

CLUW NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COALITION
OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

Summer 2006

BUILDING WOMEN'S STRENGTH AT WORK AND AT THE POLLS

Women are an increasing percentage of the union movement, making up 43 percent of all union members in 2005. But their voices are not being heard in the leadership of many unions or on the nation's political landscape, President Marsha Zakowski said at CLUW's June National Executive Board conference.

Before women can change the political landscape and build their presence in unions, they must find new and innovative ways to recruit more women, especially young workers, into the struggles for workplace issues and political mobilization, Zakowski said.

The "Gotta CLUW" conference, in Washington on June 16, included a morning of panelists from a number of organizations who discussed how they organize young women and ways their local chapters could work with CLUW's chapters on joint activities, especially in regard to the upcoming election. In the afternoon, conference participants attended workshops on time management, feminist activism and mentoring.

Key issues to attract more young women include respect on the job, job security and a sense of "being listened to," conference participants agreed, and suggested a good strategy for developing activism is "to ask



Participants at the June 16 conference, "Gotta CLUW: New Generation of Activists," included (from right) Mackenzie Baris, Lead Organizer, DC Chapter, Jobs with Justice; Rachna Choudhry, Program Director, Good Jobs Fund, Working America; Kim K. Miller, National Coordinator, USW Rapid Response Network; Allie Robbins, National Organizer, United Students Against Sweatshops; Gladys Cisneros, Development Coord., United Students Against Sweatshops; Carol Censki (AFSCME), Co-chair, CLUW Legislative and Political Action Committee; Toni McBroom (IAM), Co-chair, CLUW Young Women Workers/Recruitment Committee.

members to do something specific they can commit to."

The conference was part of CLUW's National Executive Board meeting, held three times a year. The June meeting featured a keynote address by U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), who outlined some of the major problems facing working women.

"From persistent obstacles to advancement at work to the fact that women are retiring later in life simply because of a benefits structure that penalizes women on their own," she said, "women still face unique and often overwhelming challenges to their participation in the workplace.

"These pressures are exacerbated by those that women experience at

home, which include the rising cost of sending their children to college and health care and energy costs—all of which have skyrocketed."

CLUW's next NEB meeting will take place September 21-23 in Nashville, TN. The meeting will include a daylong "Framing the Debate" conference, featuring the AFL-CIO's new presentation, "Winning Back the American Dream: The real issues and the real stakes of the 2006 Elections."

"Corporate America wants all the power," President Zakowski said. "We must fight to win back power for America's working families so we can have good jobs and a fair economy. And this fight relies on getting members active and involved in their union."

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (center) with (from left) Nancy Lee Waters (IAM), President Marsha Zakowski and (in rear) Carol Censki (AFSCME), co-chair of CLUW's Legislative and Political Action Committee.



www.cluw.org



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CLUW e-Activist

CLUW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Sept. 21-23, Sheraton Music City Hotel
777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214
All CLUW members and friends are welcome to
attend the "Framing the Debate" Conference
Friday, Sept. 22, 10-5 at the hotel (\$20 registration fee)

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Get out the vote for candidates who support working families



Marsha Zakowski, CLUW National President

On Labor Day the AFL-CIO issued a summary report of its "Ask a Working Woman" Survey. Some 26,000 women—including CLUW members from all over the country—responded, expressing concern about basic economic issues of health care, retirement and pension security, and wages and salaries not keeping up with the cost of living (see story, page 3).

Between now and November 7, we must look to the polls and know where our congressional, state and local candidates stand on these important issues that affect the lives of women workers and their families. There are critical elections in several battleground states. Working women know we cannot stay the course of stagnation that we have been on. We must change America's course and make sure that our votes go to the candidates who support working families.

Once again we will be "taking to the streets" to inform households how the candidates stand on working family issues. Volunteers can make a difference. We need every CLUW activist to participate in GOTV activities in their chapters and international and local unions, with the state federations and central labor councils, and in your own neighborhoods. Volunteer to help with leaflet distribution, phone banks, neighborhood walks—whatever you can do to mobilize, support and elect the candidates who share our best interest.

