

Labor Education Service
Center for Human Resources & Labor Studies
University of Minnesota
321 19th Ave. S., Room 3-300
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 155



***Taking a stand
in tough
economic times***

2010 Midwest School for Women Workers

July 28 - August 1

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Hosted by the Labor Education Service, University of Minnesota

Sponsored by the United Association for Labor Education

2010 Midwest School for Women Workers

July 28 - August 1

Taking a stand in tough economic times

The 2010 Midwest School for Women Workers will be held July 28 to August 1 on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. The School is a four-day residential program that brings together participants from several states for general sessions, skills workshops and networking. This year's theme is "Taking a stand in tough economic times."

These are difficult times for working women, their families and their unions, with massive unemployment, high workloads and cuts to public services.

Unions are trying to respond to the economic crisis at the same time they organize, bargain and mobilize to improve the standard of living for all working families. It's a tall order.

At the 2010 Midwest School, we've designed educational programs and networking opportunities to give you the tools to address the challenges posed by tough economic times.

Who should attend?

The Midwest School is a special event designed for working women, rank-and-file members, activists, staff and union officers.

The School is one of four regional women's schools sponsored by the United Association for Labor Education and hosted by university labor education programs.



The schools are a place where women unionists can share experiences, learn new skills and give one another support. Since the 1970s, the schools have educated thousands of women, many of whom have become leaders of their unions.

The 2010 Midwest School will provide the opportunity for women workers to share our experiences and arrive at new strategies together. While it's serious learning, we'll have fun, too.



**Deadline
to register:
June 18**

**Register by May 28
and get a discount**

**Para información en español,
lláme a Mary Bellman Simón al 612-624-9072.**

Registration and Planning Information

Registration is on a first come, first served basis.
We strongly encourage registrations as soon as possible.

Tuition

If you register by May 28:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Resident students | Discount rate of \$500 |
| Commuters | Discount rate of \$325 |

If you register by June 18:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Resident students | \$550 |
| Commuters | \$350 |

Tuition includes:

- All training and materials
- All meals, starting with dinner on July 28 and ending with lunch on Sunday, Aug. 1
- Field trip
- Opening reception and movie night

The resident student tuition also includes a single room for four nights (Wednesday, July 28, through Saturday, July 31).

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations prior to May 28 are eligible for a full refund. Cancellations between May 28 and June 18 are eligible for a 50% refund. No refunds after the June 18 final registration deadline. However, we do encourage substitutions.

Housing and Meals

Resident students will stay in Yudof residence hall on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. All rooms are single rooms, with one shared bathroom for every two rooms. Rooms have free, wireless Internet.

Meals will be provided in the dining room of nearby Comstock Hall and include a range of menu options, including many healthy choices. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate on the registration form.

All campus buildings are accessible. If you require special accommodation, please indicate on the registration form.

Transportation

The Minneapolis-St. Paul area is served by a major international airport and the Amtrak line from Chicago. It also is accessible by Interstate Highways 35, 90 and 94.

The Midwest School will be held on the East Bank of the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. The campus is easily reached by bus or light rail line from the airport. Parking is available in university ramps for a fee. We recommend taking public transit to campus.

Directions to the University of Minnesota will be included

in your registration confirmation. View a campus map on the LES website, www.les.csom.umn.edu

English/Spanish Interpretation

Simultaneous English/Spanish interpretation can be made available for all general sessions and some workshops. Please indicate on the registration form. We cannot guarantee interpretation services for registrations received after May 28.

Child Care

Child care will be provided during the day by licensed, union-represented child care workers. Because the number of slots is limited, please notify us by May 1 with the number and ages of the children.

Children under age 5 may stay free with their mothers in Yudof residence hall. Moms and children older than 5 will be hosted by local union members in their homes. For more information, call the LES office, 612-624-5020.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships to the Midwest School will be available. Priority will be given to underrepresented groups of women. To apply for a scholarship, please call 612-624-5020 or download an application at the LES website, www.les.csom.umn.edu

The deadline to apply for scholarships is May 14. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 28. All applicants who do not receive a scholarship will be eligible for the discount tuition rates through June 18.

