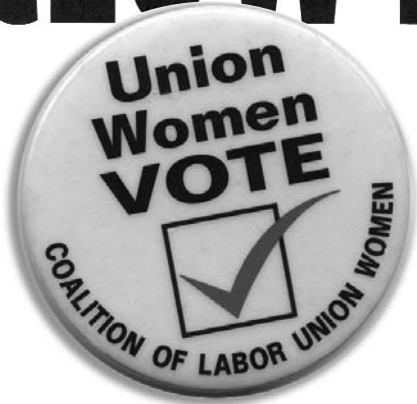


CLUW NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COALITION
OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

Fall/Winter 2006



CLUW GETS OUT THE VOTE ON BEHALF OF WORKING FAMILIES

Election 2006: CLUW members helped take America back for women and working families.

The 110th Congress will include record numbers of women—at least 86 will come to Washington in January 2007 to serve as senators or members of the House of Representatives.

Not only will the House have its first “Madam Speaker,” but California Democrat Nancy Pelosi is setting new and progressive priorities on Capitol Hill. In the first 100 hours under her gavel, she pledges to push to raise the minimum wage, impose new restrictions on lobbyists, let the government negotiate for lower Medicare drug prices, and provide support for stem cell research. She also promises to reshape America’s Iraq policy.

The Senate will realign its focus, as well—now that the chamber will be under Democratic control and bolstered by a record number of female

senators. The total increased to 16 with victories by two Democratic women—Claire McCaskill in Missouri and Amy Klobuchar in Minnesota.

To point the country in this new direction, CLUW members were among a legion of union volunteers who spent months knocking on doors, making phone calls, distributing worksite fliers and sending out literature. This army of activists participated in the AFL-CIO’s massive Voter Protection Program to educate citizens about their voting rights and monitor polling places (see page 5) and gathered on October 10

at “Stirring the Pot” dialogues to talk about issues that shape the quality of life for our families and our communities (see page 5).

With the support of union women, voters across the nation also endorsed ballot initiatives of importance to women and working families:

The minimum wage will be going up in all six states where an increase was on the ballot: Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Ohio.

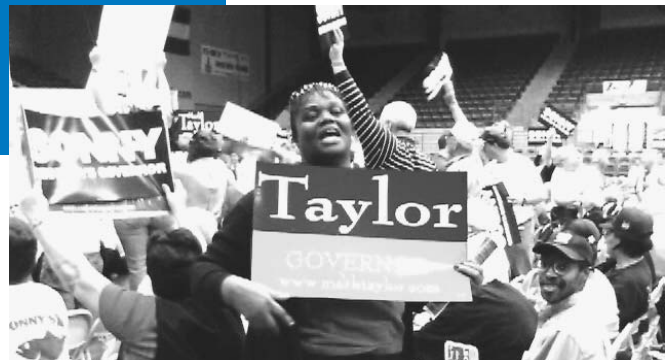
San Franciscans voted to guarantee all workers a minimum number of days of paid sick leave.

Voters in South Dakota rejected a

continued on page 3

Beatrice Andrews (IBEW) and other members of the Greater Georgia CLUW Chapter

turned out to support gubernatorial candidate Mark Taylor during a debate at the Perry Fairgrounds on October 10.



www.cluw.org

Sign up to be a
CLUW e-Activist



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Our voices made a difference!



Marsha Zakowski, CLUW National President

On Tuesday, November 7, our country and the world witnessed a historic change of power in the houses of American government. The voices of American voters revealed dissatisfaction with the Bush Administration's handling of the Iraqi war, its free trade policies, the refusal to provide quality affordable health care for all, no minimum wage increase, and lobbying scandals.

Political analysts are still deciphering the results and making projections on the changing dynamics of power in the government.

What we as union women and men do know is that "happier days are here again" for working families. As the new Congress sets its priorities, including raising the minimum wage, reforming trade agreements, reducing the health care costs for millions of Americans, requiring Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical companies and restoring the rights of workers to form unions—all CLUW policy issues—we will continue to make our voices heard.

I want to extend a personal "Thank You" to every CLUW member from California to New York and every state near and in between who volunteered their time to participate in phone banks, voter protection programs, neighborhood walks, "Stirring the Pot" events to discuss the issues and concerns of working women, and who "framed the debate" and talked about the real issues of working families with co-workers, friends, family and neighbors—or, as one CLUW sister related, "Anyone who would listen!" Your time and efforts made a difference—a visible difference in this victorious election—for which you can be as proud of yourself as CLUW is of you.

A final note: A recent message to CLUW e-Activists urged members to take action against an outrageous effort by Republican leadership to push the lame-duck Congress to pass the U.S.-Peru NAFTA expansion that "will continue the outsourcing of good U.S. jobs, lacks enforceable labor rights, threatens the environmentally sensitive Amazon basin, and contains provisions that will limit Congress' authority to decide if it's okay for national security to give control of port services to foreign corporations." To take action, visit our CLUW website.

Once again, our voices can make the difference!

SAVE THE DATES

CLUW National Executive Board Meeting
February 8-10, 2007
Doral Desert Princess Resort, Palm Springs, CA

CLUW National Executive Board Meeting
May 31-June 2, 2007
Sheraton Station Square Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

CLUW 14th Biennial Convention
October 10-13, 2007
Flamingo Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada

CLUW GETS OUT THE VOTE

continued from page 1

proposed ban on abortions that had no exceptions for rape, incest, or to protect the health of the woman.

