



DELEGATE'S CORNER Midstate CLC Meetings:

The Third Tuesday of Every Month
Next: Tuesday, February 19th
BEGINNING AT 7PM.

***Please Note Our TC3 Return
The Board Room, 2nd Floor
Tompkins/Cortland Community College
Dryden, NY, Just off Route 13

*Special Thanks to Laborers LU 589 for
hosting our meeting last month.*

Midstate CLC Meetings 2002

February 19th, 7pm
March 19th, 7pm
April 16th, 7pm
May 21st, 7pm
June 18th, 7pm

Ⓢ Street Heat Cancelled Ⓢ

While our database of union activists continues to grow, the meetings have not been well attended to date. We will resume Street Heat Meetings in an as-needed basis or when new interest develops ⓈⓈⓈ

Executive Board Nominations Accepted This Month!!!

Open offices are still available:

Pres. Linda Smith, UAW 2320

Vice Pres. Kenny Franklin, IAM 1607

Treasurer, unfilled

Secretary, unfilled

Representatives At-Large, Brian Goodell, UAW 2300; David Marsh, LIUNA 589; Eddy Mallon, IUPAT DC#4

Alternates (2), unfilled

Open nominations for any seat will be accepted from the floor at the February 19th meeting. All seats will be voted on at the March Central Labor Council meeting.

Your Mother wants YOU to Rebuild the Labor Movement! Get Involved...

Southern Counties Field Office
123 S. Cayuga Street, Suite 204
Ithaca, NY 14850
(315)952-4395/ (607)277-7053
Fax: (607)277-7053
Email: jjs33@cornell.edu

Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



Central New York Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO



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

Linda Smith, CLC President
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Address redacted

Investing in Our Future

As a result of federal and state legislation, Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) were formed throughout NYS about a year ago. As issued by the State WIB in Albany, the mission of these boards is "to promote economic development through understanding the importance of and advocating for the development and creation of a highly skilled workforce. Two labor representatives, chosen by the area CLCs, serve on the local WIBs. Fifty-one percent of the members sitting on each WIB represent the business community.

Participation and involvement on these Boards presents labor with opportunities but also challenges. In order to become full and productive partners in this system, we need to understand the inner workings of the system. It will be necessary to monitor funding and help develop programs to provide the training and education workers need to succeed and advance in their current jobs. We must insure that the services and training made available to displaced workers is adequate in preparing them for living wage and high skill /high wage jobs. Placing these workers in quick, dead end jobs must be discouraged by labor. Our agenda should be focused on promoting a prosperous economy through the retention and creation of jobs that provide security for families.

Establishing effective communication between our unions and the WIB labor representatives will be a critical component to our ultimate success. Monthly Labor Council meetings will serve as a forum for delegates to report on training needs of its members and for the WIB labor representatives to report on the plans and programs of the local Board. We will share information and discuss ways for labor's perspective to be included in shaping priorities, choosing training providers, and directing funds under the WIB system.

We have tentatively arranged for Doug Stock, Regional Coordinator of the NYS AFL-CIO Workforce Development Department to attend the next Labor Council meeting on February 19 at TC3. He will provide information about the

WIB system and answer questions. Doug is also helping us coordinate a WIB workshop. It will provide an opportunity for all the CLCs in the CNY Area Labor Federation to take a more in-depth look at the WIB system and to share experiences and ideas. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for April 10 at SUNY Cortland. Details will be included in upcoming newsletters.

The Fighting Machinists!

FOCUS ON IAM

The Machinists Union, District Council 58 is one of the largest and most powerful manufacturing and service industry unions in our Central New York region, representing the employees at Emerson, Axiom, Reconstruction Home, Elmer's Glue, Amphenol, and Borg Warner in more than five local lodges.

IAM News and Updates:

* In Montour Falls, Shepard Niles (IAM 1774) has filed for Chapter 11 protection from bankruptcy. Our hearts go out to the 118 union brothers and sisters who may soon be out of a job. State and local representatives of the AFL-CIO, IAM International, District 58 and local lodges are working every conceivable angle to try to keep the plant operational; but soon more than just your sympathies may be needed to support our friends in Cayuga County. Recently, the company violated the seniority provisions of the contract and laid off approximately 20 members, including the local's president (sound familiar?). IAM has filed ULP charges and bent over backwards to keep the tone positive and cooperative, but new decisions are being made every day that may not bode well for the membership. Be on alert and ready to take to the streets; If the company is unwilling (but not unable) to negotiate a fair deal with the union, we will join our IAM brothers and sisters in solidarity.

* A Benefit Fundraiser is being planned for Sarah Mushatt Carthon in collaboration with the Machinists Local Lodge 1607 and Midstate CLC. Carthon, a 20+ year member of the IAM, is also raising five of her grandchildren and needs our

help. Carthon's grandson Quandale suffers from multiple disabilities; he's a quadriplegic and has cerebral palsy, asthma and a seizure disorder. Quandale cannot walk, talk or see, and is fed and breathes through tubes. This benefit will raise funds to assist Carthon in providing handicapped accessible housing and transportation for her grandson. Raffle and Benefit Tickets will be circulating soon—Save the Date! Wednesday, May 1st, 7:00-9:30 (Ithaca, NY) Contact Beth Eaton (533-7809/ bethmeaton@aol.com) or Jen Bloom (277-7053/jjs33@cornell.edu)

* A key issue for IAM with United Airlines could set the precedent for greater government interference in the process of collective bargaining. Visit the IAM website at <http://www.goiam.org> to learn more.

Tax season is upon us... An estimated \$800 million dollars every year is siphoned off the tax refunds of mostly working poor Americans who apply for "Quick Refunds" through commercial tax preparation services. Of the 11 million customers who pay the \$30-\$90 Quick Refund Loan fee, 40 percent are recipients of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a program to subsidize the wages of the working poor. An on-the-spot refund check can seem like a great deal, but new advances in electronic filing allow you to receive your check in as little as ten days—without paying someone else a penny. *Several services offer free electronic filing for those with incomes below \$25,000.* The best part is that the computer programs automatically guide you through every potential tax credit you may be eligible for, ensuring that valuable tax incentives like the EITC are better utilized. Moreover, the accuracy of returns are improved reducing your chance of an encounter with the IRS. A computer, internet access, and an hour or so of your time is all you need; most public libraries have computer terminals available to the public. These days, if you are technologically able to make coffee you shouldn't have trouble navigating through these easy to use computer programs—

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of wages sucks the economic vitality from communities where workers live and work.
The Wal-Mart Difference
largest U.S. retailer, 3,300 stores; \$218 billion in

Justice at Wal-Mart
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