People of color, people with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgendered people, recent immigrants, people whose first language is not English, people of all ages, people from all faith traditions and economic class backgrounds are welcome. In our diversity, we build solidarity as workers and union members.

Deadlines

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| May 1 | Deadline to request child care |
| May 14 | Deadline to apply for scholarship |
| May 28 | Deadline for early registration Deadline to request interpretation Scholarship recipients are notified |
| June 18 | Final registration deadline |

Agenda

Wednesday, July 28

Dinner at residence hall

7 – 8:30 p.m. Opening Session

Meet the other women attending and get an overview of the Midwest School and important information.

Thursday, July 29

Breakfast at residence hall

9 a.m. – Noon: General Session

This plenary will highlight the conference theme and focus on how people experience the economic crisis differently and the need to forge new coalitions. We will draw on historic and contemporary examples of people coming together to fight for economic justice.

Lunch at residence hall

1 – 4 p.m. Workshops (choose one):

- *Bargaining during Tough Economic Times*
- *Bridging the Generation Gap*
- *Confronting Inequalities on the Job (Bilingual)*
- *Organizing for Work/Life Balance*
- *Winning & Building: Using Political Action to Strengthen the Union (Bilingual)*

Dinner at residence hall

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Opening Reception at the Campus Club

The reception will be open to local union women activists and leaders in addition to Midwest School participants. We hope to have a special guest speaker.

Friday, July 30

Breakfast at residence hall

9 a.m. - Noon: Workshops (choose one):

- *Challenging the Anti-Worker Agenda*
- *Examining the 21st Century Workforce (Bilingual)*
- *Organizing around Occupational Safety & Health (Bilingual)*
- *Understanding Immigration (for Native-Born Workers)*
- *Women and the Global Economy*

Lunch at residence hall

1 – 4 p.m.: Local field trip

The field trip will give participants an overview of the Twin Cities and the important role women workers have played in Minnesota workplaces and unions.

Dinner at residence hall

Evening Options:

- Labor Film
- Free time to relax or explore the Twin Cities

Saturday, July 31

Breakfast at residence hall

9 a.m. - Noon: Workshops (choose one):

- *Building an Inclusive Union Culture*
- *Mentoring Within Unions (Bilingual)*
- *New Approaches to Women's Committees and Other Identity Groups*
- *Putting the "You" in Union (Bilingual)*
- *Union Strategic Planning*

Lunch at residence hall

1 – 2:30 p.m.: Workshops (choose one):

- *Labor Theater: In the Streets and In Our Union Halls (Bilingual)*
- *Labor Song: Parodies, Choruses*
- *Finding Your Voice: Spoken Word and Poetry*
- *Popular Education: New Approaches to Learning (Bilingual)*
- *New Media: Using Facebook, Twitter and Other Technologies*

2:45 – 4 p.m.: Open Space

Open space gives participants a chance to discuss any issues important to them not directly addressed in the conference. Through a facilitated process, we will identify areas of interest and participants who share similar concerns to learn from each other's experiences.

Dinner at residence hall

8 – 10 p.m.: Hospitality & Cultural Sharing

Sing, recite poems and tell stories at this informal evening – or simply hang out and enjoy a bowl of ice cream. Experience an evening of networking in a relaxed atmosphere.

Sunday, August 1

Breakfast at residence hall

9 a.m. - Noon: Closing Session

The closing plenary will highlight what we've learned — and leave us inspired by examples of workers who are taking a stand in tough economic times.

The closing session will be held in the beautiful Weisman Art Museum on the Minneapolis campus.

Lunch at residence hall

2010 Midwest School for Women Workers Registration

Tuition

| | |
|--|-------|
| _____ Resident Student Discount Rate (must register by May 28) | \$500 |
| _____ Commuter Student Discount Rate (must register by May 28) | \$325 |
| _____ Resident Student Regular Rate (deadline June 18) | \$550 |
| _____ Commuter Student Regular Rate (deadline June 18) | \$350 |

Workshop Choices

Four sessions of workshops will be offered. On the other side of this form, rank your top three preferences in each session.

