

# THE CLASS STRUGGLE CHRONICLE

Vol. III, No. 4 Tuesday April 1, 2025

PUBLISHED  
MONTHLY

A Publication of  
**THE LOUISVILLE  
WORKERS  
BRIGADE**

[www.louworkersbrigade.org](http://www.louworkersbrigade.org)

CONTACT US AT:  
contact@  
louworkersbrigade.org



*All Workers  
Deserve Unions!*

**EXPLOITATION  
OPPRESSION**

*No Ban, No Wall,  
Sanctuary for All!*

**SOLIDARITY FOREVER!**



**The Louisville Workers Brigade** is an association of working people dedicated to educating, supporting, and uniting working class forces in the Louisville community.

We organize with union and non-union workers alike.

The Brigade **educates** workers by organizing regular Educational Presentations which focus on Labor and Working Class history and issues and by producing easy-to-read literature for working people.

The Brigade **supports** workers through aid during strikes, by platforming workplace grievances, by providing counsel to workers exploring options to organize their workplaces, and through organizing solidarity actions for workers.

Lastly, the Brigade **unites** workers by breaking down the divisions which the owning class has used to divide workers against each other and by organizing regular Community Socials where working people can meet other workers in the community and can begin to build ties of solidarity with one another.

The Brigade proudly continues the legacy of Class Struggle Unionism which understands that our present economic system is design for the minority owning class to become unbelievably wealth off the labor of the majority Working Class. We reject the false notion of “peaceful coexistence” between these two rival classes whose interests are diametrically opposed to one another. Instead, we seek to heighten this class conflict by empowering workers to secure economic, political, social, and cultural power for themselves through struggle.

Though we organize in the greater Louisville community, the Brigade stands in solidarity with the diverse International Working Class and we oppose all social chauvinisms and bigotries which divide workers against each other, including sexism, misogyny, queerphobia, racism, and nativism. We believe that Working Class Liberation must always be synonymous with Women’s Liberation, Black Liberation, and Queer Liberation and support the struggles of exploited and oppressed peoples everywhere.

[www.louworkersbrigade.org](http://www.louworkersbrigade.org)

# To Combat Oppression, it Must be Class Struggle

By The Louisville Workers Brigade

*March 7, 2025*

Our world is rife with a myriad of diseases that fall under the banner of oppression. Racism, misogyny, queerphobia, nativism, nationalism—all of these chauvinisms run rampant, causing serious and often deadly harm to sections of the working class, who are also forced to contend with the unyielding exploitation wrought by the ruling class and its many institutions. The origins of each of these oppressions is a long, complicated history rooted in the ever-changing material conditions of society; nonetheless, their results are clear and visible for all to see, but what is less obvious is the forces behind it. When we analyze these oppressions, we assume that this is an issue of “good” and “bad” ideas, between ignorance and enlightenment, and while this is true when we’re talking with other working people who have subscribed to these beliefs, our society doesn’t operate off ideas without a material basis.

Our society, under our present economic system, continues to be subjected to all manner of oppressions for one reason: it maintains the status quo. While the outward character of oppression is the favoring of one grouping of people over another, oppression serves the dual purpose of producing profits and maintaining a divided working class. Through discriminatory practices, the owning class creates a subsection of the working class that is treated with contempt by the more privileged sections of the working class. This subsection is alienated from the rest of their class, which fuels division between them and the rest of their class and leaves the former more vulnerable to greater levels of exploitation. This secondary purpose of oppression secures the owning class an

extra source of profit while also keeping the various sections of the working class fighting each other over their identities instead of uniting to fight for their shared interests. From this, oppression solidifies the rule of the owners over the workers, ensuring that the workers are unable to rise up and challenge the parasitic economic system we’re forced to toil under. History has demonstrated the power and impact of oppression, with the story of the Labor Movement being deeply impacted by systems like racism, which allowed for conservative- and reactionary-minded labor policies that blunted the militancy of the broader labor movement and allowed for the encroachment of class collaborationism based on supposed “shared interests” with the bosses, which only served to reinforce the exploitation and oppression that working and oppressed people face.

