

The Coalition of Labor Union Women  
presents the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial

# WORKING WOMEN'S AWARD CELEBRATION



## SNAP!



WE WILL GOTV IN ALL NEIGHBORHOODS | WE WILL TALK  
TO OUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS | WE WILL RUN FOR OFFICE

**May 4, 2018**



# **CLUW'S 5TH BIENNIAL WORKING WOMEN'S AWARD CELEBRATION**

**COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN, SISTERS NOT AFRAID OF POWER**

**Friday, May 4, 2018  
10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.**

**AFL-CIO Headquarters  
815 16<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Washington, DC 20006**

The Working Women's Award recognizes activists, politicians and others who have rendered outstanding service to women and the labor community.



# CLUW'S 5TH BIENNIAL WORKING WOMEN'S AWARD CELEBRATION

COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN, SISTERS NOT AFRAID OF POWER

## Program

**Welcome.....Elise Bryant, President**  
*Coalition of Labor Union Women*

**Greetings.....Richard L. Trumka, President**  
*AFL-CIO*

**Awards Presentations**

**Closing Remarks.....Elise Bryant**

*CLUW wishes to thank the Working Women's  
Award Committee:*

***Patricia Chardavoyne, CLUW Vice President (AFSCME)***

***Jennifer L. Grigsby, CLUW Vice President (AFGE)***

***Carla M. Insinga, CLUW Executive Vice President  
(AFSCME)***

***Karen Bellamy Lewis, CLUW Vice President (IFPTE)***

**Special thanks to:**

*Natasha Isma, 2016 Recipient of the Rising Star  
Award (AFSCME)*

# CLUW History

In 1973, several women activists from different unions put out the idea of a union women's coalition. The women included Olga Madar of the United Auto Workers; Addie Wyatt of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union; Clara Day of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Gloria T. Johnson of the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers; Joyce D. Miller of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers; and Elinor Glen of the Service Employees International Union. Their work culminated in a national convention to form the "Coalition of Labor Union Women" (CLUW). The convention opened in Chicago on March 22, 1974 under the theme "We Didn't Come Here to Swap Recipes."

Eight hundred women were expected, but 3,200 came. Women came from 58 Unions and 41 States. Many were young; some not so young. Almost all had come at their own expense. Some thought it was a near miracle that so many women participated. It was no miracle. The mass sentiment was there. Union women were fired up and "not taking it anymore."

By the end of the convention, the founding members of CLUW developed the mission and adopted four basic goals that CLUW was to stand for. These goals are to: 1) increase the number of organized women workers, 2) implement affirmative action; 3) work for the passage of legislation favorable to women workers; and, 4) increase women's

involvement in their unions. While CLUW welcomes members from all unions, it was not long before CLUW became officially recognized as a constituency group of the AFL-CIO.

Joyce Miller, President of CLUW (1977-1993), became the first woman elected to the AFL-CIO Executive Board in 1980.

CLUW believes that it is necessary to bring the women of labor unions together, to ultimately protect women's rights and to address all the needs that they might have in the workplace as well as within their unions. CLUW is the only national organization solely for union women members. Women in unions are often discriminated against, especially minority women, and CLUW works to prevent and correct problems to which women have fallen prey.

There are union women working in almost every industry, in almost every part of the country. Despite their geographical, industrial, and occupational separations, union women share common concerns and goals. They want to have full equality of opportunities and rights in the labor force. The primary purpose of CLUW is to unify all union women in a viable organization. They can then determine the common problems and concerns and develop action programs within the body of the union to deal effectively with the objectives.

In 1979, CLUW established the Center for Education and Research as a separate non-profit, tax-exempt entity of CLUW. The Center was established to provide the necessary means for the union and CLUW members to become effective advocates for working women in the workplace and the labor movement.

Forty-four years later, CLUW still bases its mission on the four basic goals of action that were adopted at the founding convention. These four goals are the cornerstone of CLUW; they are focused on the specific issues of equal pay, child and elder care benefits, job security, safe workplaces, affordable health care, contraceptive equity, and protection from sexual harassment and violence at home and at work.