Indicate if you need:

_____ **Child care.**
(Deadline May 1)
Number and ages of the children: _____

_____ **Simultaneous English/Spanish interpretation.**
(Deadline May 28)

_____ **Dietary or other special accommodation.**
Please specify: _____

Name _____

Union and Local # (if applicable) _____ Role in union _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

Make checks payable to "Labor Education Service." We regret we are unable to accept credit card payments.

Mail your registration to:

Labor Education Service
University of Minnesota
321 19th Ave. S., #3-300
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Phone: 612-624-5020

Fax: 612-624-1585

e-mail: les@umn.edu

Workshop Choices

In each of the four sessions, rank your top 3 choices

Thursday, 1 - 4 p.m.

Bargaining during Tough Economic Times

What do tough economic times mean at the bargaining table? Learn effective tactics to win strong contracts within the context of economic recession.

Bridging the Generation Gap

How can we learn from workers of all generations and incorporate their concerns? Discuss the experiences and defining traits of various generations, how they shape our workplaces and unions and strategies for bridging real or perceived differences.

Confronting Inequalities on the Job (Bilingual)

Identify union strategies for confronting racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, sexual harassment and other forms of oppression at work. Discuss how these difficulties can intensify during tough economic times and ways to build solidarity.

Organizing for Work/Life Balance

While women are expert jugglers, balancing the demands of work and our lives outside the job isn't just an individual responsibility. Discuss contract language and other strategies unions can use to improve workplaces for everyone.

Winning & Building: Using Political Action to Strengthen the Union (Bilingual)

Explore ideas for connecting our unions' electoral and political work with our goals for internal organizing and representing members. Learn new ways of approaching electoral campaigns that build the union.

Friday, 9 a.m. - Noon

Challenging the Anti-Worker Agenda

What are the roots of the anti-worker agenda? Why have many people – including union members – internalized a message that goes against their own economic interests? Discuss ways to turn this vision around.

Examining the 21st Century Workforce (Bilingual)

What kinds of jobs are being created in our rapidly changing economy – and how can we organize to make sure they are quality, union jobs? Discuss the opportunities and challenges posed by the new “green” economy, the growing service and information sectors and other jobs of the future.

Organizing around Occupational Safety & Health (Bilingual)

Workplace issues related to health and safety can be used to mobilize our unions, yet these are often missed opportunities to unite workers and fight for solutions. Learn to identify and use safety and health concerns to strengthen your union.

Understanding Immigration (for Native-Born Workers)

Take part in an open discussion on immigration, including the effort to scapegoat immigrants during the economic crisis and the importance of immigrant participation to union growth and

strength. Learn practical ideas for reaching out to New Americans and starting conversations about immigration in your union.

Women and the Global Economy

Women play a unique role in our economy, both at home and globally, and corporations have taken advantage of women's paid and unpaid labor for their benefit. Learn from women's struggles for equality on the job and in their communities.

Saturday, 9 a.m. - Noon

Building an Inclusive Union Culture

Learn how to identify the untapped potential in your union membership and the barriers that may be keeping some people from participating. Learn concrete steps unions can take to be more inclusive of young people, New Americans and others.

Mentoring Within Unions (Bilingual)

Union mentoring – between staff and members and among members – takes many forms, some more formal than others. Learn different design approaches for mentorship programs that build individual leadership and union capacity.

New Approaches to Women's Committees and Other Identity Groups

What role do committees for women, younger workers, people of color and other groups play within our unions? How can they be used to encourage more members to get involved? Learn the steps for forming a committee and integrating it into the union.

Putting the “You” in Union (Bilingual)

We all repeat the mantra, “You are the Union,” but how true does this feel for many members? Learn ways to energize and mobilize members through successful internal organizing strategies for transforming unions.

Union Strategic Planning

Whether you're an officer, committee member or just getting active in your union, knowing how to plan effectively is an important skill. Learn the basic elements of strategic planning for use in contract campaigns, organizing and other union work.

Saturday, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Labor Theater: In the Streets and In Our Union Halls (Bilingual)

Labor Song: Parodies, Choruses

Finding Your Voice: Spoken Word and Poetry

Popular Education: New Approaches to Learning (Bilingual)

New Media: Using Facebook, Twitter and Other Technologies