In Oregon and California, initiatives were voted down that would have required doctors to notify parents before performing abortions on minors.

Measures approved in Arizona and Nebraska will expand funding for early care and education programs.

However, despite the concerted efforts of CLUW chapters across Michigan, voters in the Wolverine State approved Proposal 2. That ballot initiative makes affirmative action unconstitutional in higher education, public employment and contracting.

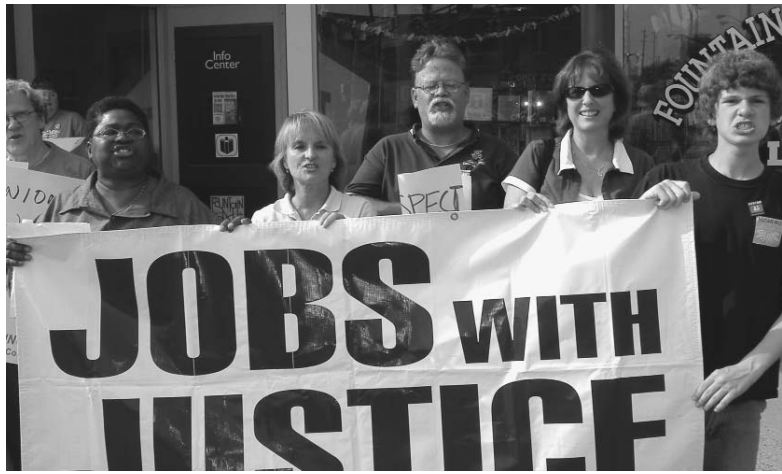
"Our opponents emphasized fear over hope," said CLUW President Marsha Zakowski. "Unfortunately, fear prevailed. But we will not give up the fight to bring equal opportunity to all the people of Michigan."

With many voters viewing the election as a referendum on the war in Iraq, women led the way in rejecting the Bush Administration's "stay the course" policy. According to a poll by the National Council for Research on Women, candidates who favored getting American troops out of Iraq went into Election Day with a nearly three-to-one advantage among women voters.



U.S. Senate candidate Jim Webb, whose victory gave the Democrats a majority in the Senate, thanks CLUW National Treasurer Judy Beard (APWU) on October 28 for organizing GOTV walks that weekend as well as coordinating the labor rally at the Northern Virginia CLC Office in Annandale. CLUW's Virginia State Vice President, Margie Brotherton (APWU), worked along with the AFL-CIO in the Roanoke area to deliver labor's vote.

Indiana House candidate Susan Fuldauer (second from r), a former Indiana CLUW alternate state vice president, at a rally to support local library workers in their efforts to be represented by AFSCME. Also pictured (from left): Lettie Oliver (AFSCME); Central Indiana Chapter President Joanne Sanders (IATSE); and AFSCME IVP David Warrick.



CLUW President Zakowski says women and union members had a big impact in her home state of Pennsylvania.

Citing Pittsburgh CLUW's active participation in phone banks and neighborhood precinct walks where there were critical elections, Zakowski added, "I was especially impressed by the number of young people involved in the election effort at my union, United Steelworkers, and believe the large number of women—single, married, working, non-working—who voted for Bob Casey helped put him over the top."

Several CLUW members experienced the election as candidates themselves. We congratulate associate CLUW members Martha G. Scott and Hansen Clarke, who were re-elected to the Michigan state Senate, and former CLUW State VP Veronica Turner (SEIU 1199), who was re-elected to the Maryland State General Assembly.

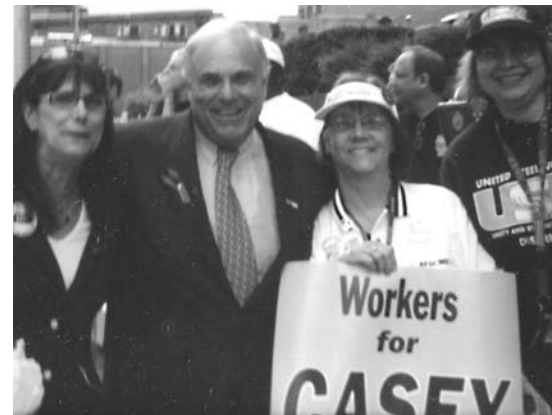
CLUW applauds those members who ran for office in uphill battles—even in a year of historic Democratic gains, it



Terri Moore

was difficult to win as Democrats in overwhelmingly Republican districts. For example, Terri Moore (CWA)—a longtime CLUW member from Ft. Worth, TX—fell short in her race for Tarrant County District Attorney. But she did earn 47 percent of the vote, narrowing the margin in a rematch of a 2002 election.

Susan Fuldauer (OPEIU) raised important issues of education, health care and economic fairness in her unsuccessful effort to unseat the rightwing speaker of



At Pittsburgh's Labor Day Parade, CLUW had the attention of Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell (D), pictured with CLUW PA State VP Barbara Barnes (UA), Joanne Kreider (AFSCME) and Janet Hill (USW). Gov. Rendell recently signed a bill raising the state's minimum wage above federal standards. Barnes and her family hosted a house party for senatorial candidate Bob Casey, who won a crucial victory over hard-line conservative Rick Santorum.

the Indiana House of Representatives.

