

HISTORY OF THE CONTINGENT LABOR FORUM

October 2003 – May 2005

Date, Location	Main Topics/Themes/Questions Covered
<p>October 15, 2003</p> <p>Carpenter's Hall Portland, OR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial introductions of Forum Participants with each explaining how the workers they work with fit into the spheres of Contingent Labor (are the H2B workers? part-time? mislabeled independent contractors?, etc...) • Participants identified barriers or obstacles to working together on precarious employment issues • General discussion revealed confusion about day laborer centers (vs. organizations like Labor Ready) and brought up contradictions/differences/possibilities for collaboration between day laborers and organized labor (unions)
<p>February 4, 2004</p> <p>Carpenter's Hall Centralia, WA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant updates • Short discussion on the possibilities of organizing in the brush (salal) industry • Discussion of the relationship between worker centers and unions (starting with 5-min video on Casa Latina)
<p>April 7, 2004</p> <p>Centro Cultural Cornelius, OR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant updates • Mapping out our goals: each organization shared info about their goals in the following categories: education, legislative/political, organizing, outreach. • Identification of areas for possible collaboration
<p>June 11, 2004</p> <p>Evergreen State College Labor Center Olympia, WA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant updates • Brief history of contingent work in the United States • The dimensions of precarious employment (workers ever nearing the edge of the cliff) • How do we go about organizing? (presentations by Casa Latina, the Laborer's and the Carpenters)

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<p>August 13, 2004</p> <p>CASA Latina and the Laborers Hall Seattle, WA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to CASA Latina • How do we organize? (presentations by IBU/ILWU and Centro Cultural) • Update from the Laborer's and Casa Latina on possible collaborations • Revision of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the European Union • Analysis of the "Safety Nets" for undocumented workers in European countries
<p>October 8, 2004</p> <p>VOZ Workers Rights Education Project Portland, OR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to VOZ • General discussion (wage claim cases, union presence/organizing in residential vs. commercial sector, history of workers organizing without unions' support, challenges of organizing the undocumented, merging of Union and Worker Center models) • The basics of Joint Employer Status (presentation by Michael Dale and discussion among participants)
<p>January 28, 2005</p> <p>Mason County Literacy Shelton, WA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Mason County Literacy • PCUN's Service Center model (presentation by Susan Dobkins) • National Immigrant Worker Centers study (presentation by Rebecca Smith from NELP with an emphasis on the relationships between unions and worker centers) • General discussion responding to the study (role of art and culture in organizing immigrants, development of legislation by day laborers in conjunction with legal advocates)
<p>March 11, 2005</p> <p>Carpenters Hall Centralia, WA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant Updates • History of the Contingent Labor Forum: a review of how and why the Forum started, topics covered, and what about it has been most useful for participants • Future of the Contingent Labor Forum: work in small groups to outline potential roles and functions of the Forum

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May 6, 2005 Carpenters Hall Portland, OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making the Connections: a participatory analysis of the relationships between the different themes and phenomenon that make up the environment in which we work (immigration, union organizing, fear, retaliation, contingent work arrangements, family, free trade agreements, labor law enforcement, rural communities, local economies, etc...)• General discussion about the relationship and situation of immigrant vs. non-immigrant workers in the United States, the importance of labor unions in such discussions, and possible actions/goals for the Forum in the future• Update on the Real ID act and other immigration legislation