



State Employees vs. Rauner

Labor support crucial during
AFSCME's fight for a fair contract

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COVER PHOTO
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AFSCME COUNCIL 31



Spreading Holiday Cheer

Chicago's Labor Movement generously responded to the annual Adopt-A-Family Gift Drive.

President's Report



As I write this, we are in the fourth week of the Donald Trump presidency. Looking back over these four weeks, President Trump has used the power entrusted to him by the American people to start a race to the bottom by closing our borders, enacting a hiring freeze for federal employees, and initiating a review of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, among others. This is disgraceful. All the positive advances we have made are being threatened by his executive power.

Arguably his most controversial order temporarily closed our borders to refugees and cut off funding to cities who provide sanctuary. America is a nation built by immigrants for immigrants, and to turn away anyone who seeks refuge within our borders flies in the face of the principles on which this country was built.

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PHOTO CREDIT: UNITED WAY OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

The fight for immigrant rights has deep seeded roots within the labor movement that trace back to Chicago's Haymarket Square in 1886 and what would become the Haymarket Affair. The modern, American labor movement began right here in Chicago thanks to the determination and fortitude of the immigrants who made Chicago their home. They realized early on that to fight corporate greed and ensure a safe and secure future for themselves and their families, they would have to come together and work across nationalities for their collective advancement. On the surface, the Haymarket Affair was the fight for a shorter workday, but, in reality, it was a fight for immigration rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right to free assembly. Born out of this tragedy was a movement committed to fight for the rights of immigrant workers.

There are many parallels to draw between the destruction President Trump is wreaking across the country and what Governor Bruce Rauner is doing here in Illinois.

Since taking office in January 2015, Governor Rauner has used his power as governor to be a roadblock to progress by manufacturing and subsequently perpetuating the state's current budget impasse and resulting financial crisis. Governor Rauner has had two opportunities this year, through his State of the State and Budget addresses, to talk to the people of Illinois and lay out what he considers his vision for a better future. However, instead of presenting a thoughtful budget aimed at expanding the economy, increasing upward economic mobility for everyone and growing our middle class, he continues to insist on policies and management that favors corporations and

strangles working families. He continues to shield large corporations from their fiscal responsibilities by not fixing corporate tax loopholes, and he places the burden of fixing our economy on the backs of consumers, who are the real job creators in Illinois, and workers.

Governor Rauner can choose to end the budget impasse if he would simply drop his personal agenda and do his job, but his recent speeches show he has no interest in doing what's right for the people of Illinois. It is shameful and will not soon be forgotten by voters who put him into office.


JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT

Chicago Workers Join the National Day of Action in the Fight for \$15

Thousands of Chicago workers fanned out across Chicago on November 29, 2016, as part of a national day of action for the Fight for \$15 on the movement's four-year anniversary. Protests took place outside a corporate-owned McDonald's restaurant located at Chicago and Damen. Participants then moved to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood to join members from SEIU Local 1 and SEIU Healthcare. The day ended with a massive action that covered most of the walkway between O'Hare Airport's Terminal 2 and Terminal 3. Approximately 400 workers from United and American Airlines were among the protestors, demanding higher wages and better working conditions. Additional support was provided by NABET-CWA, IBEW Local 21, IMAAW, AFGE,

Workers United, and Chicago Jobs With Justice, among others.

To read more, visit <http://www.seiu1.org/2016/12/05/hundreds-of-obare-workers-stage-1-day-walkout-they-treat-us-like-trash/>.

Lawsuit Strikes Down Local "Right to Work" Law

In a decision issued on January 7, 2017, U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly found that the local "right to work" law passed in 2015 by the Village of Lincolnshire, located in southeast Lake County, Ill., is pre-empted by federal law and that only states and territories have the authority to pass such laws. The plaintiffs in the case, the International Union of Operating Engineers Locals 150 and 399, the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, and the Laborers District Council of Chicago and Vicinity, were granted summary judgment, with the court ruling on the merits without need for a full trial.

The National Labor Relations

Act permits states and territories the authority to regulate union security agreements via "right to work" laws. Arguing that local units of government have no authority to pass such laws, the four unions listed as plaintiffs filed a federal lawsuit against Lincolnshire in early 2016.

Judge Kennelly concluded that the NLRA "does not permit local subdivisions to regulate union security agreements." Additionally, Kennelly found that Lincolnshire has no authority under federal law to regulate union hiring halls or "dues checkoff" agreements between unions and workers they represent.

