

Workshops

Workshop Block 1

Friday at 11:00am – 12:15pm

1. Asian American Workers Rising - Our History, Our Stories

Room: Cascade 1

This workshop will provide an overview of AAPI labor history, as it connects to APALA's story. We will share excerpts from Asian American Workers Rising, a book that collects the stories of APALA organizers and leaders since its founding. We will provide resources and curriculum for educators and unions to learn more about AAPI history.

- i. Kent Wong, CFT (APALA Los Angeles)
- ii. Tracy Lai, AFT (APALA Seattle)
- iii. Arlene Inouye, UTLA (APALA Los Angeles)

2. Transforming Environmental Services (EVS): A Decade of Organizing for Equity, Training, and Leadership Empowerment

Room: St. Helens

Environment Services (EVS) is the backbone of the healthcare industry as they are the center of maintaining the functional operations in healthcare facilities. The workers in this job are predominantly immigrant and women of color. Through organizing rank & file members and learning from cleaning workers in other industries, contract language was won enabling workers to establish a collaborative labor management space, implement fair work assignments, comprehensive training programs, and express concerns regarding proposed solutions. These inspired rank & file member leaders have actively organized to take ownership of a new certification training initiative, actively participating as mentors in the program. Come learn from front line workers who have organized for respect, dignity and racial justice on the job.

- i. Tasha Glancy, SEIU 1199NW (APALA Seattle)
- ii. Frederick Marcelo, SEIU 1199NW (APALA Seattle)
- iii. Mary Beth Doherty, SEIU 1199NW (APALA Seattle)
- iv. Tala Pesigan, SEIU 1199NW (APALA Seattle)
- v. Darlene Johansen, SEIU 1199NW (APALA Seattle)

3. When We Vote We Win! Building Political Power, Looking towards 2024

Room: Cascade 2

Across the country, APALA is centering workers and communities of color in political organizing. Come hear from leaders about work in their chapters and Unions, how we are preparing for the 2024's presidential election, and share/brainstorm your ideas on work you can do back in your chapters.

- i. Eunice How, UNITE HERE (APALA Seattle)
- ii. Wei Chen, AAU (APALA Philadelphia)
- iii. Shwe Aung, SIU (APALA Texas)
- iv. David Carpio, AFL-CIO (APALA DC)
- v. Vivian Chang, APALA Civic Engagement Director (APALA DC)

4. Did You Eat Yet? Empowering a New Generation of Undocumented Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrants

Room: Grand Crescent

This one-hour workshop will provide an introduction to the new Asian and Pacific Islander (API) undocumented-led organization, Empowering API, and their new disruptive storytelling zine project, "Did You Eat Yet?" Throughout the workshop, participants will hear from various undocumented API immigrants who contributed to the zine and learn the significance of the zine to the undocumented API community. After the workshop, participants will walk away with a better understanding of how they can use the zine effectively as a teaching tool to mobilize support for undocumented API within their own communities.

- i. Justine Lim, Empowering API (APALA Los Angeles)
- ii. Rehana Morita, Empowering API
- iii. Beatrice Noble, Empowering API
- iv. Christine Nabung, Empowering API
- v. Minyoung Sung, Empowering API
- vi. Ava Ham, Empowering API
- vii. Anna Jo, Empowering API
- viii. Paul Ryan Villanueva, Empowering API (APALA Seattle)

5. Many Threads One Fabric

Room: Olympic

Our guests will discuss their lives as immigrants, first-generation Americans, union members, and educators. Their diverse lives and circumstances will shed light on the immigrant experience, with the discussion centering around issues of discrimination, isolation, culture, and identity, as well as union participation, leadership, recruitment, and retention. These outstanding educators, who are all from different ethnic, educational, and teaching backgrounds will elevate the voices of the many Asian Pacific Americans that they represent. We invite you to learn about these educators and discover how their shared experiences are universal.

