

UPCOMING EVENTS

Midstate Central Labor Council Meets the 3RD TUESDAY of every month. The next meeting will take place APRIL 15TH AT 7PM AT TC3.

Street Heat: Building a stronger labor movement requires change and a renewed commitment to organizing and political action. But it also means backing up our organizing and political activities with the capacity to mobilize union members and the community. And that's what "Street Heat" is all about.

Cortland Street Heat Committee meeting May 13th at Workers Rights Board.

To get involved in Street Heat activities please contact the Labor Federation at 315 422-3363

Ithaca Peace Summit— April 26th 12-5 pm at Ithaca High School

Ithaca Sharks and Coalition for Global Justice are "bringing together activists and organizations working for peace." For more information contact Eileen at maeileen@hotmail.com

Occupational Health and Safety Course offered in Ithaca

Workplace health and safety will be the focus of a series of free programs for Ithaca and Binghamton workers and employers. The course will run for seven consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning May 7 and running through June 18. All meetings will be held 6:30- 8:30 pm at the TCAT Conference Room, 737 Willow Ave. in Ithaca.

If you have an event you would like listed here please contact the Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO at 315 422-3363.

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Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

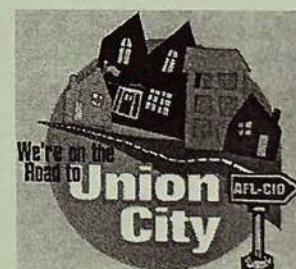
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Central New York Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO

Union City News

Midstate Central Labor
Council, AFL-CIO
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Midstate Central Labor Council

General Meeting

April 15, 2003

TC3

Dryden, NY

7pm

Agenda

Reports

Communications

Student Labor Action Coalition

Workers Memorial Day

Posting your OSHA 300 Log

Do you know where your employer's OSHA 300 log summary is? You should know soon, if your workplace has more than 10 employees and you are not in a low-hazard industry. Your employer is required to post the log as of February 1, and leave it on the bulletin board until April 30. The log is a summary of all work-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in your workplace during 2002.

This will be the first time you have seen the OSHA 300 log posted, because it has replaced the similar OSHA 200 log as a result of OSHA's revision of its recordkeeping. The OSHA 300 log contains more information than the old OSHA 200 log. By law, the information in the log is supposed to be available for inspection by employees all year long, but the employer is only required to display it in public for 3 months.

For more information about the OSHA 300 log and OSHA regulations concerning the recording of work-related injuries and illnesses, including a list of industries that are exempt from the annual posting requirement, visit: <http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/index.html> If you work in the public sector in NY State, the form to be posted is DOSH 900.1.

Remembering Fallen Workers

On April 27th and April 28th we will be commemorating Workers Memorial Day in both Ithaca and Cortland. This is a day that we remember our union sisters and brothers who went to

work one day and never returned home because of a work place accident. A moment of silence will be observed at noon on the 28th

Please join us on April 27th in Cortland at Suggett Park from 1-2 pm. This is also a time to remind ourselves of the importance of health and safety on the job and in Ithaca union members will be contacting Congressional representatives throughout the end of April calling for stronger OSHA regulations.

Just the Economic Facts

Reprinted from America at Work

JOBS

Between January 2001 and January 2003, the nation lost a net 1.6 million jobs and almost 2.3 million private-sector jobs. During that same time period, 1.85 million manufacturing jobs disappeared. The number of Americans who want jobs today but can't find them— an unacceptable 10 million— will grow even larger, according to Economic Policy Institute economist Lawrence Mishel. The Bush proposal will do very little to expand jobs in 2003, Mishel says, and will actually cause the country to lose 750,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

HEALTH CARE

After the number of uninsured declined in 1999 and 2000, it climbed to 41.2 million in 2001, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Of that 41.2 million, nearly 33 million were from working families and 8.5 million were children. Workers who still have job-based health insurance are in danger of finding it unaffordable as employers increasingly shift the growing costs of coverage to workers— between the spring of 2001 and the spring of 2002, a single worker paid an average 27 percent more toward premiums and a family paid an average 16 percent more than the previous year.

The continually increasing cost of prescription drugs has created a crisis for retirees, most acutely for those who work in manufacturing where the number of retirees is growing and the number of active workers is shrinking. Congress must pass a Medicare drug benefit that does not force seniors to give up their trusted doctors to get decent drug coverage as the Bush administra-

tion has proposed, and does not penalize workers whose employers offer benefits.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

Because of corporate wrongdoing, the bust of the high-tech bubble and the recession, American stock markets lost approximately \$6.6 trillion, or about 40 percent of their value, between the market peak in March 2000 and January 31, 2003. Such stunning losses call for corporate governance reform, strengthened government oversight and the protection of Social Security. According to the U.S. Social Security Administration, Social Security was the only source of income for 18 percent of individuals and married couples with at least one spouse 65 or older in 2000. The Bush administration likely will borrow a minimum of \$1.5 trillion from the Social Security Trust Fund before Bush's 2001 tax cuts begin to expire in 2010, according to the Congressional Budget Office— without setting aside a single penny to strengthen and protect Social Security.

EDUCATION

At a time when states are facing budget crises and their education funding is at risk, President George W. Bush's 2004 fiscal year budget proposal for schools increases their problems by failing to keep pace with inflation and population growth. When all programs under the federal No Child Left Behind Act are added together, Bush's budget provides \$9 billion less than Congress authorizes for 2004 and \$199 million less than the amount needed to maintain purchasing power at the 2002 level, according to the AFT. While showering tax cuts on the rich, Bush's budget proposes eliminating after-school programs for 500,000 children.

TRADE

Unfair trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are a central reason for the explosion of the U.S. trade deficit. According to the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council, rising trade deficits have cost 3 million actual and potential U.S. jobs since 1994. To maintain a domestic manufacturing base that ensures national security, the United States must address flawed trade policies that encourage US manufacturers to scour the globe for the lowest wages, the weakest labor laws and the most vulnerable workers, and oppose new trade agreements that harm the interests of America's workers.