
POSTAL LABOR UNIONS

S·U·M·M·E·R S·C·H·O·O·L



June 14-19, 2015

West Virginia University ♦ Institute for Labor Studies and Research ♦ Morgantown, WV

From its beginning in 1979, the Postal Labor Unions Summer School has focused intently on the specific needs of union members in the U.S. Postal Service.

A special strength of the summer school is its consistent ability to develop **instructors who have come up through the union ranks**. All have extensive experience in the union and most have been students of the summer school, making them **uniquely qualified to understand the issues** that face the stewards and officers who now are their students.

The **heart of the curriculum is the grievance process**, with the essential goal to foster skills and viewpoints that support the union and the labor movement. Although workshops are built around the steward's role, PLUSS also makes room for concerns and events that affect the labor movement broadly.

The Institute for Labor Studies and Research is proud to sponsor **this exceptional educational opportunity** on the campus of West Virginia University.

New feature!

Help build the advanced curriculum

More experienced students can help create their own advanced class by choosing from a menu of possible subjects – or proposing a topic that meets their own unique needs and interests.

New class!

Improve your e-skills for union business

A special, computer-based class is being added to the curriculum in response to student requests.

(See the descriptions on page 2 and selection information on page 3.)

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

☞ ALL-DAY WORKSHOPS

Basic Shop Steward Training and Grievance Handling

Designed for less-experienced stewards, this class takes an analytical approach to recognizing contract violations and deciding which provisions could apply in a given circumstance. Students also learn to investigate and process grievances, enforce the contract through Article 15, and about rights and responsibilities of shop stewards. *A laptop computer that will read CDs is helpful, but not required (limited number available).* . Recently appointed or less-experienced representatives will find the Basic Shop Steward class to be a strong foundation for their union work.

Effective Computer Representation Tools

More seasoned participants might find the new, computer-based workshop most helpful for research and media purposes. Topics anticipated for this special workshop include e-grievances, e-handbooks and manuals, APWU search, media interaction, web utilization, MDAT and e-newsletters.

Advanced Skills for Union Representatives

In-depth examinations of issues are featured in the advanced workshop, which students will help to shape with their own selection of content. Among the options are winning with past practice, labor and postal unions' history, organizing and political action for 2015, OWCP, defending against disciplinary actions, strategies for grievance writing, labor law and the postal inspection service. Participants will be asked to select top choices as part of their registration.

☞ ASSEMBLIES

Each day begins with an assembly that supplements classroom learning, with subjects selected to meet the needs of the broadest range of participants. Topics will be selected based on responses to the Advanced Skills workshops, and tailored to supplement the students' collective interests.

OTHER INFORMATION

☞ GETTING HERE

A map and driving directions are provided with confirmation of registration. WVU is about 75 miles south of Pittsburgh, Pa. Morgantown Municipal Airport currently has commuter flight service from Dulles International in Washington, D.C. The nearest large airport is Pittsburgh International; a rental car would be necessary.

☞ PARKING

A limited number of on-street parking spaces is available adjacent to Stalnaker Hall. To reserve a parking space, you **must pre-pay** the \$35 parking fee (per car, not per person). Parking is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be sure that your local, if responsible, takes care of your parking arrangements. Other parking is very limited near Stalnaker Hall.

☞ ROMINE SCHOLARSHIP

The inspiration of National Business Agent Cecil Romine, a West Virginia native, the APWU Summer School set out on its ambitious course with only a handful of instructors and barely a dozen and a half students. The 1995 name change to Postal Labor Unions Summer School emphasizes unity among workers and common purpose of their unions.

Every year, one student from each class is selected by the instructors for special merit based on their performance in the classroom. One of those students will receive the Cecil Romine Scholarship, named for the late APWU National Business Agent. The award is in the form of a rebate on tuition, not to exceed the double-room registration fee. *All students are eligible.*

2015 CLASS SELECTION

REGISTRANT NAME _____

LOCAL UNION _____

Each participant must register for **either A** – all-day Basic Grievance Handling **or B** – one short workshop **and** the long workshop.

A – BASIC

ALL-DAY WORKSHOP

_____ Shop Steward Training and Grievance Handling

OR

B – ADVANCED*

<p>SHORT WORKSHOP (choose one)</p> <p>_____ Computer Tools</p> <p>_____ Advanced Topics I</p>	<p>LONG WORKSHOP (for all Advanced students)</p> <p>_____ Advanced Topics II</p>
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*ADVANCED TOPICS STUDENTS ONLY – Indicate preferences by selecting up to five (5) topics that you would like to learn more about in the Advanced workshops.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary Defenses | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labor/Postal Union History | <input type="checkbox"/> Winning Strategies in Grievance Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> PSE Issues & NTFT Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing/Political Action 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Plan & I.G | <input type="checkbox"/> Winning vs. the Postal Inspection Service & and DIG |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OWCP | | |

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We welcome preferences for the Long Workshop, *but will review student selections* with an eye to your experience. If a different workshop seems more appropriate, instructors will discuss assignment with students to arrive at the most suitable match. To facilitate this process, please provide the following information:

Grievance handling experience _____ years?/months? Number of members in local _____

Number of grievances you've processed _____ Number of members for whom you process grievances _____

Experience in the grievance process

Step 1/Step A
 Step 2/Step B
 Step 3 appeals
 Arbitration advocate

Have you previously attended this training program? Yes No If yes, which class(es) have you taken? (*check as many as apply*)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Grievance Handling | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing the Contract | <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiating at the Local Level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handbooks and Manuals | <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving the Postal Inspection Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward's Role in Arbitration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline and Due Process | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Contract Applications | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration | | |

List all other formal training (*note whether local/state/national sponsorship*)

INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Male Female

Position in the union _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ E-mail _____

Type of room Single Double Commuter

Smoker Non-smoker

West Virginia University is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is NOT allowed in lodging rooms, but we will try to match smokers and non-smokers in lodging rooms when a preference is indicated.

Preferred roommate/suitemate _____

Parking permit needed? Yes No

Send check, made payable to West Virginia University (or simply WVU), to

Sarah Stevenson

Institute for Labor Studies and Research

710 Knapp Hall

PO Box 6031

Morgantown, WV 26506-6031

Registration Fee \$ _____

Parking _____

Total \$ _____

2015 Registration

To register, complete the personal information form below, mark workshop selections and provide the information that is needed to confirm your long workshop enrollment (see back of page). Fees are per person, for indicated lodging options. To receive the standard rate, pay registration fees and indicate workshop preferences by Friday, May 1. After that date, a \$50 surcharge applies.

\$625, single (1 per room, 2 per bath) — \$675 after May 1

\$585, double (2 per room, 4 per bath) — \$635 after May 1

\$440, commuter (meals, but no lodging) — \$465 after May 1

\$ 35, parking (per car, for the week)

Cancellation: After June 1, 75 percent. After June 8, no refund. *Send your registration form and fee promptly — some course enrollment is limited.*

Accommodations

Lodging and dining accommodations are at Stalnaker Hall, the historic dormitory residence overlooking WVU's main campus. Most events are held at Stalnaker Hall, where rooms are arranged as a suite (two bedrooms share a large bath). Additional information about the facility will be provided in confirmation of your registration, which also will include a map and driving directions.