

CLUW NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COALITION
OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

july/august 2003
vol. 29 no. 4



COME TO CLUW'S 12TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

CLUW 12th BIENNIAL CONVENTION

October 9-12, 2003

The Westin Hotel, Seattle, WA

Convention Highlights

Thursday, October 9th

Power Walk, Health Conference
and Health Fair

Friday, October 10th

Young Women Workers
Meeting/Reception
Gala Reception—Seattle Labor
Chorus sings

Saturday, October 11th

International Guests Forum
Joyce D. Miller Chapter Recruitment
Award, Clara Day Award and Mother
Jones Award Presentations
Issues Workshops and Roundtables

Invited Guest Speakers (partial list)

Linda Chavez-Thompson, AFL-CIO
Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)
Sen. Patty Murray (WA)
Susan Sarandon (SAG)

Click on www.cluw.org for Convention updates!

2003 CONVENTION CUT-OFF DATES

August 9

Elections of union and chapter delegates/alternates must be held no later than this date.

Convention resolutions and amendments to the constitution must be postmarked and sent to the CLUW National Office by this date.

September 9

Signed Convention Delegate/
Alternate Credentials are due back to the CLUW National Office.

Convention Registration Forms are due back to the CLUW Treasurer. Visit www.cluw.org for Convention Call, Registration form, Hotel reservation forms and Souvenir journal form.

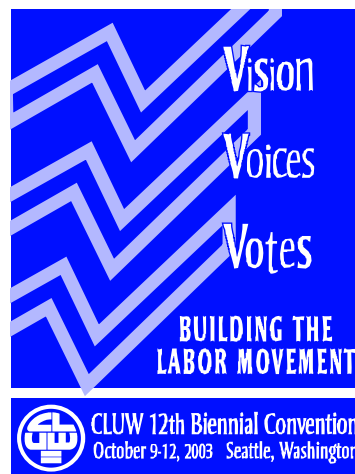
September 17

Hotel reservation cut-off date.

Hotel reservations may be made by contacting the Westin Hotel directly at 888-627-8513 or by reserving online by clicking on www.cluw.org/convention/hotelonline.htm

October 9

12th Biennial Convention opens.



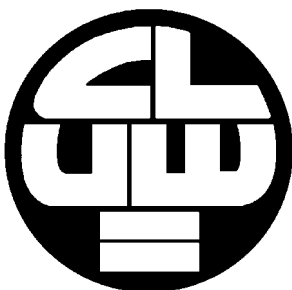
CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE WIN IN ILLINOIS

Illinois Becomes 21st State to Mandate Contraceptive Coverage: Organized Labor Were Active Proponents

The new Illinois Contraceptive Equity Law, which was signed into law by Gov. Blagojevich on July 7, prohibits insurance companies that already cover prescription drugs and devices from excluding coverage for contraceptives. In addition, the bill requires plans that cover

continued on p. 3

www.cluw.org



CLUW initiates new NEB members in June.

CLUW NEWS

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C L U W P O I N T

Use Your Vision, Voices and Votes



Gloria T. Johnson, CLUW President

If you don't like the fact that working families are struggling, health care is vanishing, the economy is sputtering, jobs are being eliminated, and our schools and highways are crumbling, you have a choice. Your choice is whether or not you'll use your vision, voices and votes during

the next 14 months.

As far as vision, you don't have to look far to see that this nation is on the wrong track. The economy is limping and the President has no plans for economic growth other than tax cuts. But America needs jobs, not tax cuts. We need real jobs with benefits.

Since the President took office, the nation has lost 2.6 million private sector jobs. In addition, there are now over 4.6 million new part-time jobs without health care and other important benefits. Bush's term of office is the only one in the past 58 years where there has been an average monthly decline in employment.

Can anyone explain why we are draining our federal coffers when mounting a huge deficit and when our jobs, health insurance, state budgets, retirement savings and clean water are disappearing? When will the Administration give working Americans a break from unemployment, high prescription drug costs, worries over Social Security solvency and corporate corruption?

Is a tax cut for the richest 10 percent the way to provide health care for over 41 million men, women and children who have no insurance including the nearly 1.5 million people, mostly in working families, who lost their health care coverage this year?

Are tax cuts the way to better prepare for the wave of Baby Boomers that will be hitting retirement requiring increased commitments to the social programs that keep us healthy and out of poverty?

