

# One Hundred Years of Solidarity

## The History of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO

By Kathleen McKirchy

### Beginnings

In 1896, Nicholas II, the last tsar of Russia, was coronated. Victoria was in her 58th year as Queen of England and Empress of India. Sigmund Freud discovered his principles of psychoanalysis. The United States Supreme Court handed down its infamous Plessy V. Ferguson “separate but equal” decision, declaring that segregation was legal if those separated enjoyed equal facilities.

In 1896, Union Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman had been in his grave for only five years. Comedian George Burns was born. Both the Eiffel Tower and A. Philip Randolph were six years old. Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle’s fictional detective, had been delighting the reading public for nine years. Republican William McKinley was elected President.

It was during this eventful year that a band of 13 local unions petitioned the American Federation of Labor to be chartered as the Central Labor Union, Washington Branch. The charter was granted on August 11, 1896, and a golden century of local labor activism began.

The newly chartered Central Labor Union was not the first federation of local unions in the area. Like most metropolitan areas, Washington, DC was the home of an active Knights of Labor network, and the local labor community had been dominated by it since the 1870’s. Attempting to unite all workers into one big union, the Knights sought to achieve their aims through employer cooperation and mass education. They disliked strikes and organizing along craft lines, and this precipitated their decline.

In 1895, however, the Knights were still in control in the nation’s capital. Dissatisfaction finally built to the breaking point, “because of arbitrary action of the local federation, which is largely controlled by the Knights of Labor assemblies, a defection occurred as a result of the placing of a boycott upon local breweries”. Organizing meetings were held, and the AFL charter application was submitted April 9, 1896.

Signers of the original application represented Bricklayers’ No. 1, Columbia Typographical Union No. 101, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners No. 190, American Society of Carpenters and Joiners No. 163, Engineers Union No. 1, Columbia Musicians’ Protective Association No. 16, Stereotypers Union No. 19, Cigarmakers’ Local Union No. 110, National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers No.26, Journeymen Bakers and Confectioners’ International Union No. 118, Washington Branch Granite Cutters’ National Union, Steam and Hot Water Fitters No. 10, and Steam and Hot Water Helpers No. 28.

In a letter to its first president, Milford Spohn, AFL president Samuel Gompers stated “I desire to extend to your union a hearty welcome into the ranks of the great trade unions of this country under the banner of the AFL and sincerely hope you will be entirely successful in your efforts to improve the condition of your fellow-workers and by your organized efforts contribute to the success of the labor movement in general”.

In short order, the Central Labor Union founded a newspaper, The Trades Unionist, which was published weekly until 1976, then every other week until it ceased publication in 1982. Most of our knowledge of the history of our Central Labor Council is due to this publication.

In March of 1897, the proceedings of the meeting published in the Trades Unionist indicate that “the larger portion of the time at the last meeting of the Central Labor Union was devoted to speechmaking, in observance of the first anniversary of that body.”

## Early Solidarity

The Central Labor Union (CLU) was involved in most of the workers' issues of the day. In June, 1897, the CLU supported the members of Carpenters' Local 190 constructing Glen Echo who had not been paid for four weeks by the owner, Mr. Balsey. The local set up picket lines, the owner advertised for replacements, and the Trades Unionist reported “the presence of the unpaid workmen was so distasteful to Mr. Balsey that he requested the sheriff of the county to eject them from the sacred precincts of Glen Echo. The sheriff refused to do so, as the men were orderly, and it was not apparent they were violating any laws”. The members got paid.

In 1898, the Cabin John Bridge Hotel, a resort favored by local residents, wrote the CLU asking to be removed from the “Unfair List”. The hotel indicated that it would sign a contract to employ only union labor and would handle the products of union labor. This may have been the first successful boycott effected by the CLU.

During this time, many locals appealed to the CLU for assistance. In 1899, for example, delegates from the Bakery Workers local reported that their industry was facing immediate demise, due to the introduction of bread-making machines. The Horseshoers local asked for help in a dispute with the Heurich Brewing Company. Workers at the National Zoological Park were forced to work thirteen hour days, and asked for and received a resolution against this practice. The Hospital Attendants' Union at St. Elizabeth's Asylum opposed a new rule that they must first rinse badly soiled linen before sending it to the laundry. The CLU sent a delegation to the Superintendent to oppose the rule.

The agitation for the Eight Hour Day had started in the 1860's but reached fever pitch in 1886 with a nationwide call for an eight hour strike. Organizing around this event resulted in the birth of new unions, including in the Washington area.

Success was a long-time coming, however, for on February 20, 1899, AFL President Samuel Gompers addressed the CLU and encouraged them to lobby Congress for the Eight Hour bill. With the close of the 55th Congress, however, the bill once again died.

In 1900, the CLU passed its first resolution to advocate for full suffrage for the residents of the District of Columbia.

Over the next few years, the CLU supported its affiliates as they struggled to make gains at the bargaining table. While DC was threatened with an “ice and beer famine”, due to a thirty-six hour strike by the Brewery Drivers for recognition, a CLU delegation met with all parties and brought about a settlement. The workers won a wage increase of “\$13 a week and a 2 cent commission on every keg hauled”.

In 1902, the Master Builders Association locked out 5000 building tradesmen whose locals were affiliated with the CLU. These building tradesmen would not work alongside workers belonging to the Knights of Labor Assemblies. It would be a few more years before disputes with remnants of the Knights of Labor were over.

1902 also saw the beginnings of the unionization of the fledgling telecommunications industry. Telephone operators at C&P began organizing and the CLU provided support.

## Labor Day In Washington

The first Labor Day was held in New York City in 1882. It wasn't until 1894 that Congress passed legislation making Labor Day a holiday in the District of Columbia and all its territories. Early local celebrations of labor's holiday were recorded in the Trades Unionist, which reported 20,000 in attendance in 1901 at Glen Echo. In 1903, however, the idea of a Labor Day parade was abandoned “on account of lack of interest”. Throughout the 1920's, social events, river excursions, and picnics at Chesapeake Beach and the Arlington Amusement Park were the fashionable way to observe the day.

1934 saw the “first time in many years that Labor Day was to be observed with a parade”.

By this time, the CLU had 121 local unions representing 80,000 members. Although it rained all day, 5000 union members marched, and the Columbia Broadcasting Company covered the ceremonies by radio.

In 1954, the CLU began a new tradition of celebrating Labor Day in conjunction with the Catholic Church. The first of forty-one Labor Day Masses was celebrated, with the Labor Day Address delivered by Eisenhower's Secretary of Labor James B. Mitchell. Throughout the forty-one year history of this event, other speakers have included Labor Secretaries Arthur J. Goldberg and W. Willard Wirtz, AFL-CIO President George Meany and Secretary-Treasurer Thomas R. Donahue, and many International Union Presidents. The last Labor Day Mass was celebrated in 1994.

