

Pacific Northwest Labor History Association

Preserving the history and heritage of workers in the Pacific Northwest

www.pnlha.org

51st Annual Conference

Join us for a Celebration of Labor's Solidarity Centennial

General Strike 1919-2019: Radicalism, Repression, and Solidarity

May 3-5, 2019

University Place Hotel and Conference Center • 310 SW Lincoln • Portland, OR

Schedule & Sessions

Friday, May 3

- 10am-3:00pm **Labor History Field Trip for High School Students, Who Built America?: Workers' Untold Histories**
contact Norm Diamond for additional information:
norm@lclark.edu
- 5:00-7:00pm **Registration**
- 6:00-9:00pm **Opening Night Reception, Refreshments & No-Host bar**
- "Stand!" trailer from new documentary on Winnipeg General Strike
Ron Verzuh, Independent Labor Historian
 - **Seattle 1919: Rock Opera**—selected songs
Narrated by lyricist & sociologist, Rob Rosenthal



Saturday, May 4

- 8:00-8:45am **Registration & Social Hour, Beverages & Bakery**
- 8:45-9:00am **Welcoming Remarks**
Jim Cook, Oregon PNLHA Vice-President
Tom Lux, PNLHA President
- 9:00-10:30am **Plenary: 1919 – General Strikes & Global Solidarities**
On this centennial anniversary of the Seattle and Winnipeg general strikes, and of the founding of the International Labor Organization, a distinguished panel will reflect on the conditions and concerns that gave rise to those historic events, on their near-term effects, and on their significance to later struggles for workers' rights and dignity.
Moderator: Nikki Mandell, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, emerita
Rod Mickleburgh, Canadian Journalist & Author
James Gregory, University of Washington
Rob Rosenthal, Musician & Wesleyan University, emeritus
Lane Windham, Georgetown University's Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor
- 10:45am-12:15pm **Session I**
- Labor Wars and the Power of Memory**
Chair: Laurie Mercier, Washington State University
- **Bread & Roses: Still Relevant**
John DeGraaf, writer & filmmaker
 - **Remembering Centralia**
Steven Beda, University of Oregon
- Labor and International Trade: Historical Perspectives and Strategies for the Future**
Chair: Marcus Widenor, LERC
- *Peter Donohue, PBI Associates*
 - *Stan Sorcher, SPEEA*
 - *Russell Lum, Oregon Fair Trade Campaign*
- Laborers & Activists in the 20th Century American West**
Chair: Katy Barber, Portland State University
- **Rethinking the Ludlow Massacre: The Conditions of Weaponized Individualism**
Elliot Vaughn, Portland State University
 - **Only One War: The IWW's Interracial Organizing in California**
Helen Ryan, Portland State University
 - **Father Thomas Tobin and Catholic Social Teaching in Portland, Oregon**
Sam Mertz, Portland State University

10:45am-12:15pm

Session I (cont')

The Art of the Protest Song

Chair: Amy Coplen, Portland State University

- **The Art of the Protest Song**
Bill Valenti, Singer- Songwriter
- **General Strike Band: Reflecting on 30+Years on the Front Lines**
Jim Cook, musician

12:30-2:00pm

Lunch & Plenary

The New Labor Movement– Historical Roots & Contemporary Struggles

Union organizer and historian, Lane Windham, will headline a conversation connecting past and present organizing strategies. Windham reveals how diverse workers organized against overwhelming odds in the 1970s and suggests lessons from that union insurgency for present-day workers. Local activists' accounts of the Powell's Books and Burgerville campaigns will open the conversation to local connections and local lessons.

Moderator: Sherman Henry, LERC

- **Keynote: Lane Windham, Georgetown University's Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor Union Organizing in the 1970s and the Future of Workers' Power**
- **Discussants:**
Margaret Butler, Portland Jobs with Justice
Luis Brennan, Burgerville Workers Union-IWW

2:15-3:45pm

Session II

Working the Indian Way(s): Indigenous Labor Diversity at the Turn of the Century

Chair: Ryan Dearing, Eastern Oregon University

- **Authority and Exploitation: Karuk and Yurok Anthropological Informants in the Early Twentieth Century**
Waylon Lenk, University of Oregon
- **Women's Work in the Balance: Salmon, Roots, and Cultural Agency in the Early Reservation Period**
Patience Collier, University of Oregon
- **A Special Kind of Seasonal Labor: The Redwood Highway Indian Marathon**
Tara Keegan, University of Oregon

Labor Militancy and Reaction, 1917-1925

Chair: Heather Mayer, Portland Community College

- **The 1917 Trail Smelter Strike as Prelude to the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike and the Western Labour Revolt (1917-1925)**
Ron Verzuh, Independent Labor Historian
- **"Comrades in the Holy War": Rev. Robert Whitaker's Radical Coalition Building, 1919-1924**
Kathleen Brown, St. Edwards University
- **A Red Scare in the Attorney General's Office: Repression of the IWW in Washington State, 1919-1923**
Lindsay M.R. Oden, Washington State Attorney General's Office

