

# THE ORGANIZER



**“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” – Frederick Douglas**





## VOC MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to mobilize and empower our DC4 community to make a positive and lasting impact on the causes and initiatives we support. Through effective organization, collaboration, and a shared commitment to creating change, we strive to build a better future for our Union and beyond. We believe that by uniting our efforts, we can address pressing social and economic issues, foster goodwill, and inspire others to join us in our mission of service and advocacy."

All VOC members are welcome to join our Facebook Group [here](#).

## HIT THE BRICKS! (OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION)

- **Standing For Democracy (<https://www.standing4democracy.org>):** Standing for Democracy (SFD) is a new initiative working to build out a Strategy Center to provide a comprehensive response to the growing anti-democratic movement in the U.S. and beyond. Specifically, SFD is working to build an approach focused on the working people by partnering with unions, labor scholars, community organizations and individuals. Check out the website and reach out to [gfalsetti@dc4.org](mailto:gfalsetti@dc4.org) or [jguza@dc4.org](mailto:jguza@dc4.org) if you would like to get involved. Currently, there are local committees in Buffalo and Rochester.
- **CWA District 1 for Kamala (October 1 – October 31, Virtual):** CWA District 1 is sponsoring virtual phone bank events for Kamala Harris. If you're interested in participating check details and register [here!](#)
- **2024 Rochester Labor Film Series (September through November @ Eastman House Dryden Theater, 900 East Ave, Rochester):** The Rochester Labor Council and George Eastman Museum have shown over 300 labor-themed movies. The films represent several genres and encompass a wide range of issues; from the conditions of work and the workplace to organizing struggles, from discrimination and redundancy to globalization and immigration, from blue and white to pink collars. Since its inception, the Labor Film Series has become part of Rochester's cultural calendar. Its expanding audience includes many who attend regularly and contact us to suggest films and to inquire about the program. To date nearly 33,000 movie lovers have come to the Dryden Theatre to see our labor-themed films. **Find the full 2024 Film Schedule [here](#).**
- **Project 2025 Phonebank for WNY (October 3, 6pm-8pm, Virtual):** Join the WNY Area Labor Federation to help us educate union members on the threat of Project 2025 and the importance of voting in this year's crucial elections! Check details and register [here!](#)
- **Door to Door for Mannion, Ryan and Phillips (October 5, 10am-3pm, USW HQ, 812 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13209):** We are continuing to canvass the western



Onondaga County towns to get our union leaders elected to office. Please come out and talk to your fellow union members about the upcoming election. Check details and register [here!](#)

- **Labor to Labor Walk for John Mannion and Ian Phillips (October 12, 10am-12pm, 15 E. Genesee St, Auburn, NY 13021):** Join us for a union member to union member canvass to get out the vote for our endorsed candidates John Mannion and Ian Phillips! Check details and register [here!](#)



- **Phonebank for Monica Wallace & #UnionStrong Cheektowaga Candidates (October 15, 6pm-8pm, Virtual):** As much as we're going to hear about the presidential race, we have major races for NYS Assembly and other local candidates that need just as much focus. Join the WNY Area Labor Federation to help mobilize union voters for Assemblymember Monica Wallace and down-ballot candidates! Check details and register [here!](#)
- **WCNY Glass & Glazing Forum (7:30am-3:30pm, October 18 @ DC4 Buffalo Hall):** Register [here!](#) Networking event on October 17 @ The Irishman, 5601 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221.
- **Labor to Labor Walk for Chris Ryan (10am-12pm, October 19, 705 E. Seneca St, Oswego, NY 13126):** Join us for a union member to union member canvass to get out the vote for our endorsed candidate Chris Ryan! Check details and register [here!](#)

- **Labor Notes Buffalo Troublemakers School 2024 (October 19):** This workshop is in-person in Buffalo, NY at the UAW Region 9 Hall, 35 George Karl Blvd, Ste 100, 14211. Join Labor Notes and labor activists from around the area to strategize, share skills, and learn ways to organize to win. Troublemakers Schools are day-long mini-conferences that cover organizing skills and highlight real-world examples of taking on the boss - and winning. Whether you're new to union activism or are an experienced union activist, there's something there for you! Register [here.](#)