CLUW strives to give women the resources they need to become effective leaders and provides a voice for their issues and concerns. CLUW endeavors to make organized labor and the public more sensitive to the needs of working women and their families. The members of CLUW are on the forefront, trying to empower working women to become leaders in their unions and encouraging them to make a difference on the job and in their own lives.

In 2010, CLUW began to recognize women who have made great strides in attaining top leadership positions within their National/International Unions; ten amazing women were given CLUW's Women in Leadership Awards. In 2012, CLUW included a Grassroots Leader Award, a Friend of Labor Award, a Rising Star Award, an Appreciation Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Olga Madar Leadership Award. In 2014, at CLUW's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Pioneer Award and Outstanding Achiever Award were also awarded. The 2016 program included a special presentation by Lilly Ledbetter coinciding with Equal Pay Day. CLUW will continue to recognize women for their many contributions for the empowerment and advancement of women.

# 2018 Honorees:

## ★ Friend of Labor Award

**Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)**

*U.S. House of Representatives*

## ★ Olga Madar Leadership Award

**Dora Cervantes (IAM)**

*General Secretary-Treasurer*

## ★ Lifetime Achievement Award

**Connie Leak (UAW)**

*Past CLUW President*

## ★ Trailblazer Award

**Elissa McBride (AFSCME)**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

## ★ Outstanding Achiever Award

**Judy Beard (APWU)**

*CLUW Treasurer*

## ★ Appreciation Award

**Susan L. Phillips (UFCW)**

*Past CLUW President*

## ★ Rising Star Award

**Karina R. Lopez (UFCW)**

*Civil Rights and Community Action  
Department*

# Friend of Labor Award

## Bonnie Watson Coleman

*U.S. House of Representatives (NJ-12)*



Bonnie Watson Coleman, a long-time and influential advocate for the people of New Jersey, is currently serving her sophomore term in the United States Congress. Prior to her election as Representative for New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, Watson Coleman served eight consecutive terms in the New Jersey General Assembly.

Watson Coleman has continued a family legacy of public service fighting for women, economically and socially disadvantaged populations, and other vulnerable groups in our society. Watson Coleman shattered racial and gender barriers to become the first Black woman to serve as Majority Leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, and as the Chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. Her election to the House of Representatives makes her the first Black woman to represent New Jersey in Congress.

Watson Coleman has championed legislation to protect vulnerable Americans and communities related to gun safety, environmental protection, and long-term unemployment. Watson Coleman is the author of the Healthy MOM Act, which would allow women to enroll in, or change their health coverage if they become pregnant, the End For-Profit Prisons Act, which would prohibit the federal government from contracting with for-profit prison corporations and, the SAFER Pipelines Act that would reform the gas pipeline approval process overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

# Olga Madar Leadership Award

## Dora Cervantes

*General Secretary-Treasurer (IAM)*



Dora Cervantes became the IAM's 12th General Secretary-Treasurer on August 1, 2015. She is the first woman to direct the IAM's finances as General Secretary-Treasurer.

Cervantes first joined the IAM Executive Council on July 1, 2013 as the first Hispanic woman to serve as a General Vice President. Cervantes has served as the Assistant Secretary to the General Secretary-Treasurer since 2012.

Cervantes initiated into IAM Local 2198 in Houston, Texas in 1989 as a Reservations Agent for Southwest Airlines. She served in many capacities for her Local Lodge, including Organizer, Shop Steward, Recording Secretary and Vice President. In 1999, Cervantes was chosen to serve as an Apprentice Organizer for Airline District 142, and became a General Chairperson for that District the following year.

In 2005, Cervantes was appointed to the Grand Lodge staff in the Transportation Department as a Special Representative, and was later promoted to Grand Lodge Representative. It was in July of 2012 when Cervantes was selected by General Secretary-Treasurer Robert Roach, Jr. to serve as Assistant Secretary to the GST.

