



CLUW NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
COALITION OF LABOR
UNION WOMEN

2010 The year in Review - Some ups, some downs and some real progress.

President See Reports

As 2011 begins, I have been looking back at what we accomplished last year.

We brought back our newsletter, a vital link to our membership. We've been able to highlight the great work many of our chapters are doing; you will see more of that in this issue. All of the chapters have been encouraged to send items for inclusion in the *CLUW News*.

Our website is updated very often, with important information vital to the progress of our country.

E-Activists have been very busy taking action on many issues.

Our Cervical Cancer Prevention Works project educated thousands about the importance of HPV screening and vaccination.

We completed three installments of our Leadership Academy. NEB Members and other CLUW sisters and brothers took advantage of the outstanding speakers and workshops to help them become better leaders in the labor movement.

We held our first Working Women's Award Celebration where we honored some of the working women who have made a difference through their service to working families. This will be a biennial tradition.

We held a lobby day in conjunction with our March NEB meeting in Washington, DC. And CLUW members shared information with their respective legislators that are important to working women.

Our committees have been working on specific goals that each committee will carry out over the next two years. We are including more members in the committee work and continuing the work between meetings.

The Committee on the Future of CLUW will be presenting their recommendations at our Feb. Meeting.

We added 5 new chapters this year. The Northern VA Chapter, Milehigh Chapter in Denver CO, Northwest OH Chapter, Central CA Chapter and the Kate Mullany Chapter in Albany NY. All of them are excited and getting to work helping in many ways. Our chapters are our strength. We will continue to do what we can to support their efforts.

In the political arena we had some disappointments as labor friendly candidates lost their elections. However, there were some victories. Eleven members of our Detroit chapter ran for election and many of them won. In California the names of over 1000 women were submitted to Governor Brown for appointments in his administration.

Many of those names were of CLUW members. We will continue our work with the Women's Campaign Forum to encourage more women to run for office and to seek political appointments.

We saw movement on some of our legislative issues. They weren't all successful, but we moved things that we haven't been able to move at all in the past. Our legislative highlights are covered elsewhere in this issue.

Now we are looking forward to 2011. Work has already begun on our 16th Biennial Convention. Our fourth installment of the Leadership Academy is in the works. Our legislative efforts continue and we are putting together our program for the 2012 Elections.

We will continue to assist our unions to make sure the truth is told. We are going to be facing many challenges in our own communities as a reenergized movement tries to eliminate our right to organize and have a say in our workplaces. This may well be one of the toughest 2 years in recent labor history. But we are up to the challenge.

We will continue to educate our sisters and brothers who are in the labor movement and others who are not. We will spread the word about why unions are so important for women. We will continue our struggle for the rights of working women and their families.



Speaker Nancy Pelosi and
President Karen See (June 2010)

SAVE THE DATE

**2011 CLUW
NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEPT 7-10
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON
TO WWW.CLUW.ORG**

CLUW NEWS

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815 16TH ST NW 2ND FL S
WASHINGTON DC 20006
Phone: 202-508-6969
Fax: 202-508-6968
getinfo@cluw.org
www.cluw.org

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Please send all CLUW News
submissions to the national office.



A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE NATIONAL CLUW OFFICE

Due to the upcoming convention and our limited staff we are asking you to **renew your CLUW membership today**. You may not be aware that the majority of our CLUW memberships expire during the months of May, June and July. We anticipate that during that time we will be extremely busy processing your convention registrations and credentials. We also want to ensure that everyone meets the convention deadline requirements for membership.

If you renew your membership today your membership will be extended to one year from your current renewal date. For instance if your membership expires in June 2011, it will be extended until June 2012 even if you renew it in Jan. 2011.

We will be sending out individual requests for early payment. You can save us some money if you act today so we don't have to send you another request. An envelope is included with this newsletter to make it easy for you. Or you can renew online at www.cluw.org.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



ONE NATION RALLY

Many CLUW members and their families joined in the One Nation Rally in Washington DC on Oct. 2. These are just a few.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE "Triangle Fire"

Premieres

Monday, February 28, 2011

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. ET on PBS

The Broadcast Marks the
100th Anniversary of the Tragic
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory
Fire, New York's Worst
Workplace Disaster
until 9/11.

The
small town
of Ottawa, IL is
trying to raise
\$40,000 to complete
a statue to the "radium girls,"
the young women who worked
in the watch & clock factories there,
painting luminous radium paint on clock
dials so they would glow in the dark. Sadly,
many of them died of radioactive poisoning and
cancer as a result. Donations can be sent to: The
Radium Girls Memorial, c/o Laborer's Local Union 393,
142 Lincoln Street, Marseilles IL 61341



Now Accepting Applications for 2011: National Young Women's Political Leadership Program in Washington, DC

Running Start's nationally renowned, highly competitive *Young Women's Political Leadership Program* introduces high school young women to the importance of women in political leadership. The program will be held in Washington, DC July 18-23, 2011. It is free to participants, and travel scholarships to Washington are available for those in need.