CLUW also salutes Lyn Shaw (USW), a member of the Los Angeles CLUW Chapter, who ran for the California Assembly; CSEA staffer Irene "Charlie" LaChance, a California Assembly candidate; Florice Hoffman, a candidate for Congress in California's 40th District; and Michigan member Lori Waddles, who ran in a crowded field for District Court Judge.

"One of our four basic goals is increasing the involvement of union women in the political and legislative process," said President Zakowski. "It's important to have our union sisters somewhere on the ballot as candidates, because you have to run in county and state races before you can move up to higher national office."

FRAMING THE NATIONAL DEBATE TO EMPHASIZE WORKING FAMILY ISSUES

By dictating what issues get the most attention, for the last several years conservatives have put progressives on the defensive—but the way to turn this around is for progressives to understand how to frame the debate.

Nearly a hundred CLUW members learned this skill at the “Framing the Debate” Conference, held in conjunction with June’s National Executive Board meeting in Nashville. Sponsored by CLUW’s Legislative and Political Action Committee, the day-long conference demonstrated that the shift to conservative political ideas and political power has lowered the standard of living for working families—and what must be done to turn this around.

Keynote speaker Lois M. DeBerry, speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, warned how an anti-worker, anti-family agenda is often hidden behind a veil of talk about family values.

Christy Agner, director of the Democratic

National Committee’s Women’s Vote Center, addressed women in the upcoming elections. “Recent polls reinforce that Democrats can expect strong support from women voters, who make up 52% of the voting population, if message, targeting and mobilization efforts are effective,” she said.

Bob Muehlenkamp, co-author of the AFL-CIO’s “Winning Back The American Dream,” urged activists to help their neighbors understand “The Real Issues and the Real Stakes of the 2006 Elections,” as his slide presentation was titled.

The afternoon’s workshop, designed by Janet Hill (USW), recording secretary of CLUW’s Pittsburgh Chapter, began with an overview on “framing,” then subgroups worked on presenting such issues as minimum wages, health care and pensions to help activists counter the corporate agenda.

(From a report by Janet Hill)

WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY



Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm (r.) hosted a celebration of the 86th anniversary of Women’s Equality Day, commemorating the 1920 passage of women’s right to vote, at the Governor’s Residence in Lansing. Attending the August 25 event on behalf of Metro-Detroit CLUW were President Millie Hall (OPEIU) and Executive Committee Member Polly Howe (AFT), coordinator of the Michigan Pay Equity Network (left).

2007 rally in the works

Looking ahead to the 2008 presidential elections, the IAM and other transportation unions, with the endorsement of CLUW and major progressive organizations, are planning a massive rally May 17, 2007 on the Mall in Washington, DC. The theme for the Transportation Day of Action, “Enough is Enough,” expresses the frustration that workers aren’t a priority in our country today. “Transportation workers have been under assault for years by ineffective management and anti-worker laws,” says Cheryl Eastburn (IAM), CLUW corresponding secretary. More information is available at www.17May07.org.

Save the Date!
Transportation Day of Action - May 17, 2007

JOBS!
Worth Fighting

The Coalition of Labor Union Women invites you to join us at our
2007 Transportation Day of Action

What: Massive Demonstration in support of Transportation Workers’ Rights
When: Thursday, May 17, 2007
Where: On the Mall in Washington, D.C.
Theme: “Enough is Enough”
More Information: www.17may07.org

JOIN US!

**October get-togethers
Stir the Pot
to brew
election activism**



In what was the largest, single-day, all-women voter mobilization for any mid-term election, thousands of women in 260 cities across the country gathered on October 10 at small "Stirring the Pot" get-togethers to talk about the concerns of working families. An initiative of the AFL-CIO and Working America, Stirring the Pot events were designed to re-energize women and mobilize them to vote.

Below is a sample of how CLUW members "stirred the pot":

- ✓ The Northern Indiana Chapter of CLUW gathered at a member's home, where they discussed the issues and wrote messages on postcards mailed to women registered to vote who haven't done so in the last couple of elections. A few days later, members turned out to put fliers in doors asking people to vote for candidates who would protect the interests of working families, reported State VP Karen Treat (UAW).
- ✓ CLUW's California Capital Chapter held a "Stirring the Pot" discussion at its monthly meeting on September 27, focusing on the results of the AFL-CIO's "Ask a Working Woman" survey. Although chapter members agreed with the importance of the concerns expressed by the 26,000 women who responded to the survey, chapter Secretary Gail Ryall (AFT) reported they also emphasized the budgetary impact of the war in Iraq, advantages of a universal single payer health care system, and the importance of protecting employees' freedom to form unions.
- ✓ In the nation's capital, DC Metro CLUW and DC Pride at Work sponsored a Stirring the Pot gathering at AFT Headquarters. CLUW Chapter President Brenda Savoy (CWA) noted that a broadcast crew from the University of Maryland filmed the event as women discussed how to use the political arena to address issues affecting the quality of life of working families.
- ✓ At Metro Detroit CLUW's event, members watched the gubernatorial debate, UAW Political Action Assistant Director Catherine Martin spoke about the urgency of getting out the vote, and Gwendolyn Winston of One United Michigan addressed the affirmative action ballot initiative the chapter was working on at that time. "Despite our best efforts, the measure failed," reported a disappointed Millie Hall (OPEIU), chapter president.
- ✓ Philadelphia CLUW's October 10 event, led by Irasema Garza and Julia Buist of Working America, attracted about 40 activists, including students and women from the Latina community. According to chapter President Kathy Black (AFSCME), attendees "left the event energized to work on get-out-the-vote efforts."



