



THE LABOR SCHOOL

AT PENN STATE



LEHIGH VALLEY LABOR ACTIVIST ACADEMY

The Lehigh Valley Labor Council AFL-CIO will host a yearlong series of labor education workshops designed to better equip labor activists and leaders to meet the challenges facing today's labor movement.

All local unions affiliated with the Lehigh Valley Labor Council, as well as invited community allies, are eligible to send members to participate. The curriculum consists of four comprehensive non-credit courses designed to develop critical thinking skills and to increase capacity for building power. The courses encourage participation and networking with other activists. Participants should commit to attending all four sessions of each course.

Instructors will include faculty from The LABOR School at Penn State, labor leaders and community experts. Participants who complete all four courses will graduate with a certificate of completion from Penn State.

- Classes will be held from 6:30–9:00 p.m. at the Teamsters Local 773 Hall, 3416 Lehigh Street, Whitehall PA.
- The cost of each four-week course will be \$75 per participant, payable to The Pennsylvania State University prior to the start of each course.
- The total cost for the full certificate program of all four courses is \$300.
- Please see the course schedule and registration details on reverse.

"I've been a union member for over 15 years and have learned so much in these classes. I now know how to answer workers' comp questions for my fellow shop members. The history section puts into perspective what has been fought for and what has been obtained by the union members before us. I would take this class again!"

- Amy Gitler
Chair, Chapter 13 SEIU 668

"The labor movement has been under attack for decades and if we want to not only survive, but thrive, we need to educate our members. Engaging our members is key to transforming the union movement and these courses are designed to do just that. This is a well thought out curriculum with engaged instructors."

- Dennis Hower
President, Teamster Local 773

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR 2019

1. Unions for the 21st Century: What Every Activist Should Know (January 10, 17, 24, 31)

This course will focus on the challenges faced by today's unions and on what union leaders and union activists need to know to effectively address these challenges. Participants will gain an understanding of how our economy has shifted and what this means for workers and our organizations.

Week 1: How We Got Here and Current Challenges

Week 2: Economics for the Working Class

Week 3: The New Political Economy and Why It Matters

Week 4: Building a Multi-Generational Movement

2. What Labor History Can Teach Us: Lessons for Today (February 21, 28, March 7, 14)

The history of worker organizing holds many lessons for labor organizations and activists today. We will gain an appreciation for the rich history of worker collective action and how labor organizations have related historically to broader struggles for economic, social and civil rights, offering a new perspective on the particular challenges of the current period.

Week 1 - Eight Lessons from Labor History

Week 2 - 19th Century Labor History

Week 3 - 20th Century Labor History

Week 4 - Rise of the Conservative Movement and Labor's Response

3. Building Union Power in the Workplace and the Community (March 28, April 4, 11, 18)

Renewing our movement begins with organizing our own members and allies, and learning how to engage them in the work of labor so that "the union" is not a third party. We will identify how to build an inclusive union culture and discuss the critical role that coalitions can play in today's fights.

Week 1: Organizing and Mobilizing Workers, Part I

Week 2: Organizing and Mobilizing Workers, Part II

Week 3: Engaging Union Members and Labor Culture

Week 4: Using Media to Win Public Opinion

4. Labor and Employment Law: Labor's New Landscape (May 2, 9, 16, 23)

The final course will cover labor and employment laws that shape individual and collective rights on the job. We will also discuss labor strategies to strengthen legal remedies and protections on the job, with a focus on the current and future landscape of labor law and strategy.

Week 1: Understanding Laws Affecting Labor Organizations

Week 2: Unfair Labor Practices in the Public and Private Sectors

Week 3: Your Rights as a Worker: Classification, Wages and Overtime

Week 4: Beyond the Current Legal Attacks: What Comes Next?

***All dates are Thursdays, from 6:30-9:00p.m.**

This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please consult Mark Ivic at 814-863-7569 in advance of your participation or visit. MPC14489 U.Ed. LBS 19-23

Pre-registration and payment is required.

Please register here: https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5v7VomzEyDY6Vrn

Registration fee is \$75 per course. After the first course starts, enrollment and payments are non-transferable. Missed sessions cannot be substituted in for another course.

Please send check made out to "The Pennsylvania State University"

506 Keller Building, University Park, PA 16802

Payment is due one week before the first session you are registered to attend.

Questions? Please contact Valerie Braman at vmb7@psu.edu or (215) 843-3052