Apply today to jump start your path to political leadership!

Interested in running for office? Introducing "Race to the Capitol!"

Two Running Start Alumni have created *Race to the Capitol*, which is hosting a contest from January 1-March 15, 2011. This contest is for high school girls interested in leadership and politics. You may enter by submitting an application and thirty second video explaining why you want to be President of the United States.

For more information about the *Young Women's Political Leadership Program* or the *Race to the Capitol* Contest, go to www.racetothecapitol.com.

stop violence against women. ensure educational opportunities. increase political participation.
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CEDAW
Because women's rights are human rights
www.ratifycedaw.org

Dear U.S. Senate Leaders,

CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. As a practical blueprint for countries to achieve progress for women and girls, CEDAW has been used in other countries to reduce violence against women, ensure educational opportunities, and increase political participation.

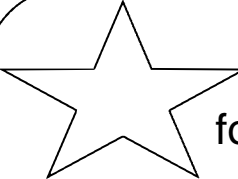
The United States is one of only seven countries that haven't ratified CEDAW. Ratifying CEDAW will strengthen the United States as a global leader in standing up for women and girls. The U.S. Senate leadership should continue America's proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights by making CEDAW a priority and ratifying CEDAW now.

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Email:



CEDAW (The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) – we are part of the CEDAW Task Force urging Senate ratification of this international agreement that addresses the human rights and equality of women worldwide. We are partnering with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on a postcard campaign to have folks sign their names, add a message and have the postcards sent to their senators during the first quarter of 2011. The US is one of 7 countries that has not ratified the agreement. For more information or to request postcards contact the National CLUW office.

Congratulations to
Sister Bennie Bridges (AFGE)
on her appointment as CLUW's
National Corresponding Secretary.
Welcome to our newest
National Vice Presidents,
Sister Georgi-Ann Bargamian (UAW)
and Sister Shyla La'Sha (AFTRA).

 Best Wishes
for a long, happy
retirement to
Sister Gloria Brimm (UAW)
Thank you for your many years
of dedication to CLUW and the
Labor Movement.



Metro St. Louis Chapter of CLUW joined with the IAM Dist. 837 Women's Committee to host a Christmas party at Gateway 180, a homeless shelter in St. Louis. There were 64 children and they each got 2 presents, 2 cupcakes to ice and decorate and ice cream. Fun was had by all.



The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) **Derby City Chapter** hosted a Coffee, Desserts and Postcard Party encouraging women to vote on October 9th, 2010 at UAW Local 862 union hall. In attendance were members from USW/1693, AFSCME, NALC Branch 14, CWA retiree and UAW Local 862. The conversation was stimulating. As they completed the task of addressing the postcards they enjoyed the homemade desserts.

On August 26, 2010, members of **Derby City CLUW Chapter**, along with several hundred women crowded the Kentucky Capital rotunda with wonderful women, music, and speeches to celebrate 90 years of Voting Rights for Women. They were encouraged to wear white and hats in memory of our Suffragette Sisters. They were also given a commemorative purple sash to wear and banners to wave during the program.



CLUW members in attendance were: Vera Newton-Chapter President, Gail Helinger -Chapter Vice President, Edna Ford -member at large.

Event invited speakers included: KY-3rd District Congressman John Yarmuth, KY Governor Steven L. Beshear & KY 1st Lady Jane Beshear, KY Commission on Women Executive Director Eleanor Jordan, KY Senator Georgia Davis Powers (1967-1988), Governor Martha Layne Collins (1983-1987).

The **Metro-Detroit Chapter CLUW** participated in Senator Scott's annual Health Fair. There were 50 vendors, health screenings for diabetes and blood pressure, face painting for kids, identity theft information and numerous agencies including the Alzheimer's Association. At the CLUW table they had a free drawing for the cervical cancer pins (which went real well) and CLUW earrings (they were in demand). The Chapter donated 2 Metro-Detroit CLUW pink t-shirts (for breast cancer) for the raffle drawing.



Metro Detroit Chapter members participated in phone banking and other GOTV activities for the 2010 elections.

Today women make up half of the AIDS cases worldwide and 26% in the United States. This complex, horrific, global, sexually-transmitted disease is not a one-size fits all epidemic. It knows no age, gender, income or ethnic barriers. On Sept. 25, 2010 the **Metro-Detroit Chapter** walked for HIV/AIDS awareness, education and research to be part of the solution.