This makes the issues of oppression deeply intertwined with the class struggle. In addition to the moral argument of condemning the injustices afflicted upon marginalized communities, another reason we must combat oppression is that it hampers and derails the liberation of working and oppressed people. As mentioned, oppression allows for division between working people, limiting the ability of different groups of workers to develop a shared class consciousness and stand as members of the same class. Ultimately, oppression weakens the expression of the power we, working people, have as the ones who keep society running. Take racism—one of the long-standing chauvinisms in the US. Prior to the formation of the CIO and a prominent push for interracial solidarity and organizing, the preeminent labor federation, the AFL, was drenched in

racism, making them inconsiderate and hostile to the plight of Black workers. Despite labor unions being one of the primary vehicles for workers to combat exploitation, when the largest labor federation of the time was opposed to organizing Black workers, this caused these workers to become apathetic and hostile to unions, whom they saw as groups meant only for white people. This example, and many others, ultimately damaged the struggle for working and oppressed peoples' liberation and prolongs the suffering of everyone.

Going beyond the workplace and unions, chauvinisms harm all working people in different ways. For example, the inflaming of xenophobia after 9/11, gave Republicans and Democrats the backing they needed to pass the Patriot Act, one of the most extensive domestic surveillance bills ever passed that we're still dealing with the fallout from—23 years later. Furthermore, the inflaming of divisions is used by the Republicans and Democrats to pit us against one another and use us as a source of support for their anti-worker agendas as long as “our group” isn't harmed too badly. This leads to a whole host of other areas that oppression reinforces, such as the overbloated funding of police departments, the restricting and dismantling of social services, the weaponizing of valid oppression for political gain (i.e., Zionism), etc.

As we can see, there is a pressing need to combat oppression, but how do we combat it? The mainstream arguments fall into one of two camps: individual struggle or reformism. The first argument, individual struggle, though not directly advocated, is heavily emphasized with all the “feel good” and “empowering” stories of a person from a marginalized community pushing through the odds despite their identity to become fierce, independent champion of their own interests, as they climb the ranks to join the rest of the owning class. Once they achieved the “American Dream” for themselves, these individuals

attend numerous conferences and talk shows to recount their struggle, with the interviewer and audience just eating up their re-packaged version of the “pull yourself up by the bootstraps” mentality. These “success stories” claim each of us can “rise above” oppressive systems and partake in the promised “American Dream” if we just shut up and take the beating. This line of thinking, compatible with status quo, demonizes any form of progressive change, placing the blame for the effects of oppression on the individual, and asserting that we each need to “hustle” and push ourselves to the limit to overcome oppression. None of this is true, not in the slightest. No matter how many workers of marginalized groups “ascend,” the vast majority is left behind to suffer the full weight of oppression and exploitation.

The second argument, reformism, is a much more widespread and appealing path toward combating oppression, and why not? It's easy—anyone can attend a meeting in support of a policy, anyone can canvas door-to-door to get an initiative or political party on the ballot, anyone can vote on a bill before it becomes law, etc. Even the mainstream historical telling of events reinforces the appeal for reformism, with the deeply powerful stories of Martin Luther King Jr. and the rest of the Black community engaging in nonviolent actions to achieve the various Civil Rights legislation told to every child ad nauseum. However, what is conveniently missed from this heavily sanitized story is the fact that the FBI targeted Dr. King or that Dr. King was becoming far more radical and disillusioned with mere legislation and the narrow focus of legal rights. Stories such as these are to give the illusion that achieving reforms is easy and that once they're in place the struggle for empowerment and liberation is no longer needed. As we have seen time and time again, reforms under our present economic system are not powerful enough to fundamentally alter the system of exploitation nor are they strong enough to withstand the power of the

owning class. At the end of the day, these reforms can only ever go so far and they are always subject to the whims of the owning class.

In the individual struggle and through reformism, working and oppressed people are forced into a continued state of siege as they must withstand the onslaught of oppression and exploitation, allowing the rule of the owning class to remain unchallenged and their world to remain intact. If working and oppressed people are to rid the world of oppression, we need to move past the defensive struggle and must engage in offensive struggle. As stated previously, the thing that unites all working and oppressed people is their shared experience of exploitation. This is what makes the workplace the primary arena in the struggle between the workers and owners, as this is where the chains of all working people are forged. The workplace is also the nexus where exploitation and oppression meet, as we can see from the history of racism, sexism, queerphobia, etc. In this, the workplace is a key battleground for the dual abolition of exploitation and oppression, and to achieve this aim, we must be guided by class struggle unionism. Class struggle unionism, the manifestation of revolutionary organizing, demands a relentless fight for all working and oppressed people against exploitation and all forms of oppression. Under a class struggle perspective, workers of all stripes, industries, backgrounds, etc. unite as a class and fight for their interests against the owning class. In both the workplace and the community, class struggle unionists unite the fight against exploitation and oppression, with them equally fighting tooth-and-nail to end wage theft and end systemic racism.

