Leading the Fight for Safe and Healthy Workplaces!

10/02/2012
Dear Worker Organizing Activist:

We are writing to invite participation by yourself or others in your organization in the forthcoming 2-day training program on “Health And Safety Tools in Organizing Campaigns”, Dec. 6-7, at the Maritime Institute, near Baltimore airport. This program – the first of its kind – promises to be an exciting opportunity for people from a range of backgrounds and skills involved in today’s campaigns to mobilize non-union workers and communities. Whether they do the research, talk to workers, connect with the media or organize community supporters, they will find it a useful experience, with lots of take-home skills and lessons to support their ongoing work.

See the attached agenda for details about the 4 specific workshops over the two-day period. The leaders of the “Health And Safety Tools in Organizing Campaigns” are CtW H&S Director Eric Frumin and veteran UAW organizer Barbara Rahke—currently Director of the Philadelphia Area Project on OSH (Philaposh). Other experienced organizers and H&S activists will lead individual sessions as well. Key topics will include:
- Research methods: what works, and what doesn’t.
- Moving H&S issues on the ground with workers
- Public messaging with the media and community supporters
- Legal rights
- Key tactics in past campaigns

The registration fee is $358 [double occupancy] including room and board for two nights.

Please let us know BY OCTOBER 22 whether you or others from your organization plan to participate in the Organizing/H&S track within the overall conference. We will need that time in order to finalize the agenda, presenters and materials. In addition to registering for the conference, please provide this information to Eric Frumin at Eric.Frumin@changetowin.org [212-341-7065 o]

In addition, if you want the final agenda to address the specific needs of your own campaigns, please let us know as soon as possible so we can try to do so as we complete the plans. While we cannot assure that the agenda will be modified, we appreciate the interest, knowing that we will all benefit from sharing our knowledge about best organizing practices, current employer challenges, etc.

Also attached is the agenda for the overall 2012 National “COSH” Health and Safety conference, within which this specific training program is taking place. (If you are not already familiar with the national network of “COSH” groups, you can find more information. As in prior years, we expect over 150 people to attend the various sessions, including the key speeches and panels by CWA President Larry Cohen, AFL-CIO H&S Director Peg Seminario, OSHA Deputy Administrator Jordan Barab, veteran local H&S activists from Boston to LA, families of workplace tragedies, and others. The conference is endorsed by the AFL-CIO, CtW, Interfaith Worker Justice and other individual unions and worker advocates.

[Address and contact information]

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IT IS EXPECTED THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL ATTEND ALL FOUR SESSIONS OVER THE 2-DAY PERIOD ON “Health And Safety Tools in Organizing Campaigns”, IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE OVERALL CONFERENCE.

Much of the program on Organizing/H&S will be based on the real-life experience of lead organizers, strategic researchers and labor H&S experts as they moved programs in the midst of various kinds of campaigns among non-union workers and communities. Indeed, one of the primary purposes of the program is to help all involved understand the importance of the close collaboration needed amongst various parts of a campaign to maximize the effectiveness of H&S tactics as part of an overall strategy. Such training and coordination early in a campaign can help avoid the inevitable problems when trying to adjust strategies and tactics only as a crisis appears, after other options have already disappeared.

The class size for the “Health And Safety Tools in Organizing Campaigns” will be limited, with a minimum of 12, and will be conducted in English. We hope you will register for the conference here.

In Solidarity,
Organizing Track Planning Committee
Eric Frumin - CTW H&S
Barbara Rahke - Philaposh
Andy Comai - UAW H&S
Chloe Osmer - AFL-CIO Organizing
Peter Dooley - National COSH Network