- i. Preya Krishna Kennedy, UFT (APALA New York)
- ii. Annawa Naing, UFT (APALA New York)
- iii. Seung Lee, UFT (APALA New York)
- iv. Phillipe Abraham, UFT (APALA New York)

6. Organizing Migrant, Worker Solidarity; From the Border to Our Homelands

Room: Orcas

This workshop will share perspectives from the grassroots and global organizing of the International Migrants Alliance (IMA), local and international campaigns we have waged, lessons learned and will invite the participants to share their experiences working in solidarity with migrants at the border, in our workplaces, and in our homelands. We will build more opportunities to strengthen solidarity between local/host country and migrant workers, in the US, API communities

- i. Eni Lestari, Chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, Indonesia/Hong Kong
- ii. Jessica Rojas, Pacific Coast Coalition for Seafarers (PCCS)
- iii. Adrienne Sebastian, Filipino Bayanihan Center and PCCS
- iv. Terry Valen, Filipino Community Center (APALA Alameda)

7. A Framework for API Solidarity within + outside the API Community

Room: Vashon

This workshop will present an accessible framework for API Solidarity within the diversity of API + Immigrant worker communities, across all communities of color + immigrant communities, and across industries + labor organizations. We will discuss the foundation that will support API communities to engage in homogenous or multiracial shops or worker memberships. This workshop is for frontline organizers engaging with API, immigrant, and african american communities who have been grappling with the issue of API solidarity inside and outside the labor movement.

- i. Soyun Park, Cross Cultural Strategies

8. It's a Woman's World: Confronting Patriarchy to Access Union Leadership in Asia

Room: Elliott Bay

Across multiple sectors in Asia, trade unions have lacked the motivation or been strongly resistant to support the development of women worker leaders in their organizations or effectively address gender justice issues in organizing or in CBA negotiations. As a result, even in sectors where women are the dominant workforce, there are few women worker organizers, few women workers in union leadership at any level, and issues affecting women workers including gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH) are rarely addressed in the workplace or in the union. In this workshop, hear from dynamic women union leaders from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, who will share their experiences in accessing leadership and developing women workers, along with the corresponding challenges, to confront these dynamics and make transformational changes in their workplaces, unions and broader societies. Participants will be encouraged to think broadly on how workers in the US and APALA can mobilize to support gender justice struggles, women workers/union leaders, and the development of women's leadership pipelines across borders.

- i. Intan Indria Dewi, Chairperson of the Banten Provincial Branch, National Industrial Workers Union Federation (SPN), Indonesia
- ii. MST Shraboni, Joint Secretary, Sung Kwang Apparels Sromik Kormochari Union, Bangladesh
- iii. Jakia Parveen, Senior Program Officer, Solidarity Center - Bangladesh
- iv. Swasthika Arunlingam, President, Commercial and Industrial Workers Union, Sri Lanka
- v. Atley Chock, Senior Program Officer -Asia, Solidarity Center (APALA DC)

9. I Isulong! Philippine Workers Rise

Room: Whidbey

Philippine workers are facing a post pandemic economy with rising inflation, high unemployment and underemployment, continuation of contractualization and repression and a President committed to further opening the Philippines to foreign investment and exploitation. However, the labor movement has still made important gains in the organizing of gig drivers and international support especially with the ILO report. Speakers in the workshop will address the current conditions that Philippine workers are organizing under, the workers' rights issues they are organizing around and what we in the US can do to build solidarity between our labor movements.

- i. Cindy Domingo, LELO (APALA Seattle)
- ii. Ian Seruelo (APALA San Diego)
- iii. Josua Mata, SENTRO

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10. Worker Struggles in Southeast Asia's Informal Economy

Room: Adams

Although informal economy workers can create up to half of a country's gross national product, most fall outside the legal framework for formal workers, and have little power to advocate for living wages and safe and secure work. Lockdowns, stay at home orders, and general public health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic have led to the exponential increase of platform delivery work across Asia as well as globally. Even as most platform workers are forced to work through the pandemic as frontline essential workers, they are excluded from many basic labor and social protections including paid sick leave, decent wages, and occupational safety and health protections. Likewise, call center workers face steep uphill battles in organizing for health and safety measures, job security and decent wages, sorely needed for workers' families to survive. They are also vulnerable to severe government repression, such as the brutal murder of call center worker organizer, Alex Deloroso. In this workshop, presenters will share informal worker struggles to organize and advocate for their rights and access to social benefits and protections in Asia. They will discuss opportunities and challenges to organizing informal sector workers, share victories and lessons learned, and discuss ways informal sector workers can build international solidarity to support each other's struggles.

