Campaigns (§)Regency A
In the first of two workshops on contract campaigns, learn how to build a member-focused campaign long before your contract expires. Member mobilization, campaign escalation, creative tactics, and other building blocks of a good campaign will be discussed.

*Dave Reardon, IBEW Local 2222

David Poklinkoski, IBEW Local 2304

Howie Coling, CWA Local 1298

Bill Henderson, CWA Local 1298

Facilitator: *Steve Early, CWA District 1, retired

Fighting Raids and No-Match Letters (§) ...Bugatti
Workplace raids and "no-match letters" are the latest employer tools in the fight to squash immigrant worker organizing. What's labor's response? Some unions have failed to protect immigrant members, while others want to respond, but don't know their options or good strategies. Using on-the-ground work in Chicago and Milwaukee as examples, this workshop will discuss how to set up a rapid response system in your area to beat back harassment of immigrant (and non-immigrant) workers. If you're in a union or community organization representing immigrant workers, or are an immigrant worker yourself, this workshop is for you.

Mark Meister, United Electrical Workers

Jorge Mujica, March 10 Coalition, Chicago

Martin Unzueta, Chicago Workers Collaborative

Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Voces de la Frontera, Milwaukee

Assertive Grievance HandlingRegency D
Fighting grievances isn't only about how well you argue your case. It's about organizing members to build pressure on management. This workshop for stewards and union reps will focus on how to win creatively without going to arbitration—or sometimes without even filing a grievance. We'll discuss the do's and don'ts of settling grievances as well.

Gary Brooks, Steward, Teamsters Local 705

*Sandy Pope, President, Teamsters Local 805

Immigration and the Building Trades (§) ...Steamer
Join us for a roundtable discussion addressing the cooperation and tension between the immigrant rights movement and the building trades unions. How do immigrants and native-born unionists build unity on construction sites? With a huge range of unions, contractors, and job classifications, as well as different immigration statuses among workers, we'll discuss how to build solidarity.

Andres Puerta, Carpenters, New York

Romeo Sosa, VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project, Portland

Gabe Haywood, Carpenters Local 247, IWW

Jason Maguire, Carpenters Local 247

Joe Ettesvold, IBEW Local 48

Antonio Rico, IBEW Local 48

Facilitator: Yanira Merino, Laborers' International Union

International Solidarity to Promote Organizing:

Focus on Asia (M)Desoto A
How do unions and worker groups in Asia use international ties to support their work? As the site of so much of the world's low-wage work, the strategies and connections developed by workers in Asia affect us all. Hear about organizing in Vietnam's fast-growing private sector, about workers' successes against heavy odds in Sri Lanka, and about grassroots workers centers in China, and how they have built strategic international solidarity networks as an organizing tool.

Diana Beaumont, Asia Monitor Resource Centre, Hong Kong
Chao Nhat Binh, Vietnam General Confederation of Labor
Chen Mingyu, Xiao Chen Hotline, Qingdao, China
Anton Marcus, General Secretary, Free Trade Zones and General Services Employees Union, Sri Lanka
Facilitator: Kent Wong, Director, UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education

Labor and Politics (§)Desoto B
Labor's electoral machine is already in high gear in 2008, but will it ultimately help rebuild our political strength? How can unions close the gap between what we put into elections and what comes out the other end? What kinds of political action make the labor movement stronger—or weaker? These questions and others will be tackled in our panel discussion.

Geri Jenkins, California Nurses Association
*Stephanie Luce, University of Massachusetts Labor Center and the Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY

Patients' Rights, Workers' RightsPierce
Health care workers can play a powerful role in advocating for their patients. HMO-style health care has reshaped our work as patient loads have increased and staffing levels plummeted. What new avenues have opened to challenge management? The nation faces a shortage of nurses and other health care workers. How can we use this leverage—and our passion for care—to improve both work conditions and patient-care standards?

Mary Broginski, CWA Local 1168
Danielle Magaña, National Nurses Organizing Committee
Helen York Jones, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU
Facilitator: Julie Barton, Michigan Nurses Association/UAN

Pumping Up the Public SectorRoyale
Public sector unions have enjoyed growth in recent years, but involving members can be a challenge. Now, fresh rounds of budget cuts loom as the economy slows. How can we defend vital services, build alliances with those our work touches, and make the case to the public? Learn how workers across the country are addressing these issues.

Nicolas Galepides, French postal union
Joan Gallagher, WFSE/AFSCME Council 28
Cherrene Horazuk, AFSCME Local 3800
Angaza Laughinghouse, United Electrical Workers Local 150
Facilitator: Vanessa Rhodes, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU

Solidarity Under Attack: Fighting Management's Plans to Isolate and Divide Workers on the JobKnight

Using new technologies and work restructuring programs, management is creating a workplace where workers don't see each other, can't talk with each other, and don't have time to get to know each other. From long shifts and forced overtime; to GPS, active badges and other forms of monitoring; to homeworking and telecommuting; to lean production and management-by-stress, the new workplace is making solidarity harder to build. What can we do to fight back?

Facilitator: *Charley Richardson, University of Massachusetts-Lowell Labor Extension Program

Tony Mazzocchi and Lessons from Labor's

Recent HistoryRoyce
What can we learn from the life of Tony Mazzocchi, the most important labor leader most workers have never heard of? And what can we learn from the 1968-74 upsurge of worker resistance that happened in both the U.S. and Britain?