CLUW NEB Delegate Tammie Botelho (USW) took to the streets in New London, CT to get the Labor 2006 message out to union brothers and sisters. She is pictured with Steelworker David Waseura at the Carpenters local union hall.

VOTER PROTECTION PROGRAM

As part of the AFL-CIO's Voter Protection Program, CLUW members volunteered in six key states to educate citizens about their voting rights. Unionists in 23 cities in Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington passed out fliers, made get-out-the-vote calls and monitored polling places on Election Day to help prevent the kinds of voting rights violations that marred the 2000 presidential election.

In addition, CLUW President Marsha Zakowski recorded a phone message that was automatically dialed to all CLUW members in the targeted states before and after they received a mailer explaining voters' rights, including the right to cast provisional ballots when not allowed to vote.

Among the CLUW members who held posts in the Voter Protection Program were Washington State Vice President Verlene Jones (OPEIU), who served as state coordinator; Metro-Detroit Chapter President Millie Hall (OPEIU), who served as a local coordinator in Detroit; and Pennsylvania Alternate State Vice President Janet Ryder (AFT), who served as local coordinator in Philadelphia.

At AFL-CIO headquarters, attorneys worked with volunteer lawyers on the ground to make sure every vote was counted.



LOCAL NEWS

Metro DC

Focusing on the importance of preventive measures to keep women healthy, the Metropolitan Washington, DC chapter of CLUW held its first Women's Health Fair on a Saturday, free and open to the public. Held at the AFL-CIO headquarters building on October 28, "the overall theme was to get women to take action on their own behalf by becoming informed about things they could do for preventive health maintenance," explained Brenda Savoy, president of Metro DC CLUW. "The fair was so well attended that plans are already being made to do this again next year," she added.

In addition to information booths, the fair featured special sessions on such topics as Women's Health Issues, Women's Sexual Health, and Nutrition, and classes for physical activities such as Yoga, Tai Chi, Aerobics, and African Drumming and Dancing.

Sponsors included National CLUW, IBEW, AFT, CWA, and the Washington Federal Telephone Credit Union

Metro DC is also participating in Project Harvest, a DC area food bank program that provides Thanksgiving baskets for needy families.



CLUW members join in African drumming workshop at Metro DC CLUW Health Fair in October.



President Zakowski addressed the Cleveland Chapter meeting on October 7. The chapter signed up several new CLUW members and planned activities and programs for 2007. Pictured from left: Shirley Pasholk, USW 979; Virginia Robinson, USW 1-622; Judy Drost, AFSCME 100; Carrie Collins, USW 14919; Shirley Ensley, USW 979; Sheila Ostrow, USW 979; Jean Tussey, CWA 4360; Harriet Conkle, USW 979; National President Marsha Zakowski; and Chapter President Lillian Morisky, IBT 407.

Baltimore

Vickie Cheek (IAM NEB member) once again this fall organized a health fair for ticket agents at the Northwest Airlines facility at Baltimore-Washington Airport. In addition to a CLUW table, featuring information on preventing cervical cancer and the Sister Study for breast cancer research, and a table from the Baltimore AFL-CIO, visitors were able to get free eye, hearing and blood pressure tests, as well as seated massages and important information from a variety of health organizations.



Union members in the Baltimore area are taking steps to organize a Baltimore CLUW Chapter. Maryland State VP Wanda Shelton-Martin (OPEIU, inset) coordinated the first organizing meeting—a tea featuring Donna Edwards, secretary-treasurer of the Maryland/DC AFL-CIO.

Western Virginia

Western Virginia CLUW presented its Woman of the Year Award to Deborah Ann Kessler (APWU) for her personal sacrifices to help fellow union members and leaders. Also honored at the chapter's annual Bread and Roses Labor Awards Dinner were Virginia State Senator R. Creigh Deeds, who received the Profiles in Courage Award, and Roy Rogers, retired president of IUE-CWA Local 82161, named Man of the Year. Chapter President Teressa Altic, SVP Margie Brotherton and others were

involved in the September presentations.

A Roanoke native, Debbie Kessler obtained her first union job at the Roanoke City Post Office in 1982 and serves as recording secretary and steward of APWU #482 as well as secretary-treasurer of Western Virginia CLUW.

Sign up to be a
CLUW e-Activist
at www.cluw.org



Indiana CLUW members converged on Indianapolis to support Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library workers in an informational picket outside the library board meeting on August 17. IMCPL employees joined AFSCME to gain the right to bargain collectively for wages, working conditions and benefits, but the library board was reluctant to recognize the union. CLUW Indiana State Vice President Karen Treat and Alternate Karen Sanders, both UAW members in Fort Wayne, addressed the board on their behalf. Pictured in the front row is Northern Indiana CLUW President Pam Ross (UAW, second from left), Karen Sanders and Karen Treat.

