



## What We Eat Is Costing American Jobs

Factory workers on Chicago's Southside fight to keep their jobs from leaving the United States.

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## Rally in Springfield

Thousands of Illinois workers march to the Capitol in Springfield, Ill. to tell Governor Rauner that his policies are hurting families across the state.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER LARIVIERE

## President's Report

In April, I had the privilege of welcoming the WOMEN BUILD NATIONS conference to Chicago. This is the first time this conference was held outside California. More than 1,600 women from across the country descended on Chicago to add their voices to the thousands of women who have come before them, promoting the work of women not only in the trades but throughout the Labor Movement as a whole.

Their choice to come to Chicago is significant because Chicago is a strong union town with a rich union history that stems back to the formative years of the modern Labor Movement. Chicago is the home of more Local 1s than any other city in the country. It is the home to many of the most historic labor events throughout America's history. This is also the birthplace of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, an organization focused on addressing the critical needs of millions of organized and unorganized working women. Throughout history, women have played an active role in shaping our Labor Movement, motivating others to action, and moving us forward together.

I am privileged to personally know and work with some of the most influential women from the Chicago Labor Movement. My father, Ruben, worked alongside Addie Wyatt, a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the first African-American woman to hold a senior office in an American labor union when she was named an International Vice President of the United Food and Commercial Workers. He was also friends with Robert Vaughn, former President of UFCW Local 546 and a former UFCW International Vice President, and his wife, Jackie Vaughn, the first African-American and the first woman to head the nation's third largest teachers' union local, the Chicago Teachers Union. I have had the privilege of working with Esther Lopez, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union. Esther has done it all throughout her career, from worker and community organizing to working in legislation and politics.

Each spring, the CFL honors one outstanding woman in our movement as our Woman of the Year. *(Read more on page 10.)* Our union sisters should take great pride in the collective action that women bring to this Movement. It is important to recognize these strong women leaders who are setting the example for the next generation of women to take up the fight of strengthening the middle class.

This November, we all have an important decision to make as we choose the next President of the United States. No matter which candidate you support on the Democratic side, we need to remember what we are up against on the Republican side. Their presumptive Presidential nominee, Donald Trump, stated recently that if Hillary Clinton were a man, she wouldn't get five percent of the vote.<sup>1</sup> He said the only thing she has going for her is her "woman card." Unfortunately we still live in an age where despite their qualifications, women are discredited and passed up for jobs based solely on their gender, or a person is discriminated based on race or sexual preference. The Labor Movement fights to prevent this and to end all forms of discrimination.

Unions are about protecting basic rights. We stand up for all workers, the unionized and those we intend to unionize. We are a powerful voice in the fight for workers' rights, as well as human rights.



**JORGE RAMIREZ**  
PRESIDENT

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/04/27/trump-if-clinton-were-a-man-i-dont-think-shed-get-5-percent-of-the-vote/>

## Chicago Teachers Union Held One-Day Strike to Bring Attention to School Funding

The Chicago Teachers Union held a one-day strike on April 1, 2016, to bring attention to the need for critical revenue solutions to stabilize the city's school district and protect students and their families. This was also a day of action to call for funding for Illinois' universities and colleges. The CTU was joined by a larger coalition of Labor, student groups, community-based organizations and activists who stood in solidarity by staging a variety of non-violent actions throughout the city. CTU members began picketing at their schools as early as 6:30 a.m. and throughout the day before joining thousands at a 4 p.m. rally at the Thompson Center. At a rally at Northeastern Illinois University, Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers, summed up the day when she said, "We have an obligation to make sure our next generation thrives."

## Electrical Unions Help Promote Clean Energy in Illinois

As part of its commitment to driving the clean energy future Illinois' consumers want, ComEd announced in April a new rebate proposal designed to jumpstart solar in Illinois. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134 and Local 15 joined ComEd and several other partners for the announcement. ComEd and its partners are seeking to make solar an increasingly viable and accessible option for Illinois consumers who want to "go green," setting the foundation for the growth of smart, sustainable solar in the state. Through the proposed solar rebate, ComEd would provide a rebate of \$1,000 per KW of installed solar capacity to residential customers and \$500 per KW to commercial and industrial customers. The solar rebate is part of a larger policy package that includes initiatives aimed at increasing access to, and shared benefits from, solar energy – including equitable pricing policies, access to community solar, and lower up-front costs for consumers wanting to install solar devices. The solar policy package,

which will require approval from the Illinois General Assembly or Illinois regulators, is supported by solar companies like Universal Solar – a company which manufactures panels and creates jobs in Illinois.

