

**\* \* \* PLEASE JOIN YOUR AERA COLLEAGUES IN \* \* \***  
**BOYCOTTING THE MANCHESTER HYATT**

**BACKGROUND:** On October 17th, AERA president McDonnell and executive director Levine sent an email to all AERA members describing a problem with one of the main conference hotels for the 2009 Annual Meeting. As the authors noted, one problem revolves around the actions of the Hyatt owner Manchester in support of California Proposition 8. However, that's only part of the story: A second and longer-term problem exists regarding the labor conditions at the hotel, especially workload and job security. For these reasons, on July 10, 2008, *the labor union UNITE HERE, together with the San Diego Central Labor Council, called for a full boycott of this hotel. This boycott has also been sanctioned by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.*

**LABOR DISPUTE:** On March 4th, McDonnell and Levine sent another email to AERA members, reasserting that the problems involving the Manchester Hyatt do not involve a labor dispute. The letter affirmed that AERA's hotel contracts include a clause that allows for contract termination should there be a "labor dispute," and according to the definition in the contract, a "labor dispute" is not occurring at the Manchester Hyatt. However, there do exist problems between labor and management at the Manchester Hyatt, particularly around workload and job security. Picket lines and other forms of public demonstrations have occurred and will continue to occur outside the hotel. According to the boycott organizer, Powell DeGange, the UNITE HERE Local 30 is not merely trying to unionize the laborers; rather, the union is working in solidarity with workers who do not have union protection at their jobs for such actions as these.

**PROBLEM:** Although AERA has taken important steps to relocate many sessions out of the Manchester Hyatt and into other venues, some sessions remain in the Hyatt. *To attend these sessions, AERA members would have to ignore the boycott.* We should not close our eyes to, and fail to intervene in, these injustices.

For more information:

<http://reformingaera.homestead.com>

## **WHAT CAN WE DO DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING?**

### **(1) Join the Consumer Boycott of the Manchester Hyatt**

- Boycott the Manchester Hyatt and other hotels experiencing labor disputes by opting not to enter the hotel for any reason, including to use their guest rooms, meeting rooms, and restaurants.
- If you are scheduled to present in a session in the Manchester Hyatt, and if AERA does not respect your request to move your session, consider supporting the boycott by refusing to enter the hotel, and instead, joining whatever action is happening outside of the hotel and distributing copies of your conference paper at other venues.

### **(2) Raise Public Awareness and Advocate for Reform**

- Distribute copies of this flyer and discuss these problems with other members.
- Join the visibility campaign by wearing a rainbow armband (see the Rethinking Schools booth).
- Participate in relevant conference sessions and public demonstrations (see page 2).

## Sampling of AERA Events to Raise Awareness and Advocate for Change

### Monday, April 13

- 7:00-8:00pm**    **Social Justice in Education Award Lecture (San Diego Marriott, Marina Ballroom Salon D)**  
*2009 Awardee – Dr. Christine Sleeter*
- Sponsored by Social Justice Action Committee

### Tuesday, April 14

- 8:15-9:45**        **Session on Politics and Education (San Diego Convention Center, Room 9)**  
*“Queer Politics and Activism in Education”*
- Sponsored by Committee on Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity in Education
- 10:35-12:05**    **Open Meeting of Social Justice Action Committee (San Diego Marriott, Mission Hills Room)**
- One item for discussion: changing the Association by-laws

### Wednesday, April 15

- 2:15-3:45**        **Session on Labor and Education (San Diego Convention Center, Room 7B)**  
*“Union Matters: Low-Wage Workers, Their Children, and School Reform”*
- Abstract: This session explores the importance of union organizing campaigns for low-wage workers, their families, and public schools served by these families. An overview presentation will examine how union representation influences the ability of families to participate in public schools and how active union membership can contribute to school improvement efforts. The presentation will be followed by a facilitated dialogue with staff from UNITE HERE and workers at local hotels who seek union representation.
  - Sponsored by Social Justice Action Committee

### Thursday, April 16

- 7:00-7:45**        **Town Meeting, Queer Studies SIG (San Diego Convention Center, Room 25A)**  
*“Standing Our Queer Ground: Can Research Really Be Apolitical?”*
- Panelists include: William Ayers, Kevin Kumashiro, Erica Meiners, Therese Quinn, Christine Sleeter, Mara Sapon-Shevin (Facilitator)
  - Questions to discuss include:
    - Can educational researchers not be political?
    - What happens when our agendas collide?
    - Whose "issue" is this (i.e., the Manchester Hyatt debacle)?
    - How do we see ourselves as affected by/removed from social injustices?
    - How do we form allies across different struggles?
    - What is our responsibility for engaging in other social justice struggles?
- All AERA members are invited to join this lively, interactive town meeting.*

***Throughout the week, please look for and engage in public actions outside the Manchester Hyatt.***