

14 Charles Lane
New York, New York 10014
September 14, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a report on the meeting of the CLUW National Steering Committee held in Chicago September 7. The report should be shared with CLUW activists, in particular those who will be attending the NCC meeting later this month.

Any additional information on the subjects touched on in this report would be helpful.

Comradely, .

Frank Lovell

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Seventeen women attended the CLUW National Steering Committee meeting in Chicago on September 7. Katherine Humminen was dropped from the Steering Committee and the NCC because she has changed jobs and is no longer in the Paperworkers. The policy was adopted that Steering Committee vacancies be filled by the woman with the next highest votes. On that basis, Myra Wolfgang replaces Kathy Humminen on the Steering Committee.

The SC meeting was characterized by a tug-of-war between a group headed informally by Luella Hanberry, who wanted to get the show on the road, have productive SC and NCC meetings and give real national support to building CLUW and a group headed by Olga Madar who didn't want a move made that isn't under their control, are scared of the radicals and militant rank-and-filers active in CLUW and tried to sidetrack the meaningful business of the day. Hanberry opened with a move to extend the meeting until 7 PM to get through the long agenda and to change the order of the agenda to put top priority items first instead of last. Madar led the group who "couldn't change their plane flight" -- although a compromise on the agenda was finally worked out.

A run-down of decisions concretized: 1) The next national CLUW Convention will be held between October and the first week of December 1975 in a centrally located city, with a functioning CLUW chapter, in a state that is not a right-to-work state, and at a time when there are no major union conventions conflicting. A Convention Committee will be appointed by the NCC; the Convention will adopt a Constitution. (Constitution Committee will also be appointed by NCC). 2) NCC drop-outs will be replaced by notifying other NCC members in that union to work out a way to replace with a representative of that union. 3) Union organizing committee members eligibility for membership in CLUW: a) drives with no dues paying union members are not eligible for CLUW b) groups calling themselves organizing committees with union membership but first contract not yet negotiated eligible for CLUW, c) direct AFL-CIO organizing committees are eligible for CLUW.

Two controversial cases of membership eligibility: Monica Hill -- United Workers Independent Union (Seattle): Madar reported that in reviewing NCC members to see if they were bona fide union members it was originally decided that United Workers was not a bona fide collective bargaining union. Since then, Monica had sent proof that they were engaged in collective bargaining. The CLUW officers met and decided to inform United Workers that a mistake had been made.

Marjorie Stern (AFT) and Yetta Riesel (Newspaper Guild) led an attack on United Workers and Riesel questioned authority of CLUW officers to decide to readmit them. Prolonged general discussion followed that was confused, but generally hostile to UW. It looked for a while as if they

would be kicked back out. Hanberry and Judy Berek made a compromise motion to invite them to show proof of their legitimacy at the NCC meeting. A motion was then made to support the moves taken and proposed by the CLUW national officers and, in the face of this, Stern and Riesel backed down and the motion was adopted with no opposition after Hanberry and Berek's motion lost.

The most heated discussion occurred over the question of chartering chapters of CLUW. Several women from various areas indicated that the fact that they could not function as a formal CLUW chapter and the roadblocks put in the way of so doing by national CLUW had demoralized women in their area and resulted in a loss of momentum in CLUW building. It developed that the National Office was sitting on some five requests for an application for a charter, including L.A., Chicago, Cleveland, Washington, and one request for chartering; had not had the Application for Charter form printed (although it had been discussed some months ago); and did not even have a copy of the form that had been drafted.

By the time this point came up, it was about an hour from the 4:30 PM adjournment. The proposed Application for Charter form, which someone else turned out to have a copy of, was looked over and approved and Madar agreed to get it out by the NCC meeting. There was much discussion, interpretation and re-interpretation of the "Structure and Guidelines" role of the vice-presidents in "approving" or "recommending" or "vouching for" charters, as well as over the arbitrary July 1 date and whether meetings before that date could count. Stress was put by many on the importance of chartering one or more chapters today.

Madar then announced that she had looked over the applications in her hands and decided none of them had completed the requirements for charter and handed them to the area vice-presidents to follow up on sometime. (Elinor Glenn is out of the country and Clara Day was leaving for Jamaica the next day). A motion was approved, however, to let Chicago CLUW count its June meeting as one of the three meetings required and inform them, pending a check on the validity of the 15 members names submitted, that they could charter after one more meeting and send them an application form.

Rita Sklar (IBEW) presented a request for charter of the Southern Alameda County Chapter of CLUW, which she had brought with her. She gave a report indicating 22 members of national CLUW, a founding conference attended by 51 from 13 unions, and specification of all details required.

Madar then said she would abstain on the vote to charter because "granting this charter at this time will have a derogatory effect on CLUW." Her justification was they weren't big enough for an industrial area. The vote was 16 for approving the charter with Madar abstaining. Madar requested her statement be recorded for the minutes. Ann Galloway (Bakers & Confectionary Workers, Atlanta) objected, blaming

the leadership for long delays and bureaucratic functioning. A number of others, including Dana Duke, Southern V-P, protested Madar's attitude. Marjorie Stern asked Madar to reconsider and not enter negative remarks in record. Madar refused and said many other steering committee members will resent this charter.

Although the meeting never did get through the agenda, it finally got to the NCC preparations, only because of the insistence of some of those there on putting that item higher on the agenda. Decisions made re NCC: 1) Change schedule so SC meets Friday September 20 at 8 PM, NCC meetings Saturday September 21 from 9 AM on and on Saturday night and on Sunday until 1 PM, SC then meets Sunday 1-4 PM; 2) proxies be handled same as was SC -- i.e., authorize a NCC member who will be in attendance to vote, with written notification to national CLUW; 3) quorum will be 50% + 1; 4) mailing to be sent out immediately (Berek offered to do it from her office) on new schedule, proxies and quorum; 5) pole be taken to get estimate if there will be a quorum and information on others who may have dropped off (quorum number will be affected) with the hope that people can be notified if no quorum and new date suggested (this may be very real possibility).

The agenda will be: a) SC and officers report (Madar), b) committees, c) amendments to structure and guidelines, d) resolutions, 3) program and finances (including area reports). This agenda will include time allocations for each point so it will be possible to get through it. Times will be set up at Friday, September 20 SC.

Madar stated that she will take the position at the NCC that structure and guidelines amendments are out of order. There was much disagreement with this, partly because most understood that the workshop proposals were all to be referred to NCC and partly because there are apparently some things some people or tendencies will be pushing under this point. Gloria Johnson has been working on condensing and organizing these proposals and Judy Berek is handling the resolution workshops.

CLUW buttons, decals, etc., can be ordered now in quantity as fund-raisers (many areas having money problem). Also letterheads and a reprint of the blue book with changes on the last few pages can be ordered. The President of CLUW will serve on the Committee for Full Employment headed by Coretta King.