Pittsburgh

A dozen local elected officials and political candidates attended Pittsburgh CLUW's fundraising reception October 2 at the LeMont Restaurant atop Mt. Washington. With the lights of the city as a backdrop, they mingled with 90 CLUW members and guests who enjoyed hors d'oeuvres as they networked and shared ideas for the future of the labor movement and discussed the elections.

National CLUW Pres. Marsha Zakowski (USW) gave an update on CLUW's activities at the national level, and PA State VP Barbara Barnes (UA) explained her participation in The Sister Study (see page 9). Special guest speaker Rosemary Trump (SEIU), president of the Pennsylvania Labor History Society, gave a rousing lesson about women's role in labor history.



Birch Burgeon

At least 13 unions and four central labor councils were represented at this event, moderated by Pittsburgh Chapter President Becky Ussack (IBT), reports Joanne Kreider (AFSCME).

Pictured at the Pittsburgh reception (back row from left): Kim Miller (USW), Barbara Barnes (UA Local 542), Janet Hill (USW Local 3657), Pres. Marsha Zakowski, Bill Eakin (USW), Becky Ussack (IBT 249); (front row) Diane Vulakovich (IBT 249), Rosemary Trump (SEIU) and Ally Caldwell Nassan (UNITE HERE 57).



Ms. Suharyati of Indonesia at a Michigan rally.

Metro-Detroit

An Indonesian unionist got a first-hand look at the American labor movement, thanks to hosting by Millie Hall, president, and the Metro-Detroit Chapter. Ms. Suharyati, an Indonesian Metalworkers official and deputy secretary of SPMI Automotive, was brought to the U.S. in September by the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program, in cooperation with the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center.

During Suharyati's stay she took part in a number of activities in which Metro-Detroit CLUW participated, including the Michigan Women's Summit and an affirmative action rally in Lansing (pictured above). She met with Gov. Jennifer Granholm, UAW VP General Holiefield and Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Bunn, CLUW VP Gloria Brimm (UAW), LCLAA VP and CLUW member Debra Styers, and Detroit Ombudsman Durene Brown, a member of Metro-Detroit CLUW.

■ Metro-Detroit members remembered those with HIV/AIDS at their annual candlelight ceremony on December 1, World AIDS Day. "It's our way to remember those who have died from and those who are living with this horrific disease," said Chapter President Millie Hall. The chapter also showed its continued commitment to ending the spread of HIV/AIDS by participating in the annual AIDS Walk Michigan on Sept. 30. Dozens of members took to the streets to emphasize the importance of testing, awareness and education to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

■ Metro-Detroit CLUW member Sandra Williams (AFSCME) is the newly elected president of Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO. Sister Williams is the first woman to hold this position.

California Capital

Sacramento CLUW members proudly carried the Capital Chapter banner in the Women's Equality Day march in California's capital city on August 26 and staffed a table at the rally that followed. There they distributed information about UNITE HERE's Hotel Workers Rising campaign and the Sacramento Central Labor Council's Labor Day Picnic (where CLUW was in

charge of some children's activities).

Then on August 29, CLUW members staffed the CLC booth at Cal Expo, the California State Fair, handing out items and information from many unions, including a poster from the Women's Caucus of SEIU Local 1000, the state workers union.

On October 7 the California Capital Chapter participated in the 27th Annual Sacramento Women Take Back the Night Rally and March, affirming Northern California's commitment to ending the violence that restricts women's personal freedom and safety. Held outside the State Capitol, the event this year focused on "Women, Immigration and Violence."

CLUW members also collected signatures on an initiative petition to lower community college student fees.



Darryl McGrath/United University Professions

New York: At the 2006 Fall Delegate Assembly of United University Professions in Rochester, NY in late September, CLUW members (from left) NEB delegate Lorna Arrington, Lydia Johnson and Tina Manning (all AFT) encouraged employees of the 32 State University of New York campuses to join CLUW with information and a raffle. Every member of UUP received one raffle ticket, but those who joined CLUW got five. The winner received a wine and cheese basket made by Manning, who reports that efforts are underway to organize a Stonybrook CLUW chapter.

BEWARE OF **FAKE HEALTH CLINICS** WHEN SEEKING PREGNANCY TEST

Someone who believes she is unintentionally pregnant may want a free test to determine pregnancy and some good advice. If she is considering abortion, she may be looking for a clinic that provides them. Women who are unaware of fake clinics are at risk of ending up at one. They outnumber health clinics that provide professional women's health services almost 2 to 1, according to Planned Parenthood.

Fake health clinics usually have neutral sounding names like "women's aid place" and attract women by deception. They advertise free pregnancy tests, counseling for problem pregnancies for women in crisis, ultrasound, information on birth control and abortion, and confidential services. Their goal is to find women who might be seeking an abortion or birth control and to change their minds.

A gruesome and misleading film of a frightened woman having an abortion is often shown to women as they wait for pregnancy test results. They give women ultrasound pictures of a fetus and attempt to induce guilt if a woman is considering an abortion. Confidentiality may not be provided. These centers often have no medically trained or supervised staff.