## World War I and The Great Depression

In 1916, the brewery companies approached the CLU for aid in combatting "Prohibitionism". However, in a resolution passed by the CLU in February, 1916, "organized labor would cease to champion the cause of liquor and possibly aid the Prohibition movement", because the brewers were treating their unions unfairly. "Union Beer or No Beer" became their cry. But in March, 1917, DC was voted dry, and Prohibition was the order of the day all across the country.

In 1918, the CLU office moved to 605 5th Street, NW. The Trades Unionist newspaper discussed local effects of World War I, and addressed the new worries about the rise of Bolshevism, since the Russian Revolution of the year before.

In 1924, the American Federation of Labor's first president, Samuel Gompers, died.

In 1929, the stock market crashed. The Great Depression, which would drag on throughout the 1930's, devastated the Washington area as it did the entire country. It also created an environment which stimulated union organization to a degree never before seen.

The CIO, Congress of Industrial Organizations, rose to challenge the lead of the AFL among

organized labor. At the 1935 AFL Convention, John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America, led eight unions out of the convention, and the CIO was born. The AFL had not responded to the needs of the millions of industrial workers who needed to be organized.

New Deal legislation resulted in the cries of "President Roosevelt wants you to join the union!", and join they did. By 1935, the CLU boasted 156 local unions, representing 100,000 members. White collar employees, taxi drivers, bowling pin setters, insurance agents, retail store employees- all types of workers began to see that the "union makes us strong".

In 1938, the local economy still had not pulled out of the doldrums. When unemployment insurance was finally passed for DC by Congress in this year, 13,000 persons applied the first week.

## World War II and Beyond

World War II affected the CLU in a number of ways. Thousands upon thousands of new government workers, who would swell the ranks of federal unions, streamed to Washington, and people went back to work. Local residents, among them union members, went to war, and some never returned. The Trades Unionist newspaper maintained an Honor Roll, listing local unions and the numbers of their members serving in the Armed Forces. The CLU spearheaded efforts to sell War Bonds.

On December 28, 1946, the CLU celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a dinner at the Mayflower Hotel. Six hundred persons attended.

In 1949, the CLU moved its meeting location to the Hamilton Hotel at 14th & K Streets, NW.

In this year also the DC Industrial Union Council was chartered by the CIO. Locals signing the charter application included the "United Public Workers Association 167, Guild, Oil 403, Ship 1013 (government), Clothing 457 & 188, Public 3 & 10, and UTSEA locals 325, 216, 320, 603, & 92". One of the petitioners was James Gildea, father of Mike Gildea, now Assistant Director, Field Services, AFL-CIO.

The 1950's saw a more organized effort to effect legislation and elect pro-labor politicians. COPE committees became active in Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and in Northern Virginia. Organizing drives continued. In 1957, the CLU supported an unsuccessful organizing drive at the Hecht Company which involved five locals-Retail Clerks Union 262, Office Employees International Union 2, Building Service Workers 82, Teamsters 639, and the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Joint Board. It wasn't until 1995, however, that Hecht's became a unionized firm, having signed a contract with UFCW 400 after the closing of Woodward and Lothrop.

## Merger

The AFL and the CIO had merged nationally in 1955. The new AFL-CIO gave state federations and central labor councils until the end of 1957 to merge locally. On November 18, 1957, by a vote of 110 to 19, the Central Labor Union, Washington Branch, AFL voted to merge with the DC Industrial Union Council, CIO. The meeting was held at the Hamilton Hotel. That same evening, at the Willard Hotel, the DC Industrial Union Council, by a vote of 21 to 3 voted to merge with the CLU.

The following week, officers were elected and the Greater Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO came into existence.

There was a slight hitch in the works, however. The plan for the merger called for the Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County Central Labor Union to merge as well, to create a regional labor council. The Virginia group balked, however, and behind-the-scenes maneuverings reportedly took place. To encourage the Virginia council's enthusiastic acceptance of the plan, AFL-CIO President George Meany sent then CLU President J.C. Turner to Alexandria with authority to revoke their charter. According to the legend, the excursion to Alexandria also involved the knuckles of President Turner making contact with the nose of a reluctant central body official. In February, 1958, the Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County CLU voted to merge with the Greater Washington Central Labor Council.

This "shot-gun wedding", however, was never a comfortable one. The Potomac river apparently divides more than two bodies of land. It also somehow divided union members and their locals. In 1995, the AFL-CIO granted a charter to the Northern Virginia Central Labor Council.

## The Struggle Continues

1957 was the year the Teamsters were expelled from the AFL-CIO for corruption. On the local and state level, where Teamsters locals had been an integral part of the labor movement, this order to expel locals was a sad adventure. At the GWCLC Meeting of January 11, 1958, the Teamsters were in the hall when the AFL-CIO letter ordering expulsion was read. A representative of Teamsters 246, speaking on behalf of all Teamster locals, expressed solidarity and a willingness to continue working together, "and then they sadly left the hall".

During the 1960's, several important events occurred. In 1962, President Kennedy signed Executive Order 10988, allowing collective bargaining in the federal sector. Although unions had existed in the federal sector since the 1930's, they were not officially recognized. AFGE, Local 12, for example, at the Department of Labor, organized initially in 1932, was granted exclusive recognition for the 4,500 employees there in February, 1963. After the signing of the Executive Order, AFGE organized fifty-eight new agencies, the largest of which was the Department of Labor. Federal locals and their members became one of the largest segments in the GWCLC.

In April, 1967, the Washington Teachers Union, AFT 6, was voted in by the teachers of the DC school system.

In April of that same year, the GWCLC voted to support the drive for a National Cultural Center, which later became the virtually 100% union Kennedy Center. J.C. Turner was named Chairman of the Labor Committee.

President Turner was also appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to the DC City Council in 1967.

In the late 60's, the GWCLC became more serious about labor studies. In 1967, the GWCLC and the American University set up a Labor Studies Center, with John R. McKenzie as its director. Subsequently, in 1971, the program moved to the Federal City College, which became the University of the District of Columbia, and provided the affiliates of the GWCLC with a range of labor studies classes and a degree program, designed to create more knowledgeable and better prepared union members.

The 1970's were busy years for the GWCLC and its affiliates. After intensive lobbying on the Hill, a new model unemployment compensation bill was passed, covering all workers and bringing the weekly benefit amount up to 66 2/3 of take home pay. The GWCLC's Young Trades Unionists and Community Services Committee offered assistance to the Insurance Workers during their strike against United Insurance Company. AFSCME began organizing DC government workers. The GWCLC supported the Elevator Constructors Local 10 during their 101 day strike.

