

# CLUW NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COALITION  
OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

January/February 2004  
vol. 30 no. 1

## WOMEN'S VOICES FOR WINNING VOTERS

### Political Action Conference, March 12, 2004 Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans

CLUW's main mission in 2004 is to make sure women are informed voters. CLUW President Gloria Johnson said "It will be our job and duty to make sure women's votes are wise votes this November."

CLUW is not taking on this challenge alone. It's members are standing with unions and political organizations to make sure unionists participate in the elections. For example, CLUW and the other AFL-CIO constituency groups have formed the Labor Coalition for Community Action. In addition to CLUW, this coalition includes APALA, LCLAA, APRI, CBTU and PAW. It will be holding issue seminars and town hall meetings starting in New Orleans in conjunction with the CLUW Political Action Conference

and National Executive Board Meeting.

Another effort that will receive the support of CLUW is the "Women's Voices Project," which is part of Voices for Working Families. The goal of this project is to raise a unified voice for women's priorities so that political leaders and candidates address important family needs like education, child care, health care, jobs, overtime pay and safety. The project hopes to register and engage many of the 50 million working-age women who did not vote in the 2000 election.

CLUW members have already lent their support to this project by going door to door in order to register voters (see "Walking the Walk to Register Voters" on page 8).

Another major CLUW-backed initiative this year is the AFL-CIO's "Working Women Vote

*continued on p. 4*

## DON'T FORGET

**February**  
Black History Month

**March**  
National Women's History Month

**March 8**  
International Women's Day

**March 11-14**  
CLUW National Executive Board Meeting and Working Women Winning in 2004 Conference, Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans

**March 23-24**  
30th anniversary of First and Founding CLUW Convention, March 23-24, 1974 in Chicago, IL

**April 20**  
Equal Pay Day

**April 25**  
March for Women's Lives  
Washington, DC

**May 9-15**  
CLUW celebrates Working Women's Awareness Week, May 9-15. Look for more information at [www.cluw.org](http://www.cluw.org) in the near future

**2004 is CLUW's 30th Anniversary.** In March of 1974, CLUW held it's Founding Convention and elected Olga M. Madar as president.

For more on CLUW's anniversary, visit [www.cluw.org](http://www.cluw.org)



Sheldon Friedman (AFL-CIO), Patti Devlin (LIUNA), Dessadra Lomax and Carol Rosenblatt (Nat'l CLUW Office), Susan Holleran (AFSCME), Bonnie Oakes (OPEIU) and another labor friend (Carolyn Jacobson not pictured) were amongst the 300 supporters who distributed 70,000 Voice@Work leaflets at 26 Metro stops in DC. on Dec.3.

# CLUW NEWS

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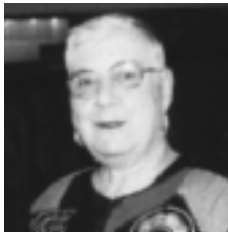
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## Political Action: Our Mission and Our Message



### Gloria T. Johnson, CLUW President

When election ballots are counted next November, count on CLUW to have helped women and working families cast educated votes. CLUW will make sure working women know how the candidates intend to deal with the issues we care about, issues like fair pay, our health and reproductive rights, good jobs and safe places to learn, live and work.

When CLUW held its convention last fall in Seattle, delegates passed many resolutions that require political action. So from now until Election Day, one thing is for sure, politics is gonna' have a hold on us. With the help of CLUW, our unions and our sisterhood, we will turn bright ideas into action.

CLUW is going to be involved in some new and exciting projects like "Women's Voices" that will educate, register and mobilize voters like never before. We will join forces with other AFL-CIO constituency groups, holding Town Hall meetings throughout the country as part of a nonpartisan voter education project. We will also remain active in our individual unions' voter education and get out the vote activities.

With the involvement of CLUW chapters, 2004 is not going to be the year of the "NASCAR Dad," like some Washington insiders claim. Instead, it's going to be the year of the woman, in particular, the "working woman."

That is why CLUW is racing into 2004 with a political action plan. CLUW will host political action conferences and workshops at the local and national level starting with the NEB meeting in New Orleans, March 11-14. In fact, every national gathering of CLUW this year will focus our attention and resources on the elections and union GOTV efforts.

