

Race, Labor, and Coalition Building in Racine, Wisconsin

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Working class politics and labor organizing in Racine, Wisconsin in the post-war period was multi-racial, multi-gender, and cross-sector. Are current labor organizing struggles building coalitions, across race and gender? If so, how? If not, how can we grow?

Racine, Wisconsin labor activists created alliances with and used institutions to advance their struggles. How does this manifest in labor organizing struggles today?

What tactics did Racine workers (i.e. across steel and auto industries) use to fight plant closings during 1970s deindustrialization? How does this connect to today's changing work landscape and labor struggles?

From janitors supporting steel industry strikes to social workers building coalitions with welfare activists, the Racine labor movement was cross-sector. What lessons can we learn from this cross-sector solidarity? What does this remind you of today?