

REMEMBERING

As the opening ceremonies for CLUW's 11th Biennial Convention – and the dedication to the victims and heroes of the September 11 attack – were winding down, CLUW Pres. Gloria T. Johnson read the following, touching remarks:

What a difference a day makes.

On Monday, we e-mailed jokes
On Tuesday, we did not

On Monday, we thought that we were secure
On Tuesday, we learned better

On Monday, we were talking about heroes as being athletes
On Tuesday, we relearned who our heroes are

On Monday, we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived
On Tuesday, we gave money away to people we had never met

On Monday, people argued with their kids about cleaning up their room
On Tuesday, the same people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids

On Monday, people were upset that they had to wait six minutes in a supermarket line
On Tuesday, people didn't care about waiting up to six hours to give blood for the dying

On Monday, there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex, color and creed
On Tuesday, they were all holding hands

On Monday, we were men or women, black or white, old or young, rich or poor, gay or straight, Christian or non-Christian
On Tuesday, we were Americans

On Monday, politicians argued about budget surpluses
On Tuesday, grief stricken, they sang "God Bless America"

On Monday, we had families
On Tuesday, we had orphans

On Monday, people went to work as usual
On Tuesday, they died

It is sadly ironic how it takes horrific events to place things into perspective, but it has. The lessons learned that week, the things we have taken for granted, the things that have been forgotten or overlooked, hopefully will never be forgotten again.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In her Convention address, CLUW Pres. Gloria T. Johnson moved from nostalgia for the past to “charting the course for a better tomorrow.” She thanked CLUW’s retiring national officers Lela Foreman, Clara Day, and Delores Huerta for their years of friendship and support, and she welcomed those attending the Young Women Workers’ Forum. Reflecting on the September 11 attack, Johnson saluted delegates, alternates, and guests who came here “putting aside anxiety and fear to get back to our business – the business of improving the lives of women and minorities and the families they care for. We have a mission.”

Johnson pledged CLUW’s political and legislative involvement on a number of fronts and stressed the need to fight prejudice. She welcomed new chapters and described a number of initiatives CLUW has undertaken over the past two years. Recognizing the continued activism of CLUW’s members, Johnson announced the establishment of two new awards: the Clara Day Award (honoring CLUW’s executive vice president emerita), and the Mary Harris “Mother” Jones Award. “We stand tall,” she said. “CLUW is strong and growing.”

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted during Friday’s morning session: 1) The Tragic Events of September 11; 2) Economic Recovery of America’s Workers (amended); 3) Achieving Contraceptive Equity; 4) Trade Promotion Authority Act, AKA “Fast Track,” is Toxic; 5) Justice for the Charleston Dockworkers; 6) Save Social Security – Improve It – Don’t Change It (amended); 7) Steel Revitalization – Rebuilding America’s Infrastructure with American Steel.

AND IN THE SENATE

“Your theme is *Designing Our Own Future*,” Nevada State Sen. Maggie Carlton told the Convention. “I want you to know you are already doing it. Every new task you take on, you are designing your future. All the things I have done throughout my whole life brought me where I am today.”

Carlton is also a waitress and member of HERE Local 226. She is proud to be “the first labor activist elected to the Nevada Senate. “We didn’t do it with money,” said Carlton, describing her election. “We did it with people, because people are what it’s all about. You do not know the power you have.”