Tax cuts do nothing for working families who are being attacked by the President. Not only is his reckless policy spending away our children's future, it is threatening ours. The President wants to cut overtime pay by increasing the workweek and eliminating overtime pay protection for millions of employees. From the very start, the Administration showed workers how it felt when one of its' first acts of office was weakening Occupational Health and Safety standards. The Administration has also been fighting against the unionization of critical jobs like airport screeners.

So now is our chance to fight back. If you don't like the direction we're heading in, don't get angry, get active. Get involved now and give important issues a louder voice by turning up the volume. CLUW's political action and education activities have never been more urgent or necessary. Nor has your involvement in special events like the CLUW Biennial Convention. In Seattle, you'll get the information and ideas to help bring about real change in 2004. **Come to CLUW's 12th Biennial Convention and use your vision, voices and votes to build a better nation and a bigger and better labor movement.**

A Tool to Help with Breast Self-Examination

Brought to you by the **CLUW Women's Health Task Force**

Through self examination, many women find breast abnormalities or lumps. Early detection of these abnormalities provides women with more treatment options and saves lives.

In the late 1980s, a device was invented to help women perform more accurate self-examinations. A soft plastic pad filled with a small amount of lubricant made it easier to feel lumps. Use of the pads increased sensation by reducing friction and allowing the fingers to glide smoothly across breast tissue.

Available over-the-counter today, women aren't aware of this helpful product because of a long delay that prevented their widespread availability.

When the pads were first introduced, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considered them to be a medical device which required its' approval to be sold. Against the opinion of medical experts, the FDA feared women would think pads were a substitute for a mammogram. So they pulled them off the market.

This troubled many experts and health advocates who fought for their greater availability. After a ten-year battle, permission was given to market the pads,

but on a prescription-only basis. Today, that has changed and the pads are available to all consumers.

Mammograms are important because they can discover lumps too small to be felt. But they also miss 10 to 20 percent of breast lumps, even those large enough to be felt. It's important to use both self examination and clinical examinations as your best defense.

In addition to monthly self examinations, the American Cancer Society recommends clinical breast examinations every three years for women age 20 and older and each year for women age 40 and over. Remember, early prevention saves lives.

A redesigned and updated pad will be displayed by the Sentida Corporation, just one of the many informative exhibit booths at the CLUW Health Fair in Seattle. Fair visitors can learn more about breast cancer, pads and self-examinations, as just one of the many important issues, exhibits and special events to be showcased in Seattle. **Don't miss the CLUW Health Fair at the Westin Hotel on October 9.**

ILLINOIS, CONTINUED

outpatient medical services to also cover contraceptive services such as consultations, examinations and procedures related to pregnancy.

"Women across Illinois will finally have low-cost access to contraceptives and that is significant," noted Margaret Blackshere, president of the Illinois AFL-CIO and a CLUW member. "This is an important health issue and once again Illinois' governor and state legislators are proving they not only support gender equity, but also health care reform. We applaud them and everyone who worked so hard to make this law a reality for all working women."

CLUW President Gloria Johnson added that "Illinois is the 21st state with such a law." She said, "CLUW will do everything it can to make certain that our unions in the state

know about this law and use it, as the law will not be pro-actively enforced. Consequently, Illinois women who belong to a union have an advantage over their unrepresented counterparts, in that their union is in a position to make sure that their members' insurance plans include comprehensive contraceptive coverage."

The law will take effect on January 1, 2004, and applies to policies upon their renewal or modification. Self-funded/self-insured insurance plans – which cover many union members – are exempt from the state law. To secure contraceptive equity in these plans, unions need to rely on recent federal decisions requiring contraceptive equity.

For more information, contact the CLUW Contraceptive Equity Project at the CLUW National Office.

CLUW Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Enclosed are my CLUW dues for one year.

☐ \$30 ☐ \$15 (retiree)

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

Signature _____

Send to:
Susan Phillips, CLUW Treasurer,
c/o CLUW
1925 K Street, NW, #402
Washington, DC 20006

LOCAL NEWS



Indiana

Joanne Sanders (IATSE) won an important primary victory in Indiana. A victory in November will help working women and families in Central Indiana and across the state.

Puget Sound

Initiated by its' Affirmative Action Committee, this CLUW chapter hosted a panel and discussion about the status of affirmative action in the Puget Sound area.