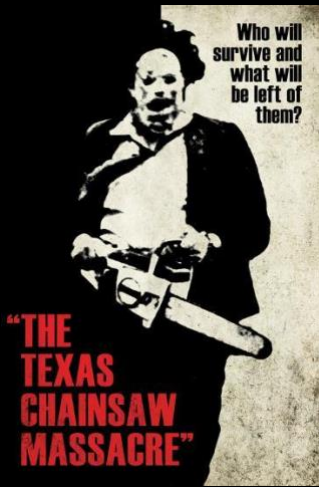
## VOC PREGAME

Our next VOC Pregame and Meeting will be held at our **Cortland Training Center, October 24, 2024 @ 4:30pm.** Hope to see you there or on Zoom!

## PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your photos [here!](#) Photos from the field help promote our union trades and display our impact in our local communities. Plus, you could win a gas card!





## EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANIZE! (HALLOWEEN EDITION)

**The Texas Chainsaw Massacre:** See what happens when a group of road trippers meet a family of displaced slaughterhouse workers!

**Bloodsucking Bastards:** A down on his luck cubicle worker and his slacker best friend discover their new boss is a vampire who is turning their coworkers into the un-dead.



## FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNION

- We are looking to appoint a Local VOC Representative for each local union in DC4. If you are interested, or want to recommend someone for your local, please reach out to us!
- We are also looking for members to jump start our IUPAT CORE (Community Organizing for Real Economics) Committees. These include the **Women's CORE Committee, Black CORE Committee, Latino CORE Committee, LGBTQ+ CORE Committee, Young Workers CORE Committee** and **Retiree CORE Committee**. The purpose of each CORE Committee is to help make good on IUPAT's commitment to making our local unions and district council welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age.

We know that it can be intimidating and lonely being the only woman or black worker on a job site. While we strive to better represent workers of all backgrounds, being able to speak with fellow members with similar backgrounds can help you realize what issues you share on the job and give you a voice to share and address them at the local and district council level.

# UNION-MADE *Halloween*

<p><b>ANNABELLE CANDY CO.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABBA-ZABA PEANUT</li> <li>• BIG HUNK</li> <li>• ROCKY ROAD S'MORES</li> </ul>	<p><b>BACHMAN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JAX CHEESE CURLS</li> <li>• KEYSTONE PARTY MIX</li> <li>• PRETZELS</li> </ul>	<p><b>HERSHEY*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HERSEY'S NUGGETS</li> <li>• HUGS</li> <li>• ROLO CANDY</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCONZA CHOCOLATES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOSTON BAKED BEANS</li> <li>• JAW BREAKERS</li> <li>• JORDAN ALMONDS</li> </ul>
<p><b>AMERICAN LICORICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RED VINES BLACK LICORICE</li> <li>• RED VINES</li> <li>• RED VINES ROPES, ALL FLAVORS</li> </ul>	<p><b>FERRERO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BUTTERFINGER</li> <li>• LAFFY TAFFY</li> <li>• NESTLÉ CRUNCH</li> </ul>	<p><b>PEARSON'S CANDY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINT PATTIES</li> <li>• NUT GOODIE</li> <li>• SALTED NUT ROLL</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEE'S CANDIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BRITTLES AND TOFFEES</li> <li>• CANDY BARS</li> <li>• LOLLYPOPS</li> </ul>

[AFLCIO.ORG/HALLOWEEN](http://AFLCIO.ORG/HALLOWEEN)
\*Union-made only if produced in the West Hershey plant in Hershey, Pennsylvania.
**AFL-CIO**

We will be reaching out to individuals who we believe might be interested in serving in leadership roles on these committees. Please let us know if you are interested in establishing any one of these committees. The DC4 Organizing Team will work with you to help get them up and running. Check out the IUPAT's page on CORE Committees [here](#).