*Sheila Cohen, National Shop Stewards' Network, Britain, and author, *Ramparts of Resistance*
Les Leopold, the Labor Institute and the Public Health Institute, and author, *The Man Who Hated Work and Loved Labor*

Trends in Auto: Concessions, Two-tier, and Fighting Back (P)Regency C

For years labor looked to the auto industry and the United Auto Workers to set the bar on wages and benefits. Now auto workers in the U.S. are setting a trend in the other direction, with huge wage cuts for new hires. Are there implications for the rest of labor? Hear from Bill Parker, who stood against two-tier for Chrysler workers, and from Cathy Austin, president of the Canadian Auto Workers local at a GM-Suzuki joint venture.

Cathy Austin, President, CAW Local 88, CAMI
*Bill Parker, President, UAW Local 1700

**Appears in A Troublemaker's Handbook 2*

Language Key

- §: Spanish/English interpretation.
§-E: Session conducted in Spanish, with English interpretation.
M: Mandarin/English interpretation.
P: Portuguese/English interpretation.

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 MeetingSteamer
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

Elias 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 (§)

.Stearns

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

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 (\$)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 (\$)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 (\$)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...”
.....Regency B

* **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
.....Stanley

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.

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.

Sunday, Interest Meetings

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Labor Educators Swap MeetCord
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 ActivistsSteamer
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 LabourRegency 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

RetireesRegency 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.

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 TacticsDesoto 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 EquityCord
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

Dealing with the MediaRoyale

How do you get your story told in the way that you want it told? Lay the groundwork (instead of waiting for crisis). shape your message. and get members talking.

*Craig Merrilees, Communications Director, ILWU

*Rand Wilson, labor communicator

Social Movement Unionism and Black

Political ConsciousnessRegency D

African Americans are more pro-union than any other group and among the most progressive on worker issues. How can we use the politics of the black community (community and social movement organizations, and campaigns) to build workplace organizations and a class movement?

Ashaki Binta, United Electrical Workers International Worker Justice Campaign, and Black Workers for Justice

Nichele Fulmore, Teamsters Local 391

Sandra Jaribu Hill, Executive Director, Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights

Leonard Riley, Jr., International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422, South Carolina Labor Party

Facilitator: Malik Miah, Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association Local 9

Democracy Is Power (§)Desoto A

We want to change our locals so that members are involved, committed to unionism and solidarity, and willing to lead others in rebuilding the union. Hear the experiences of locals where members run the show and get results. If you are taking over a local that has kept members on the sidelines, where can you begin to make changes?

Alfredo Gomez, Teamsters Local 743

Lisa Kermish, University Professional and Technical Employees, CWA Local 9119

Stan Lyles, United Healthcare Workers-West, SEIU

Chair: Martha Gruelle, co-author, *Democracy Is Power*

Passing the Leadership Torch: Mobilizing Younger MembersRegency C

We all know it's true—the labor movement just ain't getting any younger. From how to build younger member involvement through youth committees to discussing how to overcome obstacles that newer generation workers may face in getting involved in their unions, this workshop is for both new and older generation workers who are ready to pass the leadership torch to the next generation.

Cathy Austin, President; John Bridges and Angela Kerr, Youth Committee, CAW Local 88

Taking Control of the Workplace: A "Continuous Bargaining" Approach (§)Stanley

Is management introducing new technologies, policies, and work restructuring that hurt members and weaken your union? Are your contracts ineffective at protecting against these changes? Is the employer claiming "management rights" and saying that you have no rights? "Continuous bargaining" is a strategic approach to dealing with management-initiated workplace change. It builds on existing legal rights while focusing on a strong, active, member-involved union response.

*Nancy Lessin, United Steelworkers' Tony Mazzocchi Center

*Charley Richardson, University of Massachusetts-Lowell Labor Extension Program

**Appears in A Troublemaker's Handbook 2*

Workers Centers: Building Power for Low-Wage

Workers (§)Regency B

Across the United States, workers centers and low-wage worker organizations are today's laboratory for organizing the unorganized. Workers centers are mobilizing a new generation of activists in a multitude of sectors from restaurant and retail workers to day laborers and temporary—among immigrant and poor communities. Workers centers from around the country will discuss how they combine education, direct action, and organization to fight for their members and communities.

Tona Cravioto, Casa de Maryland

Saru Jayaraman, Restaurant Opportunities Center United, New York

Valerie Henry and Ashley Huffnagel, United Workers, Baltimore

Marie Thompson, Mississippi Poultry Workers for Equality and Respect

Representative, Mississippi Workers Center

Facilitator: Joann Lo, Enlace International

3:00-5:00 pm

Global Unionism: The Prospects for International

Grassroots Solidarity (§,M,P)Desoto B

There is much talk of global unions, but few unions walk the talk. Several examples of international grassroots labor solidarity will be highlighted, with time for in-depth discussion of long-term prospects, challenges, and opportunities. Efforts such as Conlutas in Brazil to build an ambitious network of Latin American and Caribbean unions; Transnational Information Exchange (TIE) projects such as Ex-Chains, uniting retail and garment workers in Asia and Europe; and VidaViva's promoting of a radical use of health and safety strategies to strengthen unions in Latin America, Africa, and Europe will be highlighted. Also to be featured: the Latin America Project, uniting workers centers and unions across Latin America in a common process of education and renewal, and the European Network for Public Services, established at the European Social Forum.

Nicolas Galepides, European Public Services Network, France

Mara Lira, SindiAlimentação, VidaViva Platform Brazil

Anton Marcus, FTZGSEU, ExChains, Sri Lanka

Dirceu Travesso, Conlutas, Brazil

Daniel Ximenez, TEL, Argentina

Chair: Teofiló Reyes, Transnational Information Exchange, U.S.



Credit: Rand Wilson.