



OFFICIAL CALL TO BARGAINING AND CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT BOOT CAMP

September 20-25, 2026

The Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center
Onaway, Michigan

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

The UAW Education Department will hold a Bargaining and Contract Enforcement Boot Camp at the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center in Onaway, Michigan, September 20-25, 2026.

This institute will provide intense training for local union bargainers and grievance handlers to sharpen their skills. Understanding that bargaining and contract enforcement are interconnected and essential union functions to protect our membership, we will explore how strategic campaigns can be used to effectively negotiate at the table and successfully win grievances. We will train not only in technique, but also in taking a strategic organizing approach to bargaining and enforcing strong contracts.

Delegates will learn from experienced bargainers and grievance handlers about how practical strategies have been used to win and enforce record contracts across our union. This conference is designed to fit all UAW local union bargainers and grievance handlers from every UAW sector. Whether newly elected or seasoned, delegates will be presented with workshop options that fit their role and experience level.

Four core learning tracks will be offered, along with elective workshops delegates can choose from throughout the week. Local unions must select one of the below core tracks for each delegate as part of the registration process. **Delegates should be guided onto a core workshop track that best fits their role and experience level.**

CORE TRACK OPTIONS

Bargaining Foundations:

Establish a strong foundation for your success as a local union bargainer. A broad overview of all key elements of collective bargaining will be provided, including the basics of table technique, the subjects of bargaining, legal considerations, and contract campaigns. Delegates will be introduced to all the fundamentals here, culminating in a lively mock bargaining session. The Education Department's workshop Bargaining.for.Bargainers is the primary curriculum for this track.

This track is best suited for:

- Newer bargainers
- Experienced bargainers who have not previously attended bargaining training
- Those looking to sharpen basic table techniques

Bargaining Strategies:

Learn how to turn contract demands into wins through strategic campaigning. Delegates will learn to identify and prioritize core contract issues, map power dynamics, design escalation campaigns, and engage members in participation. New skills will be put to the test in a lively mock bargaining exercise.

This track is best suited for:

- Delegates who have previously attended some bargaining training
- Bargainers who are ready to move beyond technical table processes to focus on campaign strategies

Grievance Handling Foundations:

The gains we make at the bargaining table mean little without active contract enforcement. This track will equip grievance handlers with essential skills to understand, apply, and defend their collective bargaining agreement. Learn how to identify violations and navigate grievance procedures effectively. Basic legal requirements and protections of union representatives will also be explored. The Education Department's workshop, Grievance Handling, is the primary curriculum for this track.

This track is best suited for:

- Newer grievance handlers, including stewards, chairpersons, and officers with a role in the grievance procedure at a worksite
- Experienced grievance handlers who have not previously attended at least one full day of grievance handling training
- Those looking for a broad overview of everything that it takes to be an effective grievance handler

Contract Enforcement Strategies:

Winning a contract is only half the battle—enforcing it requires constant vigilance and mobilization. This track moves beyond procedural basics to an organizing approach to contract enforcement. Experienced grievance handlers will level up their skills, focusing on strategies to mobilize members to win through collective action.

This track is best suited for:

- Delegates who have previously attended at least one full day of grievance handling training
- Experienced grievance handlers who have mastered the procedural basics and are ready to learn about broader enforcement strategies

ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND

This institute is open to UAW members in good standing who hold a role in bargaining or grievance handling at their local union. While this institute is best suited for those currently holding a position, aspiring representatives are also welcome to attend.

Attendance is mandatory at all sessions and is taken daily. Delegates must be registered by their local union and approved by their region to attend this conference.

REGISTRATION

Local unions must register their delegates by **Monday, August 10, 2026, at 4 p.m. ET**. To register delegates, local unions must follow the registration instructions provided in the attached Local Union Process document.

The registration fee is **\$75** per delegate. Local unions will be responsible for the payment of all lost time.

Local and regional approval is required to attend this conference. Approved delegates will receive an email confirmation with complete logistical details before the start of the institute. It is important that delegates provide their personal email address and cell phone number to their local union for registration purposes to ensure that they receive all communications about the conference.

INSTITUTE DETAILS & AGENDA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

TRAVEL DAY

Registration: 3 - 5 p.m.

Center Tour: 5 p.m.

Dinner: 6 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

Institute Opening Plenary: 8:45 a.m.

Workshops: 1:15 - 5 p.m.

All meals provided

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Workshops: 8:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All meals provided

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Workshops: 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

All meals provided

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Workshops: 8:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All meals provided

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

TRAVEL DAY

Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Roll call will be taken.

Additional details about the conference agenda will be available on our website as it approaches: <https://uaw.org/education/events/>

Approved delegates will also receive additional information about the conference via email and text message.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Due to limited accommodation, spouses/guests of delegates are not permitted to attend this institute.

All delegates will be paired with their requested roommate or a randomly assigned partner. If a private single room is preferred, single housing may be requested before arrival or at check-in for an additional **\$330.50 plus tax** for the week. This additional cost may be paid by the local union if approved following local protocol, or it may be the responsibility of the individual delegate. **Please note that single rooms are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed.** Payments must be made via personal credit or debit card, money order, personal check, or local union check. Payment of the additional cost must be made prior to arrival or at check-in. Single room arrangements must be made directly with the FEC by calling (989) 733-8521 beginning the day after registration closes. Refer to the ***Local Union Process*** document for additional instructions.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Transportation costs associated with this institute are subsidized as indicated in the ***Local Union Process*** document. Any costs that remain after subsidies are applied are the responsibility of the local union.

All delegates are expected to arrive at the Family Education Center (FEC) by 3 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on Sunday, the first day of the conference, and remain until the institute concludes at 9 a.m. ET on Friday. Arrivals and departures should be arranged accordingly.

Passenger Vehicle

Please be advised of the following Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center policy:

Vehicles allowed to park in the Family Education Center must be union-made and have a VIN beginning with 1, 2, 4, or 5. If the vehicle VIN is anything other than 1, 2, 4, or 5, parking accommodations are available in a lot adjacent to the Center's front gate.

CANCELLATION & SUBSTITUTION

Cancellations made before the registration deadline will be fully refunded. After this date, fees are **non-refundable**. However, if a delegate can no longer attend, the local union may send a replacement in their place. In the event of a swap, the local union should register the new delegate in the online portal and immediately notify their regional office, the Education Department at **education@uaw.net**, and Black Lake at **blacklakefec@uaw.net**.

We view this institute as a vital investment in your local union's future and look forward to your participation.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark DePaoli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "DePaoli" clearly distinguishable.

Mark DePaoli, Director
UAW Region 1A