Every single day, working and oppressed are driven to the edge of ruin. Taking centerstage for all working and oppressed people is the exploitation we experience and its myriad of effects—having to decide to pay the electric bill or

purchase groceries for the month, avoiding visits to the doctor while our health continues to decline, sacrificing time for rest as we take more and more shifts at work or work multiple jobs to make ends meet, etc. All of this is made worse by oppression, which cuts up the working class into different sections and adds an extra layer of suffering, which not only harms the group oppressed but also allows the bosses to exploit them more and divide them from the rest of the working class. In this, exploitation and oppression are partners in crime that divide and conquer working and oppressed people in the name of sustaining the rule of the owning class. This is why we must fight oppression and exploitation together, not one or the other, but both. In our struggle, whether in the workplace or in the community, we must be driven by class struggle unionism and fight against both in equal measure. Only through class struggle, not individual struggle and not solely with reforms, can working and oppressed people wage an effective and longstanding struggle against exploitation and oppression. It is only through class struggle that a world for working and oppressed people, devoid of either, is possible.

The Louisville Workers Brigade will always stand in unwavering solidarity with workers and their struggles. The fight against exploitation and the fight against oppression are struggles we hold close to our hearts and we will always stand in equal measure against both. As 2025 continues to unfold, we welcome working people of all stripes and backgrounds to come together, to recognize our shared experiences and desires, to identify the shared source of our suffering, and to unite into an unbreakable class based on solidarity of all kinds, as we march forward to a future where exploitation and oppression relegated to the dustbin of history.

Power, Peace, and Liberation to all working and oppressed peoples!

# **An Interview with A Worker at BlueOval SK**

By The Louisville Workers Brigade

March 14, 2025

For the last few years, Glendale, Kentucky, has been the site of the construction of the electric vehicle battery plant BlueOval SK, a joint venture between one of the Big Three American car manufacturers, Ford, and the South Korean electric vehicle battery company SK On. The work involved in the creation of electric vehicle batteries is incredibly dangerous, with workers required to handle chemicals and contend with toxic fumes, making worker safety a primary concern for the workers. Given the propensity for companies to disregard the safety of its workers in exchange for higher profits and based on recent actions by BlueOval SK management, it's no surprise then that despite BlueOval SK not set to start production until sometime in the first quarter of 2025, the workers at the company are taking a stand: in November 2024, the workers made their intent to unionize public by filing for an election to organize with the UAW.

The date for this election has yet to be set by the NLRB, which has been intentionally complicated by the company trying every which way to delay the election. Nonetheless, this hasn't dampened the mood of the workers who continue to hold strong against the company's union-busting campaign and continue to demand an election be held.

The Brigade had the opportunity to interview a worker at BlueOval SK, Robert Collett. We are incredibly grateful to Robert for giving us a closer look at the conditions BlueOval SK workers find themselves in and for him doing everything he can to build a union with his fellow workers. We wish the workers the best and we look forward to the day that they are able to hold their election and secure the union they deserve!

***Can you tell us a bit about the work of BlueOval SK? What is your job at the company, and what does it entail? What are some unique obstacles that workers in your position face?***

The work we do at blue oval SK in a nutshell is going to be to produce the best lithium ion batteries available on the market, what that entails, they are very thin lip about the process. We had to sign an NDA before we accepted the job. None of us thought it would be good for us to talk about the dangers involved with our process or the job itself so I can't talk about it, but there are plenty of YouTube videos that show processes involving lithium ion and the dangers involved with working with it so I can't tell you, but Google can.

I believe I have one of the most unique stories out of the plant so far as far as obstacles that workers face. On September 13 of 2024 I was involved with a workplace accident where I fell over the construction crew's scaffolding, and ended up fracturing my hip as I was making my way to the break area. It's been a very long and painful process to get myself back in working condition and, as far as the company was concerned, they pretty much cut me off while I was on workers comp; no contact whatsoever, except for when I was turning in medical paperwork to the human resources. No one even checked on me as far as the corporate side at Blue Oval SK.

