

The WORKING PRESS

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

109 West State Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 607-277-5670

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June 1998

Building the Road to *Union Cities*

Labor Coalition Endorsement of AFL- CIO program

In 1997, The Labor Coalition endorsed the AFL-CIO Union City initiative. It is the hope that each and every Local Union in Tompkins, Cortland and Schuyler counties will adopt the Union City initiative. **Together, we can BUILD A UNION CITY.**

Step 1. ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE, CHANGING TO ORGANIZE

Promote organizing as the entire labor movement's top priority and get half of the local union to sign up for the AFL-CIO "Changing to Organize" Program.

Step 2: MOBILIZING AGAINST ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS

Recruit and activate at least 1% (one percent) of union members in the area for STREET HEAT, AFL-CIO's new solidarity and rapid response team. Members pledge to help defend and support workers involved in organizing and contract campaigns.

**Are YOU ready to commit to
STREET HEAT?**

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Step 3. BUILDING POLITICAL POWER AND COMMUNITY COALITIONS

Organize grassroots lobbying/political action committees to work on local, state and national issues, build community alliances and support political candidates who champion working families.

Step 4. PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH, PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Organize community allies in support of economic development strategies that establish worker and family-friendly community standards for local industries and public investment.

**Step 5. EDUCATING MEMBERS
IN POCKETBOOK ECONOMICS**
Sponsor the new AFL-CIO Economics Education program for at least a majority of local unions in the area.

Step 6. GENERATING SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

Persuade city or town council and/or county bodies to pass resolutions supporting the right of workers to organize and insist candidates do likewise as a condition of endorsement.

Step 7. MAKING SURE OUR LEADERSHIP MIRRORS FACES OF OUR MEMBERS

Work to make sure that all official CLC bodies - executive board, committees, officers, delegate bodies-are as diverse as the membership represented by affiliated local unions.



Step 8. ENCOURAGING ALL LOCAL UNIONS TO INCREASE THEIR MEMBERSHIP

Reach an annual membership growth rate in the Central Labor Council (CLC) jurisdiction of three percent (3%) by the year 2000.

UNION CITIES - STRONG COMMUNITIES

The mission of the AFL-CIO (including its affiliates, their Local Unions and State Federations and Central Labor Councils) is to improve the lives of working families-to bring economic justice to the workplace and social justice to our nation. By organizing workers and building a broader American labor movement. By creating a stronger political voice for workers. And by changing the labor movement.

**Organize...
Mobilize...
Fight for Safe
Jobs!**

Local News Alert

Organizing Locals

Coalition Unions affiliated who are actively organizing are:

Local Union	Phone
SEIU 200A	
Coert Bonthius	275-0910
UAW 2300	
Harry Evans	272-4108
UBC 603	
Kathy Thomas	257-9586
IBEW 241	
Gary Kirton	272-2809
Bricklayers Local 8	
Mark Babbage	273-3050
CSEA Region 5	
Will Streeter	800-559-7975
UA 267	
Paul Fingland	315-437-2951
SEIU 200B	
Bob Tompkins	315-424-1750
Asbestos Workers 30	
Brian Urquhart	315-475-1246

CSEA

June 24 has been designated by the AFL as Right to Organize Day of Action and an event is being organized in Syracuse around a CSEA organizing drive in the Town of DeWitt. **Will Streeter** is asking for support for the workers. Call the Syracuse Labor Council for more information 315-422-3363.

UAW 802

Mark Keith reports that Monarch Tool is reorganizing its management structure. Members are receiving Health and Safety training in Lock out/Tag out and respiratory training.

SEIU 200A

Continuing their organizing campaign at St. Joe's Hospital in Elmira. They are beginning a campaign at Bethany Village, Horseheads. Contract talks at Lakeside continue.

APWU 1151

Mike Oates reports that a nationwide picket of the US Postal Service protesting privatization by Emery Express (a non-union company) was recently held. Their current contract expires on November 20. The unfair labor practice against the downtown Ithaca post office is awaiting a final ruling.

IBEW 961

Dan Addy reported on the effects of deregulation. The Milliken Station facility is to be sold. Town of Lansing residents will feel the immediate effect with a hefty increase in school taxes. The Meter services department may experience an impact to current jobs.

Labor Party News

Howard Botwinick reported on the upcoming Labor Party convention. The Labor Party is seeking endorsement from Local Unions.

Union Cities Conference

The recent conference held in Albany was highly successful with over 50 representatives from the Northeast participating. One potential outcome is the regular meeting of Central Labor Councils to discuss collective actions. The National CLC conference is scheduled for July 31 - August 1 in Chicago.

Steering Committee Meeting

The Steering Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 30 at 6:30 at the Coalition offices at 109 West State Street. The agenda will include discussion on the upcoming Steering Committee elections.

Affiliated members interested in being on the Steering Committee should contact **Kathy Thomas**, 257-9586.

Building Trades Bricklayers 8

Mark Babbage was re-elected president of Local 8 during recent elections.

