Women’s Organizing in the Appalachia South

Discussion Questions

How did Appalachian activists in the 60s and 70s address the narrative that painted the Appalachia region as solely “white”? How did this narrative show up in your schooling or now, in your activism and organizing? What impact does this narrative have on our organizing struggles?

What did the Appalachian women who organized against corporate domination, environmental destruction, and for workers' rights and unions expose about unpaid caregiving and reproductive labor and its paradox within coalfield and industrial capitalism?

What were some of the ways in which working class women organizing in the coalfields advanced a grassroots feminism that threaded class, race, and gender?

How did the patriarchal underpinnings of coalfield capitalism put the women’s safety, as well as working-class solidarity, at risk? (Bessie Lou Cornett)