

Exotic Dancer Resolution

ORGANIZING THE UNORGANIZED

WHEREAS the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment;" and that "Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself (or herself) and his (or her) family an existence worthy of human dignity;" and further states that "Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his (or her) own rights."

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO constitution states the AFL-CIO constitution states that "The objects and principles of this federation are to encourage all workers without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation to share equally in the full benefit of union organization."

WHEREAS one of the four main goals of Coalition of Labor Union Women since its founding has been to organize unorganized women.

WHEREAS the CLUW Constitution states "the Coalition of Labor Union Women seeks to promote unionism and to encourage unions to be more aggressive in their efforts to bring unorganized women under collective bargaining agreements, particularly in those areas where there are large numbers of unorganized and/or minority women*"

WHEREAS the Coalition of Labor Union Women supports all women fighting for dignity, respect, safety, and their labor rights at every worksite, and understands the unionization of unorganized women workers as being a critical means of achieving those goals.

WHEREAS at non-union worksites across the country, exotic dancers are subject to hazardous and personally unsafe working conditions which include non-payment of wages, illegal misclassification as "Independent Contractors," economic coercion such as payment to employers of illegal workplace fees from tip money and coerced prostitution, and sexual assault and rape on the job.

WHEREAS the successful union organizing of the exotic dancer club, the Lusty Lady Theater, in San Francisco, California has inspired other workers in that industry to desire to join in union solidarity with sisters and brothers internationally,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CLUW will not allow ourselves to be divided but shall stand strong as working women together

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coalition of Labor Union Women hereby supports the effort of exotic dancers to be organized.

Submitted by Rosa Faye Marshall, San Francisco CLUW Chapter Adopted by the CLUW National Executive Board - March 25, 2006

At the Reno NEB meeting, President Marsha Zakowski (r.) joins the State Vice Presidents, Alternates and State Coordinator at their swearing in.



EXECUTIVE BOARD CHARTS CLUW'S PATH FOR COMING YEAR

National Executive Board delegates and guests converged on Reno, Nevada on March 23-25 for CLUW's first National Executive Board meeting in 2006. They participated in a Leadership Development Conference and set the course for CLUW through NEB business.

The March 24 Leadership Development Conference was designed to engage NEB leaders to think about how to build CLUW and to evaluate what leadership skills we bring—or need to bring—in order to demonstrate CLUW's unique role in the labor movement.

In the morning Ida Torres (pictured), president of Local 3 RWDSU/UFCW, and Dorothy Fortier (IBEW) and Tammie Botelho (USW)—co-chairs of CLUW's Women in Union



Leadership Committee—introduced conference participants to a survey helping to better define "What Is a Leader?" and more specifically what makes a CLUW leader. CLUW is in the process of compiling the responses to evaluate a plan of action.

Afternoon offerings included the opportunity to attend interactive workshops on building membership, energizing chapters and working with the media.

At Saturday's plenary session, President Marsha Zakowski stressed the importance of solidarity and activism to counter the assault on workers' rights. "With all the challenges before us—an adversary Administration that wants to weaken unions, civil rights, the FMLA—we as union women ... will face them head-on,

as we always have, with commitment, determination, persistence and perseverance," she told the delegates. "Let's go out and let union women and working women and men know that there's a CLUW ... the only national organization for union women."

The delegates took into consideration Zakowski's remarks, launching a campaign to protect and strengthen the FMLA (see postcard initiative on page 1) based on a resolution adopted at CLUW's 13th Biennial Convention in September.

The NEB also addressed CLUW's future by endorsing numerous resolutions that put CLUW out front in areas of importance to working women. Among the NEB-approved resolutions is one supporting the efforts of Puerto Rican registered nurses to be employed as licensed registered nurses in the US mainland—a move that would help fill the need for bicultural nurses. Another resolution supports the efforts of exotic dancers to be organized, noting they are subject to unsafe working conditions including non-payment of wages, economic coercion and sexual assault.

Other endorsed resolutions include:

- Encouraging CLUW chapters to support the right of women to breastfeed or express breast milk in a clean and private place near their work area;
- Educating the community on the critical need to restore workers' freedom to form unions;
- Appointing a representative in each chapter to serve as liaison with the NEB's Young Women Workers Committee;
- Working to preserve affirmative action and eliminate the exploitation and degradation of the rights of women, workers and minorities;

- Continuing to advocate for women's health, including reproductive health services and preventive health care;
- Working to remove the waiting period between receipt of the first Social Security disability check and entitlement to Medicare;
- Encouraging participation in activities sponsored by their unions and the AFL-CIO on International Human Rights Day
- Supporting the Work and Family Bill of Rights.

See the CLUW website for the complete text of all approved resolutions.

2005-2009 State Vice Presidents and Alternates

The following CLUW State Vice Presidents and Alternates were elected last year in their respective states or appointed by the National Officers Council.

CA:	SVP - Dorothy Fortier (IBEW)
CT:	State Coordinator - Helene Shay (AFSCME)
DC:	SVP - Bonnie Oakes (OPEIU) ASVP - Susan Holleran (AFSCME)
IL:	SVP - Delores R. Wasmund (AFSCME)
IN:	SVP - Karen Treat (UAW) ASVP - Karen Sanders (UAW)
MD:	SVP - Wanda Shelton-Martin (OPEIU)
MI:	SVP - Tanya Fitzpatrick (UAW) ASVP - Barbara J. Young (UAW)
MN:	SVP - Lonna-Jean Schmidt (MNA)
MO:	SVP - Stephanie Lloyd-Agnew (IAM) ASVP - Sandra Henderson (IAM)
NY:	SVP - Dolores Young (APWU)
OH:	SVP - JoAnn Johntony (AFSCME) ASVP - Marti Morn (CWA)
PA:	SVP - Barbara Barnes (UA) ASVP - Janet Ryder (AFT)
TX:	SVP - Tawn MacDonald (CWA) ASVP - Ellen Wakefield (CWA)
VA:	SVP - Marjorie Brotherton (APWU)
WA:	SVP - Verlene Jones (OPEIU) ASVP - Dee Wakenight (ATU)