Working together, working women will be the winners in November if we can help set the record straight. Our 2004 outreach will arm women with the facts to better inform voters. Women need to know where the candidates really stand on the issues. We will examine their ideas looking beyond the sound bites for the critical substance.

Health care has surfaced to the top as the issue voters in the US care most about. CLUW will make sure the candidates address a long list of health issues like the uninsured and underinsured, the high cost of prescription drugs, the burden of employer cost shifting, medical inflation, and many more.

Another major issue is good jobs. Where have they gone? Economists paint a rosy picture of 2004 when the stock market continues to regain its losses and consumer spending picks up. This theory rests on people spending the proceeds of the Bush tax cuts. Sounds more like a wild fantasy of Wall Street, not the reality of Main Street. On Main Street our jobs are disappearing, so too are our health care benefits and our financial and retirement security.

Domestic priorities must no longer take a back seat to a war on terrorism. We need to know who supports good jobs, overtime pay, quality and affordable health care and the rights of workers and unions. With so much resting on the upcoming election, CLUW will not rest until working women learn exactly where the candidates stand and until women vote in record numbers in November.

## ■ MAKE HEALTH A PART OF YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

### From the CLUW Women's Health Committee

Travel adds to the stress of our daily lives. Preparing for a trip requires planning for health needs as well as family and work-related needs. Unexpected events can occur at any time. Make it a rule to never run out of medication that must be taken on a daily basis. Call for a refill and pick it up several days before you take your last pill. The label on a pill bottle states how many refills you can get until a specific date. Schedule an appointment with your doctor well in advance of this date and be sure to get a new prescription. If you will be out of town, it is important to call ahead to reschedule your appointment, and to ask the doctor to contact the pharmacist to provide you with enough medication to last until you return from the trip and keep the appointment.

If your health plan allows only a 30 day supply of medication at a time, you may wish to consider ordering prescribed drugs by mail. Mail orders are often encouraged by insurance providers because the drugs

cost less and a 90 day supply can be ordered. Of course, it's important to re-order a few weeks before you run out of the medication.

You might want to put a note in your carry-on bag to remind you to pack medications and other supplies you need while away from home. These should be with you on the plane rather than in a checked suitcase. Plastic containers that have places for pills each day of the week are a convenience for forgetful people of all ages. Persons with diabetes may wish to keep a travel kit handy at all times with lancets, glucose tablets, and other supplies that may be needed. The travel kit should also contain emergency numbers to contact your family, doctor and health insurance representative while you are out of town.

Having a plan to manage individual health care needs is as important as a plan to run a meeting or to work on a project. The Women's Health Committee urges everyone to take the time to take care of their health needs so that all of us are able to work on behalf of ourselves and others.

## ■ A HEALTHY PLAN OF ACTION

### Report on the CLUW Women's Health Conference, Oct. 2003

CLUW members who attended the Health Conference preceding the 12th Biennial Convention in Seattle participated in one of four groups to develop a plan of action. They identified major concerns affecting children, adults, minorities, seniors, and women.

The tremendous cost of health care and medications, and lack of adequate health insurance were the most crucial issues identified by the groups. There is a great need for universal health coverage, a living wage and paid family and medical leave. Participants were also concerned that children are more sedentary and eat too much fast food. They stated that research is needed in many areas of women's health, especially for women of color. Taking personal responsibility for health and the need for more health education

were also emphasized. Some specific health issues calling for individual or collective action were HIV, diabetes, menopause, high blood pressure, nutrition, osteoporosis, ergonomics, stress and exercise.

#### Some recommendations for CLUW chapters to take action include:

1. Hold a health fair, mini health conference, or a health workshop in every CLUW chapter. Establish a health and wellness committee in your CLUW chapter. Develop a template for health care events.
2. Demand that legislation be passed which would provide universal health care. Elect persons who want universal health care. Talk about health issues and spread the word via e-mail and newsletters. Develop a public relations campaign through

your CLUW chapter. Form coalitions with churches and senior groups. Educate the community on the effects of not having national health care. Vote, register others to vote, and work the polls. Organize workers around health care concerns.

3. Encourage women to volunteer for health research studies. Women of color especially need to volunteer. Support legislation to fund women's health research. Include women's health in a women's history month program. Negotiate contracts that address women's health needs in contract language.
4. Help rid schools of fast food and pop marketing. Encourage health and safety education in the schools. Demand guidance counselors and a registered nurse in every school.