Speakers included Carl Mack of the NAACP; Randy Loomans, education and safety director of the Washington State Labor Council; Althea Lute, organizer for the Washington Federation of State Employees; Frank Reynolds, organizer for the Native American Labor Alliance and David Della, a union liaison for the Seattle-area United Way.

Pictured here is Althea Lute, organizer, Washington Federation of State Employees



Chicago

Participants at the AFL-CIO Work and Family Bargaining Conference in Chicago in June took time out to join striking HERE members at the Congress Hotel. Hotel management has refused to agree to the terms of a contract signed by other union hotels. A number of CLUW members joined the picket line including Mia Smith (AFGE, pictured here). CLUW was founded here in 1974 when it was the Pick-Congress Hotel with a plaque in the hotel lobby as a permanent reminder.



REV. WYATT HONORED

The Sixth Annual Gala of the Working Women's History Project honored Rev. Addie Wyatt who received the 2003 Mother Jones Award. Sponsored by the Chicago Area Women's History Conference, Chicago Teacher's Union, CLUW and the Illinois Labor History Society, the gala included a staged reading about Addie Wyatt's life, written by Alma Washington and performed by the Working Women's History Theater Project.

Pictured left to right are: Sue Straus, president, Working Women's History Project; Katie Jordan, president, Chicago CLUW, and Rev. Addie Wyatt (seated).



VAN BLAKE HONORED

Former AFT director of Human Rights Barbara Van Blake was presented CLUW's Mary McCloud Bethune Award for her lifetime commitment to women, workers and civil rights.

■ LOCAL NEWS, CONTINUED



FRIEND HONORED

Terri Friend, IAM, right, was honored at the June NEB meeting for her military service.



California

Participants at the CLUW California State Meeting held in Oakland in July. The meeting included a focus on local issues of concern including implementing the paid family leave law, today's health care crisis, immigrant workers, Cintas, Wal-Mart and legislative issues.

Philadelphia

Jean Alexander, president of TWU Local 234 and a long-time CLUW member, was honored by the Philadelphia chapter of NOW in April. Alexander is the first African-American woman to be elected President of the Transport Workers Union, Local 234. She was honored with Mary Kay Dent and Pamela Jones Burnley both of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

■ Labor Speaks Up on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS: Labor Speaks Up is CLUW'S national workplace initiative that will be launched in conjunction with World AIDS Day activities during the week of December 1, 2003. We are anticipating broad support from AFL-CIO unions and constituency groups, the National Education Association and other community-based organizations.

HIV/AIDS is a workers issue. At the end of 2001, AIDS was the 5th leading cause of death in the United States among those aged 25-44 and the leading cause of death for black men in this age group. This age group makes up about 50% of the workforce.

What can CLUW members do for the HIV/AIDS: Labor Speaks Up Initiative.

- Run a newsletter article in your union's publication;
- Hold a candlelight vigil, memorial service or moment of silence to remember workers who have died from AIDS;
- Distribute brochures, fliers and other educational materials about HIV/AIDS;
- Work with your health and safety committee to conduct a workshop on HIV/AIDS;
- Include HIV/AIDS on the agenda for your upcoming Chapter meeting.

More information and materials will be provided as we approach this event.

HIV/AIDS Materials

Resource Guides

Because of your hard work educating the labor movement about HIV/AIDS, the CLUW HIV/AIDS Resource Guides are almost out of stock. The good news is they will be reprinted and available by late August.

Video Coming Soon

A video featuring CLUW National President, Gloria T. Johnson, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists President William Lucy, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and other labor leaders and activists discussing the toll of HIV/AIDS in the US and abroad is in the final stages of production. The video should be available for distribution by the end of the summer.

Technical Assistance Workshops

Are you interested in educating your union or CLUW Chapter about HIV/AIDS but don't know how to get started? HIV/AIDS Project Director Karen McMillan and consultant Mary McCall can visit your chapter or union and provide you with hands-on technical assistance to get you started. CLUW will help you select your target audience, recommend community-based organizations for you to contact for partnerships and help you identify local and/or national resources.

For more information about the HIV/AIDS Program, contact Karen McMillan, HIV/AIDS program director, 202-223-8360, ext.7 or kmcmillan@cluw.org.