***What are the typical workplace conditions of workers at BlueOval SK? What are some of the biggest grievances that the workers had prior to signing their union cards? How did the workers address these issues before taking the***

***step to unionize? How did this experience drive you and your fellow workers to organize a union?***

The conditions at Blue Oval SK have changed dramatically since my accident back then, we were working around live construction and huge crews of construction workers. Now most of them are gone. We have big teams from Korea in the plant getting machinery ready for production. It's very quiet in the plant. It's very depressing. The people look very sad. It's a monster of a building and it's a long walk to get anywhere, so even on your breaks, you're on your feet the whole time if you smoke cigarettes. For the first month of my return, I pushed the dust mop around for 10 hours, the same spots over and over, making sure to show value for my employment. We've been told that we must show value, most of the production operators thought our value came in the résumé of years of experience, working in manufacturing at other facilities. People left jobs with 10 and 20 years of seniority because we were excited about the new opportunities promised at this place, only to be told to clean up after construction crews in dangerous conditions, and that if you were not on your feet doing your job, you were not showing value.

Most of the grievances that started the process of unionization were coming from bosses who were being bullies when we were first hired on. We were stored in a middle school that was rented out by Blue Oval SK in Glendale, Kentucky. There was no order, there was no written rule, and bosses were talking recklessly to people. They would let us sit all day, but if you put your head down a few of them would come in and smack the table like we were really in school again, but there was absolutely nothing going on and the training they were giving us was meaningless because nothing was ready. None of the jobs. None of the machines, nothing.

The workers at Blue Oval SK would try to address problems in the typical way we would address them with

management, but like I said, most of the time we were ignored and even lied to. They would have town halls and big speeches about how much they cared, but yet they marched us into dangerous conditions every day in a building that was still being built around us.

Now the problem is the job itself. The chemicals we use are very dangerous. The process we do is very dangerous. We are going into machinery that is not locked out and tagged out, but they came up with a new process, so the machinery is fully energized, and there are sections where your whole body is in the box with the moving machinery right next to you in the next box.

***How has the company responded to your efforts to unionize? How have the recent actions taken by the President with the NLRB impacted the struggle between the workers and the company?***

Blue Oval SK responded to the employees wanting to unionize in typical corporate fashion: big expensive meetings from CEOs and management that always seem to include the vote "no" speech, somehow tied into it. They hired a company called the National Labor Relations Institute that came to our company while I was out with a broken hip and posed as the NLRB, giving out false information to employees who did not know any better. They thought they were talking to the NLRB, but it was a union busting company.

The recent actions by the president seemed to make a very negative impact with the NLRB slowing things down even more than we expected, making the weight even harder, making the day even longer, having to tell other employees that it's coming. We just don't know as this is a very hard thing we built up so much hope with actual facts and information, that it causes a restlessness that we don't need for a job that we're working very hard to keep, that pays enough to keep us in poverty.

***What can working people do to assist you all with your struggle?***

What working people can do to help in our struggle is super easy.... Support with likes shares and comments on our social media pages to help spread the word, all the way to writing petitions to the governor who funded this huge project, notifying him of safety concerns, not only to the people who are working in the facility but the surrounding areas because if this place just so happens to go up it's probably gonna take Glendale with it. Keep your self's armed with facts and truth, it always shines at the end....

***Is there anything you want to share with our readers? Any wisdom or advice***

***you have for unorganized workers everywhere struggling to organize a union or who may be too terrified or skeptical to organize a union?***

I think the most important thing if I could share anything with anyone reading this who's interested in a union job or starting a union is to make sure you go to your meetings. And if you're thinking about starting a union, it's very easy, all it takes is a few employees who are tired of getting walked on to come together and make a phone call. Call any union hall and ask for help; if it's the wrong hall, they'll point you in the right direction.

## **An Interview with the Southern Workers Assembly**

By The Louisville Workers Brigade

March 21, 2025

***Could you tell our readers about the Southern Workers Assembly's history and origins?***

The Southern Workers Assembly (SWA) was organized in 2012. The North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, UE Local 150 and Black Workers for Justice, initiated the process. Organizing the South was part of UE 150's organizing perspective when it affiliated with the United Electrical Workers National Union (UE) in 1997.

The SWA founding conference opposed holding the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Charlotte, NC. The main reason was that Charlotte was behind the passage of the state's current law that forbids public sector workers from collectively bargaining a union contract, written in 1959 by an all-white state Legislature. Charlotte also has the second highest concentration of

finance capital, behind Wall Street in NYC.

