



GET STRIKE READY! AND BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

It's already a hot labor summer, and the heat is turning up as DSA chapters across the country make themselves Strike Ready. The stakes are high, the opportunities many!

At press time, the Writers Guild of America, representing 11,500 writers, is standing up for fair pay from residuals and more. Chapters from Los Angeles to New York are out supporting the picket lines. Workers at Maximus, a federally contracted call center, have walked off the job in several Southern states. Black and Latina women make up nearly half of Maximus frontline workers. And, as we go to press, over 340,000 Teamsters are negotiating their contract and preparing for a possible strike. If they go out on the picket lines, it will be the largest strike in U.S. history!

That's why DSA Labor is working with chapters to get Strike Ready. Chapters and members have signed the pledge. We're here to support the Teamsters if they decide to strike.

The Strike Ready campaign is goal-oriented labor solidarity work that builds our skills, strengthens

our connections within the labor movement, and can win life-changing victories. This kind of work is not new to DSA. As National Political Committee chair Kristian Hernandez points out, during the PRO Act campaign, DSA members made over one million phone calls and swung two senators' votes.

And chapters have worked in coalition to make major labor wins. Just this spring, New York DSA chapters, together with labor and environmental group allies, had a huge win with the passage of the Build Public Renewables Act (BPRA). The BPRA taxes the rich to win a state-level Green New Deal, which will create well-paid union jobs across the state as part of this shift toward

publicly owned renewable energy.

So, what can you do to get involved with DSA labor solidarity work? Reach out to your chapter to find out! Take the Strike Ready Pledge at dsausa.us/strikepledgeSD — you can find picket line support tips there as well.

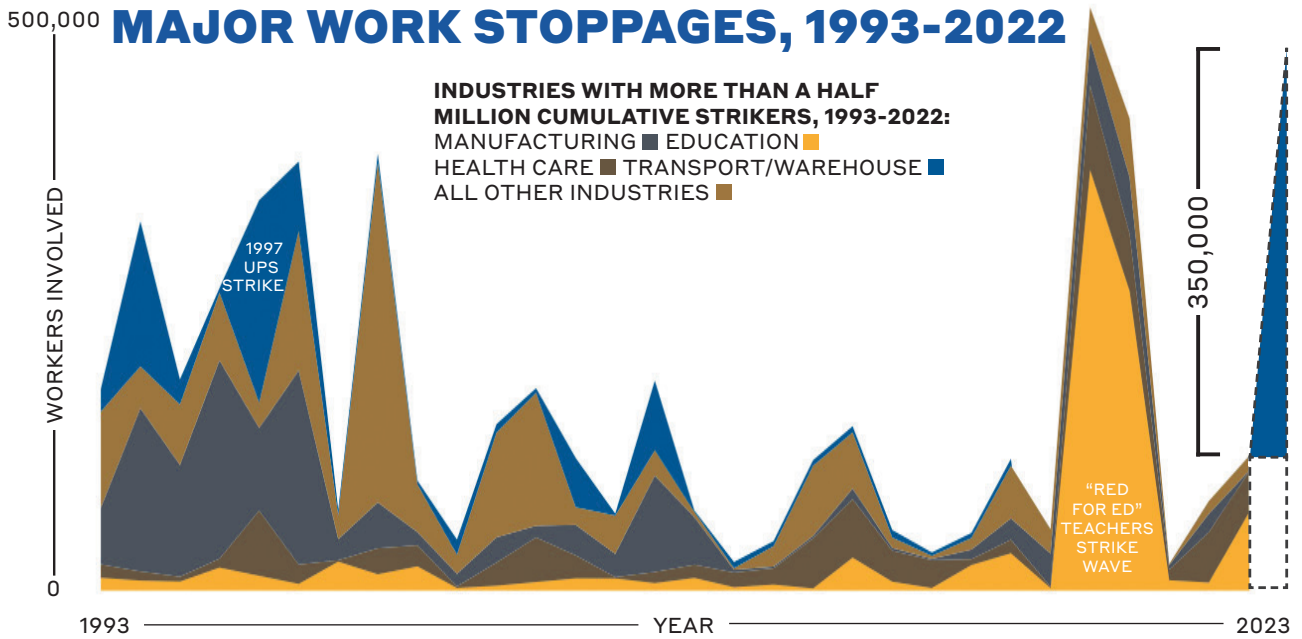
We're supporting the Teamsters in their contract negotiations now, and we'll be there if they strike. And there's more to come. For example, the United Auto Workers (UAW) has negotiations at three automakers this summer, with contracts expiring in September. Building our strike capacity will help us support them if they need it. We've been there for Starbucks workers, teachers, nurses — anywhere workers are on the picket line, we have their backs! 🌹

Take the Picket Line Pledge! Say you'll support the fight and join the UPS Teamsters' picket lines on August 1 if they need to strike.

