

# CLUW Convention News

*Brought to you by the Media-Communications Committee*

Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

October 6, 2001

## *CLUW. . . Designing Our Own Future*

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**



Delegates adopted the following amendments to CLUW=s national constitution:

**#1, 2, and 3** B extending terms of CLUW officers, state vice presidents, and union delegates/alternates to the National Executive Board from two to four years;

**#4** B permitting chapters to choose two- or four-year terms for their delegates/alternates to CLUW=s NEB;

**#5, 6, and 7** B establishing a system of accountability for CLUW state vice presidents.

### **McENTEE SALUTES NEW YORK=S EVERYDAY HEROES**

AEven though our country looks so different, our mission remains the same,@ AFSCME Pres. Gerald W. McEntee told the Convention. He said

AEAs we mourn, we must move forward.@ He described labor=s losses B 700-800 union members. He also praised labor=s heroes. AThe only people going up the stairs that day were trade unionists.@

McEntee outlined some important issues for America=s future: minimum wage increase, a living wage, prescription drug coverage, patients= bill of rights, pay equity, contraceptive equity, reproductive choice, and affirmative action.

At a time when so many organizations have cancelled meetings, he saluted CLUW for setting an example for American labor and the nation. AIt is time for union women to take their rightful and earned places in the American labor movement,@ he said.



### **ELECTIONS**

Five CLUW officers were elected without opposition. They are: Gloria T. Johnson (IUE/CWA), president; Marsha Zakowski (USWA), executive vice president; Susan Phillips (UFCW), treasurer; Jean Hervey (UNITE), recording secretary; Josephine LeBeau (AFSCME), corresponding secretary.

CLUW elected twelve vice presidents; Kathleen Kinnick (OPEIU), Lorraine Darrington (CWA), Barbara Van Blake (AFT), Elizabeth Bunn (UAW), Royetta Sanford (IBEW), Kerry Newkirk (SEIU), Bennie Bridges (AFGE), Cheryl Eastburn (IAMAW), Marti Rodriguez-Harris (UWUA), Mary Hills (IBT), Judy Beard (APWU), and Dee Gorczyca (IFPTE).

### **CLUW HONORS ITS OWN**

Friday evening=s reception provided President Johnson the opportunity to recognize CLUW former officers who were at this year=s convention. Gifts were presented to former CLUW President Joyce Miller and former Vice Presidents Pat

Scarcelli, UFCW; Carolyn Forrest, UAW; and Elinor Glyn, SEIU.

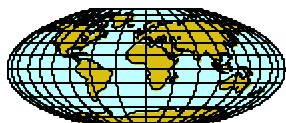
At Saturday=s opening session President Johnson presented the Joyce Miller Award to the Philadelphia CLUW Chapter for its growth over the past two years. Kathy Black, Chapter President accepted the award on behalf of her CLUW sisters.

Former Executive Vice President Clara Day (IBT) is the first recipient of CLUW=s new Mary Harris AMother@ Jones Award B recognizing labor activists who exemplify her heroic spirit. Katie Jordan of the Chicago Chapter accepted the award on Clara=s behalf.

### **International Guests**

CLUW welcomed its special international guests. Douglas Brooks of the Solidarity Center in Washington, D.C. introduced: Mummy Jafta, gender coordinator for the Congress of South African Trade Unions and a former teacher; and Alberta Laryea, head of Women=s Desk of Ghana Trade Union Congress which includes 17 affiliated unions.

From Montenegro, Lubica Nikolic, attorney, shop steward AD AMercur@ B Intours and part of Women Today; and Emina Huic, president of Trade Union of the Adriatic Shipyard Bijela, a member of the Board of Association of Working Women of



Montenegro, and also a member of Women Today. Darko Bosnjak, U.S. Department of State, attended as an interpreter for our Montenegro guests.

From the Philippines, Zenaida J. Gonzales, officer and member of the Board of Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization; Luthgarda Ferrer, executive vice president of Integrated Labor Organization and Philippines Transport and General Workers Organization; and Heidi Alipio, officer and board member

## **? LOOK FOR THE NEW YORK LABEL! ?**

UNITE Sec.-Treas. Edgar Romney brought a message of hope from New York City. He proposed a new union label, AMADE IN NEW YORK@ to help those who now face economic devastation. Many UNITE members are out of work and on extended layoffs. UNITE officials are cooperating with industry leaders to revitalize the garment industry. Clothes manufactured in the Big Apple will now have the special label and a pin to commemorate the victims and heroes of September 11.

of Philippines Transport and General Workers Organization.

The international guests said they were proud to participate in the CLUW Convention and were deeply moved by the opening ceremonies which paid tribute to those lost in September.

### **YOUNG WOMEN WORKERS HOST DAY-LONG CONFERENCE**

Young women workers from all over the country were introduced to the many opportunities issues and origins of women in the workplace. From a look at non-traditional jobs to examining issues such as child labor, sweatshops, and organizing young women, the CLUW Young Women Workers= Forum presented participants with information and insight to attract more women to CLUW and the Labor Movement.

Issue stations were used to give the young women a more focused look



at issues important to newer entrants to the workplace such as pay equity, career planning, and employee rights.

Special thanks to the participants and to the presenters which

AWe need to stand up and fight for our labor movement and the workers it represents,@ he said. He noted the fear that employers and the government will take advantage of the national tragedy to impose a guilt complex on American workers who may be forced to strike.

AWe must rededicate ourselves to the struggle that unites and sustains us. CLUW B and the spirit of CLUW B is needed now more than ever, @ he said.

included: Toni McBroom, IAMAW; Kerry Newkirk, SEIU; Mia Smith, AFL-CIO; Michelle Williams, UFCW; Jean Hervey, UNITE; Connie Cordovilla, AFT; Kelsa Smith, CWA; Audrey Terrell, UAW; Terri Friend, IAMAW; Mary Peterson, BCTGM; Mary Moore, USWA, Royetta Sanford, IBEW; Pat Thomas, SEIU; and Rhina Molina, UNITE.

### **WOMEN IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**

This workshop clarified the terms and issues of global trade. It helped women decipher acronyms such as the General Agreement for Tarriffs and Trade (GATT), Free Trade for the Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) and outlined important questions Union members must raise about trade policies.

Union members must ask; will human and labor rights be respected, will the environment be protected, and how will trade improve health care and education for workers in other countries?

The workshop urged CLUW members to get involved and stay informed about WTO negotiations to make sure trade improves the lives of those in the United States and abroad.

***Fight like hell for the living!***

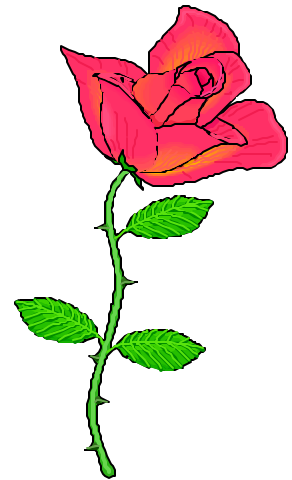
-- Mother Jones

## **IN MEMORIAM**

In a solemn ceremony Saturday evening, convention participants took time to share their personal experiences and thoughts on the tragic events of September. Sisters raised their voices in song with numbers including "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands", Decoration Day, My Living Shall Not be in Vain and a video of "Proud to Be An American".

The lights were dimmed and flashlights lit while the list was read to honor sisters and brothers who had passed. The mood, was somber, calling for understanding and cautioning against racial hatred.

A sister stood to proclaim that peace is more than an absence of war. If you want peace you have to work for justice.



***Pray for the dead...***