Cervantes currently serves as a National Board Member on the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), is an active member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), is member of United Against Human Trafficking, and also serves as a Trustee for both, the National IAM Benefit Trust Fund and the IAM National 401(k) Plan.

# Lifetime Achievement Award

## Connie Leak

*Past CLUW President (UAW)*



Delegates to the 17th CLUW Biennial Convention elected Connie Leak as president on November 15, 2013. She served as the seventh president of CLUW and the second UAW woman to hold that position. She has been a member of UAW since 1977, holding elected positions within her local and region. Leak has been a member of CLUW since 1998 and had formerly served as a National Vice President.

During her tenure as president CLUW urged chapters to adopt mentoring circles; Sister Leak expressed “My personal goal has always been to encourage young women to lead through mentorship, training and example. They are the future leaders in our unions and CLUW.” CLUW provided scholarships to young women to attend the UALE Summer Schools over several years during her presidency. Leak supported the Spread the Word campaign to promote heart health education while in office. Thanks to Connie's leadership, CLUW was an early, active and visible presence during the 2017 Women's March in Washington, DC and throughout the country.

Sister Leak has served in several positions at the UAW where she is currently employed including as an International Representative in the Women's Department.

She is devoted to her mother who recently celebrated her 100th birthday and dotes on her twin granddaughters.

# Trailblazer Award

## Elissa McBride

*Secretary-Treasurer (AFSCME)*



McBride joined the labor movement as a member of the United Auto Workers District 65 in 1989. In 1991, she was recruited to the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute and became a full time organizer.

She worked with factory workers to form unions and win first contracts in North Carolina, Texas, Ohio, Vermont and Rhode Island. She went on to become the New England organizing director for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers and to direct the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute.

McBride joined AFSCME as the director of the Education and Leadership Training Department in 2001. She led the creation of AFSCME's Leadership Academy, which helps AFSCME leaders build strong local unions. She developed AFSCME's Faces and Voices training program, giving librarians, health care workers, school bus drivers and other AFSCME members the tools to be effective communicators on behalf of their union sisters and brothers.

In March 2017, AFSCME's International Executive Board elected McBride by acclamation to represent the union's 1.6 million members as secretary-treasurer. She also serves on the AFL-CIO Executive Council and the boards of Jobs with Justice and the National Employment Law Project. She is a member of AFSCME Maryland Local 1072.

# Outstanding Achiever Award

## Judy Beard

*CLUW Treasurer (APWU)*



Judy Beard serves as the elected Legislative and Political Director of the American Postal Workers Union. She was the first woman to be elected to this position in October 2016. Judy advocates and lobbies Congress to preserve the American Postal Service and to protect workers' and seniors' rights. In addition to serving as Legislative Director, Judy has served as the National Treasurer of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) since 2004.

Prior to her current position, she served as the APWU Retirees Director for 8 years. In this role, Ms. Beard took pride in providing her members with educational information regarding senior issues and keeping them informed on bills introduced into Congress that could impact their retirement. She also worked with members to ensure the transition from employment to retirement is smooth and help them stay abreast on the problems that workers face.

Before becoming an officer, Judy held a staff position as Executive Assistant to the National Secretary Treasurer of APWU for over twenty-five years. Prior to coming to Washington D.C., she taught at the University of Michigan, is a retired postal employee, and has been a member of the APWU for over 45 years. Judy has a passion for helping people and is a strong advocate for economic justice and building community power.

# Appreciation Award

## Susan L. Phillips

*Past CLUW President (UFCW)*



Susan Phillips is a union activist and labor leader who specialized in communications and represented women in the U.S. labor movement as well as global union federations abroad.

From 1998 to 2005, she served as a National Officers Council member, secretary-treasurer, and president of CLUW. Under her leadership, CLUW's operating procedures were modernized, and she led a major fundraising effort among AFL-CIO affiliated unions. Susan spearheaded initiatives to involve

CLUW chapters in programs to bring justice to Wal-Mart workers as well as voter registration and education drives. She also forged links between the labor movement and women's groups, including the National Organization for Women, encouraging CLUW and NOW chapters to work together on issues of common interest.