**CHOICE • JUSTICE • ACCESS • HEALTH**

# MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

Washington DC April 25, 2004

**ABORTION • GLOBAL • FAMILY PLANNING**

**10:00am: Assembly on Mall**

Make history, create the future.

CLUW will be marching under our own banner. Please contact Carol Rosenblatt, CLUW's Executive Director at 202-223-8360 x3 or at [csrosenblatt@cluw.org](mailto:csrosenblatt@cluw.org) if you have questions and to let her know how many people will be coming from your area to march with CLUW. Further details about logistics will be available shortly. Buttons and t-shirts are available. Additional information can be found at [www.marchforwomen.org](http://www.marchforwomen.org).

Mark used by permission. This historic event is non-partisan and not connected with any election campaign.

## Win for Women, cont'd

2004." This project will provide research and materials on women's economic issues for effective outreach to women voters.

Special training will be given to CLUW members at National Executive Board meetings and other sessions to help chapters design targeted voter registration and get out the vote campaigns based on precinct walks and phone banks.

Workshop training will also be provided at the New Orleans conference that will help CLUW members communicate and disseminate voter education information, register voters and organize and mobilize a get out the vote program.

Additionally, CLUW has its own plan to help educate voters. It's called the "Count to Five" campaign. It is asking all members to find five friends, neighbors, family members and co-workers who will commit to voting for working women's issues in the upcoming elections.

Learn more about "Count to Five" and all of CLUW's efforts at the Political Action Conference on March 12. Registration packets are available online at [www.cluw.org](http://www.cluw.org) or by contacting the National CLUW Office or CLUW Executive Director Carol Rosenblatt at 202-223-8360 ext. 3, or [csrosenblatt@cluw.org](mailto:csrosenblatt@cluw.org)

**For more information on "Working Women Vote 2004," contact the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department at 202-637-5000 or [workingwomen@afl-cio.org](mailto:workingwomen@afl-cio.org).**



Three CLUW members won grants to attend an all-women's organizing institute in July at the AFL-CIO. They are Vicki Redmond (SCUPA, NEA), Lavern L. Bradley (CWA) and Sheila Moore (IUE, CWA). The weekend program brought together 29 women organizers and potential organizers from 10 unions and the AFL-CIO. Pictured here, with their diplomas in front of the mural at the AFL-CIO, are Redmond and Bradley.

**Moving?**

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Union Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Please, Let us know your change of address. Send this coupon to:  
CLUW, 1925 K Street, NW, #402, Washington, DC 20006

## ■ SAD GOODBYES



### Gloria Brooks Beaumont Busman

Gloria Brooks Beaumont Busman, 78, a retired labor organizer and founding member of CLUW, died in November.

A lifelong labor activist, educator and community organizer, Mrs. Busman entered the labor movement through the development of workers' education programs for the Jewish Labor Committee and went on to work with the International Ladies' Garment Workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Office and Professional Employees, the Los Angeles AFL-CIO and served as a coordinator for the Center for Labor Research and Education at the UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations..

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be made to the ACLU, P.O. Box 1112, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, or the Coalition of Labor Union Women, 1925 K Street, NW, Suite 402, Washington, DC 20006.



### Rally in Miami

IAM members Bob Smithburg, Lisa Stagler, Diane Tomevi and Vickie Cheek at a rally to stop the Free Trade Area of the Americas in Miami last November. This agreement will hurt workers, jobs and the environment.

### Luis Anderson

Luis Anderson, general secretary of ORIT (Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores) ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), passed away in November. With a trade union career spanning 40 years, Anderson's roots in the movement began as a member of the Union for Panamanian Workers in 1962.

Anderson represented his country in negotiating all labor matters with the US in the Panama Canal Treaty. He was a member of the governing council of the Panama Canal Council, and took part in special missions for the ICFTU to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

### March is Women's History Month

#### Kate Mullany: A Trade Union Woman Pioneer

On a cold winter morning on February 23, 1864, in Troy, New York, a 19 year-old Irish immigrant of a widowed mother led her newly formed 300 member all-women's Collar Laundry Union on strike for five and a half days demanding a 25 percent wage increase. The strike was a success.