Medically inaccurate information may be given. Information on birth control is usually limited to failure rates of various types and exaggerations of the medical risks of using birth control. Fake health clinics do not provide contraceptives or abortions. The staff may make promises of financial assistance, prenatal care, and childcare arrangements they cannot keep. They often give the woman baby booties or other baby clothes.

To help determine whether a facility is a fake health clinic, ask the following: What options are available if my pregnancy test is positive? Do you pro-

vide abortions or abortion referral? What type of contraceptives do you provide or recommend? Do you have medical staff on site?

Many of these fake health clinics are funded with tax dollars. They have the right to exist but not to deceive. Planned Parenthood and other women's groups want the deception stopped. They urge support for Rep. Carolyn Maloney's (D-NY) bill, Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services (H.R. 5052). Visit www.ppaction.org/campaign/fake to urge your congressional representative to back the bill.

—Helen Ramirez-Odell RN



REACHING OUT TO UNION WOMEN

At the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' Women's Conference, held in Phoenix in September, CLUW's table attracted CLUW IBT members, including (from left) IBT delegate to CLUW's NEB Sarah A. Puente; Ferline Bouie; Joan Somer; Becky Ussack, president of the CLUW Pittsburgh Chapter; and Diane Vulakovich.

'If your local pharmacy does not carry OTC emergency contraception, demand that it do so.'

GOOD NEWS ON THE CONTRACEPTION FRONT

In August significant progress was made regarding contraception: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that women may buy the morning-after pill, called Plan B, without a prescription, although girls 17 and younger still will need a doctor's note. The compromise decision is considered a partial victory for women's advocacy and medical groups that pushed for eliminating sales restrictions, predicting that it could cut in half the nation's 3 million annual unplanned pregnancies. The announcement ends a contentious three-year effort to ease access to the emergency contraceptive.

Plan B became available over-the-counter on November 15.

"If your local pharmacies don't carry emergency contraception over the counter,

demand that they do," says Carolyn J. Jacobson, director of CLUW's Contraceptive Equity Project.

Also in August, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission extended contraceptive equity to small workplaces. Employers with more than 15 employees were already required to include prescription contraceptives in employee benefit plans that cover other prescription drugs and devices, under Title VII. The recent ruling extends the same principle to employers with 15 or fewer employees.

CLUW urges its members in Michigan to check contraceptive coverage in their respective plans. Where it does not exist and should, we urge you to bring the lack of coverage and this ruling to the attention of your union.

THE SISTER STUDY



CLUW's Barbara Barnes (r.) with younger sister Susan.

THROUGH THE SISTER STUDY, CLUW SISTER HELPS RESEARCHERS TRACK BREAST CANCER RISK

NORMALLY HOSTING A TEA PARTY for your family doesn't merit press coverage, but the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* ran an article October 15 when CLUW Pennsylvania State Vice Pres. Barbara Barnes, a member of the plumbers and sprinkler fitters' union, served tea and an important message to her five sisters. The party was in honor of their sister Susan Barnes Guinto, who died at age 39 from breast cancer, and its purpose was to recruit her siblings into the Sister Study, the nation's largest research effort to find the causes of breast cancer.

CLUW has teamed up with the Sister Study, sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health, to help recruit

women who have never been diagnosed with breast cancer but have a sister (living or deceased) who has had the disease. Barnes learned of the study while attending the 2005 CLUW Convention in Detroit, where Sister Study volunteers staffed a booth, and joined immediately. The Pittsburgh CLUW member now serves on its Advisory Board for Recruitment and Retention.

On September 14 she staffed a booth at the Pennsylvania Governor's Conference for Women in Pittsburgh, explaining how the Sister Study will help determine the role of genetic makeup and environmental factors in influencing breast cancer risk. Those who enroll begin by answering questions about diet, jobs, hobbies, and things they've been exposed to throughout their lives. Later, a female health technician collects small samples of blood, urine, toenail clippings and house dust to provide researchers with a better picture of the woman's environment and genes. (Participants are not asked to take any medicine or visit a medical facility.)

"With all the myths and misperceptions circulating about women's health, CLUW is pleased to lend our organizational clout to provide accurate information and recruit participants," says CLUW Pres. Marsha Zakowski.

To join the study or to help spread the word, call 1-877-474-7837 toll free or go to www.sisterstudy.org online. The deaf or hard of hearing may call 1-866-889-4747.

THE WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS



In early July, **Renee Barnes McSwain** took a new position in the education department of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. It was a big jump for Renee and a big jolt for CLUW.

For almost 10 years, Renee helped keep CLUW operating. She started as an office assistant and moved up to membership coordinator. And who can forget Renee's glorious singing voice? It was always a joy to attend a CLUW event at which Renee sang. Her dramatic soprano voice seems to have no upper limit.

The late Barbara Van Blake (AFT) introduced Renee to CLUW. Renee interned with the AFT's Human Rights and Community Relations Department as she completed her degree at Bethune-Cookman College. Van Blake, a Bethune-Cookman alumna, was director of the department and a CLUW vice president. She became Renee's mentor.

One day, Barbara brought news that the Coalition of Labor Union Women was hiring an office assistant. Renee applied and was hired despite stiff competition.