To read more, visit <http://www.local150.org/slides/rtw/>

Illinoisans Speak Out on the True State of Illinois

One day before Governor Rauner made his annual State of the State address in January, workers from across the state

took to social media to voice their frustrations with the governor's lack of leadership in developing a state budget that will help all Illinoisans. Illinois Working Together, a coalition focused on defending all working families from anti-worker attacks, released a video on Jan. 24 that features rank-and-file members from IUOE 150, AFSCME Council 31, SEIU Healthcare, Illinois Federation of Teachers and Illinois Education Association. The video has been watched nearly 25,000 times and was featured in Politico Illinois.

To watch the video, visit https://www.facebook.com/pg/illinoisworkingtogether/videos/?ref=page_internal.

Social Studies Teacher Motivates Students to Take Action

For 15 years, Pankaj Sharma, a social studies teacher and member of the North Suburban Teachers



WORKERS FROM ALL JOB SECTORS RALLY OUTSIDE TERMINALS 2 AND 3 AT O'HARE AIRPORT TO FIGHT FOR HIGHER WAGES AND SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS FOR AIRPORT WORKERS.



PHOTO: GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLARS FELLOWSHIP

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AND NORTH SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION LOCAL 1274 MEMBER PANKAJ SHARMA

Newly-Organized Member Reminds Seasoned Members of the Value of the Labor Movement

Sylvia Snowden, a new member of NABET-CWA Local 41, recently wrote to the union’s president Don Villar about how becoming a union member has impacted her life. Sylvia works for Chicago’s public access TV station CAN-TV, which was organized by NABET-CWA Local 41 in the fall of 2015.

In a letter, Sylvia reflected on how her life has changed since she and her coworkers voted to join the union and fought successfully for their first contract. She shared that prior to this year she had always been eligible to receive free tax preparation services due to living below the federal poverty line. “I would go to the free prep centers every year and feel totally dejected because what I’d made in a year was not reflective of my talent, skill or dedication to my job,” Sylvia wrote. Upon reviewing her 2016 tax return, Sylvia noted, “I made too much money to qualify for free tax prep. I cannot adequately express the happiness and relief I felt when I read those numbers.”

Sylvia’s reflection reminds us of the value that labor unions provide not just for individuals, but for their families and communities as a whole.

Union, Local 1274, has worked to instill a sense of community and civic responsibility in his students at Niles North High School in Skokie.

That’s why Sharma made his classroom a platform for students to speak out and collectively solve societal problems.

“I think anyone who goes into education goes into it hoping to help empower students and make them believe that they have the ability to work on issues that are important to them, to make their communities better,” he said.

Using history and current events, Sharma provokes discussions and encourages students to identify issues they are passionate about. Promoting productive dialogue helps students foster a sense of identity and oneness with their communities, he said, while offering them the opportunity to contribute to something greater than themselves.

To read the complete story, visit <https://www.ift-ajt.org/news/2017/01/03/local-1274-teacher-motivates-students-to-take-action>.

Submit your stories

Unions and their members are doing great work throughout our communities, and we want to hear about it.

Email your stories (200 words or less) and high-resolution photos (300 dpi or greater) to info@chicagolabor.org.

New Ramp Brings Mobility to Disabled Residents in Blue Island

United Auto Workers Locals 551 and 588 and the Chicago Federation of Labor continue to support a program building ramps for disabled families across Chicago through the UAW/Ford Community Service Team. The latest project, Blue Cap, is an organization in Blue Island that serves individuals with physical or developmental disabilities. Blue Cap is funded in part through the CFL’s community engagement partner, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. The ramp was built at a Blue Island home owned by Blue Cap that will house four individuals receiving services through Blue Cap. The new ramp will allow them to live independently.

UAW Local 551 member Jeff Hall leads the Chicago UAW/Ford Community Service Team. “Our Mission is to be able to give back to the communities that our union brothers and sisters work and live in,” he said in a statement. “Our goal is to empower people with disabilities to maintain an independent lifestyle, and become more self-sufficient with greater mobility.”

“We can’t thank [the Chicago UAW/Ford Community Service team] enough for how life changing this ramp will be,” said Blue Cap in a statement on Facebook. This home is one of 10 owned by Blue Cap, providing independent living to 52 individuals with developmental disabilities. Blue Cap serves over 200 individuals with disabilities throughout the south suburban area.

