THE AGENDA

Thursday, October 27, 6-8:30 p.m. at Boott Mill
Lowell National Historical Park, French and Bridge Streets, downtown Lowell

6:00 Reception

7:00 Keynote address by Larry Cohen, President of the Communications Workers of America, followed by discussion. Larry will discuss collective bargaining as a public good, a way to win secure and safe jobs for working people, and an economic base for the community. He will talk about the need to insert workers’ collective voices into all of the forums where decisions are made about the future of our work.

8:30 Adjourn

Friday, October 28, 8 to 4:30 pm at Alumni Hall
North Campus, University of Mass. at Lowell, 1 University Ave (in front of Lydon Library)

In each section below, union leaders and shop floor activists will name specific challenges they are facing at work. Paper authors will describe ways their research helps understand those challenges. Together we will identify the arenas where decisions about the future of work are made and discuss some of the ways for unions and workers to exert pressure on decision makers and insert their voices into determining our future. At the end, Jane Slaughter will sum up the discussion and point a way forward.

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Welcome / What does a sustainable or “good” job mean to you?

9:30 1. What’s happening to our jobs?

11:15 2. What are the effects in our communities?

12:00 Lunch

1:00 3. Why are corporate managers making the decisions that drive these trends?

2:45 4. What solutions can workers push for?

3:45 5. An agenda for workers and unions - Jane Slaughter will close the conference with a discussion focusing on where and how workers’ voices can be inserted into the decision-making processes that are defining the futures of our workplaces.