We are not in a presidential election year, so voter turnout is the key to victory. National CLUW will keep chapter presidents and state vice presidents and coordinators informed on GOTV activities in their areas. We ask that every member participate wherever and in whatever way possible from now until November 7 to help change the course of America toward freedom to form unions, a minimum wage increase, a peaceful end to the war in Iraq, quality and affordable health care and a secure retirement life for every citizen.

Even a few hours can make a difference. You can make that difference toward victory this November—and in elections to come.



Calling CLUW "a partner in the fight for civil rights," five unionists staffed a booth at this summer's NAACP convention in Washington, DC, handing out literature and discussing labor issues with many of the 5,000 NAACP members in attendance. Pictured seated is CLUW member Ed Bartee (USW LU 9477, Dist. 8) and CLUW National Treasurer Judy Beard (APWU); standing (from left) are Cervical Cancer Prevention Works Director Carolyn Jacobson and CLUW members Gail Fleming (USW LU 9477) and Mary Moore (USW). Members of the Metro DC CLUW chapter also took turns at the booth.



RECORDING SECRETARY ROYETTA SANFORD RETIRES

Royetta Sanford (IBEW), who stepped down from her position as CLUW Recording Secretary, received CLUW's Mary McLeod Bethune award at June's NEB meeting for her contributions to civil rights. Sister Sanford recently retired from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, where she was director of the Human Services Department, responsible for the development and implementation of diversity and Hispanic Outreach Programs for the membership. Pictured (from left) are Treasurer Judy Beard (APWU), Executive VP Jean Hervey (UNITE HERE), Sanford and President Marsha Zakowski, who on behalf of CLUW thanked Sister Sanford for her years of contributions and commitment and wished her well in retirement.

The end of an era: Yvonne Cohen retires as CLUW office manager



Yvonne Cohen was joined by son Brian McFall during the NEB Reception when she was recognized for her contribution to CLUW.

MASSIVE AFL-CIO SURVEY REVEALS WORKING WOMEN'S TOP CONCERNS

As the results of the AFL-CIO's "Ask a Working Woman" Survey reveal, women are carrying full loads at work, putting in long days—sometimes at irregular hours—and sacrificing time with their families, just to make ends meet.

The survey began on June 7 and was run through the AFL-CIO website. CLUW participated in the outreach for the "Ask a Working Woman" survey—the AFL-CIO's fifth since 1997—and more than 700 CLUW members submitted responses.

A huge majority of the 26,000 women who answered the survey said they are worried about basic economic issues like paying for health care, not having retirement security and pay not keeping up with the cost of living. Health costs topped the concerns—97 percent of women across age and race lines say they are worried about the rising costs of quality healthcare, and 65 percent rank health care as their top legislative concern.

Women are shouldering the burden of financial family care, with 38 percent saying they make all or almost all of their family income and three-fourths making half or more. Women say they continue to feel like second-class citizens who are not treated fairly or equally. They describe feeling that they're viewed with less value and paid differently than their male counterparts. Additionally, they believe they do not receive the same recognition for their work as men.

Linda Chavez-Thompson, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, described the outcry seen in the survey: "The message is clear about what working women want and need: Affordable health care. A paycheck that keeps up with the cost of living. A secure retirement. Quality child care. And they want CEOs held accountable when workers' jobs are on the line."

CLUW will post a complete report on www.cluw.org once all responses are tallied and the final report is issued.

After almost 26 years on the CLUW staff, Yvonne Truesdale Cohen retired from her position as CLUW's office manager. During her tenure, Yvonne worked with four CLUW presidents, three treasurers, and five executive directors. She was involved in six office moves, including the 1994 move that brought her to Washington, DC.

Back in 1980, when Yvonne's grant-funded job with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union ended, she learned of two job openings: one with the union, the other with CLUW. Although the other job paid more, she chose CLUW. "I felt strongly about CLUW and what they were trying to do," she said.

Yvonne had held a number of low-wage, low-respect jobs. "We got paid less money. We were taken advantage of. We got fired if we stayed home with a sick child. We had to deal with sexual harassment. I wanted to be able to help other women stop this. CLUW was a godsend. There was somebody who was going to stand up for women."