In 1973, OPEIU Local 2 signed its first contract with the National Bank of Washington, winning a wage progression schedule in the process. In 1975, the Service Employees Local 722 won a recognition election at the Washington Hospital Center covering 1400 employees. The Opera House musicians struck for two weeks in 1978 and won increased fringe benefits and tenure. In 1975 the Fairfax County bus drivers were organized by ATU 1568. In 1975, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 25 was born, conceived through the merger of Bartenders, Cooks, Cafeteria and Restaurant Workers', and Waiters and Waitresses locals. In 1979, Woodies signed its first contract with the Retail Store Employees Union Local 400. The GWCLC passed resolutions, and actively supported the Farah Pants Boycott (1972), the UFW Grape Boycott (1972), and the JP Stevens Boycott(1978), which were national boycotts supported by the AFL-CIO.

In December 6, 1976, the GWCLC voted to hold meetings once, instead of twice, monthly. This was not put into practice, however, until 1981, after the passage of constitutional amendments which also changed the name of the council.

In 1977, the first Evening With Labor was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

In January, 1974, President Nixon signed the Home Rule bill into law, allowing the District of Columbia some degree of local autonomy. A sign appeared on the Washington Monument stating "We Have Home Rule-Now Register and Vote!" put there by Project Voter, a coalition of civic, labor, and church groups, including the GWCLC.

On October 10, 1980, DC public employees won the right to bargain over wages. The GWCLC was instrumental in helping form the Public Employee Coalition.

In 1981, a committee was set up by GWCLC President Robert Petersen, to study the structure of the council. Among those serving on this committee were John Quackenbush (Elevator Constructors 10), David Robinson (Cement Masons 891), Ken Reichard (UFCW 400), Mike Gildea (Newspaper Guild 35) and Ron Richardson (HERE 25). This committee recommended that the Trades Unionist newspaper should be shut down, a very difficult decision after eighty-five years of publication, and that the name of the GWCLC should be changed. On October 16, 1981, the AFL-CIO approved the change and the GWCLC became today's Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO.

## **Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO**

February, 1982 marked a new era for the labor council. Joslyn N. Williams, formerly the council's executive assistant to the president, became its first African-American president. He also became its first full-time paid president.

The 1980's saw many successes on the field of politics. Labor-endorsed candidates whose races were targeted by the labor council, and who won those races included David A. Clarke for City Council Chairman (1982), Harry Thomas for Ward 5 City Council (1986), and Parris Glendening for Prince George's County Executive (1982) and for Governor (1994).

There were also many legislative successes. In 1984, the council successfully staved off a wholesale gutting of the DC unemployment compensation law. The revisions of this law resulted in the creation of the Claimant Advocacy Program, which is sponsored by the labor council. Funded through a special administrative account of the unemployment compensation system, the program provides legal assistance for claimants who have been denied benefits, and who need help with appeals.

Workers' Compensation was also under attack. Through effective lobbying, the Council was able to more clearly define that all workers injured in the District of Columbia were to be covered, and a provision was made to require employers to maintain health care coverage while a worker was unable to return to work. The latter provision, however, was lost in court.

A clear victory was won with the passage of the Displaced Worker Protection Act in 1993. This bill provided for adequate notice, rights of first refusal, and limited job security for workers whose employer loses a contract.

During the 1980's there were a few wrinkles in the fabric of labor solidarity locally. After the labor council election in 1982, several locals disaffiliated from the labor council. Over the years, however, the unions one-by-one have re-affiliated, and most locals in the area remain part of the labor council.

Also welcomed back into the fold of the local "House of Labor" were the Teamsters, who re-affiliated with the AFL-CIO at its convention in 1987, and with the labor council shortly thereafter.

The labor council worked closely with the Washington Building and Construction Trades Council to ensure that the Reeves Municipal Building, finished in 1986, was built union.

The 1990's to date have witnessed the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO and its affiliates continuing the fight which they began in the 1890's. New organizing, progressive bargaining, and ardent lobbying on

behalf of the working men and women of the Washington area- this is what labor is all about.

The Justice for Janitors campaign of SEIU has brought in thousands of new members. So have organizing victories in the Departments of State and Agriculture by AFGE and AFSCME Council 26 respectively.

Workers have been organized at the National Rehabilitation Hospital by District 1199E- DC, SEIU and, with the help of the labor council, have this month defeated an attempt by management to decertify their union. The workers at the Madison Hotel, members of HERE 25, survived a 35 day lock-out with the assistance of the Council, its Community Services Agency, and the solidarity of the affiliated local unions. The Council, in 1995, affiliated two brand new local unions- the Parking Attendants Union, Local 27, HERE and the Montgomery County Government Employees Organization, UFCW 1994.

In mid-1995, the council set-up our local Stand-Up Campaign, modeled after the national AFL-CIO's campaign to "Stand-Up for America's Working Families". The Campaign has already sponsored a rally on Capital Hill, attended by 2000 union members, leafleted local K-Marts in support of the striking newspaper workers in Detroit, and provided solidarity for the demonstration at Thomas Circle by beleaguered public works employees.

## Into The Future

The story of the Central Labor Union, the Greater Washington Central Labor Council, and the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO is not over. As long as companies exist whose sole purpose is profit, who in the pursuit of that profit deny workers their dignity, the ability to survive economically, and the right to form a union of their own choosing, the labor council will coordinate the fight. As long as politicians try to dismantle social programs and legislate big business' agenda, the labor council will stand in their way. As long as local union affiliates need

assistance, in any way, the labor council will be there to help, as it has for 100 years.

A few words uttered at the beginning of the century still apply:

“It should be borne in mind, however, that notwithstanding the more prominent part played by some, it is the loyalty and fidelity of the rank and file which after all makes it possible to succeed in all undertakings.

“.... at a time when men (and women!) were so frequently put to the test, I can say that every problem presented was met with a zeal and enthusiasm which knew no word such as ‘fail’.”

George G. Seibold, Secretary  
Columbia Typographical Union,  
No.101.  
1904-1926

*From the Trades Unionist, March 20, 1897*

**The Electrical Workers, who are renting part of the premises of 508 11th Street, NW reported that the hall in which the meetings of the Buildings Trades Council and several other organizations are held was repaired by non-union workmen, notwithstanding the protest made to the agents, Marshall and Saul.**

**The actions of these agents was severely condemned as it was decided to vacate the premises, as it would be very inconsistent for those who are striving for a living wage to remain patrons of a party who pay the money earned by union men to scab workmen and thus make them indirect employers of non-union labor.**

**Of course, when these premises are vacated, if Messrs Marshall and Saul are consistent, they should tack on the door a card which should read;These premises for rent, as we pay the lowest wages, we want tenants at the lowest rental. But they won't do it. They will want a tenant who receives a higher rate of wages than they will ever pay.**

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO

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This history has been compiled from the following sources:

The Trades Unionist newspaper, 1896-1982

Illustrated History of the Washington Central Labor Union and its Affiliated Organizations, published by the CLU in 1900.

Minutes of the CLU, GWCLC, MWC, AFL-CIO.

A Half Century of Vision and Courage, A Review of the 50-Year History of Maryland-DC Federation of Labor, by Clinton D. Anstead, published in 1956 by the MD/DC AFL.

