

Midstate Central Labor Council Meets the 3RD TUESDAY of every month. The next meeting will take place SEPTEMBER 17TH AT 7PM AT TC3 IN DRYDEN.

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September 2: Labor Day Picnic—19th Annual Labor Day Picnic in Stewart Park from 11am–3pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy free burgers, hot dogs and soda. *All are welcome!*

September 2-7: Union Label Week
For more information and to find out what can be done to raise awareness about union-made products go to www.unionlabel.org

September 28: Area Wide Labor Federation Meeting. The meeting will be open to ALL delegates of the Syracuse, Auburn, Oswego, Midstate, Broome-Tioga and Tri-County Labor Councils. The meeting will be held from 10am-3pm at the Holiday Inn, in Cortland, NY. The agenda will follow but save the date and time.

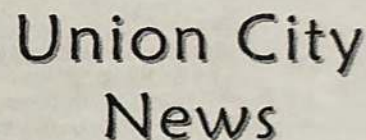
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404 Oak Street
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(315) 422-3363
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[Http://www.cnylabor.org](http://www.cnylabor.org)

Address redacted



Central New York Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO



Midstate Central Labor
Council, AFL-CIO
CLC President: Linda Smith
607 849-3420



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19TH ANNUAL LABOR DAY PICNIC

*"Labor and the Community Working
Together for a Living Wage"*

*Join us at the Main Pavilion in Stewart Park. Bring
a dish to pass and enjoy free burgers, hot dogs
and soda.*

*The Labor Coalition and Midstate Labor Council are
proud to share sponsorship and organization of this
year's Labor Day picnic.*

Labor Day 2002- Labor and the Community Working Together for a Living Wage

Each year Midstate Central Labor Council, representing some forty unions and over 8,000 working men and women in Tompkins and Cortland counties, holds a free Labor Day Picnic. This event attracts hundreds of workers and their families for a day of fun and celebration in recognition of the sacrifices and contributions working people make to our communities every day. The picnic is open to the public and admission is a dish to pass. The festivities will take place at Ithaca's Stewart Park from 11am-3pm.

Along with the annual awards of "Goat" and "Friend" of Labor, we have some special awards and surprises for this year's program. Tom Seiling and Colleen Kattau will provide music and activities for children are planned. There will be raffle drawings with prizes including union memorabilia from our affiliates, gift certificates from local businesses, and cash prizes. Donations are still being accepted for these prizes and raffle tickets are already on sale!

Tables will be available for unions who wish to display information about their locals, educational material or other information on worker issues. For more information contact the Labor Federation at 315 422-3363 or the Labor Coalition at 607 277-5670.

Ithaca Paraprofessionals Fight for a Living Wage— and Win!!

By Debbie Minnick, Ithaca Paraprofessionals Association

In the Fall of 2000, I had a conversation with Carl Feuer, Health and Safety Trainer with the Labor Coalition about the possibility of a living wage for the members of our local— Ithaca Paraprofessionals, as we started negotiating in January 2001. Little did I know that it would turn into a full blown living wage campaign and continue on until the end of June 2002!

It was probably one of the most difficult tasks I have ever taken on but the strength, growth and knowledge that I gained were immeasurable. We finally settled on a 50% raise in starting salaries by the end of the contract along with substantial raises for everyone else.

To me this was about social issues, women's issues and worker's rights. The negotiating team fought hard and hung in there on behalf of 220 severely underpaid paraprofessionals because we believed in the importance of what they did and what they deserved.

Of course, this would not have happened without the support that we received from the Living Wage Coalition, NEA/NY, Midstate Central Labor Council, many local union members, the Labor Religious Task Force, Alternatives Credit Union, Cornell student groups, parents groups, ICSD students and so many concerned citizens in the Ithaca community. The outpouring of support was amazing! My heartfelt thanks also goes out to all of the paraprofessionals that hung in there through this long, difficult process. They are true education professionals and I will forever be honored in representing them.

The key to all of this has been community connections and support. It has been good to go into the summer with the contract settled. I have enjoyed my summer and feel relaxed and renewed, but rest assured, if there is a group, a local union or labor brother or sister that needs help, I will be there for them. Just call on me!

AFL-CIO Provides Resources for Workers Victimized by Corrupt Corporate Practices

Corporate greed has left thousands of

workers across the country without jobs, retirement security and health care. While corporate executives cook books and receive obscene salaries and perks, workers are getting pink slips and losing health insurance and retirement savings.

To help meet the needs of laid-off workers, the AFL-CIO has launched www.laidoffworkers.org – a new website that provides resources for surviving unemployment, meeting working family challenges, learning what went wrong and protecting retirement security.

"Workers should not have to suffer because of unchecked greed in corporate America," said John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO. "This new website will give workers the information they need to survive sudden layoffs in this emerging cycle of corporate mismanagement."

The website, www.laidoffworkers.org, provides workers with the tools they will need to get active in the push to demand corporate accountability. The website includes a link to a 10-step plan from the AFL-CIO for employers facing structural change as they initiate mass layoffs. The guidelines are intended to help laid-off workers gain fair treatment, severance payments and basic rights.

The AFL-CIO, which represents 13 million working men and women in the United States, successfully spearheaded a campaign in the federal bankruptcy court that resulted in additional severance payments of more than \$30 million to former Enron workers.

*****ACTION ALERT*****

CSEA members of the Cortland County Sheriff's Department are significantly underpaid and have been working without a contract since December 31, 2001. Cortland County has become the training ground for these employees until they move on to other surrounding agencies for much higher salaries. CSEA members have asked County Legislators to come back to the table with enough money to negotiate a fair contract that will recruit and retain a quality workforce. CSEA is now asking residents of Cortland County to contact their legislators and ask them to support a salary increase for these workers. For more information please contact CSEA or the Labor Federation.



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Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

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Linda Smith
265 Merrill Creek Rd
Marathon NY 13803



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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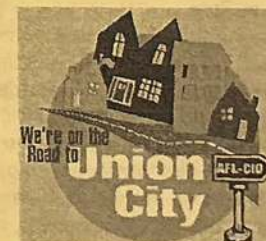
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**Union City
News**
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Midstate Central Labor Council
General Meeting
2003

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