## Conservation Dinner Draws Outdoorsmen and Women from Across Illinois

In March, hundreds of sportsmen and women participated in the Fourth Annual Illinois Union Sportsmen's Alliance Conservation Dinner. The dinner allows union men and women to come together outside the workplace to discuss important conservation issues and begin planning imperative projects in the communities where they live, work and play. Launched in 2012, the USA continues to build their conservation dinner program across the country to directly engage more union members in their mission, while raising funds for their Boots on the Ground conservation projects. The event is sponsored by the Chicago Federation of Labor, Chicago

& Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council and Illinois AFL-CIO.

## Chicago Unions Send Water to Residents in Flint, Mich.

In April, the Chicago Federation of Labor and its Executive Board, along with the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, Laborers' District Council of Chicago & Vicinity, and Painters District Council #14, donated three trucks full of water to the families in Flint, Mich., following the widespread lead contamination. The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 951 in Grand Rapids, Mich. arranged a discounted rate through the Meijer grocery store. UFCW 951 represents Meijer employees in retail stores, distribution centers and the entire fleet of truck drivers. The water was loaded by UFCW 951 members at the distribution centers and then driven by a UFCW 951 driver to the Flint area. Two trucks were delivered to the local food bank warehouse. The third truck was sent to Our

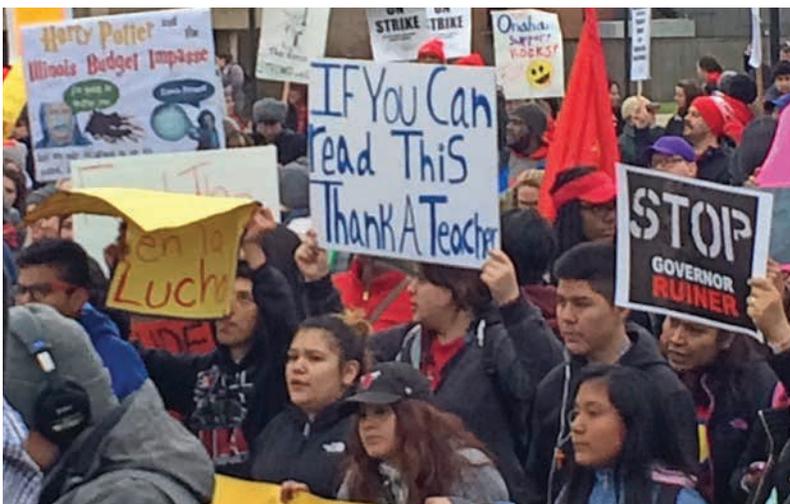


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE

Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church for distribution to the residents of Flint. The water crisis in Flint stems from officials changing the city's water source from treated Detroit water to the Flint River, which resulted in lead contamination in the drinking water.

## Coalition of Labor Union Women Chicago Chapter Honors Strong Leaders at Annual Dinner

In March, the Chicago Chapter of CLUW held its annual awards dinner, honoring outstanding women in the Labor Movement. This year's Florence Criley Award honorees were Elise Foster, Vice President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 11, and Jeanne Cameron, Director of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans. Foster is always looking to better herself as a leader for her union. She has attended numerous conferences and leadership academies, including the NALC Leadership Academy and the Regina V. Polk Women's Conference. Cameron credits her successes to the strong foundation that the Labor Movement gave to her family in Chicago. She comes from a long line of union members, including both grandfathers as union printers, her father with AFSCME Council 31 and her mother with Chicago Teachers Union. The Olga Maria Madar Award went to Clayola Brown, President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. She is the first female to serve in this role.

## Chicago Women in Trades Hosts Annual WOMEN BUILD NATIONS Conference

This year marked a momentous occasion for tradeswomen worldwide when the 2016 WOMEN BUILD NATIONS conference convened in Chicago – the first time in its history that it was held outside California. This annual conference, anchored for the last 15 years by the State Building Construction Trades Council of California, brought together tradeswomen from multiple construction crafts to build leadership skills, learn strategies for overcoming challenges and unite around common issues. Co-sponsored by Chicago Women in Trades and North America's Building Trades Unions, this year's event brought together over 1,600 tradeswomen and allies from across the United States, Canada and beyond, making this the largest WOMEN BUILD NATIONS conference in history. This action-packed weekend included more than 30 educational workshops, a labor history tour, and political action, as well as opportunities for women, who make up just three percent of the construction workforce to connect with one another and gain the knowledge and inspiration they need to advance their own careers, and become mentors, advocates and activists in their unions. At the conclusion of the conference, the women joined the CFL's annual May Day celebration at the Haymarket Memorial in Chicago.