Ohio CLUW teamed up with other constituency groups for the Ohio Diversity Conference on Sept. 13, 2010 in Columbus. There were several interesting speakers. Two highlights of the conference were Ohio's First Lady Frances Strickland and Ohio State Senator Nina Turner. They really energized the group with their great stories and Mrs. Strickland even sang a song she wrote.

Florida CLUW held their state conference on Dec. 2, 2010. Those in attendance watched a film about Mother Jones. Presentations included Women in Politics and Domestic Abuse.



METRO-DETROIT CLUW PARTICIPATED IN "MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER" Oct. 9, 2010.



Sisters from **Greater Kansas City CLUW** participated in the Habitat for Humanity Women Build project on November 20, 2010. This is the 6th year for the Women Build project which promotes the involvement of women in the construction of Habitat houses.



Women Build projects provide low-income families with decent, affordable homes and an opportunity for women to learn construction in a supportive, encouraging and empowering environment. Working side by side with GKC CLUW sisters were Missouri Senator, Jolie Justus, Jackson County Legislators Theresa Garza Ruiz and Crystal Williams and City Councilwoman, Cindy Circo. Greater KC CLUW plans to participate in a 2nd Women Build project in the spring.



Chapter President Tina Campbell presents the 2010 Profile in Courage award to Virginia House of Delegates Democratic Leader Ward Armstrong during the 2010 **Western Virginia CLUW** Bread and Roses Dinner in Roanoke on Oct. 2.

The **Genesee County MI Chapter** has been really busy. They attended a 90th anniversary luncheon observance of the suffrage movement on Aug. 26, 2010. The theme was "Writing Women Back into History." They enjoyed hearing history from the speakers on how women got to where we are now and that we must continue the effort and educate young people to maintain these rights!



In September, members participated in the "Women writing Women" postcard campaign for GOTV.

Chapter members donated gently used clothing and personal needs to the "clothes closet" that give women and families donations to help them along. In November chapter members contacted Michigan senators to support future paycheck fairness act legislation.

They also donated to a community project called "old newsboys" who do gift boxes (\$20 donation each) for 4 age groups of children at Christmas time. The kit included a Christmas tree sheet, colored bulbs, and lapel button pins for 2010. They also gave individual donations and raised \$520 for the project.



On Aug. 26th, **Metro DC Chapter** members gathered at the White House "Light Up the Sky For Women's Equality" a rally and candlelight circle to honor the courage and contributions of our foremothers (and ourselves) on the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage.



More than 50 **Pennsylvania CLUW** members gathered in Harrisburg on Sept 11, 2010 for the CLUW State Conference. Presentations were made concerning the upcoming elections and the Pearl of Wisdom Campaign. Workshops included *Robert's Rules for Dummies*, *Women Can and Do Make a Difference*, the *Cost of War* and *I Am My Sister's Keeper*.

CLUW National Corresponding Secretary Bennie Bridges joined Cervical Cancer Prevention Works Dir. Carolyn Jacobson at the CA Cervical Cancer-Free Summit in Nov., in Sacramento. The Summit brought together physicians, patients, and community organizations to encourage women to take action to ensure that they never get this preventable form of cancer. The CA initiative, coordinated by the CA Medical Assoc. Foundation, is part of a nationwide *Cervical Cancer-Free* campaign.

A key focus of the initiative is on groups at highest risk. As Latinas are at the highest, the CMA Foundation joined with New America Media to co-host a stakeholder meeting in December 2010 in LA, which brought together ethnic media, ethnic physicians and key partners in Los Angeles to discuss and identify strategies to address cervical cancer disparities within the Latina community. A number of CLUW members participated.

CLUW's Cervical Cancer Prevention Works program will be coordinating the labor movement's efforts around the initiative. It will also be working on similar programs in other states, which include NC, KY and Alabama.



Dr. Marlene M. VonFriederichs-Fitzwater, PhD, MPH, UC Davis Cancer Center (left) and CLUW Vice Pres. Bennie Bridges at the CA Cervical Cancer-Free Summit.

CLUW Supports Labor Unions - CLUW supported IAM's efforts to organize airline employees at Northwest and Delta and AFGE's efforts to represent TSAs (Transportation Security Administration) employees. We supported an effort by an IBEW local to address the needs of retired workers whose healthcare premiums were in jeopardy during a contract dispute. We supported the AFT in their efforts to fight layoffs of teachers in Rhode Island and elsewhere. We are supporting the APWU in their struggles to protect the interests of postal workers against a Big Business agenda of dismantling the Postal Service. Working with our Labor Unions to support their struggles is a major priority for CLUW.



At our November NEB Meeting, in keeping with our commitment to being healthy, a few brave sisters went bowling. We didn't set any records, but we laughed a lot and enjoyed each others company. The movie "Iron Jawed Angels" was enjoyed by those less adventuresome sisters.