Her new job – and the additional responsibilities she assumed over the years – changed Yvonne's life. "I was very shy and insecure. Being in CLUW has empowered me. I can make a statement, and it means something," she said. "I really feel fulfilled in my life. I owe that all to CLUW."

And we owe Yvonne our thanks for all her years of making CLUW run.



The November elections are rapidly approaching. CLUW urges members to contact your local chapters to participate in **Get Out The Vote** efforts and to connect with other constituency groups in your area, including the AFL-CIO's Central Labor Councils, State Federations and unions. Be sure to check www.cluw.org for the latest news, and if you haven't already, **sign up to be an e-Activist** (see bottom of homepage) to receive email alerts from CLUW.



Chicago, Illinois

CLUW member Tamera Gailinger (UBC) makes her views known in favor of “big box” retailers such as Wal-Mart paying a living wage. She and other CLUW members participating in the Midwest Summer School for Union Women joined Jobs with Justice in a rally outside Chicago City Hall in support of an ordinance requiring mega-retailers to pay wages of at least \$10 an hour plus \$3 in fringe benefits by mid-2010. The measure passed 35-14. Inset: Addressing the rally is Chicago CLUW President Katie Jordan (UNITE HERE), who recently received the Women of Excellence Black Pearl Award from Connexions Enterprises, an agency that serves homeless mentally ill/substance abuse clients.



Greater Georgia CLUW's Nancy Wood (in cap), chair of TWU Local 510's Women's Committee, attended the TWU Air Transport Division Working Women's Committee meeting in St. Mary's, GA in April. The photo was shot on the deck of a submarine.

Baltimore, MD

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



Sacramento, California ▲

Six CLUW members participated in the Women in Government briefing on cervical cancer prevention in Sacramento on April 18. The first hearing on a bill (SB 1245) putting insurance coverage of HPV testing on the same footing as the Pap test took place the next day.

Pictured above at the briefing (from left) are CLUW San Francisco Chapter President Rosa Faye Marshall-Thomas (APWU), VP Maryann Medina (APWU), cervical cancer survivor and CLUW member Christine Baze, CLUW Cervical Cancer Prevention Works Director Carolyn Jacobson, SF Chapter VP and CLUW NEB Delegate Karen Wing

(APWU), and Vernell Hawkins (APWU). SB 1245 and cervical cancer prevention were also the focus of the April 20 San Francisco CLUW Chapter meeting.

CLUW is leading the effort in support of SB 1245 (proposed by Sen. Liz Figueroa) that would expand cervical screening insurance coverage to include screening for HPV (human-papillomavirus)—the cause of cervical cancer—in accordance with leading medical guidelines. The state already requires coverage of the Pap test when a doctor performs it. Both the state assembly and senate passed legislation for insurance to cover HPV testing and, as we go to press, it is awaiting the governor's signature.

Pennsylvania: CLUW SVP Barbara Barnes (UA) and other CLUW members worked with the Raise the Minimum Wage Coalition to win a \$7.15 minimum wage in Pennsylvania after a protracted battle. “Our lobbying and rotunda-packing rallies in Harrisburg kept the pressure on,” said Kathy Black (AFSCME), president of Philadelphia CLUW.



Washington State

Washington State VP Verlene Jones (OPEIU) received the “Gentle Warrior” award from the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum for her 30 years of activism and commitment to improving the lives of women workers and workers of color. Jones, who started her career as a health care worker (SEIU), is now Union Cities Organizer for the King County (WA) Labor Council and president of OPEIU Local 8.

President Marsha Zakowski presents CLUW's newest chapter charter to Indiana State Vice President Karen Treat (UAW) on behalf of Northern Indiana CLUW. ▼



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.

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Former CLUW State VP **Veronica Turner** (SEIU 1199) is running for re-election to represent District 26 in the Maryland State General Assembly. She was first elected four years ago when the Metro Washington Council, AFL-CIO led a door-to-door effort among Prince George's County union members urging them to put a union activist in the state house.

