

Let's Get Fired Up

by Louis Gabriele



On March 31, 2022, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel on 404 South Figueroa Street, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor got on the way to the 2022 Workers Congress with a Delegates' meeting at 8:00AM to install the newly elected officers including President Ron Herrera. He remarked that he is the "President of the *Bad-Ass Union* in the country." Registration began at 7:00AM with COVID-19 vaccination checks. Everyone was asked to wear a mask. Food was served: Breakfast and Lunch.



There were workshops:

- 1) Power Starts with Organizing
 - 2) From Protest to Vote
 - 3) Will Strike, If Provoked
- Striking Sanitation workers won big



Harness the Energy

Attendees were encouraged to wear their Union colors and T-shirts. Guest speakers were Liz Shuler, General President, AFL-CIO; Lorena Gonzalez, Incoming President of the California Federation of Labor; Susan Minato, Co-President, UNITE HERE Local 11; Yvonne Wheeler, Vice President, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Frank V. Lima, General-President, IAFF; and Dr. Angela Davis, Educator, Activist, and Author.



In August of 1970, Angela Davis was charged with murder, kidnaping and conspiracy in a Marin County courtroom shootout in which a judge and three convicts were killed during an attack designed to gain freedom for “The Soledad Brothers,” three black inmates accused of murdering a guard in Soledad State Prison. She went underground but in October, Dr. Davis was tracked down by the FBI at a New York motel. She spent 17 months in prison and was brought to trial in San Jose. A jury found her not guilty of all three charges in June of 1972. She became an international figure. After years of reflecting, she says that she feel angry but does not feel bitter.

Davis earned a master's degree from the University of California, San Diego, in 1968. She earned a doctorate in philosophy at the Humboldt University in East Berlin. In 2016, Davis was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in Healing and Social Justice from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco during its 48th annual commencement ceremony. Dr. Angela Davis is booked “live” at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles on June 5, 2022 at 7:30PM. Her Theme: “Power to the Imagination”



Dr. Davis' thoughts on Democracy: “It comes from the labor of working people. That's why we are here today”

Wrapping it up

Here are some housekeeping thoughts:

Having a grasp of organizing fundamentals is the key to building power in your workplace. Learn how to handle your co-workers' fears and discouragement through active listening and relationship building. The strike is back: Nurses, Teachers, entertainment workers and sanitation workers. Discuss strategy, mobilization, creative tactics and building blocks of a good campaign. Don't forget that Labor with a capital "L" has been part of the largest movements recently: Immigration, Black Lives Matter, Student Debt, the Environment and Voting Rights plus more. It's time to plan. No one should be left behind.

All COVID protocols for Los Angeles County Indoor Mega Events were strictly observed. Proof of full vaccinations included a vaccination card issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a photo of both sides of the card, documentation from a health care provider, or a digital record of vaccination issued by California that documents first and second doses of the Pfizer or MODERNA vaccine, or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. COVID testing was available from 6am through the duration of the event on the first floor of the City National parking garage.

And finally....



NABET-CWA Local 53 Officers were present



CWA SCC L&P Committee was represented

President Herrera's thoughts: "750,000 Members". When he says "LA" You say "Union"

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