

Midwest School for Women Workers

July 25-29, 2012 • Iowa City, IA

Core Skill-building Classes

Core classes meet every day (Thursday-Sunday mornings, and Thursday-Saturday afternoons), and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please make your morning and afternoon selections and return the completed form to the UI Labor Center (deadline is July 6).

Step 1

Morning Core Classes [Please indicate a **FIRST**, **SECOND**, and **THIRD** choice]

_____ **Legal Rights:** What legal rights do you have as a union steward, activist, and member? How can your union put these legal concepts to work to enforce your contract and to promote member solidarity? This workshop will provide a basic introduction to aspects of labor law that deal with the day-to-day activities of the union in the workplace. We'll talk about a number of key legal principles -- Weingarten rights (right to representation), the equality principle, and the right to information, concerted activity, and more. We'll focus on how union activists use these principles every day. And we'll also clarify that falsely-named and often misunderstood term, "Right to Work." - *Taught by Michelle Kaminski, Michigan State Labor Education Program*

_____ **Bargaining in Tough Times:** What do tough economic times mean at the bargaining table? Learn effective tactics to win strong contracts within the context of economic recession. - *Taught by Monica Bielski-Boris, University of Illinois Labor Education Program*

_____ **Communication Skills:** Learn skills for improving member-to-member communication in your union and promoting your organization's goals through social media and the mass media. This class will also examine some of the special talents women have as communicators and the challenges we face within the labor movement. - *Taught by Barb Kucera, Univ. of Minnesota Labor Education Service*

Step 2

Afternoon Core Classes [Please indicate a **FIRST**, **SECOND**, and **THIRD** choice]

_____ **Grievance Handling:** How does the grievance procedure fit into the big picture? How can you be more effective in representing members in grievances and build solidarity? We'll focus in on investigation, analyzing the basis of the grievance to make the best arguments, and role play a case. Bring a copy of your union contract. - *Taught by Judy Ancel, Univ. of Missouri (Kansas City) Institute for Labor Studies*

_____ **FMLA/Work-life Balance:** The Family and Medical Leave Act became law in order to ensure a work-life balance to a changing workforce. In this class, participants will examine the FMLA including an overview and update of major provisions. Also, participants will discuss the importance of maintaining a work-life balance and examine strategies for juggling work and personal demands. - *Taught by Gayle Hamilton, Wayne State Labor Studies Center*

_____ **Leadership:** You are a fascinating, talented person! This class will focus on discovering your strengths and developing strategies to offset your weaknesses. Through gentle self-exploration and respectful sharing, explore ways to work more effectively with others by understanding how they work and how others' skills and talents complement your own. We will learn, together, how we can support each other as we strengthen our unions. - *Taught by Corliss Olson, University of Wisconsin School for Workers*

Step 3

This form is from _____ (print your name)

[see other side for **Step 4** and how to return this form to the Labor Center]

Step 4

Return form to the University of Iowa Labor Center:

- scan completed form and **email** to labor-center@uiowa.edu **OR** write your preferences (in ranked order) in the body of an email and send to labor-center@uiowa.edu (be sure to include your name)
- **fax** completed form to 319-335-4464
- **call** the Labor Center at 319-335-4144 with your course selections; be sure to include your name and a phone number if you leave your message on our voicemail
- **mail** completed form to: UI Labor Center, 100 BVC – Room W130, Iowa City, IA 52242

Deadline: Friday, July 6