More than 300 rank and file workers from sectors and states across the South participated in that founding gathering. As the Democrats held their convention, while the country was still in the midst of the financial crisis that began in 2008, the conference was an opportunity for workers to speak in our own voice and put forward an independent, struggle-oriented program that spoke to the crises and the needs of that period. The SWA conference was also a call to both unionized and self-organized workers, to form the SWA as a regional framework to launch a social justice labor movement in the South.

Despite the role of the South in the major shifts in the US and global economy over the past 40 years, US unions do not have a strategic plan focused on organizing labor in the South.



The South continues to be the region receiving fewer resources for organizing and strategic campaigns, aside from major elections. The SWA's objective is to develop infrastructure that can lay the foundation for broader organizing across the South.

### **What does SWA organizing work entail?**

SWA's work focuses on developing militant worker cadre/leaders who are engaged in committee building efforts in their workplace, and linking those workers together through various kinds of networks – by geography (workers assemblies), sector (regional industrial councils), employer, etc – that are engaged in public collective action.

SWA learned from our working-class history and developed a strategy that applies to today's conditions. We created an intentional and deliberate plan of organization and cadre development in multiple workplaces in discrete geographies to lay the groundwork for a "sweep" of workers forming unions. This not only gets us to scale in terms of the numbers needed to really grow the labor movement but also to exert significant power in negotiations that result from multiple elections. We think that a committee of three to five workers in a shop is sufficient to start.

Once there are committees in three to five workplaces, an assembly can be established to engage in collective action—mostly public-facing campaigns designed to address workplace issues and develop leaders. Currently we have a network of 17 local assemblies in six states and are always working on developing more.

During the period of 1930 to 1941, social turmoil resulted in mass working class organization and collective bargaining in major US industries. SWA identified the necessary elements that were present in the upsurge and uses those lessons to guide our efforts.

The first and most important element is the existence of a committed core of experienced activists and organizers in major workplaces linked together in networks that spread throughout both industrial sectors and geographies. Their common intent was to establish collective bargaining as a democratic necessity and thereby build power for the entire working class. Many failures taught them through their practical experience to use sympathy strikes, defy injunctions, and use brief sit-down strikes to win grievances.

Other elements – including sharply defined class politics, new legislation encouraging collective bargaining, a few top union leaders who broke politically and tactically with the moribund AFL by refusing to compromise militancy and gave local organizing efforts a national voice and support— were necessary but NOT sufficient for success. Without the organized pre-existing network of experienced cadre, ready to act once the breakthrough occurred (in this case the Flint sit-down strike victory), massive organizing involving millions would not have spread.

On the question of legislation, there's an erroneous view among some that labor upsurges follow changes in the legal landscape (ie, the passage of the NLRA and the 1937 Supreme Court case that upheld it, or similar arguments today for the PRO Act, etc). Of course, those are good things, but they're a byproduct of, rather than the cause for, militancy and organization.

The bottom line that underscores our approach is this: The labor movement can't possibly run enough elections fast enough to make a significant dent to reverse the decline of unionization in this country. In the US, there are roughly 160 million workers, of which about 135 million are covered by the National Labor Relations Act. 12 million are already in unions. That leaves about 120 million private sector workers eligible for NLRB elections. While 2024 polling showed that nearly 60 million

workers would join a union if they could, only 120,000 workers participated in recognition elections, which turned out to be double the number of 60,000 in 2021. And even so, union density continues to decline – not to mention the PATCO-esque moment federal workers and their unions are facing. At this rate, in 100 years we will have organized only 10% of the non-union workers.

Once we had a few assemblies, we started to conduct worker schools usually twice a year to meet together, to build community and network, to develop skills, and to strategize campaigns.

The worker schools were another featured methodology developed by Black Workers for Justice in its 40 year history of organizing. Several years ago SWA started to create industrial councils in manufacturing, education, hospitality, logistics, and tourism. Our newest council is being established for gig drivers.

We developed a ten-point Southern Worker Power Program creating some cohesion among the demands that assemblies and councils could fight for. The program is based on the idea that as workers we have certain rights and therefore we make demands that enforce and enhance those rights. Pieces of the program include demands related to health care, collective bargaining rights, education, ending all forms of discrimination and providing reparations for Black and Indigenous people, demilitarizing the police and ending unpaid prison labor, and a clean environment and taking steps to counteract the effects of climate change.