The UAW/Ford National Programs Center donated materials for the ramp. Led by UAW Vice President Jimmy Settles and Ford Motor Company Vice President Bill Dirkson, the UAW/Ford National Programs Center is a significant supporter of the Chicago UAW/Ford Community Service Team.



PHOTO: UNITED WAY OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

Labor Support is Crucial for State Employees vs. Rauner

Over a year ago, Governor Rauner broke off contract negotiations with AFSCME Council 31, the largest union representing public service workers in state government. Since then he has refused all efforts by the union to renew negotiations in the hopes of finding common ground.

Union solidarity and support for state employees is crucial to their fight for a fair contract. Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez was one of two dozen statewide union leaders who signed a recent open letter to AFSCME members, pledging, “We stand with you now as Governor Rauner tries to impose his extreme and unfair terms on you. You are surely on the front lines of a battle of critical importance to every working person in our state. ... Your fight is our fight and you can count on our support in the difficult days ahead.”

State employees are on the job every day, protecting kids, caring for veterans, keeping prisons secure, responding to emergencies and providing countless other services that Illinois residents rely on.

In contrast, from his earliest days as a candidate, Rauner has been fixated on confrontation, boasting he would “shut down” state government to “re-do” union contracts.

For the past year, instead of negotiating, he pushed for the power to unilaterally impose his own terms, including a blank check to outsource public services for private profit, as well as a 100 percent increase in employee health care premiums and a four-year wage freeze. That combination would take \$10,000 from the average worker’s pocket.

“It may be hard for a mega-millionaire like him to appreciate, but that kind of loss would do serious harm to the typical working family,” AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director Roberta Lynch said.

By refusing to negotiate, Rauner is forcing employees to make a deeply troubling choice: Live with the governor’s unfair terms or go out on strike.

“State workers are doing everything possible to avoid a strike,” Lynch said. “We know how difficult and disruptive a strike would be

for employees, our families, and most of all the people of Illinois, who depend on the services that state employees provide.”

That’s why AFSCME recently took the unprecedented step of publicly putting forward a new settlement framework that made very clear employees’ willingness to do their part to help address the state’s fiscal woes.

Under the AFSCME framework, state employees would receive no increases in base wages for four years, while paying moderately higher health care premiums, co-pays and deductibles. And the union emphasized its readiness to negotiate further on these and all other outstanding issues.

But the governor’s representatives rejected this new framework, deriding it as “superficial” and making false claims about its cost. Once again they refused any further discussions with AFSCME, continuing to ignore the voices of reason—including lawmakers from both parties—who urge Rauner to return to bargaining.

“It’s clear that this standoff, like the state budget he has held hostage ever since taking office, is about putting the governor’s political agenda ahead of what’s best for the people of Illinois,” Lynch said.

As a result, from Jan. 30 through Feb. 19, child protection workers, parole officers, nurse aides, forensic scientists, rehabilitation counselors and thousands of other state employees are voting on whether to authorize their bargaining committee to call a strike.

Even as they do, AFSCME will continue to emphasize that it is not too late for the governor to choose a better path. State workers want to move Illinois forward through compromise. If Bruce Rauner insists on forcing conflict, then he must bear the responsibility for the results, including the threat of a statewide strike.

“State workers are doing everything possible to avoid a strike. We know how difficult and disruptive a strike would be for employees, our families, and most of all the people of Illinois, who depend on the services that state employees provide.”

ROBERTA LYNCH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR AFSCME COUNCIL 31



Feature Stories

Carpenters, ABC Television to Produce Built to Last®

Built to Last®—a product of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters' Labor and Management Committee—is scheduled to return to the airwaves this spring. After three successful seasons with Lakeshore Public Television, production of season four will be handled by ABC. Plans for the weekly show include weekend airings across ABC 7 WLS Chicago and ABC 13 KTNV Las Vegas.

Starting with the name itself “built to last” means enduring quality. Season four will highlight how skilled labor is the pinnacle for safety and performance, how it sets the benchmark for training and productivity, and how it is the smart choice of signatory contractors. Season four will move across projects, helping to demonstrate the contributions that organized labor makes toward our communities, while showcasing public and private economic developments and partnerships, and a dedication to the building industry.

“Built to Last® Television has helped showcase how industry professionals deftly collaborate to design, create and execute on projects that matter to people within the communities where we live and work,” said Frank T. Libby, President of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters – A positive force in building communities®. “It has been an educational vehicle for the building and business communities, promoting economic infrastructure projects.”