- i. Mylene Cabalona, President, BPO Industries Employee Network, Philippines
- ii. John Jay Chan, Organizer, RIDERS-SENTRO, Philippines
- iii. AKM Nasim, Country Program Director, Solidarity Center - Bangladesh
- iv. Kevin Lin, Managing Editor, Asian Labour Review
- v. Sanjiv Pandita, Senior Advisor - Asia, Solidarity Center

Workshops

Workshop Block 2

Friday at 2:10pm - 3:25pm

11. Union 101: I Want to Unionize My Workplace, Now What?

Room: Grand Crescent

What actually is a union? Do you support unions but don't know what it really means to have one? Have you thought about unionizing your workplace but don't know where to start? Have you been asked about unionizing a new workplace but don't know how to answer those questions even though you are a union member? Join this workshop to learn the basics of forming a union and how to organize. This workshop is beginner friendly. No union or organizing experience needed. Bring your questions!

- i. Sabrina Liu, USW (APALA Pittsburgh)
- ii. Mikayla Vu, UAW (APALA Massachusetts)
- iii. Dim Mang, National CAPACD (APALA Michigan)

12. Talking Story to Cultivate Pacific Islander Leaders of Tomorrow

Room: Olympic

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities—also known as EPIC—is a pro-Black, pro-Indigenous, and anti-racist national organization based in Los Angeles to advance social justice through culture-centered advocacy, leadership development, research, and narrative change. Our session will share insights from the past 10 years of PILOT programming through narratives. The annual PILOT Summer Institute is a four-day intensive program that offers a unique approach to leadership development that centers Pacific Islander culture and social justice. Each institute is held in partnership with a college campus with the intention of increasing access to and retention in higher education. Presenters will walk participants through Pasifika ways of being by sharing our organization's values; kuleana, tauhi vā, kommol, and lototele. They will encourage guests to share their personal narratives related to career paths and/or community engagement. We hope our session is able to support APALA members and chapters by providing insight into how to engage with and foster leadership among emerging NHPI workers & union members.

Presenters:

- i. Estella Owoimaha-Church, EPIC
- ii. Karla Thomas, EPIC
- iii. Sina Uipi, EPIC

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13. Building an Effective Member Leader Structure

Room: Orcas

As one of the largest unions in the University of California, AFSCME Local 3299 will talk about how we successfully moved workers to multiple strikes through an effective worker leader structure. In the workshop, you'll learn how to build the structure, examples of actions, and ways to overcome challenges.

- i. Ching Lee, AFSCME 3299 (APALA Orange County)
- ii. Agnes Bolos, AFSCME 3299
- iii. Rose Fejerang, AFSCME 3299
- iv. Agnes Castro, AFSCME 3299 (APALA Alameda)

14. How Long COVID-19 Can Shape a New Wave of Worker Rights

Room: St. Helens

The Center for American Progress proposes to present an analysis of Household Pulse Survey (HPS) data on the prevalence of long COVID-19 symptoms in the United States, both at the national and Washington state level, disaggregating by race. The authors will discuss how this impacts the disability community and current workforce. They will argue that policymakers and unions must use this moment to create a new era of better labor practices by utilizing a disability lens to help build quality jobs that are safe, accommodating, and inclusive for all people. Afterward, they will lead a dialogue with audience members on how COVID-19 and long COVID-19 have impacted their communities and discuss how they are addressing various work-related issues in their communities.

- i. Mia Ives-Rublee, Center for American Progress (APALA DC)
- ii. Anona Neal, Center for American Progress

15. Racial Justice in Education

Room: Cascade 1

APALA and the UCLA Labor Center have been working together to advance an agenda for racial justice. With the recent attacks on Affirmative Action, Ethnic Studies, and immigrant students, we need to advance a proactive agenda for racial justice in colleges and schools. Asian Americans have been pitted against other communities of color on the issue of Affirmative Action, when in reality the majority of Asian Americans support Affirmative Action. Recently, undocumented students won a major victory within the University of California to secure employment rights that have been denied to them. This is an excellent opportunity to organize on this issue on campuses across the country. The purpose of this workshop will be to develop a national action plan to advance racial justice, defend affirmative action, promote ethnic studies, and expand educational and employment opportunities for undocumented students.

- i. Arlene Inouye, UTLA (APALA Los Angeles)
- ii. Tracy Lai, AFT (APALA Seattle)
- iii. Jessica Tang, AFT (APALA Massachusetts)
- iv. Justine Lim, UCLA Labor Center (APALA Los Angeles)
- v. Kent Wong, UCLA Labor Center & CFT (APALA Los Angeles)

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16. Closer to Liberation: A New Leadership Development and Political Education tool on Filipinx Activism

Room: Cascade 2

This workshop will provide an overview of Closer to Liberation, a new anthology about Pina/xy and Filipinx activism in the United States and the Philippines. This anthology is a landmark resource that can serve as a political education and leadership development tool for union members and leaders alike. We will highlight the four political pillar around which the anthology is organized: Finding Home, Decolonization, Intersectional Rigor, and Deep Transformative Movement Building as well as the history and evolution of the theory and practice of Pinayism, or Filipina/x Feminism.