LOCAL NEWS continues on page 8

Metro Detroit

■ In recognition of "Working Women's Awareness Week," CLUW's Metro Detroit Chapter hosted its Olga M. Madar Awards Banquet on May 7. CLUW members honored included: The Honorable Maryann Mahaffey, President Emerita, Detroit City Council (who passed away in July—see page 6); the Honorable Martha G. Scott, Michigan Senator; Carrie Bradford (SEIU); Annie Butler (UAW); Andrea Davis (APWU); Tanya Fitzpatrick (UAW); Alice "Pat" Garrett (UAW); Margaret Hall (OPEIU); Dorothy "Dot" Heide (UAW); Catherine Martin (UAW); Brenda Standerfer-Jones (APWU); and Brother Craig Nothnagel (UAW).

■ CLUW members know the importance of political involvement, and a number of Metro-Detroit CLUW members are taking this commitment further by running for public office. Sharon King (CWA), Barbara Long (UAW) and Diane McMillan (AFT) are running for seats in the Michigan House of Representatives; Derrick Hall, a former State Representative and son of Chapter President Millie Hall, is on the ballot for the Michigan Senate; Associate Member Lori Waddles is aiming to be 36th District Court Judge; and Michigan State Senators Martha G. Scott and Hansen Clarke are running for re-election.

■ Metro-Detroit CLUW Chapter President Millie Hall has been appointed to serve on the Business Responds to AIDS/Labor Responds to AIDS Partners Board. Sister Hall also serves on the AIDS Partnership Michigan Executive Board.

Rallying behind the theme "We're Taking Back Ohio," CLUW members gathered in Cincinnati on July 17 for the Ohio convention, which was opened by State VP JoAnn Johntony (AFSCME, third from right). National CLUW President Marsha Zakowski (second from right) told the convention, "Our goal is to empower women to be the leaders they should be." Also pictured (from left): Jennifer Brunner, candidate for Ohio Secretary of State; Frances Strickland, wife of Ohio gubernatorial candidate Congressman Ted Strickland; Central Ohio (Columbus) Chapter President Betty Simmons-Talley (OAPSE/AFSCME); Greater Miami Valley (Dayton) Chapter President Leslie Smith (UFCW); and Greater Miami Valley Vice President Diane Walsh (USW), far right.



Warren, Michigan

"Sisters of Strength," UAW Region 1 Women's Council, met on March 1 to talk about various issues of concern to union women. High on the list was pay equity, which CLUW NEB Alternate UAW Delegate Theresa Bullock of the UAW Women's Department discussed. In support of her presentation, all 80 participants wore red to underscore the message that women continue to be in the red due to pay inequity.



Rallying in 21 cities during the AFL-CIO's July 10 week of action, unionists demanded that Bush's National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) do its job and protect workers' rights. CLUW Treasurer Judy Beard (APWU) is pictured at left with CLUW supporters from the Bricklayers Union, who were among the 1,500 workers in Washington, DC on July 13 protesting at the NLRB's door. The week of action focused on a series of cases now before the NLRB known as "Kentucky River," in which the NLRB soon will decide whether many nurses, building and construction trades workers, journalists and others should be classified as "supervisors." If the NLRB expands the definition of supervisor to include such employees, an estimated 8 million workers no longer will have the federally protected right to form a union.



Weight control, regular activity help control arthritis

The last CLUW convention attracted a large number of participants to the workshop on arthritis. The presenter was Barbara Spreitzer-Berent from the Michigan chapter of the Arthritis Foundation (contact her at bbarent@arthritis.org).

Arthritis is the nation's leading cause of disability and a major cause of absenteeism at work. Arthritis comes in more than 100 different forms and women are more likely than men to have it. Since one in four adults are at risk of arthritis, the emphasis is on helping people take control of their condition. Early diagnosis and treatment can slow the progress of the disease, and a good management plan can allow affected persons to work and to enjoy their favorite activities.

Exercise is an essential part of any arthritis plan. Regular, moderate, physical activity reduces pain and stiffness, builds strong muscles around the joints, and increases flexibility and endurance. It is important to maintain a healthy weight to reduce strain on the joints.

Heat and cold packs help in different ways. Heat relaxes the muscles and stimulates blood circulation in the affected area. Cold numbs the painful area and reduces inflammation and swelling. Many medications are used to treat arthritis and the type depends on the type of arthritis one has. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen are most common. Surgery

such as hip and knee replacements can be considered when other treatments don't help.