In addition to leading the first all-women's union in the United States, Kate Mullany went on to become the first woman to serve as an officer of a national union.

The Mullany House was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark in 1998 and will be the new home of the American Labor Studies Center (ALSC). A display of the Troy Laundry Collar Union and Kate Mullany will occupy the first floor. The top floor where Kate lived will be restored to what it might have looked like in the 1860's. The ALSC is in the process of purchasing the adjacent property that will become "Kate Mullany Park" and honor trade union women pioneers.

The ALSC has been established to collect, analyze, evaluate, organize and distribute labor history and labor studies curricula to teachers nationwide with the support of the AFT and NEA. Executive Director, Paul F. Cole, is seeking curriculum materials for the web site ([www.labor-studies.org](http://www.labor-studies.org)) especially for March when it will feature trade union women. Materials and contributions (to help support the operation and maintenance of the facility) can be sent to: ALSC, 100 S. Swan St., Albany, NY 12210-1939.

[www.cluw.org](http://www.cluw.org)

## LOCAL NEWS



State Senator Martha Scott

### Michigan

Two contraceptive equity experts, Michigan State Senator Martha G. Scott, and Planned Parenthood of Southeast Michigan Public Affairs Director Deanna Tarry, met with Metro Detroit CLUW to promote freedom of choice and to help pass women's health legislation in the state.

Scott is a co-sponsor of two bills that would require insurance policies that cover prescription drugs to cover all approved methods of prescription contraception. Tarry, also a supporter of the bills,

met with CLUW to enlist their support of the March for Women's Lives, to be held in Washington, DC on April 25.

### EAST BAY CHAPTER

The East Bay Chapter recognized four outstanding women and the organizations they helped found at CLUW's semi-annual Working Women's Awareness Week Dinner held in Berkeley, California, in October.

The honorees include Nicola Dones of the Labor Project for Working Families (LPWF), Katy Nunez-Adler of the Labor Immigrants Organizing Network (LION), Marcy Whitebook of the Center for the Child Care Workforce and UC Berkeley Legislator in Residence and former State Assemblyperson Dion Aroner.

The fundraising dinners make possible the Chapter's on-going support of scholarship programs and donations to local community groups, and are attended and supported by CLUW Chapters and sisters statewide.

### East Bay, cont'd

CLUW National Executive Board Member Dorothy F. Fortier (IBEW) was honored as the 2003 Unionist of the Year by the Central Labor Council of Alameda County for her lifelong dedication to the labor movement and her community.

Sister Fortier serves as President and on the Executive Committee of the



Dorothy F. Fortier

County's Labor Council. She also serves as Secretary-Treasurer

of the IBEW's Minority Caucus and is a member of APRI, CBTU and APALA.

### Washington, DC and Maryland

CLUW joined other labor activists on Feb. 4 when they took over the State Plaza Hotel's posh Garden Cafe peacefully sitting at the linen-covered tables and enjoying a Spartan repast of water, coffee and tea while the harried maitre d' apologized to a foyer full of waiting customers.

The hotel's workers voted to join Hotel and Restaurant Workers Local 25 last fall in an overwhelming 2-1 vote. The workers who are mostly Hispanic and Vietnamese immigrants simply want to be treated with dignity and respect, but the hotel's owner has refused to negotiate.

### DC and Maryland, cont'd

The MD/DC State Federation Convention held Oct. 31st - Nov. 2nd passed several resolutions with CLUW's support, including:

1. Calling for local unions to support CLUW, encouraging central labor councils to work with CLUW, providing delegate slots and supporting the establishment of CLUW chapters where none exists.
2. Calling on the end of the US occupation of Iraq.
3. Calling for the support of efforts to enact state paid leave which would expand the federal FMLA benefit



East Bay Chapter Officers (l to r) Eileen Berken, Margaret Shelleda, Gretchen Lipow-Mackler, Marlayne Morgan and Kerry Newkirk (not pictured; Bennie Bridges and Netsy Firestein).

## LOCAL NEWS

### Seattle

Teamsters Local 66 at Darigold Dairies wrote to CLUW to express thanks for CLUW's generous donation on their behalf. Members of this local were locked out by Darigold for standing firmly to protect their jobs. CLUW's donation to this local from delegates to the Convention helped fund their fight.

