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 Widener, LERC
• Peter Donohue, PBI Associates
• Stan Sorcher, SPEEA
• Russell Lum, Oregon Fair Trade Campaign

10:45am-12:15pm  Session I
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 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 Dearinger, 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. John’s 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 49
- 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