FROM LEFT: TEACHERS, ACTIVISTS AND ALLIES FROM ACROSS ILLINOIS GATHERED ON SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CAMPUSES ACROSS THE STATE TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR SCHOOL FUNDING SOLUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS. THE DAY OF ACTION WAS ORGANIZED BY THE CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION; THE FOURTH ANNUAL UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE CONSERVATION DINNER DREW A LARGE CROWD TO THE UNION HALL AT SHEET METAL WORKERS' LOCAL 73; RIGHT: THOUSANDS OF TRADESWOMEN AND ALLIES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES GATHERED IN CHICAGO FOR THE SIXTH ANNUAL WOMEN BUILD NATIONS CONFERENCE. ATTENDEES HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH OTHER TRADESWOMEN TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER.

## Rest In Peace

### Bernard "Bud" J. Sullivan

In April, the Chicago Federation of Labor said goodbye to our friend, Bernard "Bud" J. Sullivan, a former managing partner with Bansley and Kiener, LLP. Bud was a longtime auditor for the CFL, going back to the days of former CFL President William "Bill" Lee through current CFL President Jorge Ramirez. He knew the history of the Chicago Labor Movement like no other, including iconic institutions, like the CFL's former radio station, WCFL - "the Voice of Labor."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BANSLEY & KIENER, LLP



PHOTO COURTESY OF WOMEN BUILD NATIONS CONFERENCE

# Why What We Eat Is Costing American Jobs

By David B. Durkee, International President, Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Miller Union

What does checking the label on what you eat have to do with saving your job or the job of your neighbor, your friend or another family member?

Did you know that the American consumer purchases 25 percent of what is made across the globe? This is astonishing because the population of the United States accounts for only 5 percent of the total world population. So what does that have to do with checking labels on the food you eat, and how is that tied to your job, and what does that have to do with an Oreo?

In 2012, Kraft Global spun off a segment of its business operations creating a corporation called Mondelez International. Mondelez took over the old Kraft snack division that made cookies and crackers and included Nabisco among its brands. Since 1912, Nabisco has produced the iconic Oreo cookie. By its own admission, Mondelez/Nabisco calls the Oreo its “billion-dollar cookie.” The Oreo has produced billions upon billions of dollars in corporate profits, and the workers were union workers who received good wages and benefits. However, this American business success story that provided this corporation with robust profits and good worker earnings is apparently not enough for the new Mondelez CEO and her Board of Directors.

In yet another example of U.S. corporations moving production to low-wage poverty producing economies, Mondelez/Nabisco has decided to place new technology and new production systems in Mexico rather than in its U.S. bakeries that have produced these brands for decades. The goal of the corporation and its CEO is to produce these previously recognized U.S.-made products in Third World countries and return these products to the very communities where they have left workers unemployed by such moves.

But Mondelez/Nabisco has left out of its poverty-driven plan one of the most important and essential elements it must have to be successful: a U.S. consumer that overlooks their trading U.S. jobs for low

wage jobs in Mexico and buys that product anyway. But that is not happening across the country where U.S. consumers and U.S. workers have had enough of being taken advantage of by wealthy corporate interests who dump them and their families on the street without any concern for their futures. These corporate plans can only be successful if the American consumer participates in this one-way corporate loyalty plan. Without the support of the American consumer, factories in Mexico or other Third World countries cannot survive. They need our dollars to continue their plan. All we have to do is look closely at what we buy and defeat them at the cash register.

Mondelez/Nabisco on March 23, 2016, laid off 277 of the projected 600 who will lose their jobs at the Chicago Nabisco bakery due to the company job trading with their Mexican employees. These jobs are headed to Salinas Victoria, Mexico where workers earn poverty wages at a factory that the corporation spent over \$400 million to build. The corporate plan is to make Oreos, Chips Ahoy, Ritz Crackers and Honey Grahams at this Mexican facility and ship those products back to American consumers to purchase. They need Americans to buy these products for their plan to work, so Americans need to say, “NO!”

