

## **President's Report**

March 12, 2020 NEB Meeting

Atlanta, Georgia

On behalf of the National Officer's Council and the staff of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, I say to each and every one of you, Welcome Union Members . . .

We are SNAP! Sisters and Siblings not afraid of Power 2020! So far, this has been an amazing year. Are you with me?!!

Let me thank y'all for being here—you came by airplane, bus, train and car—braving the Corona virus crisis to come together this day to let the world know that a woman's place is in her union! It's in City Hall, the state capital, the House of Representatives, the Senate and the White House—and by God, we're coming for it. 2024 is ours! I mean, seriously!!!

Harvey Weinstein is going to jail for 23 years!

While the United States Soccer Federation still claims that the world champion women's team doesn't deserve equal pay, who brought home the prize? SNAP—sisters not afraid of passing the ball!!

August 18 will mark the 100th year of women's right to vote. Let's all plan to do something meaningful on that day that demonstrates our commitment to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all!

If you haven't done so, participate in one of the committee meetings and join us in the effort to bring the issues of working women to the forefront in our unions, in our workplaces and in our government. Take out your agendas and circle the committee meeting you plan to attend, right now.

We also want you to protect your health and well-being while we're together. Follow the anti-virus protocols: wash your hands; don't touch

your mouth, face or eyes; cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze, or cough in your elbow or in a facial tissue; drink lots of water—stay hydrated; avoid massive amounts of sugar—it feeds the virus; and use 60% alcohol to disinfect. Stay home as much as you can. If you are not able to work from home, then take extra precautions and pray that you get the personal protective equipment you need.

Let us keep everyone in our prayers and meditations with special prayers for our first responders, health care workers, grocery store workers and all essential workers.

There are big changes at CLUW. As most of you know our executive director of 22 years, Carol Rosenblatt, retired as of February 14, 2020. We gave her a party on her last day—you can see photos on our website—and the NOC voted to honor her later this year with the CLUW lifetime achievement award.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our next NEB will be an online meeting rather than an in-person gathering in one space. We'll keep you posted on the date and time.

We are in the process of hiring a new executive director, but due to time constraints, we needed to bring in an interim ED, Lynda DeLoach. Please give her a warm CLUW welcome.

Most of you know Tiana Outram, our administrative assistant and Marilyn Wiley, our assistant to our treasurer. What you don't know is how well this team has pulled together to run the office and this conference since Carol's retirement. Please join me in giving a big CLUW thank you to Tiana, Marilyn and Lynda!

One of the first questions Lynda asked me when she agreed to join us is what is CLUW's strategic plan. I told her the truth: "We don't have one." Then she asked, "How do you know what your members think?" and I said, "We don't, really." So Lynda and Tiana put their heads together, with our newest VP, Tarn Goelling (IBEW), and they're going

to create our first online membership survey to find out what you think, what are your dreams for CLUW and how can we make our dreams real! Stay tuned—the survey is coming to an email box near you soon!

The National Officers Council met and we are working on building not only a strategic plan based on the survey data, but also creating a vision statement to reflect future aspirations.

Speaking of visions, it is my honor and privilege to serve as your president and I have a dream of meeting with each chapter either in person\* or by phone in the next 6 months. In the interim, as Diana Ross once sang:

*“If you need me, call me no matter where you are, no matter how far—because ain’t no mountain high enough to keep me from getting to you”* by text, phone or email until this pandemic is over!

\*Update: COVID-19 has put an end to air, bus, car and rail travel for the coming months. We cannot meet in groups larger than 10 and must keep 6 feet between each person. Rather than canceling meetings, I suggest each chapter get a Zoom account or some other form of teleconferencing so that we can still meet face-to-face from the safety of our own homes. We have work to do, so let us do what we can, when we can in safety, in health and with great care.