

**Days of Grace**  
**Strategy Conference Schedule**  
**Charleston, SC**  
**ILA Hall**  
**September 5 & 6, 2015**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

**Opening Plenary Session: 2:00-3:00 (Room D)**

<b>Opening Remarks:</b>	<i>Ken Riley, President, ILA Local 1422</i>
<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b>	<i>Muhyidin d'Baba, #BlackLivesMatter, Charleston</i>
<b>Keynote Speakers:</b>	<i>Linda Ketner, strategic planner and community activist</i> <i>Rev. William Barber, President, North Carolina NAACP</i>
<b>Closing Remarks and Instructions:</b>	<i>Chris Nelson, Healthcare Workers United</i>

**Session A Workshops: 3:00-4:20**

<b>Expanding Voting Rights and Democracy (Room A)</b>	<i>Julie Houk, attorney, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC</i>
<b>Quality Education (Room B)</b>	<i>Dave Dennis, Southern Initiative of the Algebra Project; civil rights organizer (CORE, 1960-1965)</i> <i>Bernadette Hampton, President, South Carolina Education Association</i>
<b>Economic Justice (wages, collective bargaining) (Room C)</b>	<i>The Fight for 15—National Movement, Southern Strategy</i>
<b>Ending Discriminatory Policing (Room D)</b>	<i>Muhyidin d'Baba; #BlackLivesMatter, Charleston</i> <i>Susan Dunn, Legal Director of ACLU, South Carolina</i>
<b>Medicaid/Access to Healthcare (Room E)</b>	<i>Sue Berkowitz, attorney, Director of SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Columbia, SC</i>
<b>Ending Gun Violence (sensible gun legislation) (Room F)</b>	<i>Louis Smith, Community Resource Center, Summerville, SC</i> <i>John Gruber, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence</i> <i>Pastor Thomas Dixon, The Coalition (People United to Take Back Our Community)</i>

**BREAK: 4:20-4:30**

**Session B Workshops: 4:30-6:00**

<b>Expanding Voting Rights and Democracy (Room A)</b>	<i>Anna Dennis, attorney, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Washington, DC</i> <i>George W. Hopkins, Charleston chapter president, South Carolina Progressive Network</i>
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<b>Quality Education (Room B)</b>	<i>Millicent Brown, historian (retired), Quality Education Project, Charleston, Director</i> <i>Kendall Deas, professor of education, College of Charleston; Quality Education Project, Charleston</i>
<b>Economic Justice (Room C) (Charleston and the Global Economy)</b>	<i>Ken Riley, President, ILA Local 1422</i> <i>Donna Devitt, President Emeritus, SC-AFL-CIO</i>
<b>Ending Discriminatory Policing (Room D)</b>	<i>DeRay Mckesson, Campaign Zero, Minneapolis; #BlackLivesMatter</i> <i>Red Nino, Mass Action Against Police Brutality/PSL</i> <i>Mubiyidin d'Baba; #BlackLivesMatter, Charleston</i>
<b>Medicaid/Access to Healthcare (Room E)</b>	<i>Sue Berkowitz, attorney, Director of SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Columbia, SC</i>
<b>Ending Gun Violence (sensible gun legislation) (Room F)</b>	<i>John Gruber, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence</i> <i>Pastor Thomas Dixon, The Coalition (People United to Take Back Our Community)</i> <i>Louis Smith, Community Resource Center, Summerville, SC</i>

### Caucus Sessions: 7:00 – 9:00

*This block of time is provided to individuals and groups to explore themes that are not structured into the current program, e.g. YWCA; Women's Caucus; Millennial Caucus*

## SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

### Session C Workshops: 10:00-11:20

<b>Expanding Voting Rights and Democracy (Room A)</b>	<i>Brett Bursey, Director of the SC Progressive Network</i>
<b>Quality Education (Room B)</b>	<i>Barbara Kelley Duncan CEO Carolina Youth Development Center, North Charleston, SC</i> <i>Jon Hale, Quality Education Project, Charleston</i>
<b>Economic Justice (Room C): (Organizing Healthcare Workers in Charleston: Mary Moultrie and her Continuing Legacies)</b>	<i>Christine Nelson, Leonard Riley Jr.,</i> <i>Kerry Taylor, Healthcare Workers United</i>
<b>Ending Discriminatory Policing (Room D)</b>	<i>Brock Sutter, Mass Action against Police Brutality</i> <i>John Wagstaff, best police practices advocate, North Carolina</i> <i>Susan Dunn, Legal Director of ACLU, South Carolina</i>
<b>Medicaid/Access to Healthcare (Room E)</b>	<i>Sue Berkowitz, attorney, Director of SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Columbia, SC</i>

**Ending Gun Violence (sensible gun legislation)  
(Room F)**

*Pastor Thomas Dixon, The Coalition (People United to Take Back Our Community)*

*John Gruber, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence*

*Louis Smith, Community Resource Center, Summerville, SC*

**BREAK: 11:20 – 11:30**

**Closing Session: The Charleston Charter and A Plan of Action, 11:30 – 12:30 (Room D)**

Conference organizers and lead participants will present the “Charleston Charter” as a framework to guide community organization and activism throughout the next year.

**Closing Comments:**

*Ajamu Dillabunt, Susan Dunn, and Leonard Riley*

## ***The Days of Grace Strategy Conference***

*The Days of Grace strategy conference follows in a long local tradition of meetings that are intended to make real the promises of freedom and democracy. In 1822 members of the AME African Church, including church leader Denmark Vesey, plotted an attack on the slaveholders and the liberation of the city's enslaved people. The planned uprising was discovered and quashed, but the tradition of resistance survived. Just weeks after the liberation of Charleston, in November of 1865, fifty two African Americans from across the state met at Zion Church (123 Calhoun St.) for the Colored People's Convention of the State of South Carolina. Their stated purpose: "To advance the issues of our people, to devise means for our mutual protection, and to encourage the industrial interests of the State." Stated simply, the delegates met to secure their civil rights, defend themselves from racist terror, and to demand economic justice.*

*In the wake of another disruptive war, the Johns Island Progressive Club shared the same goals as the Colored People's Convention. Beginning in the late 1940s and continuing for more than twenty years, thousands of local people gathered to discuss the kind of schools, government, and social system they wished to have on Johns Island and they organized to realize their vision.*

*We are in the midst of another transformative historical moment. The racist attacks across the country and an economic recovery that has provided little relief for the poor and working class have once again led people to raise basic questions about the meaning of democracy and citizenship. The Occupy and Black Lives Matter movements represent the most visible grassroots responses to the crisis, but many other people have put in motion. In the Lowcountry, young people have taken the lead in demanding \$15 and a union for all workers and responding to the murder of Walter Scott. Over the past year, thousands of students have raised their voices to demand a better future for both Burke High School and the College of Charleston. These are genuine opportunities upon which a movement is being built.*

*It is against this backdrop that we meet in Charleston over the Labor Day weekend, 2015. Our challenge is the same as that of the Colored People's Convention and the Progressive Club—to move beyond discussion to action. The strategy conference should be a catalyst for remaking South Carolina according to principles of love, justice, and freedom.*

### ***ILA Local 1422: Where Workers Rights are Human Rights***

*There is no more appropriate location for this conversation than the International Longshoremen's Hall, Local 1422. The union traces its roots to the Longshoremen's Protective Association, which formed in the early years of Reconstruction to promote the political and economic interests of the formerly enslaved laborers who built the region's economy by loading and unloading ships on Charleston's wharves. That makes Local 1422 among the oldest surviving anti-racist and democratic institutions in the nation. If you believe in freedom, welcome home!*