Across the United States, working families are concerned about the impact job trading across borders and across oceans will have. Top candidates for office in both parties have addressed this consistently. Politicians are hearing from Americans that it is unacceptable and people are fighting back against this one-way corporate loyalty program. We can each make a big difference with just a small change in our purchasing behavior: by simply checking the labels and rejecting their Mexican-made products. By not purchasing these job-killing products, consumers will send a loud and clear message to these corporations. It has already begun to work, but everyone’s help is needed to keep the momentum going.

In response to the initial layoff of 277 workers at the Nabisco Chicago Bakery, the BCTGM has dispatched teams of laid off employees across the country to educate the general public on the importance of boycotting Mexican-made Nabisco products. These products are American job killers produced by a corporation that has no social conscience and no loyalty to any country, community, or governmental philosophy. Their allegiance is to whatever form of currency, production geography or governmental philosophy that delivers them the greatest level of profits.

If the American consumer rejects this corporate scheme of making products in Third World countries and bringing them back for sale in the United States, there will be no financial incentive for corporations like Nabisco to move the work. Consumers must be diligent and check the labels on their products before they buy them.

Check the label, and join the BCTGM in their boycott of Mexican-made Nabisco products. For more information, visit [www.fightforAmericanjobs.org](http://www.fightforAmericanjobs.org).

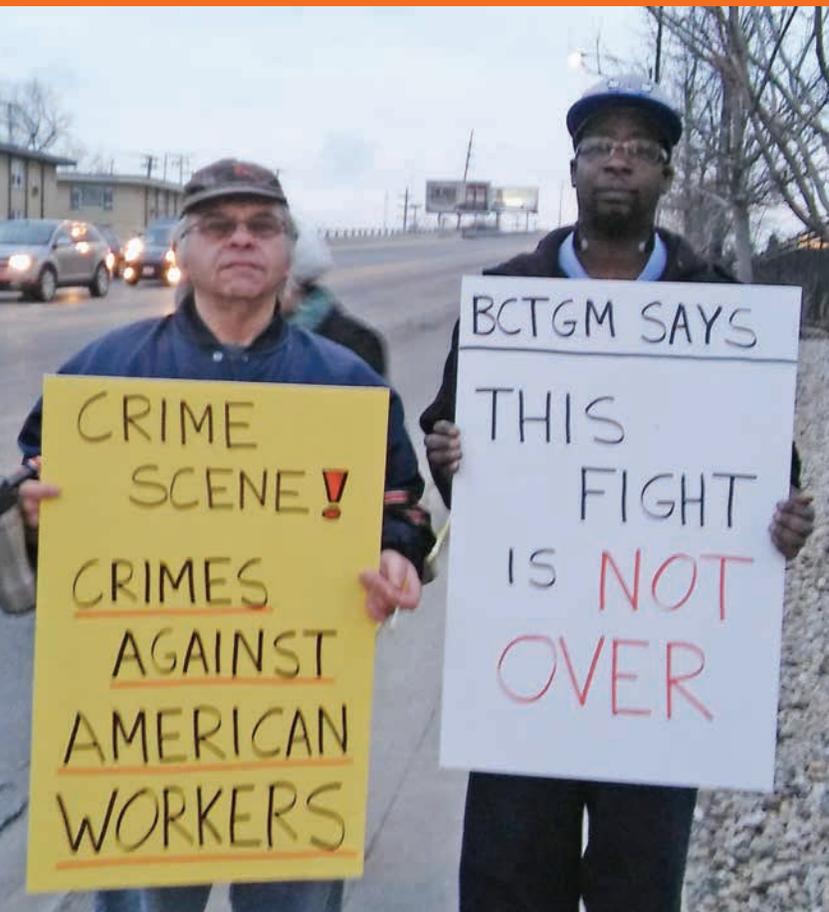
Conscientious U.S. consumers can change the country and the future of the U.S. economy to benefit all communities one package of Oreos at a time. Now that’s the way their Mexican-made “billion-dollar cookie” will really crumble. Let’s do it!

