Mark McDermott brings interactive workshops for leaders, staff, stewards, activists and apprentices with a focus on labor history, economic justice education, coalition building, communications skill building and strategic planning. He produces educational and training materials designed specifically for individual unions. “All my work is focused on what we can learn from our past and present struggles that will inspire and educate participants to take more sustained actions that are needed to build more power today and into the future.”

Mark McDermott has spent his life working for economic, social and racial justice and peace. He is a full-time economic justice and labor educator and has given 373 speeches and interactive workshops for affiliates of 27 International Unions, labor councils, and progressive community-based organizations over the past 7 years. He has presented to 70+ apprenticeship programs in 4 states reaching almost 4,000 apprentices. He donates all of his speaking fees to progressive organizations and candidates, and people in need.

He “retired” 7 years ago after serving as the Regional Representative for U.S. Secretary Hilda Solis for the 8 Pacific NW and northern plains states.

He currently serves on the Education, Training and Apprenticeship Committee of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, the Board of the Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action and the founding chair of their Education Committee, and the Advisory Committee of the WA State Labor and Education Research Center. Mark writes about economic justice, politics, retirement security and labor issues. His website is www.markmmcdermott1@msn.com

He is happily married to his wonderful wife, Diane, a lifelong UFCW leader, and loves playing with his delightful 7-year-old grandson Walter and 10-month old grandson Nash. When Mark grows tired in our struggles, wanting a better future for Walter, Nash and all children keeps him fighting for a better future for all people.

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