■ CLUW HEALTH CONFERENCE AND FAIR—OCTOBER 9

Union Women: Achieving Quality Health Care in Challenging Times

Because health care costs rose six times faster than all other items in 2002, more employers than ever before are cutting back the benefit levels of their workforce. There are also more workers than ever before who have no insurance coverage at all.

As employers try to pass the ever-increasing cost of health care on to their employees or cut or eliminate benefits for workers and retirees, how can union

members maintain and improve their health care coverage? How can we take better care of ourselves through diet, exercise and the latest advancements in medical science?

A special day-long health conference and fair will present CLUW members and the public with the latest news, information and products to help us live healthier lives. Conference workshops and panels will also help members devise a plan of action for working women and CLUW chapters.

In addition to a fair with an exhibition hall, the Health Conference will include workshops on organizing and bargaining on health care issues, minority health issues, reproductive health issues, self defense, aging and HIV/AIDS, as well as a special panel "Health in the US Today: What We Used to Have and How to Reclaim It."

CLUW Health Conference and Fair
Westin Hotel
Seattle, Washington

■ CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee \$125

Retirees \$50

Students \$30

Please type or print clearly

Last name

First name

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone (please include area code)

Email address

International Union Affiliation

Local Union Affiliation

National Executive Board Position (for members of the CLUW National Executive Board only)

☐ I will need child care for _____ children, ages _____ for _____ days.
of # of

Please list special requirements, if any

☐ Check here if you would like to share a room.

Please return this registration form before September 9, 2003 to:

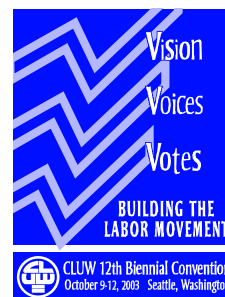
Susan Phillips, National Treasurer, Coalition of Labor Union Women,
1925 K Street NW, Suite 402, Washington, DC 20006, **attn:** Yvonne Cohen

Please make checks payable to the Coalition of Labor Union Women

The registration fee covers attendance to the convention, admission to the Health Conference/Fair, a ticket to the Gala Reception, a Convention Kit, educational materials and workshops (to be announced).

Pre-Registration Cancellation Refund Policy

Requests for CLUW Convention Registration refunds must be received in writing via fax or mail by the close of business Tuesday, September 30, 2003. No requests for refunds will be processed after that date. Fax or mail CLUW Convention refund requests to: Carol Rosenblatt at the National CLUW Office fax # (202) 776-0537. Do not send refund requests to the Westin Hotel.



■ WALKING FOR HOMELESS WOMEN—OCTOBER 9

Back by popular demand, CLUW is sponsoring a Power Walk-a-Thon on Thursday, October 9 as part of its Convention Health Fair. The recipient of the pledges to this Walk-a-Thon will be Noel House, a shelter for homeless, single women in Seattle.

Opened in 1990, the Noel House is more than just an emergency shelter. It is the primary residence for many women it serves. The Noel House, and its five other shelters are largely operated by volunteers and over 200 women a night find food,

showers and lodging at these facilities. In February 1999, the Women's Referral Center was opened where women can have dinner and a shower while they wait for a bed referral and transportation to a safe place for the night. In addition to shelter, hygiene supplies, free clothing, mental health case management, and mail/phone services are available. Information about transitional and/or low-income housing, domestic violence assistance, mental health services and substance abuse treatment is also

provided.

Last year the Noel House served 1,727 homeless women, from 18 to over 80 years old. The women came from all economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds. A majority of Noel House clients suffer mental illness ranging from mild to severe; and approximately 7% are employed either full time or part time.

The walk will begin at the Westin Hotel at 7:00 a.m., for a brief 2.5 miles course and will return to the hotel at its conclusion.

Walking for Homeless Women Pledges

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Pledge amount: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Pledge amount: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Pledge amount: \$ _____

Checks should be made out to The Noel House. You may register for the walk and turn in pledges on Wednesday, October 8th from 6-9 pm at the Westin Hotel and on the following morning, October 9th from 6-6:45 am. The exact Westin location will be posted upon your arrival at the convention. For more pledges, please duplicate this form.

THANK YOU

To become a contributing (\$50), supporting (\$75), or sustaining (\$150) member of CLUW, please make checks payable to CLUW Treasurer Susan Phillips at the National CLUW Office.

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