**“If the American consumer rejects this corporate scheme of making products in Third World countries and bringing them back for sale in the United States, there will be no financial incentive for corporations like Nabisco to move the work.”**

**DAVID B. DURKEE**  
BAKERY, CONFECTIONERY, TOBACCO WORKERS AND GRAIN MILLER UNION



IN APRIL, MEMBERS OF BCTGM LOCAL 300 PROTESTED THE LOSS OF 600 FACTORY JOBS AT THE MONDELEZ PLANT ON THE SOUTHSIDE OF CHICAGO. TOP: JETHRO HEAD, BCTGM INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE MIDWEST REGION, SPEAKS OUT ABOUT MONDELEZ MOVING AMERICAN JOBS TO ITS FACTORY IN MEXICO. BOTTOM LEFT: LEONARD AIELLO AND ANTHONY JACKSON, BOTH OF BCTGM LOCAL 300, PARTICIPATE IN THE RALLY OUTSIDE THE MONDELEZ FACTORY. BOTTOM RIGHT: BCTGM LOCAL 300 MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS LINE THE STREETS OUTSIDE THE MONDELEZ FACTORY ON CHICAGO'S SOUTHSIDE. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF BCTGM LOCAL 300.)



## AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Wants to Change the Rules to Create Prosperity

“Until economic rules work for all Americans, they’re not working.” AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre borrowed a quote from Nobel laureate and chief economist for the Roosevelt Institute Joseph Stiglitz when Gebre addressed a room filled with Labor advocates, including leaders, attorneys, staff, stewards and activists. This quote set the framework for Gebre’s presentation titled, “Changing the Rules to Create Shared Prosperity,” at the Chicago-Kent College of Law’s 11th Distinguished Labor Leader Lecture in March.

According to Gebre, Stiglitz diagnosed the problem in the United States and offered a solution when, in 2015, the Roosevelt Institute, led by Stiglitz, released a report that “sets out a bold and comprehensive policy agenda to level the playing field for working Americans and small businesses in ways that would generate greater economic growth and rising incomes.”<sup>1</sup> Gebre stated, “Working people will continue to be left behind unless we level the playing field.”

From 1979 to 2007, over a third of all income growth in the United States went to the top 1 percent. Gebre added, “I just want that to sink in. We have to change the rules so that we can get shared prosperity.” Gebre noted that the United States economy has a depleted consumer base and holds less opportunity for working families. As union membership continues to decline since the 1960s, the share of income to the top 10 percent continues to increase. “When union membership declines, you see income gaps just growing,” said Gebre. “No wonder the Scott Walkers of the world always point their

<sup>1</sup> <http://rooseveltinstitute.org/rewrite-rules/>



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW

PICTURED L TO R: CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER BOB REITER, MARY ROSE STRUBBE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND THE WORKPLACE AT CHICAGO KENT COLLEGE OF LAW, AFL-CIO EVP TEFERE GEBRE, CHICAGO & COOK COUNTY BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER RALPH AFFRONTI AND MICHAEL MACELLAIO, RESPECTIVELY.

guns at the Labor Movement.”

Gebre pointed to the manmade economy as the root of the problem. “Our economy is manmade. The rules are made by the men and women that we elect into office.” He noted the importance of the upcoming 2016 Presidential election. “What is our agenda? On what agenda do we actually elect people to office? Do we let politics lead our agenda, or do we demand that finally our agenda lead our politics? And, if that’s going to be the case, our agenda has to be shared prosperity. Our agenda has to be about changing the rules. It’s not new for working people, because we have done this before.”

Gebre also talked about the real agenda behind voter ID laws. In the United States, voter ID laws disproportionately affect voters of color, senior citizens, the disabled, young people and the working poor. He called for the reinstatement of the Voting Rights Act that eliminated poll taxes and literacy tests and gave federal oversight of voter registration. He showed a map of the United States that was predominantly red and stated this would represent the 2012 election if only white people were allowed to vote. He said, “Mitt Romney would have run away with 441 electoral votes. But that’s not what happened. Barack Obama won with 332 electoral votes. This is the real agenda behind voter ID and voter suppression. They know if they suppress enough people out of the polling

place, they can control the country. We have to change the rules. That’s what they do on their side. They change the rules to determine who gets to vote, who doesn’t get to vote.”

Gebre told a story about Labor teaming up with the community to affect change. When he was the Executive



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW

Director for the Orange County Labor Federation, they activated a network of churches and community leaders throughout Orange County to help the Teamsters organize sanitation workers. Gebre stated there is power through working together as a community and a movement. “With your help we can scale this out. With your help, we can change lives. With your help, we can build the America we want, not the America they want. It’s up to us. We are on the fork in the road. Either we take the direction of prosperity or we go into the direction of unsure prosperity.”

He said, “Together, we can change lives and create the America we want.” He stressed that the national agenda must be about shared prosperity for everyone, not just those at the top. “We used to fight for a piece of the pie. Now we fight for the crumbs. Until we change the rules, nothing else will change.”