The Arthritis Foundation offers warm water exercises in their aquatic program. They also provide low-impact exercise classes, and a self-help program to give people with arthritis the knowledge and skills to work with their doctors and to

help themselves.

Government funding for policy changes to improve the lives of arthritis sufferers is important. To become an arthritis advocate, see www.arthritis.org/advocacy. For more information on arthritis visit www.arthritis.org or call 800-568-4045.

—Helen Ramirez-Odell RN

IN MEMORIAM

CLUW deeply mourns the passing of three founding members who devoted their lives to the well-being of working families: Evelyn Dubrow, a CLUW National Vice President from 1982 to 1997 and legendary advocate for labor on Capitol Hill; and two Metro-Detroit founding members, CLUW Michigan State Vice President Annie Graham and Detroit City Council President Maryann Mahaffey.

Evy Dubrow, who died in Washington, DC on June 20 at age 95, was for 41 years a highly respected lobbyist for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and its successor UNITE, and an indefatigable advocate for workers' and women's rights. Her throaty voice, 4'11 frame and unstoppable energy made Evy an instantly recognizable fixture in the halls of Congress over the course of nine presidential administrations. In 1999, President Clinton awarded Evy the Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian honor—for her role in winning social justice for all Americans.

"Evy was a mentor to many sisters in CLUW, including myself," said CLUW President Marsha Zakowski. "I am honored to have known and worked with her. The memory of her energy and commitment will continue to inspire us as we work for women's rights, safe workplaces and living wages."



Annie Graham (UAW), who died on July 7, was a founding member of CLUW and served as Michigan State Vice President for many years. For her tireless efforts on behalf of the rights of women and minorities at the General Motors Cadillac Car Division, where she worked from 1968 until her retirement, and throughout the labor movement, Annie received the Metro-Detroit CLUW Olga M. Madar Award in 1998 and was the recipient of the Clara Day Award at CLUW's 2005 convention. The Metro-Detroit Chapter passed a memorial resolution in her honor stating its commitment to "carry on the work of Sister Annie Graham...."

Maryann Mahaffey (AFT), a founding member of CLUW and member of the Detroit City Council since 1973, died on July 27 at the age of 81. For 31 years, until illness forced her retirement from office last December, Sister Mahaffey was a selfless fighter for labor's rights, peace, equality and social justice. A great friend of organized labor, she spoke at CLUW's 2005 Convention in Detroit, urging delegates to continue their commitment to America's working families and helping those who need help the most.



CONTRACEPTIVE EQUITY

A new law will drastically improve access to contraceptives for thousands of New Jersey women by requiring employers, including the state government, to cover FDA-approved contraceptives. CLUW urges NJ unions to make certain that insurance plans cover contraception when any plan offered members includes other preventive prescriptions. See www.cluw.org/contraceptive.html or contact Carolyn Jacobson, Contraceptive Equity project director, at 202-508-6901.

SISTER STUDY FOR BREAST CANCER

In an effort to find the causes of breast cancer, the Sister Study has asked the Coalition of Labor Union Women to help locate women whose sisters have had breast cancer. The Sister Study, conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, one of the National Institutes of Health, is a nationwide effort to learn how our environment and genes may affect the chances of getting breast cancer.

The study needs 50,000 women whose sister had breast cancer to help find the causes of the disease. Women between ages 35 and 74 are eligible if their sister had breast cancer, but they have never had breast cancer themselves.

Sisters share early experiences, environment and genes; and sisters of women with breast cancer have about twice the risk of developing breast cancer themselves. Studying these sisters is a great way for the Sister Study research team to learn why some women get breast cancer while others don't.

Study volunteers are asked to respond to over-the-phone and written surveys and provide blood, urine, household dust and toenail samples. "After that we'll touch base once a year to learn about changes to their address, health or environment," said Dr. Dale Sandler, principal investigator of the Sister Study, adding, "Participants are not asked to take any medicine, undergo any medical treatments, or make any changes to their habits, diet or daily life."

You can obtain more information at www.sisterstudy.org or call the hotline toll-free at 877-4-SISTER (9-9 ET).