Built to Last® season four is being developed so that it can be customized for airing in other national markets. The show's website—BuiltToLastTV.com—complements the TV programming, serving as the hub for additional insight, features and information relating to the show. Here, visitors can gain additional insight on products and technology and watch full episodes and video shorts for all four seasons.



PHOTO: CHICAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

WCFL... The Voice of Labor

Chicago Labor's Products go everywhere

For over 50 years, the CFL owned and operated WCFL, the Voice of Labor, the first labor station in the country.

The objectives of WCFL from the beginning were service to Labor, service to the community and service to the nation.

How did organized labor get into the broadcasting business? Here's a summary from the files of *The Federation News*:

On March 18, 1923, the delegates to the Chicago Federation of Labor adopted this resolution, presented by Delegates James Cahill and Harry Scheck of Pressmen's Union Local 3 that resolved to “investigate the possibilities of radio to the end that a broadcasting station for the benefit of organized labor may be erected.”

As happens in organizations, some subjects are “bucked” to executive boards or committees for dignified burial.

But those who thought the idea visionary reckoned without the abilities of some decidedly practical men. There was John Fitzpatrick, then CFL president, the former stockyards horseshoer, still smarting from the unsuccessful drives he headed to organize the steel and meat packing industries, fully aware of the possible impact of the new medium—radio.

And there was Edward Nockels—the CFL secretary—the wiry vegetarian, former fixture hanger and pioneer in Electrical Workers Local 134.

A veteran of many organizing battles, Nockels was self-educated, a brilliant strategist who would put his finger on a faker in seconds. Radio station for labor? Why not? And Nockels asked for—and was readily given—the assignment of heading up the investigating committee.

As Nockels probed, he uncovered strange facts: the infant radio industry was heading toward control by the same newspapers and other business firms which were in position to manipulate public opinion.

Nockels surrounded himself with volumes of radio law, his electrician's mind probing the technical difficulties, checking comparative costs.

PHOTO CREDIT: CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM, ICHI-73047



Celebrating 120 Years

Welcome

Chicago

Federation

Labor

*Labor
helps
build
Chicago's
future*

Meanwhile, the second time that the radio proposal hit the CFL meeting floor, there was far more talk than greeted the 1923 resolution.

“Radio has become universal and is rapidly being converted into an instrument of propaganda,” said the delegate from the Commercial Portrait Artists Union. “The Chicago Federation of Labor with its large membership should be able to establish a radio station that would be the pride and inspiration of the labor movement.”

This time, delegates from the Post Office Clerks, Sheet Metal Workers, Machinists, Pressmen, Painters, Lathers, Cigar Makers and Iron Workers supported the idea.

Nockels, who was gathering the facts, sat quietly in the session, pleased with the developing support for the radio station.

He organized a squad of unpaid missionaries who pounded the pavement to union halls, urging support for labor’s radio project.

Oscar Nelson, then vice-president of the Chicago Federation of Labor and a member of the City Council, told a meeting of Painters Local 194 on April 12, 1925, that organized labor needed radio “because it could speak out for the worker and consumer on paramount issues facing the nation.”

This kind of activity paid off. At the CFL meeting a week later Delegate Arthur Olsen of Painters Local 194 reported that his union would be willing to contribute an assessment of 50 cents to \$1 a member toward establishment of a broadcasting station.

President Fitzpatrick responded that “the initial cost of establishing a radio station would be \$100,000. It would be difficult to raise such an amount, with wage levels averaging under \$25 a week.”

The local unions accepted this challenge—and the members responded enthusiastically.

Over 100,000 members pledged \$2 each—and \$200,000 was advanced. The Federation News helped, with subscriptions free to WCFL contributors.

Meanwhile, Ed Nockels pleaded and prodded, pushing the Federal Radio Commission and Congress to permit licensing of the station.

Transmitter and studio space on Navy Pier was leased from the city at \$1 a year in exchange for use of the station by public agencies.

President Fitzpatrick expressed the views of many delegates:

“Secretary Nockels alone is responsible for the realization of the broadcasting station. The CFL executive board was not at all enthused as to the radio project and I also practically deserted the secretary.

“But I will say he was given free reign and has his own way about it.

“There was opposition within the labor movement to the radio project, scarcity of confidence and abundance of criticism. Whatever has been done, has been accomplished within the confines of this organization.”

The first transmitter and studios of WCFL were located at the end of Navy Pier. WCFL later moved to the Brunswick Building and then to the Furniture Mart. In November, 1964, WCFL moved to the 16th floor of the Marina City commercial building.