PRESIDENTS OF THE CENTRAL LABOR UNION, THE GREATER WASHINGTON CENTRAL  
LABOR COUNCIL, AND THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL, AFL-CIO  
1896-1996

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1896-1897                 | Milford Spohn, Bricklayers No. 1                              |
| January-June, 1898        | Norman C. Sprague, Printing Pressmen No.1                     |
| July 1898-1901            | Henry W. Szegedy, Plate Printers, Local 2                     |
| 1901                      | James Feeney, Bookbinders                                     |
| 1902-June, 1903           | John H. Hamerstrom, Machinists                                |
| July, 1903-June, 1904     | H.W. Sherman, IBEW  |
| July, 1904-June, 1905     | John B. Dickman, Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101        |
| July-December 1905        | Jere F. McCarthy, Bartenders League, No. 75                   |
| 1906                      | Emmet L. Adams, Columbia Lodge 174, Machinists                |
| January-July, 1907        | John. H. Brinkman, Carriage & Wagon Workers, No. 1            |
| July, 1907-?              | John. H. Lorch, Engineers                                     |
| ?- 1910                   | J.B. Colpoys  |
| ?-1912                    | Milton Snellings, International Steam and Operating Engineers |
| 1913                      | Frank A. Kidd   |
| 1914-1915                 | Newton A. James, Stationary Firemen                           |
| January-July, 1916        | Ed L. Tucker  |
| July-December, 1916       | Newton A. James   |
| January, 1917- June, 1918 | Hugh D. Digney, Building Trades                               |
| July-December, 1918       | John B. Dickman   |
| 1918-1919                 | Harry F. Hollahan   |
| 1920                      | William W. Keeler, Columbia Lodge 174, Machinists             |
| 1921                      | Newton A. James   |
| 1922                      | James J. McCracken, Engineers                                 |
| 1923                      | Harry Hollahan  |
| 1924-February, 1925       | A.M. Lawson, Operating Engineers 99                           |
| February, 1925-1926       | Clarence Cooper   |
| 1927                      | A.C. Hayden, Musicians Protective Union, No. 161              |
| 1928-1929                 | James J. Noonan, Columbia Lodge 174, Machinists               |
| 1930-April, 1931          | Howard T. Colvin, Paperhangers                                |
| May, 1931-1934            | Richard A. Dickson, Press Feeders & Assistants Local Union    |
| 1934-1945                 | John Locher, Iron Workers Local 5                             |
| 1946- October, 1958       | Clem F. Preller, IBEW 26                                      |
| October, 1958- 1972       | J.C. Turner, Operating Engineers 77                           |
| 1972-1975                 | George Apperson, Amalgamated Transit Union, 689               |
| 1975-1982                 | Robert E. Petersen, Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101     |
| 1982-Present              | Joslyn N. Williams, AFSCME 2477                               |

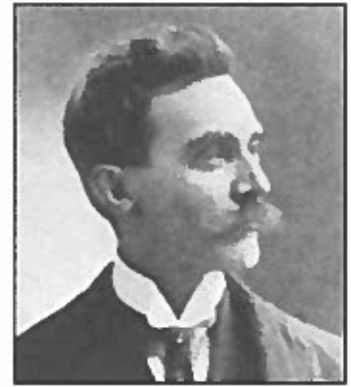




Milford Spohn



Henry W. Szegedy



James Lawrence Feeney



John H. Brinkman



Newton A. James



Edward L. Tucker



Robert E. Petersen



J. C. Turner and George Apperson



Joslyn N. Williams

## PRESIDENTS

The ranks of men who have been president of the Central Labor Union and its successor organizations include tee-totalers, song writers, Odd Fellows, gold rushers, and foreigners. It includes building tradesmen, musicians, printers, machinists, transit workers, and public sector employees. It includes visionaries and leaders- good union men all.

The first president, Milford Spohn, was born in Montgomery County, Maryland. He was part of an expedition to Pike's Peak during the gold rush there. Presumably he was unsuccessful, because he resumed his life as a bricklayer, and he was a delegate to their convention in 1872. Later, he moved to Ohio and founded the Labor Tribune in Cincinnati in 1882. Mr. Spohn was a member of the central committee of the Ohio Greenback Party, and ran unsuccessfully for Congress on that ticket. In 1885 he returned to DC, and was instrumental in launching the Central Labor Union on its way. In recognition of his efforts, the labor council unanimously elected him delegate-at-large for life.

The 10th president of the CLU, John H. Brinkman, was apprenticed in the carriage and wagon business, and was originally a member of Local Assembly 3456, Knights of Labor. In 1899, he and others seceded from the Knights and formed Local 1, Carriage and Wagon Builders Union, AFL. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

James L. Feeney, president in 1901, was born and raised in New York City. Always a union man, a bookbinder, he was also, at twenty years of age, president of St. Ann's Young Men's Total Abstinence Society, a temperance organization, and formed the chapter here after accepting an appointment to the Government Printing Office in 1886. He wrote many popular songs including, "An Old Sweetheart of Mine", "Golden Gates Ajar", and "Welcome Boys in Blue".

Several presidents became the "Grover Clevelands" of the Central Labor Union. Newton James served three non-consecutive terms as president. Harry Hollohan, whose union affiliation was unknown, and John B. Dickman, Columbia Typographical Union 101 each served two non-consecutive terms.

John Lorch, 11th President of the Council, was born in London, England and may be the only president of the council, besides it's current president, Joslyn N. Williams, who was born abroad.

Many of the presidents of our central labor body also served, at various times, as officers of their respective international unions. The 6th president, H.W. Sherman, was general secretary of the IBEW International while serving as CLU president, and had been the grand president also. The 12th president, Milton Snellings, was concurrently the general president of his union, the International Steam and Operating Engineers. In more recent times, J.C. Turner, our president emeritus, who served from 1958 to 1972, became president of the International Union of Operating Engineers from 1976 to 1984. He was also appointed to the DC City Council in 1967 while serving as president of the CLU.

Our 28th president, Howard T. Colvin of the Paperhangers, was appointed in April 1931 to the position of Secretary of Labor for the State of Virginia. This necessitated his stepping down as CLU president.

Several presidents also served as officers of the Building Trades Council concurrently, most notably, Clem Preller, IBEW 26 (1946-58) who served as president of both.

John C. Colpoys, union affiliation and exact tenure unknown, became the Editor of the Trades Unionist newspaper in 1912, after his term as president, and served in that capacity until 1944.

The Metro Washington Council's current president, Joslyn N. Williams, is the first full time paid president. He has, perhaps, logged in the most travel miles on behalf of the council, and the AFL-CIO, having traveled to Israel, Italy, South Africa, Haiti, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras for union programs.

Spend  
Union  
Earned  
Money  
for  
Union  
Made  
Goods  
and  
Service

# The Trades Unionist

OFFICIAL ORGAN CENTRAL LABOR UNION, WASHINGTON, D.C.



