

CLUW NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COALITION
OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

july-sept 2004
vol. 30 no. 4

MOVING CLUW FORWARD



CLUW President Susan Phillips took her oath of office at the August NEB. The NEB elected Phillips to serve the rest of Gloria Johnson's term which ends during the next National Convention.

On August 28, the CLUW National Executive Board elected Susan L. Phillips to serve as CLUW President for the remainder of Gloria Johnson's term, which ends at the next National Convention in 2005. United Food and Commercial Workers Vice Pres. Susan Phillips has spent 24 years in the union movement. She brings with her a depth of union experience from diverse union venues.

Susan is exploring ways to partner with "groups that enhance our common goals" – like the Alliance for Retired Americans, United

Students Against Sweatshops and the National Organization for Women.

Humbled by the accomplishments of her predecessors – Olga Madar, Joyce Miller and Gloria Johnson – she looks forward to building on the foundation they have laid.

"It's a healthy thing for any organization to evolve," says Susan. "We will seize opportunities – taking CLUW's core principles and looking at them in new ways to see what we can do, what resources we can tap and seeing what differences we can make with new voices.

"I want to bring together all these forces. Our unions have different approaches. We will take the best of each, add our own expertise, and adapt them for CLUW. We, as women, plan to step up and do the work that needs to be done to rebuild the labor movement"

DON'T FORGET

Sept. 15- Oct. 15

Hispanic Heritage Month

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Disability Awareness Month

CLUW's Count to 5 Campaign deadlines:

Oct. 1 – Campaign pledge sheets to be received at CLUW office

Oct. 25 – Nov 2 GOTV phone banking

November

November 2 - Election Day -

Please Vote

Yellow Umbrella Tour - see p. 7 for details

Check out www.cluw.org for a variety of GOTV and election related educational materials and for timely updates



Thank You Gloria

Gloria Johnson is showered with gifts, well wishes and stories of appreciation from CLUW chapters and international unions at a special reception held in her honor. Pictured here with Terri Friend (IAM), the Machinists women sang, danced, and wrapped Johnson in a New Mexican-style blanket in one of many tributes.

www.cluw.org



**NEW TO THE CLUW NEWS,
SPANISH FEATURE STORY ON P 8!**

CLUW NEWS

ISSN No. 0199-8919. Published five times a year (Jan.-Feb., Mar.-Apr., May-June, July-Sept., Oct.-Dec.) by the Coalition of Labor Union Women
1925 K Street, NW, #402
Washington, DC 20006
P: 202-223-8360
F: 202-776-0537
USPS #335-670

Volume 30, No. 4, July-Sept 2004

Annual rates: \$1.50 of membership dues for CLUW News. Dues are \$30.00 for working members, \$15.00 for retirees.

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Periodical postage paid at Washington, D.C.

Postmaster:

Send change of address to:

CLUW News

1925 K Street, NW, #402

Washington, DC 20006

C L U W P O I N T

Building on Yesterday for a Better Tomorrow



by Gloria Johnson

As CLUW enters a new chapter, I feel proud of our accomplishments and marvel at the road ahead. Whether you were a member from the beginning, or if you recently joined CLUW, your

contributions to this organization have helped us follow our founding missions.

During my Presidency, we have had to defend ourselves from attacks on working families by a pro-business Administration and Congressional majorities. We have helped elect to public office those who believe in workers including many of our own and we have worked hard to unseat those who don't represent us.

We have had to push back against laws and labor practices that place big business over the public good. We have fought against judicial appointees that are bad for women, workers and reproductive rights. We have toiled to stop sweatshops and have brought to light unfair trade practices that hurt workers in this country and across the globe. We have helped close the wage gap between men and women and addressed the health care inequities that remain. We have worked to improve conditions on the job and to protect women's health. We have introduced new technology to women workers and have taken great strides to make workplaces safer and more secure.

We can all take pride in our accomplishments and efforts. But for me, CLUW means much more than the work we do. CLUW has been my extended family. Together, we have not only helped build the labor movement, but we have built meaningful friendships, sisterhood and solidarity. We have served as each other's mentors, students and supporters.

But if we are to continue to grow we must tap the great resources of our members, our officers, our unions, young workers, new technology and other AFL-CIO constituency groups. We must strengthen our networking with the women's and civil rights communities. Several stories that are included in this issue of the News, serve as a model of how labor can work together around common goals.

This fall, our goal is political education and November's election will set the tone of not only the next four years, but for the unforeseeable future. Across the battleground states, CLUW members are working tirelessly to educate, register and turn out voters. No one needs reminding of the value of their efforts.