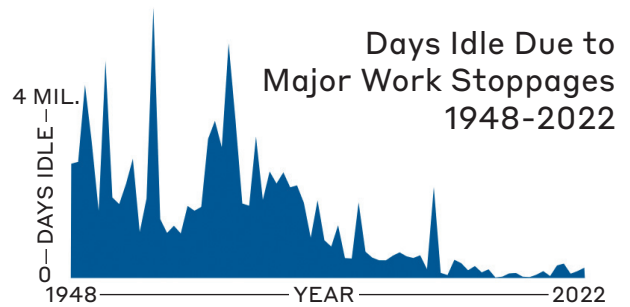
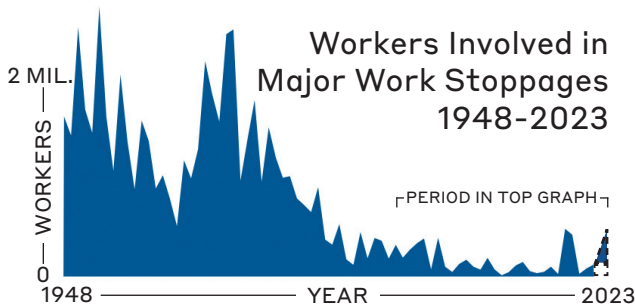


Sign up here!





A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY ... Suppressed working class power since the 1980s has coincided with a historic ebb in the use of the strike weapon. A strike by 350,000 Teamsters working at UPS would be the largest single strike in terms of workers participating since at least 1993, the first year for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics issues strike-by-strike figures for major work stoppages (defined as involving more than 1,000 workers).



... AND A LONG WAY TO GO. DSA's Strike Ready campaign aims to support UPS Teamsters and all striking workers as they take up that weapon again. The Teamsters UPS contract expires August 1, 2023. In the meantime, it's time to get "strike ready." Strike ready DSA chapters will ...

- ✓ Publicly commit to the Strike Ready campaign
- ✓ Ask socialist elected officials with connections to their chapter to commit to supporting the Teamsters
- ✓ Choose at least two Solidarity Captains to be liaisons with the DSA National Labor Commission (NLC)
- ✓ Review the Strike Ready 2023 Chapter Kit (bit.ly/strike-ready-kit)

- ✓ Support escalating contract actions as announced by the Teamsters International, local UPS Teamsters, and the NLC
- ✓ Canvass their membership, local contacts, and the community to build support and ask them to sign the pledge

- ✓ Run a fundraiser for the DSA Labor Solidarity fund (bit.ly/solidarity-fund-toolkit)
- ✓ Ask members to sign the Strike Ready Pledge (bit.ly/strike-ready-pledge)
- ✓ Use the excitement generated to recruit chapter members to commit to the rank and file strategy and prepare for future labor solidarity actions

DSA Guide to UPS Teamsters
 Strike Ready Chapter Tracker
 UPS Teamster Reading
 Labor Corps Solidarity Calls
 Campaign Timeline

RESOURCES
bit.ly/dsa-ibt-guide
bit.ly/strike-ready-tracker
bit.ly/UPS-Teamster-reading
bit.ly/solidarity-calls
bit.ly/UPS-campaign-timeline

FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

POWER AND CONTRADICTIONS



BY MARIA SVART

One hundred years ago labor organizer A.J. Muste observed that the very structure of a union is inherently unstable and contradictory. I find many parallels in DSA.

A union, or a democratic organization (think DSA), must be like an army, he said, with soldiers in the class war ready to act swiftly, in unison and with discipline, to win concrete victories and defend itself against the owning class. But it must also be like a debate society, replacing an education system and democratic town square largely co-opted by elites in order to promote the exploration of new ideas and strategies by its membership. These functions require very different structures, yet we just have one organization. The tensions

are inherent. In his words:

“The situation is truly serious. The impossible is demanded of the union and its leadership...Yet there is no solution to the dilemma. As in so many other situations with which life confronts human beings, there is no cut-and-dried answer to be found which once and for all settles the case. The solution consists in making, from time to time, adjustments which synthesize two quite incompatible functions. Nothing is further from a solution than the simple device of cutting out or ignoring one or the other of the terms. The union must remain both an army and a town meeting. It must at the same time both fight and discuss.”