- i. Jen Soriano, Independent Scholar
- ii. Ligaya Domingo, SEIU 1199NW (APALA Seattle)
- iii. Amanda Solomon Amorao, UCSD
- iv. Aimee Jurado, UCSD
- v. Allyson Tintiangco, SF State

17. People Over Profit: What are APEC + IPEF? Hear the people's stories!

Room: Elliott Bay

We will discuss the historic significance of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) being hosted in the U.S. for the first time in the last decade and how APEC as an intergovernmental forum preserves the neoliberal status quo and serves state and corporate interests. APEC's meetings will have a massive impact on jobs, wages, labor rights, climate action, consumer privacy and corporate monopoly power both at home and abroad for decades to come. The ministers and corporate representatives involved will use these meetings as another tool to push their "free" trade agenda to maximize their profits at the expense of over 3 billion people. APEC represents one of many neoliberal institutions under imperialism that promote attacks on the working class while propping up mechanisms for corporate and ruling-class profiteering. The APEC round in Seattle (starting July 29 through Aug 21, 2023), like those before it, will specifically be focusing on a trade deal created to preserve U.S. corporate interests (Seattle being a major tech hub) and hegemony in the Asia Pacific region against China.

- i. Jessica Rojas, Pacific Northwest People Over Profit Coalition
- ii. Julie Bouanna, Washington Fair Trade Coalition
- iii. Eni Lestari, International Migrants Alliance
- iv. Mylene Cabalona, President, BIEN
- v. Eunice How, UNITE HERE (APALA Seattle)

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18. Lessons from Global Supply Chain Organizing from Asia to the United States

Room: Adams

This panel brings together leaders from global supply chain campaigns rooted by workers organizing in the garment and seafood sectors in Asia. The presenters will share a recent victory and discuss their current fights to hold multinational corporations accountable for the working conditions on their supply-chains including access to communication at sea, freedom of association, protection from gender based violence and harassment (GBVH) and living wages. They will also pull out lessons from their campaigns and discuss building strong and effective international organizing strategies including direct actions.

- i. Jeeva Muhil, GLJ-ILRF (APALA Philadelphia)
- ii. Johanna Lee, Indonesian Seafarers Gathering Forum
- iii. Billy Yates, Pay Your Workers Campaign
- iv. Munoranjan Pegu, Solidarity Center

19. Labor's Role in Addressing the Climate Crisis

Room: Whidbey

Marginalized workers, including minority populations, people with disabilities, women, youth, migrants, and those in the informal economy, suffer disproportionately from climate change impacts and are frequently excluded from decision-making processes. Natural disasters like flooding, drought, and extreme weather conditions often force workers to migrate, leading them to precarious low-wage jobs that pose significant risks. Workers in highly polluting industries face the double burden of occupational hazards and environmental degradation, which endanger their families and communities. As governments and industries aim to transition to cleaner alternatives, workers and their unions must have meaningful participation to ensure that the transition leads to a greener economy that safeguards workers' rights and promotes decent work.

- i. Sim Bilal, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- ii. Sonia Mistry, Solidarity Center (APALA DC)

20. Building a Policy Campaign: SB 686 Health and Safety for All Workers

Room: Vashon

The workshop will cover the current SB 686 campaign, the fight domestic workers have been organizing to end the exclusion from health and safety protections. Workshop will cover briefly the history of domestic workers exclusion, the dangers/impacts of this exclusion on workers (including the hidden impact and hurt it has on undocumented workers), the history and timeline of the campaign. Also, there's interactive portions.

- i. Jasmine Bucago, Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California

Action for Worker and Climate Justice!

Friday August 4, 4:30pm

Embassy Suites Hilton Pioneer Square

255 S. King St, Seattle, WA 98104

Rally & march to the Chinatown International District

Seattle hotel workers are fighting to make their jobs and the industry more sustainable!

Join hundreds of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander activists at the action, who are in town for the APALA convention!

Questions?

Call/text UNITE HERE

@Eunice (206) 305-0561



UNITE HERE!
LOCAL 8
Hospitality Union of the Northwest

APALA
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE, AFL-CIO