When we look back through the years, we should all take great pride. When we look ahead to the future, we should all take a deep breath. We must build new momentum that will carry us well beyond Election Day and the Election Days to follow. Cherish the memories and accomplishments of CLUW. Keep up the strength to continue our fight. The health, welfare and economic well being of women workers depend on CLUW.

www.cluw.org

■ TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

CLUW Joins Community Voter Registration Effort

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — To help make a difference in the fall elections, CLUW participated in a day of action in Albuquerque. Fanning out across the community, CLUW members joined organizers and volunteers from "Moving America Forward" going door-to-door to register new voters.

NEB member Kerry Newkirk (SEIU) along with Felisa Castillo (BCTGM) and Karen O'Donnell (IBEW) visited a neighborhood in Bernalillo in search of unregistered voters.

"What impressed me the most," said Newkirk, "was how glad people were to see us working to register voters."

She added, "Although most people who lived in the homes we visited were already registered, it was a good experience working with young organizers who were energized and enthusiastic about this effort. It is important that we keep all generations of voters engaged and informed."

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, who addressed the LCLAA meeting held in conjunction with the NEB, has donated his own money to "Moving America



Kerry Newkirk (SEIU) and Felisa Castillo (BCTGM) join organizers from Move America Forward to register voters in New Mexico.

Forward." He hopes to bring more Latinos to the polls this November.

"Moving America Forward" is

[continued on p. 4](#)

■ SUPPORTING ORGANIZING AT BUENO FOODS

CLUW Demonstrates the Power of Unions

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — CLUW members demonstrated for immigrant workers' rights at Bueno Foods, a company where a largely illegal immigrant workforce has been shying away from unions out of fear of management retaliation and deportation.

UFCW Local 1564 has been trying to represent employees at Bueno but has run into great resistance due to the fears of vulnerable workers. To help make a difference in this campaign, CLUW and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) gave it a needed boost.

During the NEB, the groups came to Bueno by the busload to let the workers there know that those who stand together can have a voice and dignity on the job. Up and down the street and in front of the company gates, union members marched, sang and chanted, "We are the union, the mighty, mighty union," and other songs of solidarity.

At the shift change, UFCW did try to reach out to Bueno workers to let them know their rights. In this case, reaching out did mean catching the cars coming out of the employee parking lots.



CLUW members demonstrate for union rights for immigrant workers at Bueno Foods in Albuquerque. UFCW is currently trying to organize Bueno workers.

"It's pretty simple in New Mexico and elsewhere, statistics show that workers that form a union have higher wages," said Greg Frasier of Local 1564. "Bueno workers need to know that they too can form a union."

"Roll down your window," he shouts trying to halt an old white Toyota Camry as it pulls out of the employee parking lot. This car stops at the curb and the young woman reluctantly rolls down her glass. He hands her a copy of a

flyer that touts the benefits of union membership.

"We are here because we care about you," he tells her as she is already rolling her window back up. She politely nods, and slowly pulls by the demonstrators. Some in the crowd yell, "Honk, honk, honk your horn!" The woman finally beeps and the crowd cheers back loudly.

"This show of support helps us break down barriers of fear. It shows us as a positive force that will walk many extra miles to help our sisters and brothers," said Frasier.

The demonstration also left an impression on Bueno management which agreed at the time to meet with UFCW and New Mexico labor leaders. Since then, management has rebutted the UFCW by distributing anti-union material to its workers.

■ COMMUNITY ACTION STARTS WITH A COMMUNITY DIALOGUE



President of AFGE Local 2142 Jose A. Gonzalez and Director of National Indian Youth Council Norman Ration are pictured at the Albuquerque Town Hall meeting sponsored by LCLAA.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Set in downtown's historic Kino Theater, community leaders came to a Town Hall meeting sponsored by the Labor Coalition for Community Action wanting to change the course of their own history.

As part of a series of such meetings being held this election year, CLUW joined forces with LCLAA, AFL-CIO and other constituency

groups at a lively discussion of local political issues.

According to many participants, a top concern among voters in New Mexico is education.

Town Hall panelist, professor Margaret Montoya of the University of New Mexico, said, "Of the 15,000 children in this state who are currently in grade seven, only 7,000 will graduate high school and 2,000 will graduate college. There is no bigger crisis in this state than education and student achievement rates.

"When it comes to women and infants living in poverty, New Mexico's recent history is also bleak," she said. New Mexico leads the nation in this statistic.