As reported in the Spring CLUW NEWS, Pennsylvania State VP Barbara Barnes learned about the Sister Study at CLUW's 2005 convention and joined it to honor her sister Susan, who succumbed to breast cancer in 1994. Barnes recently was appointed to the Sister Study's Recruitment and Retention Advisory Board and will participate in the Pennsylvania Governor's Conference for Women on September 14 in Pittsburgh.

As America's only national organization for union women, CLUW helps working women become leaders, make a difference on the job and, most importantly, in their own lives. To that end CLUW has partnered with several health organizations to educate women about cervical cancer, breast cancer and osteoporosis. "With all of the myths and misperceptions circulating about women's health, CLUW is pleased to lend our organizational clout to provide accurate information to help women make the right decisions for themselves and their families," said CLUW President Marsha Zakowski.

**TAKE
CHARGE
OF
YOUR
HEALTH**

CLUW calls accurate information a priority for union women

OSTEOPOROSIS EDUCATION

Osteoporosis is a serious disease that causes bones to become thin, weak, and much more likely to fracture or break. It is called a "silent" disease because typically there are no symptoms. Women, especially postmenopausal women, are four times more likely than men to develop the disease.

Fortunately, osteoporosis can be prevented and treated using a combination of diet, exercise and, when appropriate, prescription drugs. In addition to weight-bearing exercise, make sure to get enough calcium and vitamin D. Take steps to reduce the risk of falls.

CLUW urges women to ask their doctors about bone mineral density (BMD) testing. If you have osteoporosis or low bone mass, there are several drug treatment options, including bisphosphonates, the class of drugs most commonly used in the treatment of osteoporosis.

For information, contact the National Osteoporosis Foundation (202-223-2226, www.nof.org) or the Alliance for Aging Research (800-639-2421, www.agingresearch.org).

CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION WORKS

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on June 8 its expedited approval for the first vaccine against human papillomavirus—HPV—the viruses that cause cervical cancer and genital warts. The vaccine, named Gardasil, prevents infection with HPV types 6 and 11, which cause about 90 percent of genital warts, and HPV types 16 and 18, which cause about 70 percent of cervical cancers.

CLUW, through its program Cervical Cancer Prevention Works (CCPW), testified in support of approval for the vaccine at the FDA hearing in Gaithersburg, MD in May. More information about the vaccine is on the CLUW website at www.cluw.org/cervcancer5.html.

CLUW is continuing to stress the importance of regular screening as women's first and primary weapon against cervical cancer. Screening for cervical cancer can be done by just a Pap test in women younger than 30 or a Pap and HPV test for those 30 or older. For more about the HPV test, see www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html or contact CLUW's CCPW Director, Carolyn Jacobson, at 202-508-6901.



LOCAL NEWS (continued from page 5)

The DC Metro Chapter of CLUW held its annual Gloria Johnson Awards Luncheon May 7 at AFL-CIO Headquarters. This year's awardees were Leslie Jackson of CWA's Office of Civil Rights and Fair Practices and Donna Edwards, secretary-treasurer of the Maryland/DC AFL-CIO. At left, Metro DC President Brenda Savoy (CWA), second from right, is surrounded by members of the chapter's executive board.

TAKING A STAND FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

For many years CLUW chapters in California have been working to secure reproductive rights, even though the California Labor Federation and the national AFL-CIO have remained neutral on abortion. But this year, tipped by the increasing number of women active in the labor movement, the state fed voted to take a strong stand in favor of abortion rights—and CLUW was instrumental in prompting the turnaround.

CLUW chapters across the state helped mobilize opposition to Proposition 85, a November ballot initiative that would require doctors to notify parents before performing abortions on minors. CLUW's East

Bay Chapter hired a consultant to help organize the effort and CLUW members worked behind the scenes to gather the support needed to override the state federation executive council's original decision to remain neutral on Prop 85.

"I'm so proud of our East Bay CLUW chapter which led the effort," said Chapter Pres. Gretchen Mackler-Lipow. "With some old-fashioned organizing—started by just a handful of women—the convention overturned the recommendation of the executive council and voted to oppose the proposition—a first for a state fed.

"Now we're working to defeat Prop 85 statewide in November."

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