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Were it not for the labor press the labor move-  
ment would not be what it is today, and any man  
who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the  
cause. — President Roosevelt

WITH A MISSION WITHOUT  
A MUZZLE

Vol. 40, No. 51

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1935

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR

## The Trades Unionist

From the very beginning, the Central Labor Union recognized the importance of the labor press as a means of educating, enlightening, and influencing local labor, politicians, and the community.

From 1896, the Trades Unionist newspaper was published "weekly every Saturday", and was the "official organ of the Central Labor Union, Washington Branch, AFL". Originally its editors were Joel W. Cross and Jarvis B. Moulden. The offices were located at 429 7th Street, NW.

Throughout the years, other parts of the labor movement added their names to the masthead, and the Trades Unionist became the official organ of the Building Trades Council (1920's), the Union Label Council (1938) and the Allied Printing Trades Council (1944). In 1925, it was endorsed by the Maryland and District of Columbia Federation of Labor.

The offices moved over the years, to 414 6th Street, NW in 1898, 617 F Street, NW in 1907 and to 1311 L Street, NW in 1956.

When Sam DeNedrey became the editor in 1907, the paper went from four to eight pages, and a women's section was added. In 1912, John Colpoys, the immediate past president of the Central Labor Union became the editor and remained in that position until 1944, despite being appointed by President Roosevelt in 1934 to the position of US Marshall for the District of Columbia.

From 1944 until the paper was purchased from the Colpoys Publishing Company by the Central Labor Union in 1956, Fred S. Walker was the editor. He was replaced by Albert K. Herling, who was himself replaced in 1959 by the Trades Unionist's last editor, John C. Bigbee.

Due to the overtures by the Central Labor Union to its fraternal counterpart across the river, the Trades Union Council of Alexandria, a regular column appeared starting in 1907 called "Alexandria Labor News".

In the 1940's with the rise of federal government unionization, a column appeared called "Life With Uncle" with news of federal locals. Also in the 40's, during World War II, the paper ran "Labor's Honor Roll", which listed affiliated locals and the numbers of members each had serving in the armed forces.

From at least 1957, a column appeared on Workers Compensation written by Lee Ashcraft and Martin Gerel, founders of the Ashcraft and Gerel Law Firm, used by many locals today. From 1959 at least, Monsignor George Higgins, Director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and a lifelong friend of the American labor movement, ran a column on religion and labor.

When the paper first was published, local news was its mainstay. Proceedings of the Central Labor Union and Building Trades Council meetings were always published. Columbia Typographical Union, already eighty-one years old when the first issue came out, ran a regular column with all the news in the local printing scene.

Through the mid-1920's into the 1950's, national labor news took over, and few actions of the central body or its affiliated locals were reported. By the late -1950's, the paper again reverted to mostly local news, and in 1963, for example, columns appeared regularly from Meatcutters Local 555, Sheet Metal Workers Local 102, Amalgamated Transit Local 689, IBEW 26, Operating Engineers 77, and Retail Store Employees Local 400.

Financial hardship was always a companion of the Trades Unionist. In 1896, its yearly subscription rate

was \$1 per year. As late as 1956, when the CLU bought the paper, it was still only \$2 for a one year subscription. Advertising by local companies kept it afloat, and through these ads, the history of local business as well as local labor is revealed.

In 1957, the proceeds of the 60th Anniversary Dinner of the Central Labor Union (which was celebrated one year too late!), \$677.90 was turned over to the paper.

In the late 1970's, the Building Trades Council decided to put out its own paper, and this started the final demise of the Trades Unionist. In 1976, the Central Labor Union voted to publish every two weeks, ending an 80-year tradition, and in 1982, it ceased publication. The official voice of the Central Labor Union, AFL, and its successor, the Greater Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, was silenced.

Those of us who read its issues today can still hear its voice. It still speaks of struggle, heartache, strikes, boycotts, organizing gains and losses, communities and labor's role in them, politicians and their push/pull relationship with organized labor, the evolution in the status and roles of women and minorities, the way people lived in the past. It speaks also of victory, triumph, and the commitment and purpose of working people in the metro Washington area who built our local labor movement, and who, in the process, helped make life better for all.

*From the Trades Unionist, March 21, 1959*

#### **SYMPHONY NEEDS 1928 MAXWELL**

**The National Symphony needs the polished services of a 1928 Maxwell (preferably in running condition), with driver, for a few hours on Thursday, March 26, to meet Jack Benny at the airport.**

**The world's best known violinist will be making his Constitution Hall debut Saturday, March 28, in a special benefit concert for the orchestra's 1959 Sustaining Fund Drive.**

**Anyone with information about a Maxwell, please call Mr. Hood at HUDson 3-4111.**

*From the Trades Unionist, January 31, 1901*

**Georgetown University Law Department  
Washington, DC January 26, 1901**

**Mr. HW Szegedy, President  
National Plate Printers Union  
(and President, Central Labor Union)**

**Dear Sir:**

**Enclosed you will find copies of the resolutions which were proposed and unanimously adopted by our class at a meeting held on Wednesday evening, January 23, 1901. These resolutions are not for the purpose of show or advertising, but we can assure you that it is the sincerest desire of this class that we shall have our invitations etc, for our closing exercises done only by firms employing union labor; and nothing this class can do will be left undone to have the faculty of our Law School satisfy our wishes in this matter.**

**Hoping this disagreement, which at present exists between your union and the firms, may soon be terminated to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, we remain**

**Yours Truly,  
Class of 1901  
J. Vincent Coughlan  
Jas. S. McDonogh  
Committee**

*From the Trades Unionist, April 1975*

**Local 224, Motion Picture Operators Strikes Roth Theaters- Employer states "management could train monkeys in hours to do the same job as a highly trained professional projectionist".**

## Unique Location

Because it is headquartered in the nation's capital, the Washington area central labor council has enjoyed a unique relationship with the AFL, the CIO and the AFL-CIO.

CLU meetings from the beginning were held at Columbia Typo Temple at 423 G Street, NW. This was the union hall of America's oldest union, formed in 1815. When the new American Federation of Labor, founded in 1881 moved its headquarters from Indianapolis to Washington in 1896, the Typo Temple became its headquarters as well.

The nation's capital brought many famous people of the day into the realm of the Central Labor Union. The great Socialist, union organizer and presidential candidate Eugene V. Debs spoke before the assembled working men of the city. Samuel Gompers, the first president of the AFL, spoke before the central body on many occasions. In 1905, Terrence Powderly, who rose to prominence in the Knights of Labor, addressed the delegates and asked for aid for the working people of Russia. In later years, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Senator Wayne Morse also visited and spoke.

A unique relationship developed between the national AFL and later the AFL-CIO, and the central labor body. Many local labor activists were personal friends of Samuel Gompers. In 1916, the CLU leadership attended the ceremony to lay the cornerstone for the new AFL Labor Temple at 9th and Massachusetts Avenue NW (the current headquarters of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters), and on July 4 of that year, at the dedication ceremony attended by President Woodrow Wilson, the CLU sponsored a parade.

