



## AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership

### Community Services News May 2010

#### **Out and About**

**May 3** I attended the Atlantans Building Leadership for Empowerment (ABLE) Education Forum at First Afrikan Presbyterian Church in Dekalb County. The forum hosted by First Afrikan's ABLE core team, focused on the crisis in Dekalb county schools which has created reduced hours for teachers and could lead to closing of many neighborhood schools. Foreclosed properties have resulted in loss of property tax revenue which is directly linked to the crisis in school funding and further reduction in the tax base from decreased home values.

**May 11** International Presidents of Amalgamated Transit Union Warren George and Transit Workers Union President Harry Lombardo were joined by Rainbow Push's Jesse Jackson at the MARTA Five Points station for a Save Our Ride Rally. The Atlanta Rally was one of many that are part of a nationwide campaign to save mass transit. One important part of the campaign is appropriate funding at the local and federal level. Also needed are changes to the law that would allow local transit systems to use some of their federal funds for operating expenses. The rally was very well attended by the general public; union members and leaders; state and local politicians. To learn more about the Save Our Ride campaign, <http://www.twu.org/international/article/676/>



**May 12**, the ABLE Executive Committee Meeting focused on the upcoming annual fundraiser banquet. See upcoming events for details. The Labor Council meeting scheduled for that evening was cancelled.



**May 19**, I travelled to Forest Park to talk with apprentices in Glaziers Local 149. We discussed how to plan for temporary layoffs which members in the trades experience, services available, budgeting, home owner down payment assistance programs, union plus products and more. Thanks to Shawn Wellborn Apprenticeship instructor for the Local for the invitation.

**May 20**, a co-worker and I went to the WABE studios on Bismark Rd., Atlanta and were recorded for the Public Broadcasting Story Corps program. This was a very interesting experience and I encourage you to participate. The total time required is an hour. The recording

is only 40 minutes. Many of us in the Labor Movement have unique stories to tell and only we can tell those stories. Please contact Amanda Plumb, Atlanta Site Supervisor, Story Corps, at [aplumb@storycorps.net](mailto:aplumb@storycorps.net) or 678-686-0388 to schedule your taping.

Later that evening, I participated in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church ABLE Core team meeting. We planned for the Core team's participation in the upcoming ABLE banquet and a letter writing campaign that was held during weekend masses. Parishioners were asked to sign letters urging Governor Purdue to veto House Bill 1026 which if not vetoed by the governor would eliminate a tax credit for low income families that had been in effect since 1998 when the one cent sales tax increase went into effect. The campaign was a success with nearly 450 letters delivered to Governor Purdue.

**May 25** the ABLE Council of Leaders meeting was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. We had a great potluck, followed by updates on the banquet, and task force meetings.



Coca Cola Enterprise (CCE) workers who are trying to organize with International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) Local 728 were joined on **May 26** by ABLE leaders and clergy in a prayer vigil at the work location on Sullivan Rd. in College Park. ABLE President Greg Williams, Vice President Rev. Harold Lockett, and Bishop Lackey all raised up the issues in prayer after hearing first hand of the intimidation, harassment and captive audience meetings that the workers are subjected to. ABLE has written to CCE management regarding the intimidation and harassment, asking CCE to allow the workers to make the determination free from interference. The representation election is scheduled for June 10. Stay tuned for info and other events in support of these workers.

### ***Upcoming Events***

The Georgia State Legislature Candidates Forum sponsored by Students of the Policy Institute for Civic Leadership on **Tuesday June 1, 5:30 PM** will be at IBEW Local 613 Auditorium: 501 Pulliam St. SW, Atlanta 30312. All candidates running in the July 20th primary election for State Legislative Seats located within the City of Atlanta are invited. There will be time to ask questions. This is your chance to hear first hand from the candidates. Our votes are our currency! Be informed so you can use it wisely.



**June 4, 10:00 AM – Noon** Georgia STAND-UP Alliance Health Expo “Taking care of our community’s most valuable resource: *ourselves!*” The event will be held at the IBEW Auditorium. For more information contact Naomi Donaldson at 404-581-0061. Come meet with vendors and get resources

**June 6 – 7:00 PM** IBT Local 728 will host a Mass Meeting in support of Coca Cola Enterprise workers trying to organize with the Teamsters. Let these workers know they aren't alone in their struggle for a voice in the



workplace. The meeting will be held at the Local 728's hall at 2540 Lakewood Ave. SW, 30315.

**June 7-9 2010:** Georgia AFL-CIO Community Service, Legislative, and Organizing Conference at the Sea Palms Resort Hotel, Saint Simons Island, Georgia. Registration \$85.00 and room rate is \$124.00 per night (check in Sunday June 6 and check out on Thursday June 10). For details and to register contact Carol Dubose at the AFL-CIO office at 404 525 2793 or [cdbose@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdbose@bellsouth.net).

**June 9** registration begins at **6:30 AM** – North Georgia Building & Construction Trades Council (NGBTC) Dollars Against Diabetes Golf Tournament to benefit the Diabetes Research Institute at the Golf Club at Bradshaw Farms in Woodstock. Register before May 24 by contacting Anne Little at [anne@bctc.net](mailto:anne@bctc.net) or 404 584 0005.