Susan joined the labor movement in 1980 after working on Capitol Hill as a legislative writer. She was hired by the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department as a legislative representative.

She went to work at the UFCW in 1984, and served as director of the Publications Office until 1998, when she was elected as an International Vice President of the UFCW and named head of the Working Women's Department. Susan later served as a consultant for organizations that deal with women's and labor union issues, including the Berger-Marks Foundation and the Solidarity Center, the AFL-CIO's international outreach arm.

# Rising Star Award

## Karina R. Lopez

*Civil Rights and Community Action Department  
(UFCW)*



Karina Lopez began her career in the Labor Movement in 2006 when she organized alongside her co-workers for a union contract. Later that year she was hired as a union organizer for the United Food and Commercial Workers. In 2013, Karina transitioned into the role of Community Organizer for UFCW Local 400 in the DC Metro area. In this role Karina was the Regional Coordinator for The Women's

Network, a Constituency Group of the UFCW.

As of 2017 Karina began a new role with UFCW International as the Field Programs Coordinator in the Civil Rights and Community Action Department. In this role Karina collaborates with allies to develop educational workshops as well as trainings. Karina works in collaboration with allies to run on the ground political campaigns that aim to engage voters in the electoral process.

Karina also works to develop strategies to uplift women and working family issues as a political force. She collaborates with UFCW's Leadership in creating broader strategy to build power for women and working families through strengthening networks among members, other unions and allies.

Karina has an Associates in Business Administration from American Public University and completed her bachelor's in Political Science via Pennsylvania State University's online program while working as an organizer. In her spare time, Karina is a cake artist as social justice tastes better with cake!

# Sponsors

*CLUW thanks all of those who are assisting us in carrying out our work by becoming a supporter of working women's issues through a contribution in one of the following categories:*

## Advocate (\$15,000)



## Partner (\$10,000)



Champion (\$7,500)



Sponsor (\$5,000)



Supporter (\$3,000)



## Visionary (\$2,500)



## Ally (\$1,000)



## Friend (\$500)



# CLUW National Officers Council

<b>President</b>	<i>Elise A. Bryant (CWA)</i>
<b>Executive Vice-President</b>	<i>Carla M. Insinga (AFSCME)</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Judy Beard (APWU)</i>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<i>Joanne M. Sanders (IATSE)</i>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<i>Bennie R. Bridges (AFGE)</i>

## Vice Presidents

<i>Shelvy Young Abrams (AFT)</i>	<i>Angela W. Johnson (UFCW)</i>
<i>Lisa C. Blake (OPEIU)</i>	<i>Shyla La'Sha (AFTRA)</i>
<i>Rachel Bryan (IBEW)</i>	<i>Karen Bellamy Lewis (IFPTE)</i>
<i>Carolyn Burton (TWU)</i>	<i>Vera A. Newton (UAW)</i>
<i>Patricia Chardavonye (AFSCME)</i>	<i>Sylvia J. Ramos (CWA)</i>
<i>Debra Davis (SEIU)</i>	<i>Sarah Reynolds (ATU)</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Grigsby (AFGE)</i>	<i>Rhonda S. Rogers (IAM)</i>
<i>Janet M. Hill (USW)</i>	<i>Rachel A. Walthall (APWU)</i>
<i>Tanya James (UMWA)</i>	<i>Myra Warren (NALC)</i>

## CLUW Staff

<b>Executive Director</b>	<i>Carol Rosenblatt</i>
<b>Administrative Assistant to the President</b>	<i>Jaida Curtis</i>
<b>Womens Rights/Advocacy Intern</b>	<i>Tiana Outram</i>
<b>Special Administrative Assistant (part time)</b>	<i>Marilyn J. Wiley</i>





[www.cluw.org](http://www.cluw.org)

## **Coalition of Labor Union Women**

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