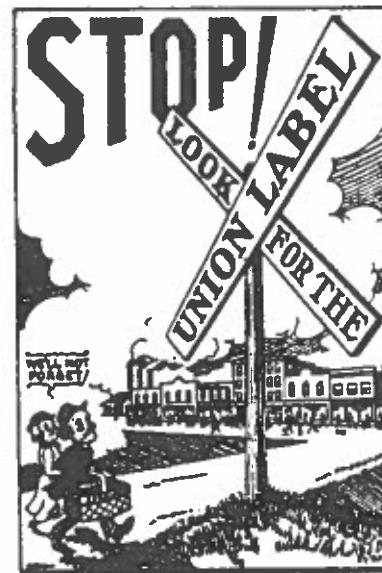
The banner headline on the Trades Unionist of December 20, 1924 read "SADDEST TRAIN SINCE LINCOLN'S BEARS SAM GOMPERS TO THE GRAVE". Gompers had died December 13, 1924 in Texas after returning from Mexico. Local CLU officers met Gompers' train at Martinsburg, West Virginia and accompanied the body to Washington. As Gompers lay in state at the AFL building, CLU officers and delegates provided an honor guard at the bier,

and took shifts to provide coverage until late into the night.

When the Gompers statue, at Gompers square, 10th and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, was dedicated on October 7, 1933, CLU president Richard A. Dickson joined President Roosevelt and AFL President William Green to honor the union cigarmaker.

In 1951, CLU President Clem Preller joined President Harry S. Truman and AFL President Green for the re-dedication of the statue.

In 1987, the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, working with the AFL-CIO and the National Park Service, oversaw the restoration, cleaning and repair of the statue and the park. On September 3, 1987, President Joslyn N. Williams, and former president Robert Petersen joined AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland in re-dedicating the statue and park. Former State Senator Margaret Schweinhaut, Montgomery County, also was in attendance. She had been a secretary to Mr. Gompers at one time.



**THE UNION LABEL IS THE SYMBOL OF HIGHEST QUALITY OF AMERICAN-MADE PRODUCTS. PATRONIZE BUSINESS PLACES WHICH DISPLAY THE UNION LABEL, SHOP CARD & BUTTONS.**  
**UNION LABEL TRADES DEPARTMENT**  
**American Federation of Labor Wash., D. C.**

*From the Trades Unionist, June 15, 1935*

## Women, Minorities and Youth

The history of the Central Labor Union, published in 1900, pictures among the officers of the affiliated unions no women, and one African-American. He is Mr. Thomas Jackson, president of the Hod Carriers Union No. 1, and delegate to the CLU.

Women and minorities had been, of course, members of area locals for many years. America's oldest union, Columbia Typographical No. 101, admitted its first woman member, Ms. Mary Greene, in 1870. Black workers were denied entry, however, until much later.

The minutes of the CLU meeting of November 1901 state that "the CLU was called to order. Ms. Clara G. Smith, of Federal Labor Union No. 8193, acted as assistant secretary, it being the first time in the history of the CLU that a lady had ever held an official position in said body". This local had been admitted to the CLU in April, 1901 and represented women workers at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Also growing at the time was the Women's Bindery Union at the Government Printing Office. In 1901, they claimed 900 members which was all but five employees. This was the largest women's organization of any kind formed in DC by that date.

It remains to be unearthed when women and African-Americans were first elected to the executive board of the CLU.

In 1911, the CLU was able to get elected the first female Vice-President of the Maryland State AFL. She was Miss L.C. Trax, and she was a delegate from the Washington Women's Trade Union League.

In 1935, the CLU sent Miss Selma Borchardt, from the teachers' union, as its delegate to the 54th Convention of the American Federation Of Labor.

It wasn't until 1944 that an African-American tried to run for a vice-presidency of the Maryland and DC AFL. Mr. Charles S. Hill, local affiliation unknown from the DC area, was

unsuccessful, but a Baltimore-based longshoreman, Jeff Davis was finally elected in 1949. This was after a "gentlemen's agreement" in 1948 which created a new vice-president position, which was to be reserved for "Negroes", an early example of voluntary affirmative action.

In 1963, despite the national AFL-CIO refusing to endorse the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, organized primarily by A. Philip Randolph, the GWCLC passed a resolution supporting the event, and encouraged local members to attend.

Youth participation in the labor movement has always been an objective of the labor council. Formed in the early 1970's, under the presidency of J.C. Turner, the Young Trades Unionists served as an action team to assist with strike activities, political campaigns, boycotts, community services, and other labor council initiatives. It also served as a training ground for future labor leaders. The original organizers included Robert Harbrant, now president of the Food and Allied Services Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Ron Richardson, currently secretary-treasurer of HERE Local 25, and Margareta Crampton, now COPE director for the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO.

In 1973, the AFL-CIO youth organization, FRONTLASH, organized locally with the help of the GWCLC, and ran a voter registration drive in Northern Virginia. Currently, the Community Services Agency runs the Youth Advisory Committee, which helps high school students meet their community service requirements and exposes them to the labor movement at the same time.

Organized in May and chartered in September of 1974, the first DC Coalition of Labor Union Women chapter elected its first president Patrice Gancie, CWA 2380. The local chapter of the Coalition of Black Trades Unionists was founded in 1974. DC also boasts a chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, that was formed around the same time.

The local Hispanic labor community came together in 1980, creating the Washington Metro Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA).

## Maryland and DC

The CLU and its successors have enjoyed a special relationship with the Maryland labor movement from its beginnings.

In 1906, the Maryland Federation of Labor, AFL was chartered. In 1909, the constitution was amended to add the District of Columbia. It was not until 1912, however, that a new charter application was filed, and charter granted for the Maryland State and District of Columbia Federation of Labor, AFL. It was not until 1925 that the seal was changed to reflect DC's inclusion.

This foot-dragging of the leadership was due to a problem that would characterize the dealings of the Maryland AFL for many years-rivalry between the Baltimore Central Labor Council, and the CLU. Some years, Washington area locals were in control, other years, control shifted to Baltimore. It was not until the early 1950's that the leadership question was settled through intervention of the national office, mandating representation among top officers from across the state.

Two Washington area leaders, officers of the CLU, stand out. Frank Coleman, Plate Printers Local 2, who was elected as secretary of the CLU in 1920, became the Recording Secretary of the Maryland/DC Federation of Labor in 1923 and served in that capacity until 1954. He was a close friend of AFL president Samuel Gompers, and under Presidents Coolidge and Hoover, he became the liaison officer between the White House and the AFL.

Robert C. Lester was elected the Business Agent of Bakery Salesmen Local 33, Teamsters in 1928 and was President of Teamsters Joint Council 55 for twenty years. He became the financial secretary of the CLU and the Maryland State and DC Federation of Labor in 1938 and served until 1956.

At the 1956 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Maryland State and DC AFL, the men were honored posthumously with the creation of a scholarship fund in their names.

