



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

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**Admission: \$20**  
(students \$5)

## CONTACT US

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**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



Dearest  
WALS...

## 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-WHEELING 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](http://walswheelingcommentaries.com)**  
**And [walswheeling.org](http://walswheeling.org)**



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





Tues., Aug. 30 @ Noon: Pre-Symposium program at Lunch With Books at the Ohio County Public Library. "Augustus Pollack." Presented by Dr. Hal Gorby & Seán Duffy.

"This symposium is maybe the best yet... I think there will be a great range of talks but also a lot of great overlap. Just really top notch."

-Dr. Lou Martin, Labor Historian

## SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, September 3, 2022**

An annual symposium focused on regional labor history.

**Doors Open: 9:30 am**

Registration & \*Continental Breakfast\*

**10:00 am - Dr. Joe William Trotter, Jr.**

Book: *African American Workers and the Appalachian Coal Industry*

**11:00 am - Dr. Anne T. Lawrence**

Book: *On Dark and Bloody Ground: An Oral History of the West Virginia Mine Wars*

**12 pm - Lunch Break:**

- ♦ Lunch provided
- ♦ Reuther Birthday Celebration
- ♦ Walking Tour to the Reuther & Pollack monuments led by

**Dr. Hal Gorby**

**2:00 pm - Dr. John Hennen**

Book: *A Union for Appalachian Healthcare Workers: The Radical Roots and Hard Fights of Local 1199*

**3:00 pm - Kim Kelly**

Book: *Fight Like Hell: The Untold History of American Labor*

## SPEAKER BIOS & Abstracts



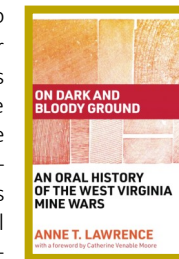
**Dr. Joe William Trotter, Jr.** is the Giant Eagle University Professor of History and Social Justice at Carnegie Mellon University, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and author of *Workers on Arrival: Black Labor in the Making of America*.

**Abstract:** This collection brings together nearly three decades of research on the African American experience, class, and race relations in the Appalachian coal industry. It shows how, with deep roots in the antebellum era of chattel slavery, WV's Black working class gradually picked up steam during the emancipation years following the Civil War and dramatically expanded during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From there, *African American Workers and the Appalachian Coal Industry* highlights the decline of the region's Black industrial proletariat under the impact of rapid technological, social, and political changes following World War II. It underscores how all miners suffered unemployment and outmigration from the region as global transformations took their toll on the coal industry, but emphasizes the disproportionately painful impact of declining bituminous coal production on African American workers, their families, and their communities.



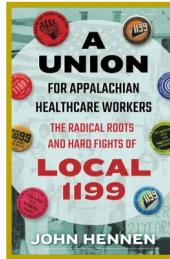
**Dr. Anne T. Lawrence** is professor of management emerita at San José State Univ. She currently serves as chair of the Case Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides fellowships to early-career scholars for training in case research and teaching.

**Abstract:** In 1972 Anne Lawrence came to West Virginia at the invitation of the Miners for Democracy movement to conduct interviews with participants in, and observers of, the Battle of Blair Mountain and other Appalachian mine wars of the 1920s and '30s. The set of oral histories she collected—the only document of its kind—circulated for many years as an informal typescript volume, acquiring an almost legendary status among those intrigued by the subject. Key selections from it appear here for the first time as a published book, supplemented with introductory material, maps, and photographs. The volume's vivid, conversational mode invites readers into miners' lived experiences and helps us understand why they took up arms to fight anti-union forces in some of the nation's largest labor uprisings.



**Dr. John Hennen** taught history for over thirty years, including two decades at Morehead State University, where he is emeritus professor of history. He is the author of *The Americanization of West Virginia: Creating a Modern Industrial State, 1916–1925*.

**Abstract:** The union of hospital workers usually referred to as 1199 sits at the intersection of three of the most important topics in US history: organized labor, health care, and civil rights. Hennen's book explores the union's history in Appalachia, a region that is generally associated with extractive industries but has seen health care grow as a share of the overall economy. With a multiracial, largely female, and notably militant membership, 1199 was at labor's vanguard in the 1970s, and Hennen traces its efforts in hospitals, nursing homes, and healthcare centers in West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and Appalachian Ohio. He places these stories of mainly low-wage women workers within the framework of shake-ups in the late industrial and early postindustrial United States, relying in part on the words of Local 1199 workers and organizers themselves.



**Kim Kelly** is an independent journalist, author, and organizer. She has been a regular labor columnist for Teen Vogue since 2018, and her writing on labor, class, politics, and culture has appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *Esquire*, among many others. A third-generation union member, she is a member of the Industrial Workers of the World's Freelance Journalists Union.

**Abstract:** Freed Black women organizing for protection in the Reconstruction-era South. Jewish immigrant garment workers braving deadly conditions for a sliver of independence. Asian American fieldworkers rejecting government-sanctioned indentured servitude across the Pacific. The queer Black labor leader who helped orchestrate America's civil rights movement. These are only some of the working-class heroes who propelled American labor's relentless push for fairness and equal protection under the law. In this assiduously researched work of journalism, Teen Vogue columnist and independent labor reporter Kim Kelly excavates that history and shows how the rights the American worker has today—the forty-hour workweek, workplace-safety standards, restrictions on child labor, protection from harassment and discrimination on the job—were earned with literal blood, sweat, and tears.