During an address on WCFL’s 10th birthday, Nockels talked about why he started the station, stating, “Congress provided that the Federal Communications Commission should grant licenses and renewals of licenses only in accordance with the public interest, convenience and necessity. May we be permitted to call your attention to what labor believes constitutes the public interest, convenience and necessity? It is that which contributes to the health, comfort and happiness of the people. It is that which provides wholesome entertainment, increases knowledge, arouses individual thinking, inspires noble impulses, strengthens human ties, breaks down hatred, encourages respect for law. It is that which aids employment, improves the standard of living, and adds to the peace and contentment of mankind.”

Over the course of its 50+ years on air, WCFL broadcasts included a Top 40 music station, all types of forums, lectures, and other cultural programs, as well as special broadcasts that ranged from on-spot coverage of union conventions to presidential addresses.

After profit margins on the station were too small to continue to maintain the station, the Chicago Federation of Labor sold WCFL to Mutual Broadcasting System on April 3, 1978.

CFL and Latino Union Awarded LIFT Grant to Support Day Laborers

The Chicago Federation of Labor and Latino Union of Chicago, a worker center located in Chicago's Albany Park neighborhood, were awarded \$25,000 by The LIFT Fund, a group dedicated to supporting collaboration between labor unions and worker centers. The grant was awarded in partnership with Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. The grant will fund Latino Union's efforts to organize and support day laborers in the Brighton Park community on Chicago's Southwest Side. The program will also create a committee on apprenticeships with the CFL, which will

facilitate conversations about day laborers accessing the organized trades. Brighton Park Neighborhood Council will support Latino Union in reaching out to residents of this community, and United Way will provide additional funding and supports for the program.

Latino Union organizes low-wage workers such as day laborers and domestic workers, teaching them organizing skills and improving their craft to help workers bargain for better wages. The Lift Fund, established in 2011, supports unions across the country in creating partnerships with worker centers.

The Fund is a partnership between the AFL-CIO and philanthropic organizations designed to "fuel worker empowerment" among low-wage workers.



2017 Spring Election Slate Card

The Chicago Federation of Labor is proud to endorse candidates in the spring 2017 consolidated general election. All of the candidates endorsed by the CFL understand the issues facing working families and have a proven record of standing up for the middle class.

Village of Alsip

Mayor: John Ryan

Village of LaGrange

Trustee: Lou Gale

Village of Tinley Park

Clerk: Patrick Rea

Chicago Ridge

Mayor: Sally Durkin

Village of Lemont

Mayor: Paul Chialdikas

Tinley Park Park District

Park District Commissioner:
Dennis Mahoney

City of Evanston

Alderman, Ward 6:

Tom Suffredin

Village of Orland Park

Clerk: John Mehalek

Worth Township

Supervisor: John O'Sullivan

Village of Franklin Park

Clerk: Irene Avitia

Mayor: Barrett Pedersen

Village of Schiller Park

Mayor: Nick Caiafa

Trustee: John Johnson

Karen Special

Andy Ybarra

Trustee: Eamon McMahon

Kelly Sexton



Federation News is a quarterly publication of the Chicago Federation of Labor. ©2017

Federation News is owned and controlled by the Chicago Federation of Labor for the education, protection and advancement of organized labor.

Editor in Chief: Jorge Ramirez, President

Editor: Robert G. Reiter, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

Managing Editor: Nora Cay Ryan

Contributors: AFSCME Council 31, Elaine Fleck, Michael Hartge, Tony Janowski (Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters), Andrea Kluger, Don Scott (Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters)

Labor Shows Strong Support for United Way's Holiday Gift Drive

This holiday season, labor generously responded to the United Way's annual Adopt-A-Family Gift Drive, by providing holiday gifts and winter essentials for families in need. In 2016, the United Way also extended the Adopt-A-Family program to a third community—Cicero—in addition to serving families in the Brighton Park and Blue Island/Robbins neighborhoods.

In total, more than 400 families, comprised of roughly 2,000 adults and children, received an estimated \$160,000 worth of gifts and necessities from this year's program, including books, clothes, toys, grocery gift cards and other items they never imagined possible. Over 20 CFL-affiliated unions generously donated to the program, totaling over \$10,000 in gifts for approximately 30 families in need, more than doubling the 13 families the Labor Movement directly helped in 2015.