"Also in New Mexico, a state with large Latino and Native American populations, what many don't realize is that we have a rich African-American heritage as well," said



Gloria Johnson with Milton Rosado, (UAW) LCLAA National President and Maria Portalatin, (AFT) LCLAA Secretary-Treasurer at the LCLAA National Convention.

panelist Charles Becknell Jr., director, E.S. Foster Educational Trust Inc. He wants to ensure that today's African-American residents have equal opportunity to quality education, housing and employment opportunities.

In order to change the course of history, many participants agreed that the November elections are a critical first step. "You hold the key to change," a participant explained. Turn that key by voting in November."

For more information on upcoming meetings please see www.cluw.political/html#LCCA

Taking It To The Streets, cont'd from p. 3



AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez Thompson and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson address the delegates and guests at the LCLAA Convention.

will energize and motivate Latino voters to go to the polls in record numbers," Governor Richardson said.

Throughout 2004, CLUW members have joined community walks in cities across the country. Canvassing the neighborhoods remains one of the most effective ways to reach these critical voters.

committed to empowering the Latino community through education programs on issues important to Latino working families and through voter registration and mobilization campaigns. Working together with our allies in "Moving America Forward" and the Latino community, we

IT TAKES ONE VOICE

When Arlene Curinga tried to fill her daughter's birth control prescription, she learned her health plan didn't cover it. Curinga, a member of AFSCME Local 2343 (Council 66), thought that was wrong. She contacted CLUW and her union for help.

The Town of Cortlandt, N.Y., (Curinga's employer) had found a "loophole" in New York's law mandating coverage. The town was self insured – part of a consortium of 17 Westchester municipalities. When the employer wouldn't budge, AFSCME enlisted New York's attorney general. Cortlandt backed down.

Because of Curinga, the families of more than 500 AFSCME members – plus the thousands of other workers covered by the consortium – will now enjoy contraceptive equity.

If you have any questions about contraceptive coverage, contact Carolyn Jacobson at 202-223-8360, ext 4 or see www.cluw.org/contraceptive.html

LOCAL NEWS

Metro Detroit

On Saturday, September 11, Metro-Detroit CLUW presented, "GOT A CLUW WHAT TO DO? -'RAP' IT UP!!" — Part II. Karen McMillan, CLUW HIV/AIDS Project Director moderated a special presentation on AIDS education which included facilitated sessions with Honorable Maryann Mahaffey, president, Detroit City Council; Joe Darby (OPEIU) and Pride at Work; Rev. Juanita Bowman (OPEIU); and Bernard Mallisham, of the Detroit Medical Center.

Also in September, the chapter hosted their second GOTV "Call to Action Day." A special emphasis was devoted to registering voters ages 18-25.

The chapter extends special recognition to Hazel Taylor, a member of Metro-Detroit CLUW, who celebrated her 101st birthday last April. Sister Taylor is the mother of Evelyn Brooks and Annie Stokes, both members of OPEIU and Metro-Detroit CLUW. Annie has served 52 years with OPEIU, and Evelyn recently was acknowledged for her 56 years of service to OPEIU.

CIAO! DESSADRA

Dessadra Lomax, CLUW's first national organizer, resigned in August after six-and-a-half years building new chapters and re-organizing and strengthening those already in existence.

Dessadra's fondest memories: times when she "facilitated women coming into the CLUW family." As one chapter organizer told her, "I need my CLUW!"

"This staff are the hardest working people I know," she said. "It's been a growth experience working with Gloria Johnson, and Susan Phillips will do great things in the future.

"Keep supporting the CLUW staff," she reminded us all. "There are days when a kind word makes all the difference."



From left to right: CLUW member Michele Borkoski, Sprinklerfitters Local 542; National Executive Vice President Marsha Zakowski, USWA Local 3657; Executive Board Member Mary Moore, USWA Local 3657; and Alternate State Vice President (PA) Barbara Barnes, Sprinklerfitters Local 542.

Pittsburgh

Steel City CLUW sisters get ready to head out from the United Steelworkers Headquarters for a neighborhood walk to talk to voters about the important issues of the November election. This walk was the first of many in the battleground state of Pennsylvania. CLUW members around the state and from adjacent states are participating in the walks from now until the election.

Georgia

CLUW member Sheila Jones (IAM) defeated incumbent State Rep. John Noel in a Georgia General Assembly runoff election in August. Atlanta's Jones has been a long-time activist in the Democratic party and works at Lockheed Martin. Ms. Jones will run unopposed in the November general election for Georgia's state House District 44 seat. Congratulations to sister Jones.