### Congratulations

**Joanne M. Sanders** (IATSE) and CLUW Central Indiana chapter president was elected as Vice President of the Indianapolis, IN City Council

**Jeanette Davis** (IUE-CWA) and CLUW Greater Miami Valley, OH Chapter President earned her BA degree in Labor Studies from the George Meany Center.

### Genesee County (MI)

The chapter held their one year anniversary celebration in July with a luncheon and unveiled their chapter banner which was funded through raffle ticket sales.

### California

California CLUW joined with a collaboration of women's organizations and women elected officials to form Women Against the Recall. A press conference, establishment of a speakers' bureau, speaker training program, phone outreach, voter registration drives and election day efforts to transport people to the polls were some of the activities.

### International Human Rights Day

CLUW was involved in many support actions throughout the country (see photo above) on December 10th. Here are a sampling:

In Phila. more than 1,000 attended a Workers' Rights Board meeting



**International Human Rights Day** Unionists rallied in Washington, DC in front of Department of Labor. Many union, CLUW and community groups participated.

convened by Jobs with Justice and the Phila. CLC. Workers who encountered problems organizing testified and clergy, legislators and other prominent citizens spoke.

In Indiana lots of people wore badges defining Dec. 10 as International Workers Rights Day.

At a St. Paul MN rally at the state capitol workers testified about the hardships they have faced when

they spoke up on the job. An appeal was made to Swedish Consul Emeritus and former MN governor, Wendell Anderson for help. 82% of Sweden's workers are unionized.

## THANK YOU

CLUW wishes to thank the following contributing (\$50), supporting (\$75) and sustaining (\$150) members. To become a special member of CLUW, please make your check payable to CLUW and mail to the CLUW National Treasurer, Susan L. Phillips, 1925 K Street, NW, #402, Washington, DC 20006. Your contribution will help empower women through the labor movement.

### Contributing Members

Bennie R. Bridges, AFGE  
Thomasine Derricks, -APWU  
Gwendolyn R. Johnson, AFSCME  
James Leaman, CWA  
Fred D. Mason Jr., SEIU  
Susan J. Wilson, IAM

### Supporting Members

Odessa Komer, UAW  
Terry Rogers, AFGE

### Sustaining Members

Cynthia McCaughan, OPEIU  
Elizabeth Denn, CWA  
IAMAM, District 143  
Susan Holleran, AFSCME  
Roger Stalcup

### 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 L. Phillips, CLUW Treasurer,  
c/o CLUW  
1925 K Street, NW, #402  
Washington, DC 20006

## WALKING THE WALK TO REGISTER VOTERS

If women voters had turned out in equal numbers as men in the 2000 elections, 63,000 more people would have voted in Florida alone. The progressive ballots of thousands of women in that state could have changed the course of this nation's history.

In America, there are 50 million unregistered women voters. That is why CLUW is taking part in "Women's Voices," a project to help make our voices heard.

Organized by Voices for Working Families, the project is helping women take a stand by walking for the issues that affect our lives. Through monthly community walks, the campaign is educating, registering and mobilizing voters in targeted communities. The first Women's Walk was held on February 7 in Miami, Florida.

If you are willing to work with others to register women and make our voices heard, contact **Voices for Working Families, 888 16th Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC, 20006** or [voicesforworkingfamilies.org](http://voicesforworkingfamilies.org). By phone, 866-211-7296.



### Coalition of Labor Union Women

1925 K Street, NW, Suite 402  
Washington, DC 20006



## UFCW GROCERY STRIKE CONTINUES

More than 70,000 UFCW members in Southern California employed by Safeway (operating as Vons and Pavilion), Kroger (operating as Ralphs), and Albertsons have been on strike or locked out since October 11, 2003, in a landmark fight to save affordable health care at work. Safeway wants to eliminate affordable health care benefits for its workers. New workers would have no real benefits at all, and current workers would face \$95 a week premium co-pays or massive benefits cuts. At the same time, Safeway's profits have gone up 82% — to \$3.1 billion — over the past five years.

Along with community, religious, and labor supporters, CLUW activists have been on the front lines, helping staff picket lines not only in California but also in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Portland, Ore., where Safeway contracts are due to expire in the near future.

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