At the AFL-CIO, Gebre focuses his attention on building partnerships between labor and community groups, immigrant rights advocates and civil rights organizations. Born in Ethiopia, he came to the United States as a teenager seeking political asylum. He worked his first union job as a night shift loader at UPS, with Teamsters Local 396, while attending college in California.

The Distinguished Labor Leader Lecture Series was inaugurated in 1998 by Chicago-Kent’s Institute for Law and the Workplace and the Chicago Federation of Labor as a public service to offer forums on critical workplace issues.

## Chicago Transit Authority Chooses Manufacturer for Newest-Generation Rail Cars

In March the Chicago Transit Board awarded a contract for the newest generation of CTA rail cars—the 7000 series.

The 7000-series rail cars—the largest rail car order in CTA history—will be built by CSR Sifang America JV, which, as part of its winning bid, has pledged to build a brand-new rail car assembly facility in Chicago—the first of its kind in 35 years. The facility is expected to generate approximately 170 jobs and represents an investment of \$40 million.

This new factory is the culmination of three years of work by the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Jobs to Move America coalition. The CFL and JMA worked with the city and CTA to include the U.S. Employment Plan language in the bid process. The U.S. Employment Plan was developed by JMA, a national coalition whose goal is to maximize publicly-funded transit purchases by requiring a plan for American jobs from each bidding company.

“It has been over 30 years since the last



RENDERING OF THE PROPOSED 7000 SERIES RAIL CARS. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

rail car rolled off the Pullman assembly line on Chicago’s Southside,” said Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez. “This announcement is the collaboration with the city and the CTA to bring rail car manufacturing back to Chicago where it belongs. We commend the CTA for including the U.S. Employment Plan in this bid process, leading the way to high road manufacturing jobs. The CFL is looking forward to working with the city, CTA and CSR to create good manufacturing jobs while we improve Chicago’s transit system. The Jobs to Move

America job-creation plan ensures that companies are held accountable to taxpayers by creating economic opportunities for our communities.”

Prototype models are expected to be complete in 2019; following testing, the cars will go into service in 2020.

“Chicago is a shining model for the rest of the nation, providing a blueprint for leveraging the billions of public transit dollars spent each year to bring back manufacturing and encourage investments in workforce training and jobs for U.S. workers. This partnership turned this \$2 billion transit investment into an economic development and jobs creation engine that will put Chicagoans back to work. We look forward to partnering with CSR to deliver a high road program that prioritizes the creation of career paths for Chicago’s low income and communities of color,” said JMA National Policy Director Linda Nguyen Perez.

## Illinois Workers Flood the State Capitol to Demand Governor Drop Harmful Agenda

Approximately 10,000 Illinoisans joined the Illinois Working Together coalition for a rally in Springfield on May 18 to call on Governor Bruce Rauner and his allies to drop their extreme demands and make Illinois work for all. With the state approaching a full year without a budget, working families in Illinois are feeling the effects of Governor Rauner’s refusal to abandon his toxic agenda. Public colleges and universities statewide have announced layoffs, social service agencies are shutting down, construction projects have stalled, and businesses are owed billions for goods and services provided to the state. Rauner is pushing policies that will lower the quality of life for all Illinoisans, especially those who depend on a weekly paycheck.

“The Turnaround Agenda would diminish wages, destroy worker protections, and completely wipe out what is left of the middle

class here in Illinois. Governor Rauner, we are calling on you to end the devastating crisis you created,” said Illinois Working Together Co-Chair and Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez. “It’s time to create an Illinois that works for all—for our students, seniors, state employees, tradesmen and women, and all workers struggling to provide for their families.”

Speakers at the rally included everyday Illinoisans who are already suffering the consequences of the Rauner agenda, including students, seniors, the trades and state employees.

“Every day I see firsthand the harm the governor is causing,” said JoAnn Washington-Murry, a Child Welfare Specialist from Chicago. “Because the Governor is holding the budget hostage, treatment programs have had to scale back or shut down. That hurts

children and families, because if parents can’t get help to turn their lives around, my only choice is to keep that child in foster care.”

“If we didn’t have a strong workers’ compensation law in Illinois, my family and I would have lost everything,” said Christopher, Ill. construction worker Amy Fasig, who was severely injured on the job in 2012. “We would have been responsible for millions in medical bills. If we let wealthy politicians and huge corporations lead Illinois in a race to the bottom, workers and their families will lose even more.”

