

UPCOMING EVENTS

Midstate Central Labor Council Meets the 3RD TUESDAY of every month. The next meeting will take place MAY 20TH 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
June 10th at Workers Rights Board.

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

Cortland Community Issues Meeting
"No Wal-Mart SuperCenter in Our Community" Wednesday, May 21st at 7pm at the Christ Presbyterian Church located at 292 Tompkins St. in Cortland (the Old WKRT building)

Labor Day Picnic and Dairy Parade
Planning Committees for both the Labor Day Picnic and the Cortland Dairy Parade are being set up. Please consider being part of these community events. For more information see the accompanying article in the newsletter. More details will be available at the Labor Council meeting on May 20th.

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

Address redacted

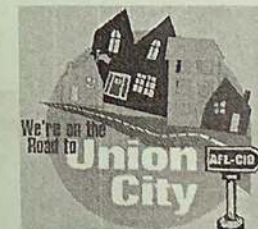


Central New York Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO

Union City News

Midstate Central Labor
Council, AFL-CIO

CLC President: Linda Smith
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Midstate Central Labor Council

General Meeting

May 20, 2003

TC3

Dryden, NY

7pm

Agenda

Reports

Communications

Upcoming events

Committee assignments

Midstate's Busy Summer

The summer is always a busy time for the Midstate Central Labor Council and this year is no exception. We'll be celebrating our 20th annual Labor Day Picnic this upcoming September. Over the years the picnic has developed into a major community event in our area. The Picnic Committee— which is a subset of the Labor Council— meets weekly throughout the summer and needs your help. We want to insure that this 20th anniversary is very special and will need extra help in planning the event. Please contact Linda Smith at 607 756-5582 for more information and to get involved in the best Labor Day celebration in the area.

This summer the Labor Council will also be involved in the Dairy Parade in Cortland. We need volunteers to help come up with creative ideas for a float as well as outreach and coordinating of events. Please contact Midge Grant at 607 423-5563 for more information.

We're also gearing up for upcoming local elections. We can and should have a major impact on these races, but we need people to get involved in making sure that our members are educated and insuring that local politicians understand our concerns. Contact Carol Carvalho at the Labor Federation 315 422-3363 for more information on this ongoing effort.

Strong Public Support for Unions

From America at Work

Public approval of unions is the strong-

est in decades, with two-thirds of adults saying they approve of unions— a level not seen since 1967, according to a recent poll for the AFL-CIO by Peter D. Hart Associates. Among non-union workers who aren't managers, 47 percent say they would vote for a union in their workplace, up from 42 percent in January 2001.

But in the face of this growing support, it is also clear that the public has little knowledge of employers' aggressive attacks against workers trying to exercise their freedom to form unions. More than 75 percent of those surveyed say employers should take no position when workers want to hold a union election, but only 44 percent say they think employers oppose workers' effort to join unions.

In reality, nearly all employers use unfair tactics to oppose workers' freedom to form unions, according to Kate Bronfenbrenner. The public strongly disapproves of employer tactics to intimidate workers, such as requiring supervisors to urge employees to vote against the union and holding mandatory, closed-door anti-union meetings— but even union members far underestimate how often employers deploy these unscrupulous methods. For example, only 20 percent of union members surveyed thought employers require workers to attend anti-union meetings, which they do 92 percent of the time.

In February, the AFL-CIO Executive Council passed a resolution to "educate, engage and mobilize literally millions of union members and people of conscience" to expose employers' campaign against workers and support state and local legislation that supports organizing.

Statement by AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney on House Vote for Tax Cuts for the Wealthy over Working Family Priorities

May 9, 2003

The vote today by House Republicans to give a \$550 billion tax cut to the wealthy— an action urged by President Bush— is irresponsible, short-sighted and harmful to the nation's already faltering economy. Even the reported cost of the tax cut is misleading. Republicans used gimmicks like tax cut sunsets to artificially lower the cost of

the tax cut, even as calculations show that the tax cut will likely cost nearly \$1 trillion in the next decade.

It is astonishing that congressional representatives would vote for a tax cut that reflects neither the interests nor the wishes of their constituents, who by large margins prefer investments in core national priorities over tax cuts.

America's working people need jobs, good schools, a strong Social Security system and affordable, quality health care. Yet the oversized tax cut lines the pockets of the rich and giant corporations while forcing the federal government into record deficits, jeopardizing future improvements to programs that benefit everyone.

Today's tax cut makes an historically bad economic situation for the states even worse. Over the past three years, state governments have experienced record budget deficits that are now approaching \$200 billion. The House is making that situation worse by choosing tax cuts for the wealthy over aid to the states.

President Bush's and the Republican policies of tax cuts for the wealthy haven't produced jobs; in fact, we've lost an average of 100,000 jobs each month since President Bush took office.

Beginning May 31, 80,000 laid-off workers will run out of emergency jobless benefits each week. Yet House Republicans today and earlier this week voted to block funding for emergency benefits from the tax plan they passed, while giving away billions to the wealthy.

Instead of giving away money to people who don't need it and bankrupting our future, Congress should invest in priorities that put money into the hands of those who need it and spend it.

Stop Wal-Mart from devastating Cortland

Does Cortland need a Wal-Mart SuperCenter? Come hear why NOT and learn what you can do to help your community say "NO TO WAL-MART" There is a community based meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st at 7pm at Christ Presbyterian Church, 292 Tompkins St. in Cortland (the old WKRT building). Panelists will discuss the environmental concerns, labor and business issues. Fact sheets and information needed to write letters, as well as a petition will be available. We can make a difference!