The Twin Cities Chapter recognized Ruth Andre, outgoing chapter treasurer for her long years of service.

L to r – Chapter Pres. Kate Kline, Lynne Larkin-Wright, Chap. Secy, Ray Waldron, State AFL-CIO Pres., Ruth Andre, Lonna Jean Schmidt, Chap. Treasurer and Mary Goldman, former chapter v.p.

Minnesota

Over 200 union members listened to Irasema Garza (AFSCME) (below) when she spoke at the Twin Cities CLUW luncheon and the Minnesota state AFL-CIO convention in August. Minnesota, like other state federations, is preparing for its massive GOTV effort in November. Garza is the director of AFSCME's Womens' Rights Department which among other things, coordinates political education and outreach among women. Over half of AFSCME's 1.4 million members are women.



Photo courtesy of The St. Paul Union Advocate

HEALTH TIP: EATING RIGHT THE LOW-CARB AND LOW CALORIE WAY

From the CLUW Women's Health Committee

Have you been thinking about eating low-carb foods in order to lose weight? Does your favorite restaurant feature low-carb meals as healthy choices? Be aware that low-carb meals may not meet these expectations. A restaurant may advertise a meal of steak or fried chicken, salad with blue cheese chunks and creamy dressing, and buttered vegetables as low-carb. However, this meal is probably high in fat and calories.

Prior to the low-carb craze, restaurants featured low-fat meals as healthy choices. A low-fat meal might include salad with low-fat dressing, bread or rolls (no butter), broiled skinless chicken breast, corn and a baked potato. However, this low-fat meal is probably high in carbohydrates and also in calories.

If you want to lose weight, ask how many fat grams are in a meal as well as how many carbohydrates. Find out how many calories

are in the meal. If the meal is high in calories, chances are it will not be helpful in losing weight. Remember that meals which are both low in carbohydrates and low in fat are most likely to be low-calorie as well. If there is a demand for meals that are both low-carb and low-fat, restaurants are more likely to offer them. Frozen meals are available at the supermarket that are low in carbs and fats and also low in calories. A typical frozen meal that is low-carb and low-fat may have chicken or beef in a low-fat sauce accompanied by one or more vegetables.

A low calorie eating plan is the most reliable way to lose weight and keep it off. A healthy eating plan should include moderate amounts of protein (eg. meat, poultry, fish, eggs, milk, cheese), whole grain foods, and plenty of vegetables and fruits. Drink lots of water too. It has no carbohydrates, fat, or calories and is more effective in quenching thirst than sweetened beverages.

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, Judy Beard, 1925 K Street, NW, #402, Washington, DC 20006. Your contribution will help empower women through the labor movement.

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Moving?

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Please, Let us know your change of address.
Send this coupon to: **CLUW**, 1925 K Street,
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RESOLUTIONS

Marriage for All

The National Executive Board affirmed CLUW's commitment to equal rights for all members regardless of sexual orientation as one of two new resolutions passed when they met in Albuquerque.

CLUW recognizes that lack of access to marriage deprives gay and lesbian working families of more than 1,000 rights and benefits afforded to heterosexual families such as spousal Social Security and pension funds, hospital visitation rights, spousal health insurance, immigration rights, and many other federal state and local protections.

Yellow Umbrella Tour

The NEB also gave CLUW's full support for the "Yellow Umbrella Tour," to help raise awareness about cervical cancer. As part of Working



Women ROCC! (Reaching Out against Cervical Cancer), CLUW and the Academy for Educational Development are educating union members about the risk factors for cervical cancer and the critical need for regular screening to ensure early diagnosis and treatment.

Rock performer and cervical cancer survivor Christine Baze embarked on a musical tour last year that has helped raise cancer awareness, especially among younger women. This year, the tour will be even bigger. Through Baze's music and personal experience, the Yellow Umbrella Tour is promoting increased cancer screening and regular follow-ups. For information about tickets and exact locations, see www.cluw.org/cervcancer-yut.html

WOMEN AND UNIONS

The AFL-CIO Executive Council's Working Women's Committee commissioned a study of factors deterring women from joining unions or moving into union leadership roles. Here are some of the findings.

WOMEN JOINING UNIONS

Women's positive views of unions have declined since 1999. We need to restore that previous support.

Women respond strongly to economic issues like equal pay, work and family and control over work hours.

We should tap into working women's sense of independence and self-reliance. Women like the idea of unity but want to keep their individual voices.

Women don't think unions can resolve perceived workplace problems. They want proof.

Women see unions as being composed mainly of men. They don't know that unions represent white-collar and professional workers.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Unions show a lack of commitment. Many have no plans to increase women's representation as leaders at all levels.