Sista in the Brotherhood film & conversation

- Donna Hammond, IBEW 48
- Roberta Hunte, Portland State University

Labor at the Legislature

Moderator: Tom Chamberlain, Oregon AFL-CIO

- Ed Lindquist, former Oregon State Representative
- Randy Leonard, former Portland City Commissioner
- Margaret Carter, former Oregon State Representative and Senator

4:00-5:30pm

Session III

Red for Ed: Teachers on the March

Chair: Alex Stegner, Lincoln High School, Portland

- **100 Years of Teacher Unionism**
Fred Glass, California Federation of Teachers
- **Washington Teachers on Strike**
Candy Herrera, Washington Teachers Association

Gender and the Labor Movement: Historical Perspectives, Today's Challenges, Pt II

Moderator: Barbara Byrd, Oregon AFL-CIO

- Laurie Mercier, Washington State University
- Alice Dale, SEIU Local 503
- Evelyn Shapiro, Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters
- April Sims, Washington State Labor Council
- Sussanne Skidmore, BC Federation of Labour

4:00-5:30pm

Session III (cont')

The Care Revolution: The Transformation of Home Health Care in Oregon film & discussion

- *Bob Bussel, University of Oregon, Labor Education and Research Center (LERC)*
- *Sonia De La Cruz, filmmaker*

Social Activism with Art, interactive workshop

- *Rob Rosenthal, Musician & Wesleyan University, emeritus*

6:00-9:00pm

Saturday Awards Banquet and Labor Music

- **Banquet Dinner & No-host bar**
- **PNLHA Awards:**
 - **Persons of the Year:** *Alice Dale, Former Executive Director, SEIU 503*
Norm Diamond, Labor Educator and Author of "The Power in Our Hands"
 - **Making History Award:** *Burgerville Workers Union-IWW*
 - **Labor Music:** *David Rovics*

Sunday, May 5

8:00-9:00am

Social Hour, Beverages & Bakery

9:00-10:30am

Session IV

Demanding Dignity: Work from Farm to Table

Chair: Steven Beda, University of Oregon

- **Rogue Pear Pickers: Migrant Workers in Southern Oregon's Rogue Valley, 1942-1964**
Madelina Cordia, Southern Oregon University
- **Strategies of Self: The Cultural Foundations of Dignity in Fast Food Work**
Brain Serafini, University of Washington
- **Making Fast Food History: Situating the Burgerville Workers Union Amid the Movement for Living Wages**
Amy Coplen, Portland State University
- **Cannabis-Infused Dreams: Understanding Work in Morally Contested Markets**
Michele Cardigan, University of Washington

Remembering & Empowering Workers: Two Community History Projects

- **Race, Labor and Civil Rights: Organizing in the shipyards and the town of Vanport during World War II**
Patricia Kullberg, Author
- **St. Johns' Working Class History**
Michael Brown, St. John's Heritage Association

The Oregonian Newspaper Strike and the Future of Journalism

Moderator: Ron Verzuh, Independent Labor Historian

- *Jeanne Ramsten, AFSCME 88*
- *Kevin Jesequel, IBEW 48*
- *Rod Mickleburgh, Canadian journalist and author*
- *Don McIntosh, Northwest Labor Press*

Post-Janus and the Open Shop

Chair: Sherman Henry, LERC

- *James Cook, PNLHA*
- *David Norton, NALC Branch 82*
- *Elissa Edge, Oregon School Employees Association*

Labor Wars of the Northwest, film & conversation

- *David Jepsen, filmmaker & Tacoma Community College*

11:00am

PNLHA Business Meeting

Registration Information

Fees: Registration fees include all workshops, musical presentations, and plenaries. They do not include accommodations, meals, transportation, or parking fees.

Students will receive **Free Registration** if received within the **Early Registration Period** (April 20). Solidarity Scholarships are available.

Before April 20th:

Regular - \$75 U.S. / \$95 Canadian (Meals and Banquet not included)

Student - Free Registration (Meals and Banquet not included)

After April 20th:

Regular - \$95 U.S. / \$115 Canadian (Meals and Banquet not included)

Student - \$30 (Please Inquire about Scholarship Availability)

Meal Fees for Saturday Lunch and Banquet

Saturday, May 4th Lunch, \$20 U.S./\$25 Canadian

Saturday, May 4th Evening Awards Banquet, \$50 U.S./\$60 Canadian

Special Discount Package Offer

Before April 20th: Registration, Sat. Lunch and Awards Banquet - \$135 U.S. / \$170 Canadian

TO REGISTER, go to the registration information on the PNLHA website:

<https://pnlha.wordpress.com> (online and mail-in options)

Thanks to these sponsors who have generously contributed to the conference

(as of 3/29)

- Labor Education and Research Center, University of Oregon
- Conflict Resolution Program, Portland State University
- Oregon Historical Society
- United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 555
- Bakers, Local 114
- Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters
- Oregon AFL-CIO
- Northwest Oregon Labor Council
- PNLHA British Columbia
- AFM, Local 99
- USWA District 12
- AFSCME, Local 328
- AFT Oregon
- IAM, Local 1005
- IBEW, Local 48
- IBT, Local 162
- IAM, Local 63
- SEIU, Local 503
- Portland State University - History Department
- Northwest Labor Press
- Teamsters, Local 162
- Painters - IUPAT District Council 5
- Members and Friends of Labor