Over the years, Renee worked with Chrystl Bridgeforth, Heather Hauck, Yvonne Cohen, and Carol Rosenblatt. "Travel and getting ready for conventions—I'll always remember that," she says. "We got along so well together, that we made our own fun."

"I'll never forget at the end of the National Executive Board meetings we always sing Solidarity Forever. It shows we're together. That means something.

"I will take with me all the love and support I have encountered while I've worked for CLUW—the experiences and opportunities I have been afforded here. I'll hold CLUW dear to my heart."

And we'll hold Renee dear to our hearts as she carries the spirit of CLUW into her future endeavors.

—Susan Holleran

THANK YOU!

CLUW wishes to thank the following Lifetime (\$1,000), Sustaining (\$150), Supporting (\$100) and Contributing (\$75) members. To become a special member of CLUW, make your check payable to CLUW and mail to Treasurer Judy Beard at the National CLUW office. Your contribution will help empower women through the labor movement.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Lorene M. Chlopecki	IBEW
Dee Gorczyca	IFPTE
Cheryl L. Johnson	IBT
Cori Lupton	IBEW
Marie Robbin	APWU

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Steven R. Graham	IAM
Jill S. Levy	AFSA
Donna McDaniel	LIUNA
Robert Martinez Jr.	IAM

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Elizabeth Bunn	UAW
Charlotte Koskoff	SEIU
Sylvia C. Wilson	AFT

CLUW is committed to raising awareness about cervical cancer and its prevention

CLUW again is joining the National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign in promoting January as Cervical Cancer Screening Month as a way to call attention to the fact that cervical cancer is the only cancer for which we know the cause.

Virtually all cervical cancers (99%) are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), which can be detected through regular screenings **BEFORE IT BECOMES CANCER!**

There is no reason that any union woman should get cervical cancer:

- More than 86% of union members have health insurance;
- Most health plans today cover the Pap test for all women and the HPV test along with the Pap for women 30 and over [recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Cancer Society (ACS)];
- Unions have the ability to communicate with their members.

It's up to each of us to make certain that union women know how to prevent cervical cancer. The most impor-

*SPREAD THE WORD:
THE #1 RISK FACTOR
FOR CERVICAL CANCER
IS FAILURE TO BE
SCREENED REGULARLY*

tant risk factor for cervical cancer is the failure to be screened regularly.

Additionally, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) earlier this year approved Gardasil, the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions and genital warts due to human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16 and 18. Types 6 and 11 are responsible for 90% of genital warts, while types 16 and 18 are responsible for 70% of cervical cancers. The vaccine is approved for use in girls and women 9-26 years of age. Each day insurance companies are adding coverage and doctors are providing the shots. It's best to check to see if your plan covers the vaccine and if your doctor has the vaccine.

While the vaccine offers great potential in preventing cervical cancer, screening with the Pap and/or HPV tests is essential to reach our ultimate goal of eliminating cervical cancer.

What you can do:

- Copy and post the Cervical Cancer Prevention Works (CLUW's cervical cancer awareness program) Quick Facts Cervical Cancer Screening Month mini poster (8.5x11) on your union bulletin boards. Download poster in English or Spanish from CLUW's website at www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html.
- You can also order them in quantity (in English and Spanish) from CLUW

by downloading and printing the order form (see link on that page).

- Ask your union to put the mini poster on its webpage and/or in its January publication.
- Ask your union to run an article in the union publication and/or website on what two creative union women—both cervical cancer survivors—are doing to raise awareness of this deadly, but preventable disease. It is ready to run in pdf format in 4-color or grayscale. Or, if the union prefers to run its own version, it is also available as text and high-res photos: www.cluw.org/cervcancer-article.html.
- Cervical Cancer Screening Month is a good time to schedule an appointment with your health professional—and remind your women friends, family members and co-workers to do the same.
- Have someone speak on this issue at your January union meeting or central labor council meeting. For ideas for speakers or assistance on planning activities, contact Carolyn Jacobson, Director, Cervical Cancer Prevention Works, 202-508-6901.

CALIFORNIA ENACTS LAWS TO BENEFIT WOMEN'S HEALTH

A number of bills focusing on the health of California women were signed into law this fall. CLUW and organized labor in the state were instrumental in the passage of SB 1245, The Health Care Coverage: Cervical Cancer Screening Test Act, introduced by Senator Liz Figueroa (D). It clarifies existing law by expressly requiring health plan coverage to include the HPV test, which detects cervical cancer, upon referral by the patient's health care provider, when used in combination with the Pap test for women 30 and over.



While in Nashville for the September NEB meeting, CLUW members (from left) Sandy Dearborn, Carol Censki (AFSCME NEB delegate) and Metro DC President Brenda Savoy (CWA) enjoyed a night at the Grand Ole Opry.

FINDING NEW WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Karen Wing is vice president of the large and lively San Francisco local of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU). An APWU delegate to CLUW's National Executive Board (NEB) and a member of the San Francisco Chapter, she is very enthusiastic about CLUW's Cervical Cancer Prevention Works (CCPW) project.

"Cervical cancer has provided a focus," she says. "I think this is something we can take on in our chapter. We have a challenge attracting young people into our union and CLUW."

