



September/October 1999
Volume 25, No. 4

Coalition of Labor Union Women

A Quarter Century of CLUW

Union Women Focus on Organizing for the Future

Don't Forget

It's not too late to be part of the 25th Anniversary. Check out the CLUW Anniversary items for sale in the special News insert

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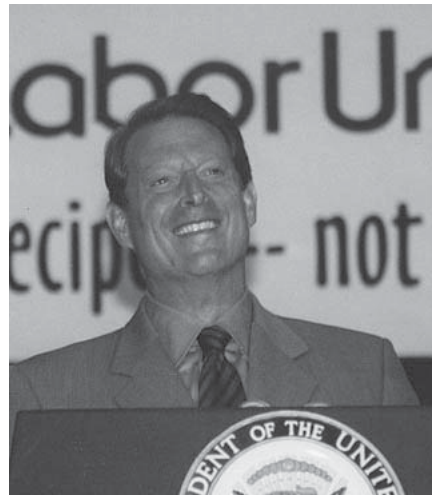
CLUW National Executive Board Meeting
March 9-10, 2000
in conjunction with the AFL - CIO Working Women Conference
March 11-12, 2000
in Chicago

CHICAGO -- Twenty-five years after the women who formed CLUW came here fighting for better pay, and a voice on the job and one in their unions, CLUW came back to Chicago focused on its founding missions.

Not that CLUW hasn't reached its goals. Since 1974, union women have closed the wage gap, become active voices in the workplace and leading voices in their unions. CLUW has grown into a force recognized by labor and political leaders worldwide.

But as workplaces continue to evolve into ones dominated by women and minorities, achieving full pay equity, promoting affirmative action, and increasing the role of women politically and in their unions is more important than ever.

"We are a voice that can't be ignored," said CLUW President Gloria Johnson. "But even



Vice President Al Gore Addressing the CLUW Convention

though women comprise more of the workplace than ever before, we still earn less than males and need to address growing concerns about retirement and health security for ourselves and our families."

In 1974, CLUW left Chicago chanting, "We're not here to swap recipes." And when they came back in 1999, they were greeted by the likes of Vice President Al Gore, Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, Congresswoman Maxine

Waters (D-CA), and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney to name just a few of the many who came here to ***tap into the union women power.***

And although the power of women was felt in the endless celebrations, workshops, and special events such as a young women-led demonstration against sweatshop labor at NIKE Town, CLUW delegates focused on reaching CLUW goals.

From supporting workers' rights to organize, fighting attacks on affirmative action and wage discrimination, to sounding the alarm against the privatization of Social Security and preserving Social Security and Medicare benefits for future generations, 32 resolutions were passed that will guide CLUW into the next millennium. (See list on the back cover).



CLUW's Newest Challenge -- *Reaching New Members*

Those who joined CLUW at its 10th Biennial Convention felt the true power of union women and the power of CLUW. The Convention was a grand celebration of CLUW's first quarter century. I can not express enough thanks to everyone who made the Chicago events so successful.

The enthusiasm shared by CLUW sisters at the Convention paralleled that of the founding Convention at Chicago's Congress Hotel. From the speakers, plenaries and workshops, to the international guests, young women and exhibitors, the 10th Biennial was also a grand showcase of diversity -- the true colors of CLUW and the American workplace.

In 1999, as in 1974, women from around the country came to Chicago knowing that together they could bring about change. From yesterday's fight for the ERA, to today's struggle for equal pay, CLUW women have been taking charge of the issues that affect our lives. And in order to continue taking charge, we must develop the young leaders of tomorrow.

If you're at all like me, you're becoming tired of hearing about Y2K, the millennium, the big 2000. But when we do think about the challenges that lie ahead, we must think about who will help us meet those challenges.

At the 1997 Seattle Convention, CLUW members accepted a challenge. 2,000 new members by the year 2000. Since that time, CLUW has been organizing new chapters, reaching out to more young women and minorities and holding events to showcase the power of CLUW. Local Chapters have worked to make CLUW a force for women workers in their communities.

We need to build on the goals of the last Convention but focus on nurturing the leaders of the new millennium. I propose a new challenge for the year 2001:

Let's think about hosting local young women workers forums, lunches, mentoring programs, workshops and other activities geared to younger audiences. Some may want to develop membership programs where fun and creative incentives provide recognition for those who help recruit younger members. But first and foremost, talk to young women at work and let them know how CLUW is working for them.

We've come a long way baby, but our problems haven't gone away. With a future of both promise and uncertainty, reaching younger members moves us closer to a future of promise. And one thing I can promise, the rewards of sharing knowledge, strength and sisterhood with young women brings a sense of enthusiasm and satisfaction equal to that felt by the women who packed the Congress Hotel back in 1974.

Welcome to the next century, sisters of CLUW. And let's roll into the year 2000 by welcoming a new generation of CLUW.

Moving?

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1126 16th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036

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Union Affiliation _____

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COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to help empower women through the labor movement by becoming a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____
Phone _____

Enclosed are my CLUW dues for one year.

\$25 \$10 (retiree)

I am a member of a bona fide collective bargaining organization.

Signature _____
Date _____

MAIL TO:
Lela Foreman,
CLUW Treasurer
c/o CLUW
1126 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

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25th Anniversary



Increasing Participation of Women in Their Unions

10th Biennial Convention



*Promoting Affirmative Action
in the Workplace*



Empowering Women Politically

Thank You!

CLUW wishes to thank the following individuals for their generous support as contributing, sustaining and supporting members.