“Because of Governor Rauner we’ve seen cuts at schools all over,” said University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign student Stephanie Skora. “Chicago State, Eastern, Western, Urbana-Champaign, and others are cutting staff and programs—jeopardizing my future and the future of my peers.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF AFSCME COUNCIL 31

## Labor Women Celebrated at Annual Banquet and Award Ceremony

Chicago is no stranger to the roles played by strong union women. Throughout Chicago's history, women have been a significant aspect in shaping workers' lives by contributing their courage and determination to help bring about an improved workplace for other women in Labor. Women like Mother Jones and Joyce Dannen Miller are just a few to pave the path for future union women leaders.

By hosting its annual Woman of the Year luncheon and mentoring session for the second year in a row, the Chicago Federation of Labor encourages the cultivation of the fortitude of women in the Labor Movement. Since 1982, the Chicago Federation of Labor has recognized women in Labor with the prestigious Woman of the Year award granted during its monthly Delegates Meeting. Included in the list of past honorees are Mollie L. West (Chicago Typographical Union), Addie Wyatt (UFCW), and Katie Jordan (Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.)

This year's luncheon was held on March 24. Since its inception, the Woman of the Year luncheon serves as an opportunity for

strong Labor women to share their stories and ideas regarding life in the Labor Movement to younger or less experienced women in Labor. This year's Woman of the Year recipient, Jaquie Algee (SEIU Healthcare) was one of the three panelists who shared not only the story of her rise to leadership in her union, but some of the hardships along the way. Panelists Elise Foster (NALC Branch 11) and Carmella Gonzalez (IUOE Local 150) also shared their stories with the many women in attendance.

At the award ceremony on April 5, Algee gave thanks to the past recipients of the award and committed to uphold the same standards that they have maintained. "I am encouraged, hopeful and determined to do all I can to help continuing paving the way, living



CFL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ROSETTA DAYLIE (LEFT) SERVED AS THE MC FOR THE CFL'S ANNUAL WOMEN'S LUNCHEON. SHE IS JOINED BY PANELISTS (FROM L TO R) ELISE FOSTER (NALC BRANCH 11), CARMELLA GONZALEZ (IUOE LOCAL 150) AND THE CFL'S 2016 WOMAN OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT, JAQUIE ALGEE (SEIU HEALTHCARE).

by example and by giving my best service that they might carry this mantle for years to come."

As the 34th recipient of the CFL's Woman of the Year award, Algee is among many outstanding women who have made a significant positive impact on not just the women of Labor, but the movement as a whole.

## May Day 2016

On May 1, 2016, Labor and community activists gathered at the Haymarket Monument to celebrate International Workers Day. The afternoon was filled with music from local groups Yoko and the Oh No's and TMac with Organic Sweet. CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter welcomed everyone to the celebration and served as the Master of Ceremonies throughout the afternoon. ILHS President Larry Spivack joined representatives from the World Federation of Trade Unions, for the traditional plaque presentation at the monument. Additional featured speakers

included AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director Roberta Lynch, Chicago Teachers Union Vice President Jesse Sharkey, Michael Smith (BCTGM), a worker laid off by Mondelez International at the Nabisco plant on Chicago's Southside, and Sarah Stigler (Plumbers Local 130) and Sarah Joy Liles (Pipefitters Local 597) from Chicago Women in Trades. The afternoon ended with folk singers Mark Dvorak, Larry and Sandy Feldman, and Ben Powell leading the crowd in the classic labor songs.



CHICAGO WOMEN IN TRADES CHAIR SARAH STIGLER (CENTER) ADDRESSING THE CROWD.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE MATEJKA, ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

## Working men and women blast Governor Rauner and State Rep Ken Dunkin for their destructive agenda

On the eve of the state budget address in February, working men and women from around the city of Chicago spoke out about Governor Rauner's harmful agenda and blasted State Rep. Ken Dunkin (5th District) for supporting the governor's destructive priorities.

Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor and a co-chair of the Illinois Working Together coalition, opened the press conference by stating, "Governor Rauner has chosen to leverage the critical services and programs, like child care and raising the minimum wage, as a bargaining chip to push an agenda that hurts working families, and Rep Dunkin is allowing it to happen."

Mary Jones, a retired senior data entry operator with the Chicago Public Libraries and a resident of the 5th District, said, "Bruce Rauner won't compromise. It's his way or no way at all. And his way means protecting wealthy people and big corporations, while hurting regular working people like us. The governor has the wrong priorities, and we feel the harm right here in the 5th District."