## WHAT MAKES A UNION? (SNIPPETS FROM LABOR HISTORY)

French Waiters' Mustache Strike: In 1907, one of the more unusual strikes in France's history unfolded. Better wages and working conditions were at stake, as is often the case, but this strike was also about something unexpected: the right to grow a mustache. Mustaches were at their peak in early 20th-century Europe, and were even obligatory for policemen — an attempt to convey military-like masculinity and authority. Restaurant servers, however, were forced to be clean-shaven, a reminder of their “lower class” status. Behind closed doors, trade unions began organizing a strike for workers' rights to autonomy over their facial hair. They were also fighting for one day off a week and their fair share of tips, which were often the only source of pay for servers. Surveys about dates and times were sent to the various unions and, after results were compiled, strike instructions were sent to union members. On April 17, 1907, at 6:30 p.m. sharp, waiters walked off the job.

Although the number of servers who took to the streets in protest is unclear, *The New York Times* estimated it at about 500 by late April. While the strike wasn't without its critics, the waitstaff found solidarity in high places, including in Parliament. Socialist Deputy Antide Boyer — who, even before the strike, had proposed a bill that would make mustache bans illegal — told *The New York Times* the mustache rule was “grotesque and humiliating.” Boyer's bill never actually passed, but the strike resolved quickly. After 16 days, the waiters returned to work. They did not get their desired one day off per week, but a fairer pay structure was in place — as were their mustaches.\*\*

\*\*Contributed by Matthew Lloyd, Local 112.

## 2024 DC4 POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

### Buffalo Region

President/Vice President  
US Senator  
US Congress

Kamala Harris/Tim Walz  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
District 26 – Tim Kennedy

### NYS Senate

District 61st  
District 63rd

Sean Ryan  
April Baskin

### NYS Assembly

District 140th  
District 142nd  
District 143rd  
District 144th  
District 145th  
District 146th  
District 147th  
District 149th

William Conrad  
Patrick Burke  
Monica Wallace  
Michele Roman  
Angelo Morinello  
Karen McMahon  
Darci Cramer  
Jon Rivera



Erie County District Attorney  
Cheektowaga Town Council  
Erie County Family Court

Michael Keane  
Walter Burgett  
Kara Buscaglia

**Rochester Region**

President/Vice President  
US Senator  
US Congress

Kamala Harris/Tim Walz  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
District 25 – Joseph Morelle

**NYS Senate**

District 55  
District 56

Sama Brokk  
Jeremy Cooney

**NYS Assembly**

District 130  
District 134  
District 135  
District 136  
District 137

Brian Manktelow  
Josh Jenson  
Jen Lundsford  
Sarah Clark  
Demond Meeks

District 138

Harry Bronson

Monroe County Clerk  
NYS Supreme Court

Jamie Romeo  
John Bringewatt

**Oswego Region/Watertown Region**

President/Vice President  
US Senate

Kamala Harris/Tim Walz  
Kirsten Gillibrand

NYS Senate

District 50 – Chris Ryan

NYS Assembly  
Barclay (unopposed)

District 120 – William

**Syracuse Region**

President/Vice President  
US Senate  
US Congress

Kamala Harris/Tim Walz  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
District 22 – John Mannion

**NYS Senate**

District 48  
District 50

Rachel May  
Christopher Ryan

**NYS Assembly**

District 126  
District 127  
District 128  
District 129

Ian Phillips  
Al Stirpe Jr.  
Pamela Hunter  
William Magnarelli



**Ithaca Region**

President/Vice President  
US Senator  
US Congress

Kamala Harris/Tim Walz  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
District 19 – Marcus Molinaro

**NYS Senate**

District 51  
District 52

Michelle Frazier  
Lea Webb

**NYS Assembly**

District 123  
District 125

Donna Lupardo  
Anna Kelles

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Oct. 26 – Nov. 3  
October 26  
October 26  
October 26  
November 5  
November 5  
November 5

Early Voting  
Registration deadline at local election office or online  
Registration Deadline received by mail  
Request for Absentee Ballot received by date  
Absentee Ballot return date postmarked by  
Last Day to Deliver Absentee Ballot to the Local Board of Elections  
Election Day voting in person



If you have questions or suggestions for the VOC Newsletter, please email [jguza@dc4.org](mailto:jguza@dc4.org).