The gift distribution events were festive, family-friendly gatherings, complete with hot cocoa, cookies and a visit from Santa. Tears were brought to many families' eyes as they accepted these generous donations. Adopt-A-Family has become an invaluable resource to these communities, allowing parents to be relieved of the financial stress of providing holiday gifts for their children while on a limited income. In the Brighton Park, Blue-Island/Robbins and Cicero communities, 31 percent, 26 percent and 32 percent of families with children live below the federal poverty line, respectively.

United Way has organized community-wide initiatives such as the Adopt-A-Family program through its Neighborhood Network Initiative, where stakeholders in an individual neighborhood work collectively with United Way to address community-specific challenges. The Chicago Federation of Labor advocates for this collective impact model, believing that solving community challenges requires solidarity among community partners.

Labor's participation in the Adopt-A-Family program is an extension of the work United Way does in communities all year long to ensure that everyone has the resources and pathways needed to support their families.

This year's Adopt-A-Family program could not have been possible without the generous donations from local labor unions, staff and members. A special thank you goes out to Elevator Constructors Local 2, who helped secure an incredible donation of over 500 toys, and Plumbers Local 130, who generously donated space at their union hall for United Way to collect and sort gifts throughout December.



PHOTO FROM UNITED WAY

FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER: DISTINGUISHING FACT FROM FICTION

Federation News generally reports on the successes and challenges we face within Chicago's labor movement. We are going to take the opportunity to expand on those concepts and work to relate broader issues impacting us in our social, economic and political culture.

We have heard a lot about this recent phenomenon of fake "news," in the wake of the 2016 Presidential election. I say recent because fake news has always circulated through our news coverage, and I emphasize news because it's not actually news, its misinformation, fiction or downright silliness. For this column, I want to focus on the ways people are susceptible to fake news and what we can do to combat it moving forward.

We as consumers have always waded through what is real and fake news. Whether it was through "advertorials," advertisements disguised as editorial content, in our local newspapers or on propaganda billboards that line the street, once we evaluated the message, we retain the real news and discard the fake.

Recently, I spoke with several journalists who believe that in the digital age too much news is curated for the individual. Few people sit down and read the whole story. Instead, we digest the headlines and maybe scan the story, without fully comprehending it.

With the rise of social media sharing and the relative ease at which anyone can create a legitimate-looking website, we are overwhelmingly inundated with predatory fake news outlets portraying themselves as credible sources. Unfortunately, its momentum is driven, I believe, because of the delegitimization of mainstream media. A glaring example of fake news that could have engendered tragedy was the story that Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton and her Campaign Chairman, John Podesta, were running a human trafficking ring out of a pizza parlor in Washington D.C. After reading this story, a North Carolina man went to "investigate" this conspiracy theory and entered the pizzeria with an assault rifle. Thankfully there were no reported injuries.

Unfortunately, people who seek out news from unsubstantiated sources are looking to reinforce their opinions instead of challenge them. That's why we all need to understand the parameters of real and fake news.

I believe we need to re-establish the difference between news reporting and commentary. At times, the differences become muddled and people project a newspaper bias because an editorial piece is misinterpreted as news. Newspaper editorial boards, and to some extent columnists, are allowed an editorial bias within the confines of their work, but news reporting must be held to a separate standard.

As far as broadcast journalism is concerned, I enjoy the morning and evening newscasts. Network and local news broadcasts provide a great opportunity to look at events of the day in a way that connects you to the issues. However, I try to not indulge in the 24-hour news channels because their main objective is as much about entertainment as it is to be a news platform. There is an exaggeration of bias on those channels when it comes to news reporting held apart from the commentators.

So, here is my ask: seek out legitimate news that offers high journalistic value—such as The Atlantic or The Economist. They both lean off-center in different directions, but overall, they are nationally recognized for their conscientious coverage of current events. Additionally, there are a myriad of great union newspapers, including the Chicago Sun-Times, Washington Post and New York Times. Now, I am not telling you to stop reading lighter topics, like Field & Stream or Car & Driver, just steer clear of the fake stuff.



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CFL Delegates' Meetings

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

No Meeting in July, August, September

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

2017 Food Drive

The 25th Annual NALC Food Drive will take place on Saturday, May 13.

There are opportunities to get your union involved in the collection.

For more info, contact CFL Community Services at MHartge@chicagolabor.org

May Day 2017

International Workers' Day Rally
Monday, May 1, 4:30 p.m. at Daley Plaza

For more info, visit chicagolabor.org/mayday