He goes on to name a number of other challenges, such as the tension between operating in the world as it is and at the same time raising expectations for a transformed world, or the difficulty in recognizing external conditions driving conflict when internal factors feel so much closer.

All these dynamics come to mind

as we organize for our national Strike Ready campaign and simultaneously our national convention. At press time, 118 solidarity captains are ready to mobilize their DSA chapters, and 90 elected officials have pledged to stand in solidarity with possible massive strikes this year. Meanwhile 1,082 delegates will be elected from across the country to chart DSA's next two years.

To win this labor battle or to collectively develop a strategy to win the long game, we need to build power, and we need to know ourselves and our inherent structural contradictions. We must remember what makes us unique as a member-funded organization with aspirations to become truly mass led. And we must also thoroughly examine the realities that exist on the ground and the political and economic terrain outside of our organization.

I hope you share my joy at having a political home where we can consider, and organize through, these contradictions together. In the words of yet another famous theorist and activist, we “have a world to win”! 🌹

CHAPTER AND VERSE

YDSA ORGANIZES AGAINST ANTI-LGBTQ+ LAWS

COMPILED BY CLAUDIA CAHILL

This Pride month, the LGBTQ+ community celebrates our fierce love while facing organized assaults on our very existence.

With 2023 not even half over, Human Rights Watch reports a record number of anti-LGBTQ+ legal efforts. More than 520 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in state legislatures. Of these, over 220 bills specifically target transgender and non-binary people.

DSA members, especially those in YDSA chapters, are organizing against these efforts. Among the chapters standing up for LGBTQ+ rights in their schools and their



Attendees at University of Louisville (UofL) YDSA's rally | Emerson Kerr

communities are the following:

In a deep-red state, facing opposition from the school administration at every step of the way, **YDSA-East Tennessee State University**

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Democratic Left (ISSN 1643207) is published six times per year at P.O. Box 1038, New York NY 10272. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY (Publication No. 701-960).

Subscriptions: \$25 regular, \$30 institutional. *Postmaster:* Send address changes to P.O. Box 1038, New York NY 10272. (212) 727-8610.

Signed articles express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the organization.

held 18-and-over drag shows (attended by about 900 people) that protested anti-gay and anti-drag bills and raised funds for local queer rights organizations. And when a campus conservative group invited anti-trans political commentator Michael Knowles to speak, YDSA ETSU sprang into action. Knowles has called for “transgenderism” to be “eradicated from public life.”

YDSA ETSU set up a petition about the event, reached out to local press, and held a joyful, educational “No Hate In Our State Block Party” across from the venue, where some 300 people listened to speakers, danced, and celebrated in contrast to Knowles’s bile.

And in Kentucky, **University of Louisville (UofL) YDSA** pushed the school to take a stand against SB 150, a bill touted as a “parents’ rights” measure that targets trans children at school, amps up Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” law, and bans gender-affirming care for people under 18.

YDSA held town halls on the bill and

started an open letter to the university that garnered 200 signatures. After the bill passed, they rallied on campus to demand protection for transgender community members in response to the law and an increase in transphobic incidents on campus. Their demands brought more funding to the LGBTQ+ center.

And, in the face of attacks on gender-affirming healthcare across the country, **University of North Texas YDSA** organized to improve access to hormone replacement treatment (HRT) care on campus. As a result, the on-campus health center

committed to training employees in transgender health care and considering experience in trans healthcare in its hiring process.

LGBTQ+ people are being attacked as workers, as students, as parents, and more. It is no exaggeration to say that we are the proverbial canaries in the coal mine. When our rights are denied, everyone suffers. We must all stand up to protect ourselves, watch out for each other, and win a brighter future! 🌹

CLAUDIA CAHILL *(she/they)* is Democratic Left’s DSA staff liaison.



The 2023 DSA National Convention will take place in Chicago, Illinois, August 4-6. Convention updates will be posted regularly on the website at convention2023.dsausa.org. There you can find a compendium of submitted proposals and amendments, information about National Political Committee elections, and more. Check it out!

And do you want to support ALL of our delegates? The Convention Solidarity Fund helps cover travel expenses for those struggling to make ends meet, on-site child watch for parents, accessibility accommodations, and more. Give today at dsausa.us/2023ConvFund to help a comrade get to Chicago!

MOVING? LET US KNOW AT DSUSA.US/DL_ADDRESS_CHANGE. We save money, and you don’t miss an issue.



A better world is possible.

I want to join DSA. I want to renew my membership.

Enclosed are my dues: \$45 Introductory \$60 Regular \$20 Student \$27 Low-Income \$175 Sustainer An extra contribution

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