Brenda Rodriguez, the program director for Working America, presented over 9,400 petitions for non-union workers living and working in Chicago, including the 5th Legislative District. "These petitions are from workers who want to stop the cuts to higher

education and vital services like childcare and in-home care for seniors."

Over the last year, Governor Rauner failed to enact a budget that would fund the state's public universities and colleges, leaving students and faculty to wonder if their school will be open next semester. Gabriel Gomez, a professor in the College of Education at Chicago State University, stated, "Our students are predominantly African-American. It makes me angry that the Governor would allow these students—who so many have given up on—to suffer, all because he refuses to ask the very wealthy to pay a dime more."

"Over the past year, we've seen the devastating effects of the state budget crisis on our community," said Katie Jordan from the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans. "Governor Rauner has made it clear that essential programs for seniors are the first to go. Last summer, the state's heating and cooling assistance program was suspended, and in the fall, the popular Meals on Wheels program was cutback in many places across the state."

Celeste Cunine, an early childhood educator and resident of the 5th Legislative District, added, "I became an early childhood educator because I saw that our children were not ready for school, and I vowed that I would do all that I could to resolve that problem. By not enacting a budget, Governor Rauner is directly attacking women of color and working families that depend on the social services programs that are being cut. Ken Dunkin is not a champion for the early childhood field. He promised to vote on the child care bill this past November, but he failed to do so."



KATIE JORDAN (COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN) SPEAKS OUT AGAINST GOVERNOR RAUNER'S DESTRUCTIVE POLICIES. ALSO PICTURED (L TO R): CELESTE CUNINE (SEIU HEALTHCARE), BRENDA RODRIGUEZ (WORKING AMERICA), JORGE RAMIREZ (CFL), MARY JONES (AFSCME COUNCIL 31) AND GABRIEL GOMEZ (ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS).

## CFL Initiative Expands Employment Opportunities to Veterans & Dislocated Workers

The Chicago Federation of Labor Workforce & Community Initiative, formerly the Workers Assistance Committee, is dedicated to developing and strengthening the skills of Chicagoland workers and fulfilling the needs of area employers by identifying and targeting high growth sectors. According to a joint report released by the U.S. Departments of Labor, Transportation, and Education entitled "Strengthening Skills Training and Career Pathways across the Transportation Industry," employers need to hire and train a total of 4.6 million workers due to unexpected growth, retirement, and turnover in the transportation industry from 2012-2022. The projected growth is more than 1.2 times the current transportation workforce, and Chicago has one of the largest projections of job openings in the country.

To address this growing need and local

skills shortage, the CFL Initiative has been awarded a National Emergency Grant through the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership to administer a new transportation-specific employment and training program. In partnership with the Teamsters Military Assistance Program and a national trucking company, the CFL Initiative will train and place 40 veterans and dislocated workers as CDL drivers.

Eligible participants that successfully complete a nine-week training program will be hired as local CDL drivers with a starting pay of \$21.50 an hour plus union benefits. This comprehensive program includes job readiness preparation and CDL training followed by 2 weeks of additional on-the-job training with the employer.

"Thanks to the CFL Initiative's collaborative work with the Teamsters Military

Assistance Program supporting middle class job creation in our region's growing transportation, distribution and logistics industry, our communities will benefit from middle-class, union jobs," said Bob Reiter, Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

If you are interested in learning more about funding opportunities or developing recruitment and training programs for your union, contact CFL Initiative Executive Director Joseph Costigan at 312.565.9431 or by email at [costiganj@cflwac.org](mailto:costiganj@cflwac.org).





Prudential Plaza  
130 E. Randolph Street  
Suite 2600  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

[chicagolabor.org](http://chicagolabor.org)

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# CFL Delegates' Meetings

No Meetings in July, August and September

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2016**

START TIME: 6 p.m.

WHERE: Chicago Plumbers Local 130 Hall  
1340 W. Washington, Chicago



Delegates must present their current Chicago Federation of Labor membership card or this notice for admission. We look forward to full representation from your local union to assist the Federation in the development of its policies

**ROBERT G. REITER, JR.**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

# Stay Informed!

Join the CFL in standing up for working people and building a strong middle class.

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[www.youtube.com/user/WeAreOneChicago](http://www.youtube.com/user/WeAreOneChicago)

# Get Involved

Volunteers are needed from early September through November 8 for the 2016 Presidential Election.

To volunteer, contact [bearly@chicagolabor.org](mailto:bearly@chicagolabor.org)