The 1939 convention of the state body was the first where a "public address system" was used. "The improvement was noted by resolution. But many delegates expressed the fear that delays caused by the speakers would be augmented by long speeches by delegates whose "mike happiness" would inspire them to excessive use of the new gadget."

Although black union leaders from both Baltimore and DC had run for vice-president slots at the state federation since 1944, it was not until 1949 that Jeff Davis, a Baltimore longshoreman, succeeded. A Washington area woman, Miss L.C. Trax, had been elected to the board in 1911.

On September 6, 1957, at a meeting at the Hotel Statler, the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO was born with a merger of the two state bodies. Among others in attendance were Washington area delegates Arline Neal (Building Service Employees Local 82), CLU president J.C. Turner (IUOE 77), Cyprian Tilghman (Hotel Service Workers Local 80), and the late Joe Beavers (Hotel Restaurant Cooks 209).

Today, Joslyn N. Williams, president of the labor council, is the 2nd vice-president of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO, and 12 Washington area leaders serve on the Executive Board.

*From the Trades Unionist, March 5, 1938*

### **GIRLS**

**What do you  
Know about**

### **LEMONS?**

**Read on page 5 what Elinor Lee  
says about these little round yellow  
things in "Kitchen Kapers".  
She surely knows her lemons.**

**Miss Lee each week will write a  
column of special interest to women.  
Men should not read it.**

## The Labor Council In The Community

The Trades Unionist newspaper recounts from the beginning the active participation of the labor council in the life of the community. Craft locals donated their skills to repair homes and schools, affiliated locals raised money for community projects, and officers served on the boards of community organizations.

Keeping fellow union members and their families afloat during times of strikes or unemployment was always a priority. In 1902, the CLU raised \$500, a goodly sum for the times, to donate to striking miners.

During the Great Depression, the CLU strongly supported the Washington Community Chest, which was struggling to keep up with the masses of people in financial trouble.

In 1940, the CLU undertook to raise funds to fight infantile paralysis- polio-, which had devastated countless families. During the war, the CLU organized a Civilian Defense Fund, ultimately raising \$82,000 for the cause. IBEW 26 had made the first donation - a day's pay from each of its 350 members.

The earliest record of Union Counselor Training Programs, The AFL-CIO program for training union members to be social services counselors in their workplace, is 1961. These classes were organized originally by the community services committee of the GWCLC, and continue today under the direction of the Community Services Agency of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO.

In August, 1972, the GWCLC was awarded a \$143,699 grant from ACTION, the first ever to a labor organization, to run the Foster Grandparent Program. This innovative program provided a small stipend to low-income seniors to work with children in various locations throughout the city. The first program included fifty-five seniors and 110 mentally retarded children. The Foster Grandparent Program was sponsored by the GWCLC, and its successor, the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO until 1989, when DC's Senior Citizen Counseling and Delivery Service took it over.

In March, 1974, the United Giver's fund and the Health and Welfare Council merged to become today's United Way of the National Capital Area. This move was supported by the GWCLC because it meant better social planning and allocation of resources where need was greatest. Currently, two union members sit on the board of our local United Way- former GWCLC president Robert Petersen (Columbia Typo) and William Simons (retired AFT).

The first local labor agency, the United Labor Agency, was formed in October 1976. Susan Holleran, now at AFSCME International, was the first Executive Director. The agency was formed to coordinate United Way fundraising among unions and their members, provide educational programs to unions and their members, provide information and referral services to union members and the community at- large, and to generate union volunteers for community projects.

This labor agency, which later became the Labor Agency of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO in 1984, was plagued by financial difficulties even as it struggled to provide quality services to affiliates and the community. It ceased operation in December, 1990.

The community services program continues today under the direction of the Community Services Agency of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, which was incorporated in March, 1991, and which, with the support from United Way, fills a void in the social services fabric of the area.

*From the Trades Unionist, January 31, 1959*

### **How To Avoid Your Creditors**

**Move to South America-wear dark glasses and a beard-paint your car a different color and park it on a side street- have your phone removed and buy a big dog-report yourself missing to the Police Department- list yourself in the obituary column. If these don't work- see your credit union and solve your problem the easier way.**



## LOCAL LABOR TIMELINE

|             |             |   |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| <b>1881</b> |             | <b>American Federation of Labor Founded</b>   |
| 1896        | April 9     | 13 local unions apply for AFL charter   |
|             | August 11   | AFL grants charter to the Central Labor Union, Washington Branch, AFL<br><u>Trades Unionist</u> Newspaper, official organ of CLU, begins publication                          |
| 1898        | March       | CLU boycott actions against the Cabin John Bridge Hotel result in the signing of a contract to employ only union labor and use only union products                            |
| 1899        |             | Passes resolution supporting Eight Hour Day activities  |
|             | February 20 | AFL President Samuel Gompers addresses CLU meeting, urges lobbying for Eight Hour Bill  |
| 1900        |             | CLU passes a resolution supporting full suffrage for the residents of the District of Columbia  |
| 1901        | April       | Women's Bindery Union at the GPO boasts 900 members: delegates from the Federal Labor Union No. 8193, women employed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, admitted to CLU |
|             | September   | CLU sponsors Labor Day Celebration at Glen Echo, 20,000 participate   |
|             | November    | Woman elected for first time to be temporary officer during CLU meeting   |
| 1902        | May         | Local 99, Int'l Union of Steam Engineers admitted to CLU only after renouncing their affiliation with the Knights of Labor  |
|             | May         | Master Builders Association locks out 5,000 building tradesmen affiliated with the CLU over the continuing dispute with the Knights of Labor                                  |
|             | August      | Telephone operators begin forming a union at the C & P Telephone Company. CLU helps find an organizer   |
|             | August      | Registered Drug Clerks forms an association   |
| 1903        | December    | All theaters sign a contract with the Motion Picture Operators Local 224  |
|             | November 10 | CLU charter revoked by AFL for refusing to comply with Executive Council action to expel Steamfitters, who had not affiliated with the Plumbers as ordered                    |
|             | November 21 | CLU "with regret" expels Steamfitters, charter reinstated   |
| 1905        | March       | Terrence Powderly, formerly head of the national Knights of Labor addresses CLU and asks for aid for the working people of Russia   |
| 1906        |             | <b>Maryland Federation of Labor, AFL Chartered</b>  |