Carpenters 603

Carpenters 603 recently held an Apprenticeship and Service Awards Dinner. Four graduating apprentices were honored. Service pins were distributed to members. Three families with over 80 years of collective service were honored with special awards.

WORKING WOMEN CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS IN SENECA FALLS

A Statewide rally for working women sponsored by the Working Women's Department at the AFL-CIO, CLUW and the Rochester and Midstate Central Labor Councils will be held Thursday, July 17 at 1:00PM in Declaration Park, 136 Falls Street in Seneca Falls, NY.

More information is available at:

<http://www.celebrate98.com>
<http://www.nps.gov/wor>
<http://www.greatwomen.org>
<http://www.hws.edu/~forum98>

This event will culminate a week-long celebration on the contribution of women. Speakers for the week include Hillary Clinton and Alexis Herman.

Call **Kathy Thomas** for further information at 257-9586. We are looking for support from local unions for T-shirts marking the event. Union Brothers are encouraged to support and attend this event as well.

Health and Safety News

**Repetitive Strain Injury: A
FREE CLINIC**

DATE:

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

TIME: 4PM-7PM

WHERE:

**2-4 Pulteney St., Bath, NY
AFGWU Local 1013**

Dr. Michael Lax, Medical Director of the CNY Occupational Health Clinical Center (CNYOHCC) will conduct a health screening for repetitive strain injury. Also available will be **Greg Siwiniski, Certified Industrial Hygienist** with the CNYOHCC, who will conduct individual consultations on workstations; and **Arlene Small, Physical Therapist**, who will consult with clinic participants on helpful stretches.

Anyone who is concerned that their job may be putting them at risk for carpal tunnel syndrome or other hand/wrist/shoulder problems, or thinks they have symptoms of such an injury, is welcome to come in for a free consultation. Refreshments and general information on RSI will also be available.

**For MORE information contact
277-5670 or 776-3022**

Sponsored by Midstate Central Labor Council, Steuben Central Labor Council, American Flint Glass Workers Local 1013.

June Steering Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 30 6:30PM at Coalition Office

LABOR IS BACK - THE DEFEAT OF PROP 226

DEFEAT OF THE PAYCHECK DECEPTION ACT IN CALIFORNIA - A MAJOR VICTORY FOR LABOR

The following is a memo from AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney to all Labor Activists.... "A modern political miracle, the defeat of California Proposition 226 by an overall 54 to 46% margin, sprang from the voters' strong sense of fairness and union members' unprecedented mobilization against a right-wing effort to silence the voices of working men and women in our nation's political system. Union members rejected the proposition with a resounding 71 to 29 percent vote. Even more, we gained new strength and momentum for a pro-working family agenda heading into the fall elections. More than 24,000 new union member political activists emerged in California in the course of this campaigning.

The defeat of Proposition 226 sends a clear message about the prospects of other such worker-bashing initiatives in other state and the message is, simply put, "Pounding working families is a losing proposition."...

For nearly six months, we've played effective defense against the attempt to wipe us off the political map. Now it's time to go on the offensive on behalf of a Working Family Agenda, demanding that elected officials take action in support of the right to organize and on behalf of the key worker concerns like health care, fair pay, and retirement security."

If you would like to join the Labor Coalition in our efforts to promote a working family agenda during this political season, contact Kathy Thomas at 257-9586.



Solidarity Issue of the Working Press

The Working Press will publish a SOLIDARITY ISSUE for Labor Day this year. We are requesting advertisements from Local Unions and Labor Activists. Full-page, half-page and quarter-page ads will be available. Please begin planning for this issue. Stay tuned for more information.

HELP WANTED

Labor Day Picnic

Volunteers are needed for this year's Labor Day Picnic Committee. We need committee chairpeople for the following sub-committees:

- ♦ General Planning
- ♦ Entertainment
- ♦ Children's Games
- ♦ Raffle and Door Prizes
- ♦ Publicity
- ♦ Food and Beverages
- ♦ Awards

Please contact **Kathy Thomas, 257-9586** immediately for more information.



Midstate Central Labor Council 1998 Meeting Schedule

MONTH/DATE	TIME	MEETING	LOCATION
June 30	6:30pm	Steering Committee	Ithaca
July 28	7:00pm	General Meeting	Ithaca
August 24	6:30pm	Steering Committee	Ithaca

General Meetings will rotate between the Workers' Rights Board office on Cortland, TC3 in Dryden and the Pipefitters Hall (701 West State Street) Ithaca.

News articles and information for the Working Press is needed by the 15th of the month for publication in the following month. 3 easy ways to get your news in the Working Press:

- ♦ **CALL** the Coalition Offices with your news **277-5670** or Kathy Thomas **257-9586**
- ♦ **FAX** information **272-4111**
- ♦ **E-MAIL** to Kathy Thomas **SHOKWAVE12@aol.com**

Please forward 1998 dues and information on delegates and activists as soon as possible. Contact Kathy Thomas, 257-9586 or SHOKWAVE12@aol.com (e-mail) for additional information.

The **LABOR MOVEMENT**: the folks that brought you the WEEKEND

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The LABOR COALITION
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