



Walter Reuther and Augustus Pollack Monuments @ Wheeling's Heritage Port

Official RPLHS5 Redneck Bandanas! \$25.00!



Admission: \$10 (students \$5)

CONTACT US

Web: walswheeling.org
Phone: (304) 905-4902
Email: spd@walslaw.com

Snail Mail: The WALS Foundation, The First State Capitol, 1413 Eoff Street, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Our Heritage Partners: Battle of Homestead Foundation, Cassidy, Cogan, Shapell & Voegelin, L.C., Ohio County Public Library, Walter P. Reuther Library Archives of Labor & Urban Affairs, West Virginia Mine Wars Museum, Wheeling Heritage



WALS ~ OUR LOCATION

The WALS Foundation is based out of the First State Capitol building at 15th and Eoff streets in Wheeling, which housed the first government of West Virginia, established on June 20, 1863, with Arthur I. Boreman as governor.

WALS ~ OUR MISSION

The Wheeling Academy of Law and Science Foundation (WALS) is a non-profit established to promote educational programming in the areas of education, employment, labor history, local history, human rights, energy, and the environment; and to promote local economic opportunity, employment, and job creation in our city and region.

REUTHER-KING LIBRARY & LABOR ARCHIVE

The WALS Foundation maintains a library and archives as a research and study center on the life, times, and thought of Wheeling's native son, labor leader and human rights activist, Walter P. Reuther. The archive collects, preserves, digitizes and makes accessible, material related to the life and work of Reuther and to the history of organized labor and the working class in Wheeling and the Upper Ohio Valley region.

What is the JOBS FIRST AGENDA?

One of primary initiatives of the WALS Foundation is called the "Jobs First Agenda," which seeks to create a new narrative based on fairness, not ideology; and on scientific facts, not partisan politics.

Top Ten Features of the Jobs First Agenda

- 1) Amend the U.S. Constitution to guarantee living wage jobs, free universal health care; and free public education through college.
2) Change state employment laws to require good faith and fair dealing in all employment relationships, and re-introduce empathy in our courts of law.
3) Abrogate the King's law of "employment at will" to provide job security based on the doctrine of good faith and fair dealing.
4) Make the government the employer of last resort, rebuilding the national Infrastructure like the Civilian Conservation Corps.
5) Change to a green, new energy economy in response to the existential threat of climate change, and offer more jobs in the process.
6) Reform tax code using incentivized rates and deductions as a reward for hiring employees at a living wage; eliminate favorable rates for corporations.
7) Implement a living wage through reformed collective bargaining by allowing every employee to choose or decline a labor union or professional association at the time of hiring in the private sector.
8) Abrogate the King's law of "Sovereign Immunity" by making the government accountable for making employment easy.
9) Broaden the scope of fiduciary duty laws to include avoidance of harm to the workforce; to the community; and to the environment.
10) Implement all future laws and policies based on the Jobs First Agenda, to restore America as the leader of the free world in values.

For more visit: walswheelingcommentaries.com And walswheeling.org



and the Reuther-King-Wheeling Library & Labor History Archive present:



Reuther-Pollack Labor History Symposium V Sept. 4, 2021

"Remember Blair Mountain" www.blair100.com



This program is a proud OFFICIAL PARTNER of the 2021 BLAIR CENTENNIAL



Funding provided in part by Wheeling Heritage.

Pre-Symposium Program:

Aug. 31 @ the Ohio County Public Library: a conversation with author Denise Giardina about *Storming Heaven*, a novel of the Battle of Blair Mountain. Panel: Marc Harshman & Pat Cassidy.



This event is being held in partnership with the Battle of Blair Mountain Centennial, which is taking place in many communities across the state over multiple days. The centennial aims to commemorate the significance of the Battle of Blair Mountain in 1921 and the rich history of the southern West Virginia coalfields. It is also a way to memorialize the brave men and women who fought for the civil rights and labor rights of miners and their families. Finally, the event is a celebration of the ideals of inclusiveness, diversity, and equity.

See: blair100.com/events

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, September 4, 2021

“Remember Blair Mountain”

Doors Open: 9:30 am *Continental Breakfast*

10:30 am - Patrick Cassidy, Esq.

“How Labor Laws Have Betrayed Labor”

11 am - Dr. Dana Caldemeyer

Union Renegades: Miners, Capitalism, and Organizing in the Gilded Age

12 pm - Lunch Break:

◆ Box Lunch

- ◆ Reuther Birthday Celebration
- ◆ Walking Tour to the Reuther & Pollack monuments led by

Dr. David Javersak

2:00 pm - Dr. Bob Hutton

“The Baldwin Felts Detectives”

3:00 pm - Dr. Hal Gorby

“Labor Fights among Northern West Virginia’s Coal Miners in the Roaring Twenties”

Visit: walswheeling.org

SPEAKER BIOS & Abstracts

Patrick Cassidy, Esq.

