



Getting a CLUW in Orange County

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The labor movement in Orange County California has grown in numbers, influence, and power over the last decade and the drive behind this growth has been fueled by the men AND women of labor. Working people need to have influence and power – that’s how we get our issues addressed! Women now have another venue to grow our power and influence to address issues because the women of labor in Orange County have established a chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)! CLUW OC was made official on June 2016.

CLUW’s primary mission is to “unify all union women in a viable organization to determine our common problems and concerns and to develop action programs within the framework of our unions to deal effectively with our objectives.”

What are the common problems and concerns of Orange County’s working women? Why do women need a space to focus on issues that matter to us in the workplace? Are men welcome to join CLUW OC?

Let’s answer the last question first. Yes, men are welcome and have

already joined CLUW OC. Men need to understand the perspectives of women and men who understand have always been helpful in addressing issues related to women in the workplace. Union women need union men just as much as union men need union women. The fight for worker justice will only be won when all workers stand together! AND we will only win together if we understand what the fight is about.

So, what’s the fight about for women?

Sometimes the fight is simply about being heard! Women need a space to focus on the issues that matter to us because we are behind the curve when it comes to issues such as:

- 1) Equal pay for our work.
- 2) Active work and retirement benefits that address the fact that we are still the primary caretakers of our children and elder relatives.
- 3) Job security.
- 4) Safe workplaces that are free from sexual harassment and violence.
- 5) Contraceptive equity.
- 6) Quality affordable health care.
- 7) Affordable child care.
- 8) More opportunities for professional growth.

When we come together to discuss these common problems and concerns, we can make sure the concerns of working women are front and center in our collective plans for action! Our unions will grow in both numbers and influence when we empower ourselves with effective plans to address the problems and concerns we know to be true for women.



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Website

<http://oclabor.org/coalition-of-labor-union-women>



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