We've also recently developed a program to get workers jobs in strategic workplaces to organize from the shop floor.

Experience and activism will inform the local assemblies, workplace organizations, and cadre about which of these issues to take on as well as which strategies and tactics will work; sit downs are not likely to be the preferred strategy

but other ideas will occur to people. Efforts will fail and workers will learn, new tactics will be devised. SWA attempts to replicate the elements that we have some control over while paying attention to when other conditions become present for a breakthrough. When that happens, the organizations and cadre that are working in the many non-union workplaces and industries will be looking for it, they will recognize it for what it is, and they will cause a "sweep" into the unions.

***What unique obstacles and challenges face your work, both in terms of organizing within the South and of fostering a progressive, democratic, and rank-and-file led labor movement?***

The challenges are numerous and, I imagine, well-known by many reading this – right to work and other anti-labor laws, an incredibly reactionary ruling class and their political servants who use the South as a laboratory for the most extreme legislation targeting various sections of the working class – from restrictions on abortion, anti-immigrant laws, attacks on trans youth and workers, dismantling public education, you name it – and look for every opportunity to drain the public coffers and fork that money over to private industry, and just a general lack of information about unions and what (very limited) rights workers do have.

From slavery to Jim Crow, the Southern economic model is one that is rooted in racism and white supremacy, and the region as a whole continues to play a central role in shaping systemic racism and anti-labor policies. In that way, every labor struggle in the South is inherently a struggle against the entire system of exploitation.

Racism is used by the bosses and the ruling class to undermine organizing drives by sowing division among workers, and the inability of the unions to confront this dynamic has led to defeat time and again throughout history. The economic and social costs of the inability of the

labor movement to seriously take on efforts to organize the South are numerous, and fall especially hard on Black, Latinx, and other oppressed workers.

But though the cards are stacked against Southern workers, the region is home to some of the most militant worker struggles in the country. The first general strike in this country was led by enslaved Africans, who led a mass revolt against slave owners and joined the war against the Confederacy. From sharecroppers in Alabama to textile and tobacco workers in North Carolina and mine workers in West Virginia, there is a deep history in the region of rebellion and struggle.

Today, organizing drives led by migrant poultry workers in Arkansas, education workers in North Carolina (where public sector collective bargaining is still illegal), service workers across the region, and others are shining examples of the vibrant, combative spirit still alive in the South.

Could you tell our readers about your organizational affiliates—who they are, what they do, and how you all cooperate with one another in solidarity?

There are six worker organizations who are formal affiliates of the Southern Workers Assembly: Black Workers for Justice; UE Local 150, the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union; Union of Southern Service Workers; International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422; Charleston Alliance for Fair Employment/Charleston Workers Center; National Nurses United.

Each of these organizations shares both the commitment to building working class organization in the South and an orientation towards developing rank and file leadership and militancy. Most are focused on doing work among particular key sectors of the economy in the region.

There are numerous other unions, worker organizations, rank and file caucuses, and political groups that,

despite not being formally affiliated with the SWA, we work with on a regular basis in various capacities in our local and regional work.

***In our current political climate, with the rights of working people under attack domestically and abroad, what do you see as the urgent tasks facing the working class today?***

It's a very, very dangerous period that truly is unprecedented in modern history. In these moments, there's often a tendency to try to batten down the hatches to hold on to what little we have and make it through. That always leads to our movements being in a much more weakened position when, and if, they emerge on the other side of a crisis.

We have to be finding ways to wage the necessary defensive fights, but also open up offensive struggles when the opportunity arises. Building various forms of working class organization – whether that's organizing a committee at your workplace, forming a workers assembly, or another form of organization – is imperative. Orienting those organizations towards engaging in various types of collective action will also be critical. If you're not already working somewhere that you can organize among your coworkers, get a job in a strategic industry to organize. And we have to be talking more to our coworkers and other workers, especially the unorganized, and doing the patient and necessary work to challenge the propaganda coming from the right wing, build solidarity with workers across various social divisions, and focus our fights around our common enemies – our bosses and the billionaires.

SWA and a number of other worker organizations will be holding a conference to take up this question in more depth this summer in Spartanburg, SC, called the Southern Worker Action Summit, from June 13 - 15. More info coming soon on that but be sure to sign up for updates and keep an eye on our website (<https://southernworker.org>) for

more information on how you can participate.