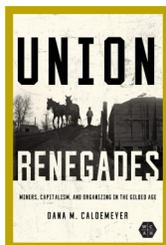


Mr. Cassidy obtained his B.A. degree in philosophy from Wheeling College and a Juris Doctor degree from the Catholic University of America. He serves as President of the law firm of Cassidy, Cogan, Shapell & Voegelin, L.C., where for more than 40 years he has represented employees, unions and other individuals in civil rights matters and other issues related to their workplace. Mr. Cassidy is co-founder (with his wife Mary Ellen) and President of the Wheeling Academy of Law and Science Foundation (WALS). He has presented on many aspects of the law, and has written extensively on issues of economic justice.

Abstract: How Labor Laws Have Betrayed Labor OR Why so many West Virginia Workers prefer Guns and Trump over Courts and Law. Mr. Cassidy will discuss this issue in the context of the Jobs First Agenda, his idea for a new narrative based on truth and fairness that can facilitate the pursuit of a just economic life for all Americans. Primary features include guaranteeing living wage jobs for all Americans; requiring good faith and fair dealing in all employment relationships; re-introducing “empathy” in our courts of law; and making government accountable, among many other objectives.

Dr. Dana Caldemeyer

Dana Caldemeyer is an assistant professor of history at South Georgia State College. Her research involves rural industrialization, labor, and capitalism.



Abstract: Late-19th century labor organizers faced a dual challenge. They needed to build a union strong enough to regulate entire industries while remaining flexible enough to look after the needs of the rank-and-file. This struggle is particularly visible in the Midwestern coal industry where semi-skilled laborers worked for hundreds of different corporations locked in a battle to produce the cheapest coal. As coal prices declined, companies decreased wages and disregarded safety protocols. Although miners despised this treatment, their anger was not enough to guarantee union membership, and even those who joined seldom remained faithful to the union. This pattern maddened organizers who could not understand why so many mistreated workers would reject the organization that could improve their situations. *Union Renegades* explores the individuals who were interested in union membership, but never quite joined or remained in the union. Their actions were neither fully pro-union nor anti-union, but a form of pragmatism dictated by the hardships and experiences rural workers faced within the capitalist system. More at www.press.uillinois.edu.

Dr. Bob Hutton



Bob Hutton is an associate professor of history, political science, and Appalachian studies at Glenville State College. He’s the author of *Bloody Breathitt: Politics & Violence in the Appalachian South* (2013) and various essays on Appalachian history.

Abstract: The “Mine Guard System” was a common feature of coal mining from the Civil War until the Depression era. Mine owners hired gunmen to patrol their workplaces and company towns, keeping the work force in constant fear and submission. While many students of labor history are familiar with their brutal practices, the long history, and the full societal implications, of the Mine Guard System are seldom pondered. This presentation will examine the Baldwin Felts Detective Agency, a private security firm based in Virginia and West Virginia for nearly half a century. The agency adapted the northern-born Mine Guard operation, but did so in a distinctively southern manner that reflected the latter region’s distinctiveness in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Furthermore, the agency’s practices reflected the Appalachian middle class’s strategy of siding with invasive industrialists over their native population’s interests. The story of the Baldwin Felts Detective Agency is a magnifying lens for examining the insidious relationship between capitalism and violence.

Dr. Hal Gorby

William Hal Gorby is a Teaching Associate Professor of History, and Dir. of Undergraduate Studies at WVU. He teaches courses on West Virginia, Appalachian, and American Immigration History, and is the 2020-21 recipient of the Eberly College’s Outstanding Teacher award. His book, *Wheeling’s Polonia: Reconstructing Polish Community in a West Virginia Steel Town* was published by WVU Press in 2020. He has also consulted on the research and editing for the PBS documentary “The Mine Wars.” In 2019, he researched, wrote, and hosted a podcast by Wheeling Heritage Media, titled “Henry: The Life and Times of Wheeling’s Most Notorious Brewer.”



Abstract: West Virginia is well known for its labor history, particularly the Mine Wars. While normally thought of as a struggle that took place in the southernmost counties, labor conflicts occurred in the coalfields in the northern section of the state as well. This talk will look at some of these strikes, starting after World War I and focusing on Ohio County’s Panhandle Coalfield strikes. These conflicts suggest the wider efforts led by coal operators to bust the UMWA after Blair Mountain, in an anti-union campaign that moved north through the state. By the 1930’s, the UMWA was devastated, and strikes breaking out at the onset of the Depression attracted supporters of the Communist Party, as miners faced a desperate situation.