



Organizing the South: Confronting Employers & The State To Build Worker Power

Workers in the South have been fighting for their rights for more than a century, confronting the combined opposition of employers and the State and the heavy weight of racism, sexism and xenophobia. As the recent teacher strikes in North Carolina and other red states show, the organizing climate is more favorable now than it has been for years. This panel brings together grass-roots leaders to discuss the challenges that workers face and the strategies that have worked to build workers' power.

Michelle Burton is a 25-year veteran educator in Durham, North Carolina and currently works as a school library media coordinator for Durham Public Schools. She has been a member of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), an affiliate of the National Educators Association (NEA) for over 20 years. Michelle is currently the President of the Durham Association of Educators (DAE) and President of the NCAE Student Services Division. She is also a member of the Organize 2020 Caucus, the social justice caucus of NCAE. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois and having family members actively involved in unions in her home state of Illinois, Michelle is a big believer in the positive impact that unions have on people's lives and is actively helping with the fight to stop the privatization of public schools in North Carolina.

Neidi Dominguez is the National Strategic Campaign Coordinator and Assistant to the General President for the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). Neidi is a long-time labor and immigrants' rights organizer. She co-directed the CLEAN Carwash campaign in Los Angeles, California, which successfully unionized hundreds of carwash workers in Los Angeles County and changed working conditions for thousands of low-wage immigrant workers. She was also a key leader in the campaign to win Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Jaribu Hill is Founder and Executive Director of the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights (the Center). She is a human rights attorney, veteran community organizer, international human rights spokesperson, and a frequent writer and commentator on these themes. Hill is the founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Roundtable and CUNY Law School's Mississippi Project. After Katrina, Jaribu and the Mississippi Workers' Center established the Southern Relief Fund / Witness Delegation, to provide support for victims of Katrina. As former director of the Southern Regional Office of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Hill won an important judgment against the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. She has coordinated cutting edge litigation in the areas of housing as a human right and racially hostile work environments. The Center currently represents a "MeToo" survivor in the Mississippi Delta.

Angaza Sababu Laughinghouse is a veteran community, labor & human rights organizer, lawyer and leader. Angaza came back to his family roots in North Carolina

from Brooklyn, New York in 1979 to do Anti-Ku Klux Klan organizing & legal work in response to the tragic "Greensboro Massacre" of five left activists doing union and anti-racist organizing. As a co-founder and former chair for 38 years of Black Workers For Justice, co-founder and president of the "social justice union" UE Local 150, the NC Public Service Workers Union and former Board of Director member of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (legal arm of the Black Liberation Movement), he brings more than five decades as a labor organizer as well as a Black Freedom Struggle / Black Liberation Movement activist.