Unions often don't provide work and family programs to help women, especially young women, balance their responsibilities.

Many unions lack effective structures and programs to help women develop the knowledge, skills and experience needed for leadership.

Women often do not receive support or mentoring to help them rise as leaders and maintain their positions.

Yellow Umbrella Tour

Oct. 04 – San Francisco, CA

Oct. 05 – San Juan
Capistrano, CA

Oct. 06 – Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 07 – Tucson, AZ

Oct. 09 – Austin, TX

Oct. 10 – Dallas, TX

Oct. 11 – Houston, TX

Oct. 12 – New Orleans, LA

Oct. 14 – Orlando, FL

Oct. 15 – Fort Lauderdale, FL

Oct. 16 – Jacksonville, FL

Oct. 17, 18 – Atlanta, GA

Oct. 19 – Nashville, TN

Oct. 21 – St. Louis, MO

Oct. 22 – Chicago, IL

Oct. 23 – Kalamazoo, MI

Oct. 24 – Detroit, MI

Oct. 25 – Columbus, OH

Oct. 27 – New York, NY

Oct. 28 – Washington, DC

Oct. 29 – Philadelphia, PA

Oct. 30 – Boston, MA

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Enclosed are my CLUW dues for one year.

\$30 (regular) \$15 (retiree)

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

Signature _____

Send to:

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c/o CLUW
1925 K Street, NW, #402
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■ APOYE LOS DERECHOS DE LOS TRABAJADORES INMIGRANTES

LA COALICIÓN DE MUJERES SINDICALIZADAS (CLUW) MANIFIESTA EL PODER DE LOS SINDICATOS

ALBUQUERQUE, NUEVO MÉXICO – Miembros de la Coalición de mujeres sindicalizadas (CLUW) se manifestaron en favor de los derechos de los trabajadores frente a Bueno Foods, una empresa en la que la fuerza de trabajo, migrantes ilegales en su inmensa mayoría, se ha mantenido ajena a los sindicatos por miedo a represalias de la gerencia y ser deportados.

La oficina local de Trabajadores de alimentos y comercio unidos (UFCW)1564 ha estado tratando de representar a los trabajadores de Bueno, pero ha enfrentado fuerte resistencia que suscita el temor en trabajadores vulnerables. Para ayudar a hacer la diferencia en esa campaña, la CLUW y la Coalición del trabajo por el progreso de los latinoamericanos (LCLAA) le darían el impulso necesario.

Durante la movilización, los grupos llegaron a Bueno en ómnibus para hacer saber a los trabajadores que, si se mantienen unidos, pueden tener voz y dignidad en el trabajo. De uno a otro lado de la calle y frente a las puertas de la empresa, los miembros del sindicato marcharon y cantaron lemas tales como "somos el sindicato, el fuerte y poderoso sindicato" y otras canciones de solidaridad.

Durante el cambio de turno, UFCW se acercó a los trabajadores para hacerles conocer sus derechos. En este caso, acercarse suponía interceptar los automóviles que salían del estacionamiento de los

trabajadores.

"Es muy sencillo, en Nuevo México y en otros lugares las estadísticas demuestran que los trabajadores que forman sindicatos tiene salarios más altos" afirma Greg Frasier, de la oficina local 1564.

"Baje la ventana" dice a viva voz, tratando de detener a un viejo Toyota Camry blanco que sale del estacionamiento. El auto se detiene al lado de la vereda y la joven mujer baja el vidrio con vacilación. Él le alcanza copia de un volante que proclama los beneficios de pertenecer a un sindicato.

"Estamos aquí porque nos preocupamos por usted" le dice, al tiempo que ella vuelve a cerrar la ventana, asiente cortés con la cabeza y avanza lentamente delante de los manifestantes, algunos le dicen "¡toca, toca, toca la bocina!" La mujer finalmente lo hace y el grupo la ovaciona.

"Esta demostración de apoyo nos ayuda a romper las barreras del miedo. Nos muestra como una fuerza positiva que es capaz de avanzar a grandes pasos para ayudar a nuestras hermanas y hermanos," nos dice Frasier.

La manifestación también tuvo efecto en la gerencia de Bueno que accedió, en ese momento, a sostener una reunión con dirigentes laborales de UFCW y Nuevo México. Desde entonces, la gerencia se ha opuesto a UFCW, distribuyendo material impreso antisindicatos entre sus trabajadores

www.cluw.org

Save the Date
CLUW Convention
Sept. 14-17, 2005 in Detroit

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