



# IOWA TROUBLEMAKERS SCHOOL

**SATURDAY, April 22, 2023**

**8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee**

**9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Opening Plenary (Ballroom)**

Ross Grooters, Railroad Workers United  
Jody Gelner, Teamsters Local 90  
Tanner Fischer, Teamsters Local 90  
Nolan Tabb, UAW Local 281  
Hannah Zadeh, COGS UE 896

**10:15 to 11:45 a.m. Morning Workshops** *(See reverse for details)*

1. Beating Apathy (Room 341)
2. Assembling Your Dream Team - English (Room 345)
3. Assembling Your Dream Team - French/Spanish (Room 343)
4. Organizing in Right-to-Work Iowa (Ballroom)
5. Them and Us Unionism: What is Rank and File Unionism? (Room 351)

**12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch (Ballroom)**

Lunch time meetup: Queer workers and trans workers

**1:15 to 2:45 p.m. Afternoon Workshops** *(See reverse for details)*

1. Turning an Issue into a Campaign - English (Ballroom)
2. Turning an Issue into a Campaign - French/Spanish (Room 343)
3. Building a Contract Campaign (Room 345)
4. Pandemic-Related Worker Fightbacks (Room 341)
5. Race and Labor (Room 351)

**3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Closing Plenary (Room TBA)**

Justin Comer, IATSE 690  
Nora King, IATSE 690  
Emma Burriola, Starbucks Workers United  
Marcques Derby, UAW Local 807  
Aaron Kennelly, Former CNH worker

**COVID precautions:**

We strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask, except when eating, in order to make this event as accessible as possible to others.

**The childcare room is in 337 MGC.**

Please pick your child up for lunch so that the childcare workers can have a lunch break.

**Interpretation:** Spanish-English interpretation is available. Please check in at the registration desk for further support.

**Happy Hour:** Joe's Place 115 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52240

Like what you saw today? Missed a workshop? **We do workshops online every month.** Check them out at [labornotes.org/events](https://labornotes.org/events).

**Subscribe to Labor Notes** monthly magazine for half off the regular price—just \$15 for a whole year if you sign up today at the table. It's your best way to stay in touch with all these great troublemakers.

**Thank you:**

APWU, Labor For Bernie, Carpenters union, Teamsters, Escucha Mi Voz, Edna Griffin, League of United Latin American Citizens, Escucha Mi Voz, COGS UE Local 896

*Speaker organizations are listed for identification purposes only.*

# Morning Workshops, 10:15-11:45

## 1. Beating Apathy (Room 341)

Are you beating your head against the wall trying to get other workers involved? This workshop is for you. Hear success stories from those who've turned their workplaces around and turned apathy into action. Learn practical organizing tools for engaging your co-workers, taking action, and getting results.

*Nolan Tabb, UAW Local 281*

*Kay Pence, Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans*

## 2 and 3. Secrets of a Successful Organizer: Assembling Your Dream Team (English: Room 345; French/Spanish Room 343)

Your workplace may feel like an unorganized mess, but the truth is you're not starting from zero. There's organization there already—though it might have nothing to do with the union. Learn how to map out the existing networks in your workplace, identify the leaders in those networks, and then knit them together into an organizing committee.

*Glenn Houlihan and John Tappen, COGS UE Local 896*

*Luis Feliz Leon and Marsha Niemeijer, Labor Notes*

## 4. New Organizing in Right-to-Work Iowa (Ballroom)

Rebuilding the U.S. labor movement will require serious advances across the country, especially in areas where unions have been weakest. Hear from leaders on the frontlines of organizing in Iowa about how they are building fighting unions to win collective bargaining.

*Facilitator: Jennifer Sherer, Iowa Federation of Labor*

*Hannah Zadeh, COGS UE Local 896*

*Barbara Stanerson, SEIU*

*Rhea Pierce, United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 2060*

## 5. Them and Us Unionism: What is Rank and File Unionism? (Room 351)

This workshop will focus on what rank and file unionism is, how it operates, and why it is needed more in today's labor movement. You will learn the principles of an organization operating with democratic processes, and how this structure, which empowers union members to run their own union, also leads to militant struggles against the boss.

*Kari Thompson & Bryan Martindale Ramirez, UE*

# Afternoon Workshops, 1:15-2:45 p.m.

## 1 and 2. Turning an Issue into a Campaign

(English: Ballroom; French/Spanish: Room 343)

Everybody has complaints and frustrations, but an organizer has the power to turn problems into opportunities. Learn how to sort through the issues you hear from co-workers, bring people together, and make a plan to solve them.

*Hannah Zadeh, COGS UE Local 896*

*Kevin Hilton, United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 106*

*Luis Feliz Leon and Marsha Niemeijer, Labor Notes*

## 3. Building a Contract Campaign (Room TK)

How can we create more democratic and powerful contract campaigns? After its historic 2019 strike, United Teachers Los Angeles is back in contract bargaining and has added new strategies to the bargaining process to create more member involvement. UTLA member leaders will share about their Beyond Recovery platform created through member meetings, their expanded bargaining team, Contract Action Teams, and escalating actions.

*Carrie Duncan, Machinists Local 1010*

*Joel Campbell, Teamsters Local 90*

## 4. Pandemic-Related Worker Fightbacks (Room 341)

The COVID-19 pandemic produced a tighter labor market. Sometimes, workers used their newfound leverage to switch jobs for a wage boost. Other times, workers organized collectively to demand more from their workplaces and their local government. Learn about dynamic union and community organizing happening locally, from pandemic relief to health and safety workplace grievances, and get some ideas for your own workplace and local fights to build power.

*Facilitator: Mitchell Dill, Machinists 1010*

*Caleb Klipowicz, COGS UE Local 896*

*Monica Avila, West Liberty Foods worker*

*Sylvia Juarez, Tyson Foods worker*

## 3. Race and Labor (Room 351)

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? This workshop addresses how class and race are inextricably linked by tracing back the origins of "race" as an invention of the ruling class to divide workers.

*Courtney Smith, Labor Notes*