***What advice do you offer working people here in Kentucky? Is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers?***

Talk with coworkers, friends, and others in your community about what's at stake and how you can organize where you are. There are many organizations out there that can assist you - the Louisville Workers Brigade, the Southern Workers Assembly, the Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee, to name a few. Build alliances with organizations rooted in communities - like progressive religious institutions, social organizations, and others - to draw out connections

between our workplace fights and broader social struggles, and take a movement building approach to the task of building working class organization.

And get in touch if you're interested in building a workers assembly, getting a job in a strategic sector to organize, participating in an industrial council or the conference that we're hosting this summer! More than anything, we're interested in building alliances with workers and working class organizations across the region to raise our ability to learn from our different struggles and coordinate to build the type of fights that will be needed in this period. Organize the South!

# Is Louisville A Sanctuary City?

By Vinny Starks

March 28, 2025

*There are no laws to support or deny sanctuary cities...yet.*

Senator James Comer would have you believe that a Mayor being noncompliant with federal agents "is against the law." The current administration, both federal and state, are actively seeking to abolish or penalize the ability for cities to be considered a sanctuary for undocumented people. They're doing this by cutting funding to anything they believe is related to supporting the undocumented population within the states—programs that a simple search would reveal that no undocumented person would be able to receive—and even seeking to use other federal agencies and departments, such as the IRS, to aid in the deportation of undocumented people. Why are they attacking this ideal? What makes a sanctuary city? And, more importantly,

what are some things you can do to support and maintain your city?

A sanctuary city is simply a city that refuses to cooperate with federal authority in order to seek and remove undocumented people from their borders. Typically sanctuary comes in the form of a church or holy place, but religion isn't the only place people can be found to gather peacefully. Undocumented people can find welcoming neighbors in churches that share in their spiritual beliefs. Finding a place to rest and gather their strength before continuing on their journey, or better yet, finding a welcoming home with members that gladly welcome them into their community while shielding them from the onslaught of persecution. In no way does it mean that ICE isn't allowed to operate within those cities. For instance, immigration services claim to have conducted a mass arrest on March 18, 2025, here in Louisville of 81

undocumented people. They claim that undocumented people are a threat to job security, but documents are necessary to obtain a job in Kentucky. In response to those arrests, LMPD held a press conference where Chief Humphrey stated that “we don't have the intent or the authority to enforce immigration orders”. An easy proclamation, but not a condemnation of ICE. Shortly after the Presidential Election, JCPS instructed teachers and staff to call LMPD if and when confronted with ICE. This is in line with the opinion of Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg, who has also stated that LMPD should cooperate with ICE in all of their efforts, as expressed in an interview with the Courier Journal.

It's not like undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes or negatively affect crime rates. In fact, studies suggest that sanctuary cities are ultimately safer than any other city, as cited by a 2017 report by the Center for American Progress. It's easy enough to grab a “Crime Times” magazine from the corner store and go through page by page to see how many people that have been arrested recently are undocumented. A point to remember: People fleeing oppression are doing their best to stay out of trouble and stay out of sight. We witnessed how Jewish people attempted to flee oppression in the 1940s. Today, the usual reason people are fleeing to the states is because of economic hardships or warfare brought to their home by the U.S. Officially, neither Louisville nor Kentucky are considered sanctuary city/state. It shouldn't be the politicians or police who define what sanctuary cities look like, though, and it shouldn't stop you from doing what's morally correct. It's up to you, the citizens who reside in those cities. Those citizens who are ready and willing to take their power back!

We know undocumented people aren't to blame for an increase in crime, for withdrawing benefits they're not offered, or for taking our jobs, so why are they being attacked? Bullies always

target the weak. Democrats and Republicans both target undocumented people in order to maintain their stranglehold on power. All of this behavior from our duly elected officials and their lap dogs is deplorable—reports are already coming in from the holding facilities where the undocumented have been sent that are massive human rights violations resulting in death. It's important to remember that this behavior is not uncommon. The standard operating practice for the U.S. has always been to exploit and extract the most out of the marginalized and then throw what remains away in order to protect the white power structures that hold power. We really haven't come that far from the industrial era, and until we eradicate bigotry and exploitation from our society, it will continue to happen. These efforts are designed to keep the working class divided and fearful of one another instead of united and angry at the actual systems of oppression.

