

UPCOMING EVENTS

Midstate Central Labor Council Meets the 3RD TUESDAY of every month. The next meeting will take place JANUARY 21ST AT 7PM AT THE VFW 2272 DRYDEN RD. DRYDEN. (NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION) STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS MEETING!

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.

The Cortland Street Heat Committee is working on a union density mapping project as well as voter registration. The next Street Heat Committee meeting in Cortland will take place on February 11th at the Workers Rights Board.

The Ithaca Street Heat Committee is working on the establishment of a permanent Workers Memorial.

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

"Health and Safety in the Workplace"

A 6 week course, every Wednesday, Feb. 12-March 26 (except Feb. 26), 6:30-8:30pm, Workers Rights Board, 26 Court St. Cortland. The course will provide a practical introduction to workplace health and safety and the tools unions and workers can use to better protect themselves. The course is free and open to the public, participants will receive a Certificate of Participation from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. For further information contact Linda Smith, 756-5582, smithsranch@hotmail.com

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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(315)422-3363
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Central New York Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

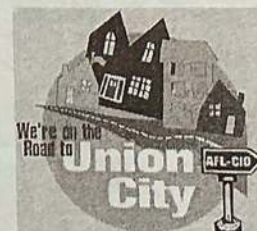


Central New York Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO

Union City News

Midstate Central Labor
Council, AFL-CIO

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**Midstate Central Labor Council
General Meeting
January 21, 2003**

VFW

2272 Dryden Rd. (Route 13) Dryden

this change in location is for the January meeting only

Agenda
Reports
Communications
Steering Committee nominations
Anti-war resolution
Budget

**Midstate Central Labor Council Steering
Committee Nominations**

At the January 21st meeting of the Labor Council, nominations for the Steering Committee will be taken. The election will take place at the February meeting and the term of each officer is for one year. If you are interested in a position please contact Carol at the Labor Federation office at 315 422-3363, carol@cnylabor.org.

Bush plan to boost economy for working people?

Tax breaks for wealthy investors

Statement by AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney

When the President says that he expects "class warfare" from those who oppose his proposals to give breaks to the very wealthiest taxpayers, he is apparently hoping to deflect attention from the facts about who benefits from his plans. But the truth—demonstrated once again with his proposal to cut the dividend tax for investors under the guise of stimulating the economy—is that it is he and the rich who have declared war on working people and the poor in this country.

Working families have taken a beating for the 22 months since the official start of the 2001-2002 recession. Layoffs are mounting and as the unemployment rate rises, urgently needed new jobs are nowhere in sight. Good health care is under siege. When it comes to

what matters most to average Americans, things are worse now than ever and there are no consistent signs of recovery.

The plain facts are that excluding dividend income from taxation will guarantee more tax breaks for the well-off but it will not create jobs, aid workers hard hit by the downturn or help average American families.

Depending on how the new cut is structured, taxpayers with incomes of more than \$1,000,000 will get average tax breaks of as much as \$24,230 and claim nearly 25 percent of the total benefit. The top 1 percent—whose incomes exceed \$333,023—would receive more than 42 percent of the benefit from the cut, with an average break of as much as \$7,001. Three quarters of the total benefit would go to tax filers with incomes exceeding \$100,000.

In contrast, tax payers with incomes below \$50,000—who file almost 70 percent of all tax returns—would get less than 10 percent of the total benefit from the cut. For them, the average tax break is \$76 or less.

Cutting taxes on dividends will provide no bang for the economy, either. American workers and the American economy need a recovery plan that kicks in quickly to create jobs that pay well and provide good benefits. The most effective job-creation program is one that stimulates demand by putting money into the hands and pockets of average families and laid-off workers who need it and will spend it. Wealthy beneficiaries of tax breaks are more likely to save and invest than to spend any additional resources, and the pay-out from the break comes too late to affect the economy now.

In making this choice, the Administration has apparently also decided against tax relief that would be more evenly distributed and widely shared by all Americans, such as rebates or tax relief for all who work and make payroll tax payments. Exempting workers' first \$10,000 in earnings from the employee share of payroll taxes, for example, would provide an average tax break ranging from \$334 for the workers with the lowest earnings to just over \$1100 for the highest income earners. Every worker in America would

benefit, with the 70 percent of taxpayers with incomes below \$50,000 getting just over half of the benefit—instead of less than 10 percent under the President's plan.

The President should shelve the dividend cut and focus instead on a targeted recovery package that will help average American families and give the economy the lift it desperately needs.

Health and Safety Workshop

The Labor Coalition is working to develop a Health and Safety workshop for local union Presidents, shop stewards and members of union health and safety committees. The purpose of the workshop would be:

- to share ideas about what health and safety issues we have in the workplace
- How to promote H&S despite weak OSHA support
- Using the political process to advance H&S
- Support the development of skills and knowledge
- Develop a strategy to more effectively protect our members from injury
- How do we use health and safety issues in reaching out to members as well as unorganized labor

Strong local unions and effective health and safety programs go hand in hand. While we may be on joint labor-management committees, we know that the effectiveness of our work depends upon the shop stewards and health and safety representatives maintaining good contact with members and voicing their health and safety concerns.

The Labor Coalition would like input from local unions about their interest in such a workshop as well as ideas about what issues should be addressed. Contact Tony DelPlato, 277-5670, tonydelplato@hotmail.com for more information.

The Labor Coalition is also in the process of writing a grant proposal to the NY State Department of Labor Hazard Abatement Board to continue to expand their health and safety work for the upcoming year. The Labor Coalition is seeking unions/ employers/ organizations who would like to be included in that proposal. The proposal can cover direct training to workers, workplace assessments, h&s committee development, as well as other issues. For further information contact Carl Feuer at 277-5670.