

NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP) COUNCIL

REGION 9

James Lakeman
Regional Director

Patrick Ashton

Assistant Regional Director

Wence Valentin, III

Political Director



REGION 9A

Brandon Mancilla
Regional Director

Vail Kohnert-Yount

Assistant Regional Director

Aaron Eisenberg

Political Director

February 12, 2026

To: Presidents, 1st Vice Presidents, Recording Secretaries, Financial Secretaries, CAP Chairpersons, Bargaining Chairpersons, and Retiree Chairpersons of UAW Locals in New York State, UAW Regions 9 & 9A

Greetings:

**2026 Political Education/Lobbying Conference
Sunday, March 22, through Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

We are very excited to be holding our annual Lobbying Conference in Albany. The many issues we will be lobbying on will include but are not limited to the following: Unemployment, Student Loan Assistance, TDI, NY Health Act, Union Made in NY, Property Tax Freeze for Seniors, and the Empire Act.

Hotel Information: The Conference will take place at the Hilton Albany located at 40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY 12207. A block of rooms has been set aside at a rate of \$204.06 per night (\$179 + \$25.06 tax).

FEBRUARY 27, 2026, is the cutoff for hotel rooms.

Hotel reservations can be made by one of the following options:

1. Call the Hiltons reservation line at 1-800-Hilton's (445-8667) and provide code **1UAW3**.
2. Click on the following link:
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/united-auto-workers-march-2026/>

Travel dates are Sunday, March 22, and Wednesday, March 25. Members may also return Tuesday, March 24 following the debrief and lobby team reports.

Since the hotel is downtown and is less than a half mile from the Legislative Office Building, we will not have busses taking us lobbying. You can either walk, use the hotel shuttle, those with cars can drop you off, or we will reimburse for taxi/uber.

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2026 Political Education/Lobbying Conference continued....

Please note the Monday evening Meet & Greet with legislators and allies will be held at the Hilton Albany.

Registration Form:

- To register for the event, please complete this [form](#).

Retirees Team: There has been a request for a team that has a lighter schedule with fewer appointments that are hopefully scheduled on the same floor. This is suited more for retirees or those that might have an issue with a lot of walking. Please note on the registration form if this is something you are interested in.

Lobbying Issue Sheets: All lobbying issue sheets must be submitted by **February 27th**. ***Lobbying sheets received after this date will not be included in the packets.***

As you know, an important part of our political action agenda involves the successful lobbying of our state legislators. Active participation by your local union members helps us attain the positive results we need in addressing our issues of concern. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Wence Valentin at (716) 632-1540 or Aaron Eisenberg at (914) 980-9117.

In solidarity,

James Lakeman

Director, UAW Region 9

Brandon Mancilla

Director, UAW Region 9A

Patrick Ashton

Assistant Director, UAW Region 9

Vail Kohnert-Yount

Assistant Director, UAW Region 9A

Wence Valentin, III

National CAP, UAW Region 9

Aaron Eisenberg

National CAP, UAW Region 9A

law/opeiu494/afl-cio

Enclosures: Registration Form and Tentative Agenda

c Staff & Clerical

UAW REGIONS 9 & 9A
Political Education/Lobbying Conference
March 22 - 25, 2026 Tentative Agenda

Meals Provided:
Sunday Dinner
Monday breakfast
Monday lunch
Tuesday breakfast
Tuesday late afternoon box lunch
Wednesday breakfast

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

SUNDAY (day 1)

3 p.m.

4 - 6 p.m.

6 - 8 p.m.

NY State CAP Meeting for Executive Board only

Registration

Plenary Session-Welcome, Dinner, Orientation,
And Team/Lobbying Assignments

MONDAY (day 2)

7 a.m.

8 -11:30 a.m.

12:00 pm

1:30 - 4 p.m.

5 - 7 p.m.

Breakfast Buffet

Plenary Session - Guest Speakers

Information updates on UAW issues

Luncheon Buffet

Lobby Legislators

Legislative Meet & Greet at Hilton Albany

TUESDAY (day 3)

7 - 8:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

4 p.m.

Breakfast Buffet

Lobby Legislators

Debriefing & lobbying team reports along with boxed lunches

Free Evening

WEDNESDAY (day 4)

7 to 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Have a safe trip home!

Please note there will be a press conference on Monday afternoon or Tuesday.