



SOLIDARITY STAGE

Taking place in the Hall 2 Theater

SUNDAY, OCT. 22

Fight for \$15 in Missouri

Theresa Hester, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 655

David Morton, Director of Organization, UNITE HERE Local 74

Richard von Glahn, Policy Director, Missouri Jobs with Justice

A panel with local labor organizers on how cities passed living wage increases, what the legislative session did about it and what the next steps are.

Winning Good Jobs and Affordable Housing

Rusty Hicks, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor

An overview of the successful effort to win Ballot Measure JJJ in Los Angeles in 2016. A coalition of labor and community organizations known as “Build Better LA” brought the measure forward to create desperately needed affordable housing, to set standards for union construction and, for the poorest community residents, to have access to good union construction jobs. The presentation will be focused on what it takes to win, why we need to work together with other allies and what lessons we learned along the way.

Why Higher Wages Are Good for Businesses

William E. Spriggs, Chief Economist, AFL-CIO

Broad-based income growth ensures the largest increase in potential new customers, which spurs new firm formation. Wages rising with productivity ensures that increased outcome is bought using income, not debt, and ensures productivity gains don’t lead to lower employment.

Our Democracy: Main Street, Not Wall Street

Wendy Fields, Executive Director, Democracy Initiative

Our collective power to win on the issues that matter most begins at the local level. There can be no strong democracy without strong labor unions. Join us for a presentation on how union activists can build a grassroots army of “Democracy Champions” to protect and expand voting rights and reduce the influence of money and wealthy interests in politics, while building our power to win social and economic justice.

Right-Wing Populism: Brexit and Trump

Paul Nowak, Deputy General Secretary, Trades Union Congress

Around the world, the global economic model that is based on corporate greed has increased inequality and the insecurity felt by workers and their families. From the election of Donald Trump as president to the Brexit vote, working people are expressing their frustration with the economic model, as well as a distrust of their politicians. Unions are creating new strategies to re-engage members and address the root causes that have led to the rise of right-wing populist movements.

Play Fair—Migrant Rights in the Construction Industry

Ambet Yuson, General Secretary, Building and Wood Workers' International

Around the world, sports fans, working people, activists and consumers are campaigning to ensure that global sporting events guarantee fair working conditions. From the athletes to the workers who build the stadiums to the workers who produce the sporting goods, workers' rights should be respected in all of the workplaces supporting the global sporting industry. From the Olympics to the World Cup, unions with their allies are at the forefront of the campaign to make sure that workers' rights are an integral part of all global sporting events.

Workers Rising: Worker Activism in China

Lee Cheuk-yan, General Secretary of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions

The majority of working people producing goods for the electronics industry are based in China. When consumers purchase these electronics, they are unaware of the health and safety hazards working people face. Increasingly, workers' rights organizations in China are highlighting these hazardous conditions and organizing to improve the health and safety conditions in the electronics industry.



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MONDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 23

NFLPA: Activism in Sports

Bernard Whittington, NFL Players Association (NFLPA) Former Players, St. Louis Chapter. Whittington played nine seasons with the NFL as a defensive end with the Indianapolis Colts and the Cincinnati Bengals.
Matt Watson, Chief Digital Strategist, Chicago Sun-Times

We'll look at the athletes' role in current events from a historical perspective, examine the current state and discuss the impact on pro football and other sports.

Young America and a Resurgent Labor Movement

Lowell Peterson, Executive Director, Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE)

Younger professional workers are translating their passion for social justice and activism into a resurgent labor movement. Learn how and why Vice, Splinter/Gawker, Huffington Post, Salon, MTV News are organizing and winning 21st century contracts.

United Students Against Sweatshops

Angeles Solis, National Organizer, United Students Against Sweatshops

Students nationwide are advancing the labor movement and organizing to land victories alongside working people on their campuses, communities and even in overseas factories. Come learn about how students brought down Nike, Harvard and monuments to slavery in the South. Get the exclusive on the student-worker movement bringing the fight for a union to several of the nation's largest employers—universities.

Autonomous Transport at Our Doorstep

Edward Wytkind, Senior Adviser, AFL-CIO

The race is on. Autonomous vehicles, or AVs, aren't some pipe dream—they are at the doorstep of America and the global economy. Business interests and their investors—from Google and Apple to Lyft, Uber and the major auto manufacturers—are pouring billions into this technology race. From AVs on the ground and ships at sea, aircraft automation and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), or drones, to the myriad applications of robotics and artificial intelligence, the pace and complexity of new technologies under development are significant. Jobs are at risk, for sure, but what is absolutely clear is that AVs will disrupt our system of mobility, the economy, and the future and nature of work.

Creating Community Benefits Agreements

Madeline Janis, Executive Director, Jobs to Move America

Get inspired by the Jobs to Move America program, an innovative and powerful Community Benefits Agreement model. This model is a best practice of “transformational” labor-community partnership that builds power for working people on the job and where they live. Janis will draw connections between JMA’s work, the model and the future of organizing in the labor movement.

Retaining Young Organizers of Color

Patrick Scott, Deputy Director, AFL-CIO Organizing Institute

Join young organizers of color for their experiences in how they came into the union movement and what needs to be done to recruit and retain young organizers of color for the long term. They also will touch on how the labor movement can become competitive and relevant in recruiting young African American, Asian, Native American and Latino activists to the long-term fight.

New Organizing Models: Maine Lobstermen

Neil Gladstein, Director of Strategic Resources, IAM

The Machinists (IAM) union has been organizing lobstermen in Maine since 2013 in order to help these men and women defend and promote their economic and political interests. As self-employed workers, lobstermen do not have a traditional employer to bargain with; yet they are up against powerful interests that have been undermining their way of life and their communities. The Maine Lobstering Union (IAM Local 207) is a voluntary dues-based association that is also a co-operative. In March 2017, Local 207 acquired a lobster wholesale business so that its members can share in the profits once the lobsters they caught move beyond the docks.

Organizing the Film Industry in the South

Jason Rosin, IATSE Local 491

With much of the American film industry moving down South and away from traditional Hollywood studios, this talk will focus on how the Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) union is transforming the film industry and the labor movement in this part of the country. This talk will highlight creative ways IATSE has been able to excite and organize industry workers, making it one of the fastest growing unions in the labor movement.



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TUESDAY LUNCH, OCT. 24

United Way Local Labor Engagement

Roz Sherman Voellinger, Vice President of Labor Engagement, United Way of Greater St. Louis

Sonja Gholston-Byrd, Director of Labor Engagement, United Way of Greater St. Louis

This is a spotlight on the exciting ways the United Way is engaging local unions in St. Louis. Learn more about their successful partnerships and the innovative ways the local apprenticeship programs are expanding in the community.

Get Inspired by Local Start-Ups T-Rex and Brazen

Jennifer Ehlen, CEO, Brazen

Kathleen Bauer, Community Director, T-Rex

Patricia Hagen, Ph.D., President/Executive Director, T-Rex

T-Rex and Brazen are two amazing local organizations changing the business landscape and bringing new ideas to St. Louis and far beyond. Join this dynamic conversation about gender parity in entrepreneurship and the workplace. T-Rex will introduce us to their unique approach to co-working spaces as an NGO growing local entrepreneurs. Brazen will share their “business-first” approach to help growth-seeking entrepreneurs who identify as female and all intersections therein advance their businesses via continuous, immersive programming.