



**PennState**  
College of the  
Liberal Arts

# PHILADELPHIA LABOR ACTIVIST TRAINING



Co-Sponsored by:  
**PHILADELPHIA COUNCIL AFL-CIO and  
THE LABOR SCHOOL AT PENN STATE**

Classes will be held from  
6-8:30 PM at the  
Philadelphia AFL-CIO  
22 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The cost of each 4-week course  
will be \$60 per participant,  
payable to the Council prior  
to the start of each course.

The total cost for the full  
certificate program of all four  
courses is \$240.

Please see the Course Schedule  
and Registration Form on the  
back.

The Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO will host a year long series of labor education workshops designed to better equip labor activists and leaders to meet the challenges facing today's labor movement. Now in its second year, the Philadelphia Labor Activist Training will be co-sponsored by the Labor School at Penn State. All local unions affiliated with the Philadelphia Council are eligible to send members to participate, as well as invited community allies.

The curriculum consists of four comprehensive non-credit courses designed to develop critical thinking skills and to increase capacity for building power. Using a multi-union setting, the courses encourage participation and networking with other activists. Each course includes ten hours of classroom time over four weeks. Participants should commit to attending all four sessions of each course.

Instructors will include faculty from Penn State's Labor School, labor leaders, and community experts. Participants who complete all four courses will graduate with a Certificate in Labor Studies from Penn State.

“ This is a great program not only for members of the labor community but community activists who believe in making a difference in the workplace and the community. The framework of the program allows for us to learn together, work together, win together. ”

—**Ethelind Baylor, Chair**  
Next Wave at AFSCME DC 47

# COURSE SCHEDULE FOR 2016–2017:

## 1. Unions for the 21st Century: What Every Activist Should Know (September 20, 27, October 4, 11)

Since first organized over 200 years ago, U.S. unions have been a necessary and important part of our democratic society. To remain relevant, however, unions have to adapt to a changing world and a changing workplace. Union leaders and activists need to understand the changing workforce, the changing economy, the needs and concerns of young workers, and how to actively support the development of upcoming leaders. 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.

**Week 1 - How We Got Here & Current Challenges**

**Week 2 - Common Sense Economics**

**Week 3 - Engaging Young Workers**

**Week 4 - Developing Union Leaders**

## 2. What Labor History Can Teach Us: Lessons for Today (October 25, November 1, 15, 22)

The history of worker organizing holds many lessons for labor organizations and activists today. We can compare how unions developed in relation to the economic, social, and legal contexts of different periods and discover similar themes throughout. We will also 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. By reflecting on this history, participants will gain 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**

*"This class gives you a clear look at labor's past, an accurate view of our current markets and a strong blueprint for adapting to the challenges of the ever changing future. You will leave this class with a better understanding and a clearer, more concise plan to represent your members."*

**—Joseph McMonigle, Business Agent**  
Plumbers Local 690

## 3. Building Union Power in the Workplace and the Community (February 21, 28, March 7, 14)

Renewing our movement begins with organizing our own members 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. We will also explore new forms of organizing such as workers centers. Finally, we will learn about how to mobilize the media to our cause and engage public opinion.

**Week 1 - Organizing Your Members and the Unorganized**

**Week 2 - Engaging Union Members and Labor Culture**

**Week 3 - Building Coalitions with Allies: Shared Values**

**Week 4 - Using Media to Win Public Opinion**

## 4. Know Your Rights on the Job: Labor and Employment Law (March 28, April 4, 11, 18)

The final course will cover labor and employment laws that shape individual and collective rights on the job. Participants will learn about relevant labor and employment laws, how they are enforced, and employer tactics to get around them. We will also discuss labor strategies to strengthen legal remedies and protections on the job.

**Week 1 - Laws Affecting Labor Organizations**

**Week 2 - NLRA Section 7 and 8 rights; Unfair Labor Practices**

**Week 3 - Workers Comp and Unemployment Compensation in PA**

**Week 4 - Your Rights as a Worker: Classification, Wages, and Overtime**

*NOTE: Weekly class content subject to change by instructor and program coordinator based on program needs and participant interest.*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Union/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the following courses: ☐ Unions for the 21st Century ☐ Labor History  
☐ Building Union Power ☐ Labor Law

**Registration fee is \$60 per course. Registration is not transferable. Missed sessions cannot be substituted in another course.**

Please send check made out to "Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO", 22 S 22nd St, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia PA 19103

Payment is due 1 week before the first session you are registering to attend.

Questions? Please call the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO at 215-665-9800