

UAWD CONVENTION

PROGRAM SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



The Unite All Workers for Democracy 2024 Convention is September 27-29, 2024 at The Westin Southfield (1500 Town Center, Southfield, MI).

Register and learn more at uawd.org/2024.

How to Win Your Union Election

Do you think your union needs a new direction? You can change your local leadership, but not with a last-minute effort. You need to be organized and know the steps that build successful campaigns. Learn how to develop a winning campaign timeline; how to build a slate; the ins and outs of building relationships and networks; and how to ensure a clean election.

Big 3 Contract Enforcement

Since the UAW national agreements with the Big 3 were ratified, the companies have been trying to turn a big raise into more work for fewer people. Learn from union reps and rank-and-file members across the Big 3 how we can use the contracts to save our jobs and protect our safety.

Contract Campaigns: Getting Members in Motion

Hear from members who got their coworkers acting creatively to win big contract gains at Daimler Truck, Ford, and Legal Aid. Then we'll get hands-on, brainstorming tactics to get members in our own locals working together to turn up the heat on management.

Legal Rights of Union Stewards and Committeepeople

Learn about the rights and responsibilities of stewards and committeepeople, including: how to approach disciplinary meetings, writing a grievance and conducting a thorough investigation, duty of fair representation, and using member power to resolve grievances. Hear from fellow UAWD members who have fought and won on the shop floor, in arbitration, and at the bargaining table.

Strong Contract Enforcement: Turn a Grievance Into Collective Action

When management is breaking the rules left and right, quietly filing a grievance won't cut it. We'll hear from autoworkers at Ford and Stellantis who built up collective action to draw the line. Then we'll talk through what you're facing, with a guide on getting your coworkers to stand up together.

Race and Labor

How does racism show up in our workplaces and our unions? What are some strategies to confront it and build solidarity for a stronger, multiracial labor movement? And what can you say to union siblings who aren't convinced racial justice has anything to do with union politics? Class and race are inextricably linked, tracing back the invention of "race" to divide workers.

Reviewing the Big 3 Contract Negotiations a Year On

The Stand Up Strike a year ago led to impressive wage increases, COLA, and the right to strike over product and investment commitments. There were other demands left unmet in the agreements. A year later, how are workers feeling about the contracts? What issues will be top priorities when the contracts expire on May 1, 2028?

Comparing Democratic Rank-and-File Caucuses

UAWD is just one example of a successful rank and file caucus. This panel compares the approaches of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), the Caucus of Rank-and-file Educators (CORE) in the Chicago Teachers Union, and UAWD. TDU started in the 1970's, fighting entrenched union leadership and mob influence. CORE, founded in 2008, won leadership and struck in 2012 and 2019 for the schools Chicago students deserve.

Building a Worker-Led Electric Vehicle Transition

The EV transition is currently led by corporations under for-profit and market logic. From shop floor battery fires to factory shutdowns, this transition is creating a constant state of crisis potentially leading to company-wide bankruptcies, harming workers while investors make billions. So, how do we organize to protect our jobs, and align production toward safe transportation that centers community needs and addresses climate change?

Beyond Borders: Worldwide Solidarity is Key to Working-Class Victory

The companies we work for don't recognize borders, organizing transnationally so they can move work wherever labor is cheapest and easiest to exploit. To win big, the working class has to be organized globally. From the U.S. to Mexico, from Palestine to Colombia, workers must unite. In this session, we'll hear from organizers experienced in the fight for international working-class solidarity.

Bargaining Tactics: Stop Begging, Start Bargaining

With a focus on local contracts, this class teaches you to build a bargaining agenda around the core needs of your membership and mobilize worker power to take on the boss. We'll cover labor law, communication with members, management, the role of the bargaining committee, and how to get members involved.

Transforming Your Local from the Bottom Up: Start a UAWD Chapter

Power at the local level is key to building a union that's responsive to worker issues. It's not just about elections; change in our locals will require membership that's ready to take collective action when necessary. Learn how UAWD members are building teams to turn the tides in their local unions and on their shop floors.

Organizing 101: In the Shop and On the Street

Learn the skills and knowledge to organize the unorganized. This workshop offers a systematic approach to launching local organizing committees that empower workers in the shop and on the street. Learn how using new organizing can rebuild our militant membership!

50 Years of Reform in the UAW & the Black Radical Tradition

The UAW has a long tradition of rank and file agitation. From the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement to New Directions and the Autoworker Caravan class struggle unionism has been alive and kicking for decades in the UAW. UAWD stands on the shoulders of these struggles. Hear about them from those who lived those struggles.

Just Cause: A Guide for Disciplinary Grievances

A labor attorney, joined by an experienced UAW grievance handler, will review how to prepare and win discipline and discharge grievances. We'll go over hands-on case studies to demonstrate the seven principles of Just Cause.