Contributing Members (\$50)

- Sally Ann Buchmann (SEIU)
- Sharon A. Craig (CWA)
- Arlene Gottlieb (AFT)
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- Ann Walker (APWU)
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To become a contributing (\$50), supporting (\$75), or sustaining (\$150) member of CLUW, please make your checks payable to:

**Lela Foreman
CLUW Treasurer
1126 16th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20036.**

Your contribution will support CLUW's efforts to empower women through the labor movement.



10th Biennial Convention

25th Anniversary



Organizing the Unorganized

Tapping into Union Women Power

What Labor Leaders Say About CLUW

"Whether women are at work in the textile mills, the farms fields, the hospitals and nursing homes, or the schools, the answer is always the same - in the solidarity of the union there is strength."

Sandra Feldman, *President, AFT*

"I think that all trade unionists will agree that it is because of the persistence and dedication of all CLUW activists that -- as we close out the 20th Century -- women are finally taking their rightful place in the ranks of union leadership."

Moe Biller, *President, APWU*

"Labor is alive and growing in no small part because of the contributions of women and CLUW."

Jim La Sala, *President, ATU*

"Thanks to CLUW, millions of women have gained opportunity and access to a better life."

Morton Bahr, *President, CWA*

"Union women have a key role to play in making the work site a better place for all workers. The recipes swapped are not for food for the body but food for the success of advancing women, not only in the workplace. but also in society."

Pat Friend, *AFA President*

"CLUW has accelerated the process of change (for women), contributed immeasurably to the building of a stronger labor movement, and benefited workers everywhere."

Jeffery Fiedler, *President, FAST*

"Through the work of CLUW and related organizations, women are breaking through barriers in record numbers to hold important leadership positions. It is a tribute to the efforts of CLUW."

R.Thomas Buffenbarger, *President, IAM*

"CLUW has been a leading force in recognizing women's issues and addressing them to the benefit of all."

Jerry O'Connor, *Vice President, IBEW*

"Let's make this the century where we finally close the wage gap. To win it will take the strength, skills, and abilities of the entire labor movement. Working together, we will win."

James P. Hoffa, *President, IBT*

"CLUW is the best thing that happened to the labor movement since it started. Our motto is 'senior power.' More often than not, it is our female members who put the power in 'senior power'."

George Kourpias, *President, National Council of Senior Citizens*

"Perhaps CLUW's biggest legacy lies in helping thousands of trade union women find a voice and rise to leadership in their own unions."

Edward Fire, *President, IUE*

"CLUW has long been dedicated and committed to protecting the rights, dignity and equality of women in the workplace. As we approach the new millennium, our Union looks forward to working with you to meet the challenges that lie ahead for all working women and men."

Arthur Coia, *President, LIUNA*

"The presence of women in labor has changed from what Alexander Hamilton referred to as a 'source of cheap labor,' to one of the most powerful forces in the American labor movement."

Bob Chase, *President, NEA*

"In the face of stepped-up assaults on all the gains made by women and people of color because of affirmative action, as well as an alarming increase in hate crimes, the work of CLUW is all the more critical."

Nancy Wohlforth, *National Co-Chair, Pride at Work*

"CLUW certainly did not come here to swap recipes. CLUW flourishes because it is the conscience of the labor movement, bringing together and developing the very best in our movement."

Andrew Stern, *President, SEIU*

"Through the work of CLUW, more and more women are taking leadership roles in their locals and their unions. CLUW's ability to train and motivate ensures the needs and concerns of women in the workplace and beyond will continue to be addressed."

Michael Sacco, *President, SIU*

"As the labor movement continues its fight for equity and justice for all workers, you can look back on your many accomplishments with pride. You have been an inspiration in your promotion of worker rights and you can be assured that transportation labor will continue to be one of your strongest supporters."

Sonny Hall, *President, TTD*

"Together, (UFCW and CLUW) let us pledge to work for a brighter future for all working Americans by using our collective resources to ensure that the voices of working families command the respect they deserve in workplaces and legislatures."

Douglas Dority, *President, UFCW*

"The UMWA salutes the contributions made by women on behalf of working people though out history and pledges our continued support."

Cecil Roberts, *President, UMWA*

"At the UWUA, we are proud of the accomplishment to support our female members and encourage them to become officers, stewards and active members in their locals and the National Union. We thank you for being an inspiration to all women in the labor movement."

Donald Wightman, *President, UWUA*

Resolutions Passed at the 10th Biennial Convention

1. Privatization of the Social Security: Bad for the People -- Bad for Employees
2. CLUW's Agenda - More Women Leaders
3. Work and Family Bill of Rights
4. Diversity in Union Leadership
5. Improve Medicare - Don't Destroy It
6. Worker's Right to Organize
7. School Safety/Stop the Violence
8. Census 2000
9. Improve Education for All
10. Support of Campaign for GE Workers
11. American Family Priorities for the New Millennium
12. Sign Up for a Clinical Trial
13. Affirmative Action Under Attack
14. Wal-Mart: Not in My Neighborhood
15. Child Labor
16. Quality Child Care Demands Quality Pay
17. Expanding CLUW's Influence
18. Put Contraceptive Coverage in Union Negotiated Health Plans
19. Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
20. Workplace Violence
21. Sexual Harassment - Still a Problem
22. Wage Discrimination Based on Sex
23. Certified Professional Midwives
24. Preserving Social Security Benefits for Older Women
25. Stop the Saipan Scam
26. Promoting Union Goods and Services
27. Make Emergency Contraception Available
28. Support World Peace by Supporting the United Nations
29. Support Human Rights for Women in Afganistan
30. Conform the Nomination of Bill Lann Lee
31. Women in Labor - a Documentary
32. World March of Women 2000

*To obtain a copy of any of the resolutions,
please contact the National CLUW Office.*



**Coalition of Labor
Union Women**

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