



Celebration for Hope and Change

January 20, 2009
Russo's Orleans
North Roan Street
(Kroger Shopping
Center)
6:00 PM till
10:00 PM

A Night to Celebrate

A Night to Share

A Night to Remember

A Night for History

*Dinner - Show - Dancing
Obama Silent Auction
Array of Musical Entertainment
Special Guests*

Tickets \$20.00
No Tickets Sold at the Door
For Reservations Call:
(423) 282-2081

Website: democratresourcecenter.org

All proceeds go to support the Democrat Resource Center
The DRC is a PAC and not affiliated with any candidate



UPPER EAST TENNESSEE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

121 1/2 Spring Street
Johnson City, Tennessee 37604

LABOR AT IT'S BEST

President: Bruce Dotson
423/279-0886

Secretary-Treasurer: Geneva Lewis
423/543-9783

December 14, 2008

Dear Delegates and Members,

Our next meeting will be December 18, 6:45PM, Pipe fitters Local 538, 121 Spring Street, Johnson City, please make plans to attend. It is time to nominate candidates for election of officers to lead us thru 2010. Please be ready with the names of the candidates you wish to nominate. The election will be held at our regular meeting in January. In accordance with our bylaws nominations can also be made at the January meeting. We will start working on our 2009 plan, please be thinking about issues and strategy that we need to work on to make us as effective as possible.

Linda and I visited with our Secretary/Treasurer Geneva Lewis Monday. Geneva was in good spirit, was talking but not very loud, she does need help to get out of bed, and she is being fed through a tube. Geneva has a difficult road ahead of her to recovery but we all know what a strong willed person she is and that she is not a quitter. Please keep her in your prayers.

Volunteer in 2009:

When you see volunteer, I am sure that some of you may ask, what does Bruce want now. We have a few members that have been absolutely great to help with almost every undertaking. We need more members involved and helping!!!

If you took a serious look at the election results and the breakdown countrywide, it is plain to see that working people in Tennessee lost ground. Tennessee is one of a few states that declined in votes for Labor's endorsed candidates in comparison to 2004. It is somewhat of a mystery to me as to why this happened. I do not want to think that Tennesseans let race and lies that Obama is a Muslim and terrorist influence their vote against him and then followed through down ballot.

If you look at who is now in control of our state government and look at their past record it is easy to see that working people will suffer. Republican Senator Ron Ramsey is in control of the State Senate and Republican Representative Jason Mumpower is in control of the State House in short, the Republicans now control the state government. To give you some idea of what we can expect; both Ramsey and Mumpower supports cuts in the amount of money that injured workers receive from Workers Compensation. Both Ramsey and Mumpower opposed raising minimum wage. Both Ramsey and Mumpower

oppose collective bargaining for public employees and this list could go on but I think you get the picture. We are Screwed!!!

With the present condition, I think we must start recruiting volunteers now to help build the Democratic party in Upper East Tennessee. Linda and I have spent a good deal of time talking with Janet Meek and party leaders in an effort to devise a plan whereby we have a two party system of government in Upper East Tennessee. Until we have two viable political parties, we will continue to be ignored. We will discuss some of the ideas and ask for input from you to help.

Celebration for Hope and Change:

Linda and I are pleased to be a part of the committee to plan and help in other ways to make this historic event possible. Thanks to Janet Meek and the entire committee, I think this event will be the best that has happened in Upper East Tennessee ever. Diligent effort has been put forth to make it possible for everyone that wishes to attend to be able to do so. We have made the cost as low as possible and the location is great with plenty of parking and the building is easily accessible.

Please see the flyer enclosed with this letter. I hope to see everyone January 20th to help celebrate the inauguration of our new president, a president that the hope of America and the change for better weighs heavily on his shoulders.

Steelworkers Rapid Response Conference:

A reminder for all Steelworkers: the Rapid Response Conference will be in Washington D. C., February 3rd thru 6th. Please plan to attend or send delegates from your Local Union to this very important conference. I have been the Rapid Response Coordinator for my Local Union for several years and have attended all conferences during that time. However, I decided to bow out, allowing a younger and less experienced member of our team to attend. Both delegates from my Local are attending for the first time; it will be an exciting and learning experience for them.

If you are not involved in Rapid Response, now is a good time to get started, go to Washington, learn about Rapid Response and the goals for the legislative session, participate in the visits to capital hill, and come home put your team together. For me, Rapid Response is the most exciting aspect of my Local Union involvement. I highly recommend everyone get involved.

Food:

Linda will have food prepared to be eaten after the meeting. Anyone that wishes to do so is invited to bring dessert.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Bruce Dotson