Women's Health & Wellness committee members led sisters in a walk around the hotel and in chair exercises. Committee Co-Chairs are Helen Ramirez-Odell (AFT) and Millie Hall (OPEIU). Officer liaison to the committee is Brenda Savoy (CWA). We plan to continue with these healthy options at future NEB Meetings.



Thinking outside the box, our **Mature Women Workers Committee** educated us about the need to protect Social Security with a skit. It was very educational and a lot of fun. Interim Committee Co-Chair is MaryAnn Medina (APWU). Officer Liaison is Judy Beard (APWU).

Social Security: the Coalition of Labor Union Women calls upon our elected officials to support the goals of the "Strengthen Social Security –Don't Cut It" coalition which states:

- Social Security belongs to the people who have worked hard all their lives and contributed to it. Social Security is a promise that must not be broken. If you pay in, then you earn the right to benefits for yourself, your spouse and your dependent children when you retire, experience a severe disability or die.
- We need to strengthen Social Security, not cut it.
- We need to oppose any cuts in benefits, including increasing the retirement age or privatizing Social Security in whole or in part.

Legislative Highlights 2010-2011

Health Reform - CLUW was very active in bridging the issues of the labor and the women's community in our education and lobbying efforts. We continue to educate our membership about the benefits of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and **will vigorously defend it from all efforts to dismantle it by the new Republican majority in the House..** We are involved in a coalition working on implementation of the Women's Healthcare Act to ensure that guidelines developed by the Department of Health and Human Services include all preventative care and do not put restrictions or burdens on women who are seeking family planning care and contraceptives.

Jobs and Unemployment - It has recently been reported that the unemployment rate among all women (8.4 percent) is at its highest rate since the recession began — *its highest rate in over 25 years.* This is a critical issue for CLUW

Social Security - See previous page.

Paycheck Fairness - On November 17th a minority of senators killed debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act by a 58-41 vote preventing discussion on the merits of the bill. Sixty votes were needed to defeat a Republican filibuster. The bill had been passed by the House of Representatives on Jan. 9, 2009 and had widespread support of the public, as shown in polling, and the White House. All Republicans voted against considering the bill. The Paycheck Fairness Act is a comprehensive bill that would create stronger incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, strengthen federal outreach, education and enforcement efforts, and strengthen penalties for equal pay violations. As part of the Paycheck Fairness Coalition we will continue to fight to close the gender gap and support future legislation. **The next Equal Pay Day is April 12, 2011. Check out www.cluw.org for information and activities.**

CEDAW - See page 3.

The Women and Workforce Non-Traditional Jobs Act - This will create a new federal grant program to help recruit, prepare, place and retain women in high demand, high- wage nontraditional jobs.

Healthy Families Act/Paid Leave- national legislation would guarantee workers seven paid sick days so that they can address the health needs of their families and themselves; various legislation is under consideration at state and local jurisdictions. **The Philadelphia CLUW Chapter exemplifies local activity in this area.** They participated in a lobby day which took place at the same time as a hearing on the subject in Harrisburg in August. The chapter has been involved in a lobby day at City Council; participated in a postcard and letter-writing activity to Council people, and expect to provide testimony and participants when a hearing is scheduled this spring. They also got the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO and PA AFL-CIO to sign on as coalition partners and endorse the legislation

Unemployment Insurance Modernizing Campaign: Unemployment insurance systems need to be updated for the 21st century to take women's work and life patterns into consideration. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides funding for states that adopt specific reforms to modernize their Unemployment Insurance systems and remove barriers to coverage for women and low-wage workers. CLUW has asked our chapters to get involved on the state level.



Welcome to our new chapters, the **Kate Mullany Chapter** (pictured left) and the **Central CA Chapter** (pictured below) Both chapters received their charters at the November National Executive Board Meeting.



NEXT CLUW NEB MEETING

**Feb 24-26
Atlanta GA**

**More information and registration
available at**

www.cluw.org

THANK YOU!

CLUW wishes to thank the following Sustaining (\$150), Supporting (\$100) and contributing (\$75) members July - Dec 31, 2010.

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Susan L. Collins SEIU
Heather Kelley IAM
Lawrence R. Cohen CWA
Joyce D. Miller WORKERS UNITED
Gloria Millsaps IAM
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Dee Gorczyca IFPTE
Bennie Bridges AFGE
LIFETIME Members
Julie Kushner UAW

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CLUW LIFETIME MEMBERS

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• CLUW wishes to thank our lifetime members for their commitment to improving the lives of working families. •

• **Dina Beaumont, CWA * William Burrus, APWU * Lettie Davenport, UAW** •

• **Diane M Hyde, UAW * Julie Kushner, UAW * Jerol D. Lackey, UAW * Toni K. McBroom, IAM** •

• **Sandra F. Shoultz, APWU * Jane Tackett, IAM * Dorene Tuggle, AFSCME** •

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