Be at the Alliance for Retired Americans meeting on **Wednesday, June 9, at 1:00 PM** in the 5th floor conference room, IBEW Building at 501 Pulliam St. SW, Atlanta, 30312. Contact J.C. Phillips at (404) 525-2793 or [jcpgara@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcpgara@bellsouth.net).



**June 9-11** Georgia Labor Management Conference at the Sea Palms Resort in St. Simons Island. It features speakers, workshops, tournaments, and a whole lot more. For more information see <http://www.galmc.com/>.

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists – Atlanta Chapter – meeting will be **Thursday, June 10 at 6:00 PM** in the 2nd floor dispatch room at the IBEW Building. For details, contact Jimmy Dedeaux at [jimmyd@joimail.com](mailto:jimmyd@joimail.com).

**NOTE DATE CHANGE** to 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday! Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council Delegates meeting will be held **Wednesday, June 16 at 6:00 PM** in the IBEW Local 613 Auditorium.

ATLANTA LABOR COUNCIL  
AFL-CIO  
Organizing for Justice

The A. Philip Randolph Institute Atlanta Chapter will meet on **Wednesday, June 16, at 6:00 PM** in the dispatch office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the IBEW Building. Details contact Charles James at [csisi1@bellsouth.net](mailto:csisi1@bellsouth.net) or 404-243-1984.



**Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 PM** Atlantans Building Leadership for Empowerment (ABLE) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet themed “Called by Faith: United for Justice” at Sheraton Gateway Hotel Atlanta Airport, 1900 Sullivan Road, Atlanta, 30337, \$50 per person – tables of 10: \$500.00. For info or to purchase tickets contact: Sherita Edwards at 678-271-7443 or [Sherita@gamaliel.org](mailto:Sherita@gamaliel.org). The first female bishop in the AME denomination – Bishop Vashti McKenzie - is the keynote speaker.

Georgia STAND-UP – a Think and Act Tank Monthly Alliance Meeting, **June 18, noon** – 2:00 PM at the IBEW Auditorium. Lunch provided. This month's topic is Good Jobs. See the web site <http://www.gastandup.org/index.html> or contact [melissa@georgiastandup.org](mailto:melissa@georgiastandup.org) for details and registration info. Lunch provided - \$2.00 donation appreciated.



Are you active in your Union and congregation? Come to the meeting and find the place where your faith and activism merge. ABLE Leadership Council meeting – **Saturday June 19, 10:00 AM – Noon** at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett, 12 Bethesda Church Road in Lawrenceville, 30044 For more info see <http://www.gamaliel.org/ABLE/default.html> or [sherita@gamaliel.org](mailto:sherita@gamaliel.org). We will be working on next steps for issue identification as we go into the fall.

**Saturday, July 17, Annual Labor Awards Banquet** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Peachtree St., Atlanta. The reception begins at 6:00 PM followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. This year's Labor Leaders of the Year are Charlie Flemming (Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council) and Alfreda Goldwire (Savannah Federation of Teachers). Proceeds of the banquet support Labor Archives, Labor Education and Scholarships. Contact Charlie Key, Georgia AFL-CIO Treasurer at [cekey@bellsouth.net](mailto:cekey@bellsouth.net) or 404-525-2793 for tickets or to purchase an ad in the journal.

**Thursday July 22, 10:00 A.M., Foreclosure Hearing** with National Officers of the AFL-CIO at First Iconium Baptist Church, 542 Moreland Ave., SE, 30316. Hear firsthand how families facing foreclosure are fed up with the Big Bank tactics. Bring your family, friends, church members and fellow union members are all welcome.

The 2010 Southern School for Union Women will be held at the National Labor College in Silver Spring, MD, from **August 19 -22**. To download the flyer and registration details see: <http://www.cluw.org/PDF/SummerSchoolSouth2010.pdf>. I have attended these schools and they are great with good workshops and the opportunity to network with union sisters from the southern region. Limited scholarships are available.

### **Good News:**



**Thanks!** By all means a success, the National Association of Letter Carriers annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive broke records with a total of 322,275 pounds of food donated to local food banks and pantries. Thanks to NALC Branch 73 President Ben Jackson, members, volunteers and the community at large. This year's drive collected a total of 322,275 pounds of food. The Atlanta Community Food Bank received 162,391 pounds and the remaining 159,884 pounds of food were donated to other food banks and pantries in the Branch's jurisdiction.

**Thanks!** AFGE Local 3887 President Karen Morris, Carolyn Toomer and members working in the Sam Nunn Building for the 34 shoe boxes they donated to the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta's Shoe Box Project. Karen carries only one of the boxes of shoe boxes with a can do smile on her face.



**News you can Use:** United Way Community Partner, Resources for Residents and Communities (RRC) Homeownership Center can help you or someone you know save a home from foreclosure. They offer: **free**, HUD-approved one-on-one Foreclosure Prevention Counseling; thoughtful presentation of all options tailored specific to your financial needs; housing counselors serving as consumer advocates. Visit [rrc.reynoldstown.org](http://rrc.reynoldstown.org) for more info. Workplace or union hall presentations can be arranged.

**Labor Emergency Relief Fund Activity**

This month 4 union families were assisted from the Labor Emergency Relief Fund as follows: 2 UFCW Local 1996; utilities and housing and 2 members of IUPAT DC 77: utilities and housing.

Thank you for your continued support.

Janine Brown - AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison

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