

DELEGATE'S CORNER
Midstate CLC Meetings:

The Third Tuesday of Every Month
Next: Tuesday, January 15th
BEGINNING AT 7PM.

This Month Only

Laborers LU 589

622 W. State St., Ithaca

Next to the Double Nickel Saloon

Special Thanks to Laborers LU 589 for
opening up their hall for our meeting this
month. Next month we will resume our
meetings at TC3 in Dryden, NY

Midstate CLC Meetings 2002

January 15th, 7pm

February 19th, 7pm

March 19th, 7pm

April 16th, 7pm

May 21st, 7pm

June 18th, 7pm

Street Heat

A monthly meeting of rank-and-file, rapid re-
sponse union activists.

Tompkins—2nd Thursday of Month

Plumbers 267 Hall, 701 W. State, Ithaca

Cortland—2nd Tuesday of Month

Workers Rights Board, 26 Court St., Cortland

"AFFILIATE SURVEY UPDATE

Please remember to complete your survey
and Delegate appointments for 2002. Be-
cause officer elections will be held at the
March meeting, all delegates must be certi-
fied to be eligible to vote. Only the first
page of the survey will be used for the Direc-
tory of Affiliated Unions, the rest will be
used to compile a report to assist with 2002
event and program planning. Please contact
Jen Bloom with questions or another copy of
survey (315) 952-4395/(607)277-7053/
jjs33@cornell.edu

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Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



Central New York Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO

Union City News
January
Midstate Central Labor
Council, AFL-CIO

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Happy New Year!

The Spirit of the Holidays

UAW 1326 at Pall Trinity is no stranger to giving back to the Cortland community. Every year they have a tradition of making a \$1,000 donation to a charitable social services agency; a substantial donation for a relatively small local union membership. This year UAW 1326 decided to something a little more ambitious than handing over their check to a worthwhile agency, but instead voted to shop for needy children that might not have had a Christmas gift otherwise. The union purchased the name-tags off an entire Christmas tree, which included the age, gender, and clothes sizes of sponsored children. During the hustle and bustle of the holidays few of us have time to get our own homes ready for family and friends, but imagine adding 63 more gifts your shopping list?

President Bob Lewis made clear that most of the credit for this years special project is owed to Chrissy Westendorf and her family who at the last minute took on the challenge of doing all of the shopping for UAW 1326's community gift. Sister Chrissy Westendorf enlisted her two daughters, Farrica and Casey, to help pick out gifts. In the end, the Westendorf family was able to provide all 63 children with a complete outfit and all of the toddlers also received a toy to unwrap on Christmas day. Wrapping paper, gift boxes, and tags were also included in the final donation. Sister Westendorf stated that, "We were a little stressed out by the time we got done, but it was such an incredible feeling to later organize the gifts and sort them by child. It felt so good to do something for the community." Having her teenage daughters help with the project was also a special feeling and a good lesson about the spirit of giving. Last year UAW 1326 donated nearly \$5,000 to World Trade Center disaster relief in NYC between shop floor donations and a direct contribution from the local's general fund, but the union believes it is equally as important to support Cortland families in their time of need. Many members also donate to the local United Way, which provides valuable services for hundreds of needy Cortland families.

The member unions of the Midstate Labor Council, like UAW 1326, do their part to build stronger communities. By setting the highest standard for wages

and decent working conditions for working families in our areas, while collectively giving back more than their fair share in donations and time to the communities in which they live, our union members show the value of unions to a fair and just society.

ELECTIONS

Nominations are now being sought for 2002 executive officers of the Midstate Central Labor Council. Current candidates include:

President- Linda Smith, UAW 2320

Vice Pres.- Kenneth Franklin, IAM 1607

Treasurer- Unfilled

Secretary- Mark Keith, UAW 802

3 At-Large Reps- Unfilled

Alternates- Unfilled

The Executive Board is the governing body of the Council between general meetings, and it is constitutionally expected to meet every two months. Often these meetings take place via e-mail and telephone conferencing. Obviously all E-Board members are expected to attend all monthly general meetings.

The Nominating Committee will announce their recommendations for office at the February general meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted then and voting will take place at the March meeting. If you want to be considered by the Nominating Committee please contact Mark Keith (758-9522 or stew802@aol.com) or the current Executive Board member of your choice.

Northwoods Nursing Home Update

On December 14 about 50 people came out for a rally at Northwoods Nursing Home in Cortland. We braved the cold, pouring down rain, singing Christmas carols with "union" lyrics and holding signs proclaiming solidarity with the workers inside. At least 12 different local unions from Midstate Central Labor Council, Greater Syracuse Central Labor Council, and Finger Lakes Central Labor Council were represented: UAW, CSEA, SEIU, UUP, Musicians, OPEIU, Carpenters, and Painters. The Tompkins Co. Living Wage Coalition, Cornell students from COLA, the Green Party, members of the religious community, and the CNY Area Labor Federation were also on board. A GREAT THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME OUT TO SAY IN ONE VOICE, "AN INJUSTICE FOR ONE IS AN

INJUSTICE FOR ALL". Following is a summary of where the struggle at Northwoods is today:

The intimidation, coercion, and threats by management began almost immediately after workers at Northwoods Nursing Home filed for union representation with CSEA. The intensity of management's tactics increased as the holiday season approached. Workers were told on a daily basis that supporting the union meant putting their jobs in jeopardy. For many, who live paycheck to paycheck, the pressure was unbearable. During a time that is usually marked by a spirit of peace, harmony, and good will, Northwoods management used their position of power to engage in psychological violence against its own workforce. Finally the decision was made to file formal charges against management. The workers' right to choose a union and go forward with the election scheduled for Dec. 28 could in no way be fair. The election had to be postponed.

*** Write a letter to the Cortland Standard in support of the workers at Northwoods, on why unions are good for working people and our communities, or an "educational piece" about the RIGHTS of workers to join and support a union of their choice...and how those rights are being violated by irresponsible employers...which no respectable community should stand for...**

*** Phone or write Northwoods, attention Karen Richardson. 753-9631...28 Kellogg Road, Cortland, NY 13045... TELL HER TO STOP THE ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR AND LET THE WORKERS MAKE THE CHOICE FOR UNION REPRESENTATION IN A NEUTRAL, NON THREATENING ENVIRONMENT. It is their choice, not hers...**

*** Petitions from the community are still being accepted. Contact Mandy Ellis at mandyelliss00@hotmail.com or 1-800-559-7975 for a blank copy to circulate at your workplace.**

Labor Quote of the Month:

If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, want crops without plowing the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without demand. It never did and it never will.

— Frederick Douglas