The Midwest School for Women Workers brings together union women to develop leadership skills, understand challenges and issues facing the labor movement, and share experiences. The school has been held annually since 1976, and aims to equip women to be more active and effective leaders in their unions and to build solidarity among union women.

The school is open to all union members in the Midwest region, but its primary focus is to meet the educational needs of union women. Participants typically include women active at all levels of their unions, including rank-and-file activists, elected leaders, stewards, and staff.

The school is sponsored by the United Association for Labor Education (UALE) and this year will be hosted by the University of Iowa Labor Center in Iowa City, Iowa in cooperation with the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

What is the Midwest School for Women Workers?

What past participants have said about the School

I hope the empowering and reenergizing feeling that I’ve experienced all week long continues throughout my activism in the workplace.

The instructors were very strong, dynamic, engaging speakers, and I left the class knowing that I had learned something new that would benefit me in the workplace.

Through networking with other union sisters I found out we all have some of the same issues.

The instructors were effective and had a wealth of information to share.

I enjoyed learning from others in a supportive atmosphere. I’d love to return to future schools.

All the sessions were very educational; I came away with information and ideas that I can use to keep our membership informed and active.

The Midwest School for Women Workers welcomes participation regardless of race, creed, religion, ethnicity, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or immigrant status.
### Classes, Instructors, and Special Events

- Workers' rights in crisis: What's behind recent attacks, and how are workers mobilizing in response?
- Standing up for the public sector and the public good
- Key leadership skills: Effective communication, planning events, facilitating meetings, and public speaking
- Labor law for union activists
- Grievance handling and arbitration basics
- Bargaining in tough times
- The Family and Medical Leave Act and beyond
- Common sense economics
- Labor history
- Building solidarity in the global economy
- Health care reform: What does it mean for workers?
- Building community coalitions
- Next Up: Young workers and intergenerational organizing
- Bargaining in tough times
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- Next Up: Young workers and intergenerational organizing

### Child care

We regret that child care cannot be made available on site. Please call 319-335-1444 to request information about local childcare options.

### Interpretation for non-English Speakers

Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish or other languages may be made available if requested in advance.