|      |             |   |
|------|-------------|---|
| 1908 |             | Trades Council of Alexandria, Virginia becomes an official sponsor of the <u>Trades Unionist</u>            |
| 1912 |             | <b>Maryland Federation of Labor becomes Maryland and District of Columbia Federation of Labor, AFL</b>      |
| 1916 | July        | CLU sponsors parade to honor the dedication of the new AFL headquarters at 9th and Massachusetts Avenue NW. |
| 1917 |             | <b>United States of America enters World War I</b>  |
| 1924 | December    | AFL President Samuel Gompers dies: CLU provides honor guard at bier   |
| 1926 |             | Central Clothes Shop, a store run by unions to sell union label clothes, opens at 8th and G Streets NW.     |
| 1929 |             | <b>Stock Market Crashes, Depression Begins</b>  |
| 1931 |             | CLU passes resolution to support thirty-five hour week to help lift the region out of the Great Depression  |
|      |             | CLU supports Washington Community Chest and urges the locals to contribute                                  |
| 1934 |             | CLU sponsors Labor Day parade, 5, 000 march   |
| 1935 |             | <b>Congress of Industrial Organizations, CIO Founded</b>  |
| 1935 |             | CLU membership reaches 100,000 members in 156 local unions  |
|      |             | CLU sends woman delegate to 54th AFL Convention   |
| 1938 |             | Unemployment Compensation law passes to cover DC workers: 13,000 apply in first week                        |
|      | January     | CLU joins AFL in encouraging white collar employees to organize   |
| 1940 |             | CLU commits to raising money to fight infantile paralysis (polio)   |
|      |             | CLU establishes Civilian Defense Fund and raises \$82, 000  |
| 1941 |             | <b>United States of America enters World War II</b>   |
| 1944 |             | <u>Trades Unionist</u> maintains " Honor Roll" of locals with members serving in World War II               |
| 1946 | December 28 | CLU celebrates 50th Anniversary with a dinner at the Mayflower Hotel; 600 attend                            |
| 1949 |             | CLU meetings are moved to the Hamilton Hotel, 14th and K Street NW.   |
|      | March 28    | District of Columbia Industrial Union Council is Chartered by the CIO                                       |

|      |             |   |
|------|-------------|---|
| 1955 |             | <b>AFL-CIO created from merger of American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations</b>   |
| 1957 |             | <b>Maryland AFL and CIO merge to form Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO</b>   |
|      |             | CLU supports drive to organize Hecht's ; five unions run joint organizing campaign: Retail Clerks Local 262, Office Employees International Union Local 2, Building Service Workers Local 82, Hotel and Restaurant Workers Joint Board, and Teamsters Local 639 |
|      | November 18 | CLU votes to merge with the DC Industrial Union Council; DC IUC votes to merge as well  |
|      | November 25 | Greater Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO ( GWCLC ) created; new officers elected   |
| 1958 | January 11  | GWCLC complies with AFL-CIO directive to expel all Teamster locals; action accompanied by "sadness"   |
|      | January 24  | Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County CLU votes to merge with the Greater Washington Central Labor Council  |
|      | March       | GWCLC affiliates with the Virginia State AFL-CIO  |
| 1959 | April       | New Group Health Association Labor - Management Center dedicated at New Hampshire Avenue NE; result of contract between ATU Local 689 and DC Transit  |
| 1961 |             | Union counselor classes held, sponsored by GWCLC Community Services Committee   |
| 1962 |             | <b>President Kennedy signs Executive Order 10988 Allowing Collective Bargaining for Federal Employees</b>   |
| 1963 | February    | AFGE Lodge 12 is granted recognition at the Department of Labor for 4,500 employees   |
|      |             | GWCLC supports picket line at the DC Stadium to protest refusal to bargain with Local 473, Cafeteria and Restaurant Workers Union   |
|      |             | GWCLC passes resolution endorsing March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom  |
| 1964 |             | GWCLC reaffirms its support for full suffrage for the residents of DC   |
|      | March       | Musicians of the National Symphony Orchestra strike when five members are fired   |
| 1967 |             | GWCLC President JC Turner is appointed to the DC City Council   |
|      | April       | GWCLC supports successful organizing drive in the DC Public Schools; Washington Teachers Union Local 6 becomes official   |

GWCLC and American University set up Labor Studies Center; John McKenzie named director

1971 Labor Studies Center moves to Federal City College, which becomes UDC

1972 New Unemployment Compensation law passes for DC by Congress after much lobbying by GWCLC ; increased benefits to 66 2/3 percent of take- home pay

GWCLC passes resolution supporting the United Farmworkers and joins the boycott of grapes and lettuce

AFSCME begins organizing DC government employees

June Maryland passes a collective bargaining law for non- teaching school employees; AFSCME 2250 becomes official

August GWCLC wins first grant to a labor organization from ACTION to set up a Foster Grandparents Program

September GWCLC supports Farah pants boycott

1973 First contract between National Bank of Washington and OPEIU Local 2 signed; workers win wage progression schedule

April The Newspaper Guild 35 begins a long strike at the Alexandria Gazette

1974 President Richard M. Nixon signs into law the DC Home Rule Bill

May DC Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women forms

May First GWCLC COPE conference held: attended by Senator Thomas Eagleton

United Givers Fund and Health and Welfare Council merge to form the United Way of the National Capital Area supported by the GWCLC

1975 GWCLC supports strike by Steamfitters Local 602 and Plumbers Local 5 against the Mechanical Contractors Association

1976 October United Labor Agency of the GWCLC established, funded by the United Way

June 29 GWCLC votes to endorse the ERA March

GWCLC votes to print the Trades Unionist every other week instead of weekly

1977 GWCLC sponsors the first annual Evening With Labor Dinner / Dance

1978 GWCLC votes to support the JP Stevens Boycott

GWCLC supports strike of the Musicians at the Kennedy Center Opera House; members win fringe benefits and tenure

1979 Retail Store Employees Union Local 400 wins first contract at Woodward and Lothrop

- GWCLC supports Washington Teachers Union Local 6 in 17 day strike
- 1980                      October 10                      DC public employees win the right to bargain over wages: Public Employees Coalition forms
- Washington Metro Chapter of LCLAA, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, forms
- 1981                      GWCLC changes its name to the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
- 1982                      Trades Unionist ceases publication
- 1982                      Joslyn N. Williams becomes first African - American to be elected president of Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
- 1987                      **Teamsters Re-Affiliate with AFL-CIO**
- Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO welcomes Teamsters back into the local " House of Labor"
- 1991                      March                      Community Services Agency of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO incorporated
- 1995                      AFL-CIO grants new charter to Northern Virginia CLC, removing Virginia from jurisdiction of the MWC
- June                      Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO establishes **Stand - Up Campaign** to fight for the Washington area's working families
- 1996                      March 30                      Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO begins observance of **100th Anniversary**; celebrates with a dinner dance at the Washington Hilton Hotel
- Congratulations!! You are now part of History!**



The Greater Washington Central Labor Council  
and  
The Union Label and Service Trades Council  
AFL-CIO

*in cooperation with*

Universal-International Pictures

*is privileged to invite you to*

A SPECIAL SHOWING FOR

Washington AFL-CIO Local Union Officials

*of*

# SPARTACUS

*the outstanding American-Union made*  
"Film of the Year"

Monday, March 27, 1961

THE WARNER THEATRE  
13TH AND E STREETS N.W.  
8:15 P.M.



PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN  
MONDAY, MAR. 20