So, what's the role of a citizen in a sanctuary city? It's to be kind to your neighbor, to offer them shelter. To keep your mouth shut when the authorities come looking, to share food and medicine. And ultimately, it's to fight oppression by warning neighbors when they're in danger and confronting opposition head-on—recording it on your phone doesn't count. In the courts, in the workplace, in the supermarket. Be ready to protect people just trying to survive. If you see someone struggling while you're not, then try and assist. A little bit goes a long way in this capitalist nightmare we call reality; life is hard for everyone. To become someone's sanctuary is revolutionary behavior. Are you ready?

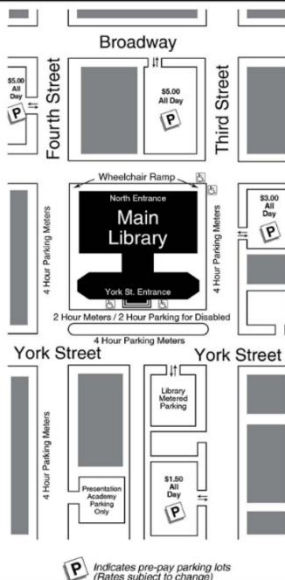
# APRIL EDUCATIONAL: A STRUGGLE AGAINST INJUSTICE



THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 6:15 TO 8:15 PM  
MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY - BOARD ROOM  
(301 YORK ST, LOUISVILLE, KY 40203)

[WWW.LOUWORKERSBRIGADE.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.LOUWORKERSBRIGADE.ORG/EVENTS)

## Main Library Parking Guide



THE EDUCATIONAL WILL BE IN THE BOARD ROOM, AND IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

THIS MEETING ROOM IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE NORTH BUILDING (NORTH ENTRANCE SIDE) OF THE MAIN LIBRARY. IF ENTERING FROM YORK STREET, HEAD THROUGH THE BERHEIM GALLERY AND HEAD TO THE ELEVATOR AT THE FAR END OF THE LIBRARY. TAKE THE ELEVATOR UP A FLOOR, AND THE BOARD ROOM WILL BE TO YOUR RIGHT AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY. IF COMING FROM THE NORTH ENTRANCE, TAKE THE ELEVATOR TO YOUR LEFT AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AFTER THAT.

# THE CLASS STRUGGLE CHRONICLE

*The Class Struggle Chronicle* is the publication of **The Louisville Workers Brigade**. It is a free, worker-run newspaper that circulates both online and physical copies.

The primary purpose of *The Class Struggle Chronicle* is to offer coverage of working class issues, particularly involving organized Labor, in the Louisville, Kentucky area.

We are an unabashedly pro-worker publication, seeking to contribute to the class struggle against the owning class who daily exploits, oppresses, and demoralizes laborers here in Louisville and the world over.

We publish articles on topics ranging from union organizing efforts, strikes, worker grievances, worker-related issues, etc. Submissions from Louisville workers are encouraged and accepted, but are subject to review and editing by the editorial staff of *The Class Struggle Chronicle*. Submissions can be sent to [csc@louworkersbrigade.org](mailto:csc@louworkersbrigade.org).



**To Educate.**

**To Support.**

**To Unite.**



## THE PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LOUISVILLE WORKERS BRIGADE

The establishment of the Louisville Workers Brigade is an outward, physical expression of the rising class consciousness of the working masses and the intensification of the class struggle between this majority working class against the ruling minority owning class. This intensification of class struggle—a result of the brutalized working class standing firm and using its position as the producer of all things as leverage—must be strengthened further.

The only hope the working and oppressed masses have is to organize into a cohesive, united collective—regardless of industry, employment status, race, nationality, sexual orientation, etc.—to oppose the more powerful and resourced owning class. This is the mission of the Louisville Workers Brigade: to build unity and power among working people, pushing for stronger union contracts, broader union representation, and a return to radical rank-and-file organizing that secures the most gains and victories for our class. We are not separate from the existing trade unions, but seek to educate and empower union members and non-union members alike, so that they can better participate as workers in the economic, political, and social spheres of our community. As workers ourselves, we remain intrinsically tied to and committed to the conditions of the working masses, not only in this country, but in all countries. This is why we dedicate our time, resources, and experience to the aims and goals of this cause. Only through an unwavering devotion to solidarity with all working people of this world can the workers of all countries fight for their collective empowerment and liberation.

[www.louworkersbrigade.org](http://www.louworkersbrigade.org)

[contact@louworkersbrigade.org](mailto:contact@louworkersbrigade.org)

# SOLIDARITY FOREVER!