That's the main reason she and San Francisco Chapter Pres. Rosa Marshall (APWU) attended the CCPW train-the-trainer program preceding CLUW's September NEB. The full-day session was intensive, and the participants committed themselves to a plan of action back home.

Karen joined the APWU shortly after she began working for the U.S. Postal Service because someone asked her to. "A steward talked to me about the union," she recalls. "It sounded like a good thing." That step led to 30 years of labor and women's rights

activism—and years of organizing.

The USPS had just hired a number of young people, and Karen found it lively both on the job and in her union.

"There was a bunch of us who — when we were upset with something — would go to the union and tell them to change things. There was a lot of social justice activity."

APWU women were organizing POWER (Post Office Women for Equal Rights), and CLUW was coming into its own. Karen went to a CLUW conference in Seattle where she met Dorothy Campbell, a deeply committed APWU delegate to the NEB. "She encouraged me to get active," says Karen.

Early this year, Karen learned that California might mandate health insurance coverage for the HPV test (along with the Pap) for women 30 and over (see box, page 10). She joined the CLUW members and union lobbyists recruited by Carolyn Jacobson in a successful campaign that led from letter writing and other personal contacts with lawmakers to legislative hearings in Sacramento. Karen revved her San Francisco CLUW sisters into action and attended the hearing with them.

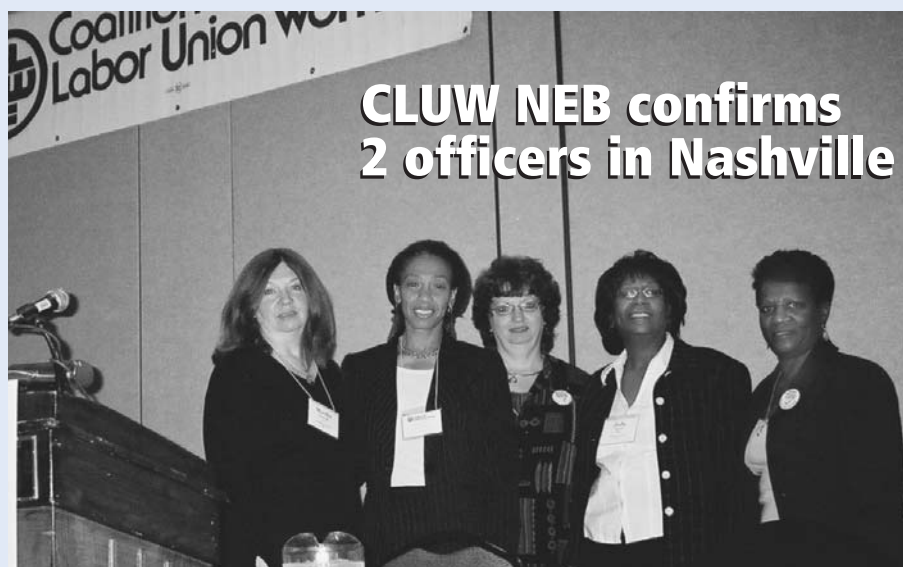


Karen Wing (right) and San Francisco Chapter Pres. Rosa Marshall confer at the day-long Cervical Cancer Prevention Works train-the-trainer program preceding September's NEB meeting. Like all the other participants, they developed a six-month action plan to spread the word about HPV and cervical cancer. Wing and Marshall are both APWU members.

Over the next few months, whenever progress slowed, she took action. Now thousands of California women will be able to be diagnosed and treated for HPV before it develops into cervical cancer.

Karen's next steps include programs to educate her fellow postal workers and chapter members. She's planning a January health fair that will raise CLUW's visibility in the Bay Area while encouraging women to take charge of their lives and health.

—Susan Holleran



The CLUW NEB endorsed Dolores (Dee) Gorczyca (IFPTE) as CLUW's new Recording Secretary. Dee fills the seat vacated by Royetta Sanford who retired in June. Dee has been a National Vice President of CLUW for a number of years. She is currently an International Representative of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers. At the same meeting Carolyn J. Williams (IBEW) was seated on the National Officers Council as a National Vice President. She is currently the new director of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Human Services Department. Congratulations to both sisters.

Pictured from left at September's NEB meeting in Nashville: National President Marsha Zakowski (USW), National Vice President Carolyn J. Williams (IBEW), National Recording Secretary Dee Gorczyca (IFPTE), National Treasurer Judy Beard (APWU), and National Executive Vice President Jean Hervey (UNITE HERE).



EMPOWERING WOMEN AROUND THE GLOBE

CLUW President Marsha Zakowski (top row, left) represented the AFL-CIO at a meeting of COMUT, the Women's Committee of ORIT, an international organization of trade unions in the Americas, held in September in Guatemala. Other participants represented trade union organizations from Canada, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

One of the issues discussed was the composition and operation of the new Women's Committee to be established by the unification of the International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the World Confederation of Labor (WCL) and several independent national labor centers.

"The new unification can do much to empower women around the globe," Pres. Zakowski said. "The women from the various countries of the Americas were very interested in hearing about the programs and work of CLUW and the AFL-CIO."

"The future Women's Committee will continue to fight for greater representation of women at all levels of trade union structure, not only in this hemisphere, but around the globe. We plan to continue to develop a hemispheric strategy and share information."

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