Federation

February 2012

to work for less

Chicago's unions turn their attention to Indiana in the latest attack on workers' rights

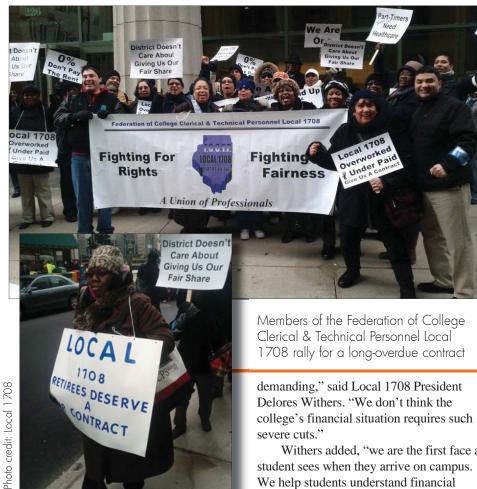


STOP

Chicago Federation of Labor

City Colleges of Chicago clerical & technical staff rally for a contract

Local 1708 members have been working without a contract for over 1 year



Members of the Federation of College Clerical and Technical Personnel, Local 1708, rallied with students and community supporters on Wednesday, January 25 in support of a fair contract.

Local 1708 members have been working without a contract for over a year. The administration is demanding wage freezes and severe cost increases for health insurance. Other issues involve working conditions and the elimination of the salary schedule for new employees. A federal mediator was scheduled to meet with the union and management teams for the first time to try and help both sides reach a compromise.

"We can't afford to take the severe cuts to our income that they are

Withers added, "we are the first face a student sees when they arrive on campus. We help students understand financial aid requirements and apply for financial assistance. We do all of the important behind the scenes work to keep the colleges running. We keep the equipment running and make sure faculty have all of the documents they need for their classes. Our work allows faculty and students to focus on education. We deserve a fair contract."

Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez said the union and its members have the support of the labor movement behind them.

"We've seen this at every level of government: from the federal government down to the city, from the CTA to the City Colleges," said Ramirez. "Working men and women deserve dignity and respect. They deserve fairness and they deserve a contract."

Union membership sees slight increase in face of attacks

Union membership in Illinois and across the country ticked up slightly despite a rash of attacks on working people and collective bargaining rights

Overall union membership increased by 49,000 from 2010 to 2011, including 15,000 new 16- to 24-yearold members, according to new U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Illinois gained 32,000 new union members over the course of the year.

The state's total number of union members increased to 876,000, or 16.2 percent of the workforce.

Nationally, an increase of 110,000 in the private sector was partially offset by a decline of 61,000 in the public sector, making the rate of union membership essentially unchanged at 11.8 percent, with some 14.8 million U.S. workers union members. Public sector employees faced dramatic layoffs across the country as state and local governments trimmed their workforce to help cope with budget deficits.

For example, in balancing a budget deficit nearing \$650 million last year, the City of Chicago, further trimmed its payroll to 32,300 workers, a 23 percent decline since 2002. Cook County also laid off several hundred workers to balance its budget.

Public-sector density increased from 36.2 percent to 37 percent through November 2011. Private-sector union membership remains at 6.9 percent. The largest increases in union membership were in construction, health care services, retail trade, primary metals and fabricated metal products, hospitals, transportation and warehousing.

Despite an unprecedented volley of partisan political attacks on workers' rights and the continuing insecurity of our economic crisis, union membership increased slightly last year," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "Working men and women want to come together to improve their lives."

Congressional panel addresses manufacturing policy

Last fall, over 50 congressional staff and industry, policy, and think tank personnel filled a room in the Rayburn House Office Building for the National Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign's bipartisan congressional policy briefing, presented in cooperation with U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Don Manzullo.

The briefing focused on strategies to create a manufacturing renaissance in the U.S. focused on high-skilled jobs that haven't been exported to cheaper labor markets.

Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez, co-chair of the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council (CMRC), described how labor is committed to working with business, educators, government and other stakeholders to boost American manufacturing by training a new generation of working people to fill highroad, high-skilled manufacturing jobs.

"Advanced manufacturing is one way we can grow our economy and rebuild the middle class," said Ramirez, also a member of the National Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign design team. "With thoughtful, collaborative action, we can develop a skilled workforce throughout this country that is fully trained and can lead the industry into the 21st century economy."

The briefing also featured presentations by Marc Morial, National Urban League, Rob Atkinson, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Robert Schwartz, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Steve Kersten, WaterSaver Faucet Company, Torres Hughes, Austin Polytechnical Academy, and Dan Swinney, Center for Labor and Community Research.

The briefing concluded with policy recommendations for wider use of the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System, as well as an Innovation/Equity Fund for high school programs based on the Polytechnical model, which prepares students for college and equips them with credentials to fill the jobs of the 21st century.

Both recommendations are supported by the findings of Harvard's "Pathways to Prosperity" paper. Plans are underway for additional briefings in 2012 with the U.S.



CFL President Jorge Ramirez speaks at the special hearing on manufacturing in Washington, D.C.

Senate and House Manufacturing Caucus, as well as a symposium at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In Chicago, the CMRC worked with unions, Chicago Public Schools, community and industry groups to establish the Austin Polytechnical Academy on the city's west side to create a roadmap for high school students to enter the workforce with skills, experience and certification.

In 2000, the Chicago Federation of Labor released a study titled, "Creating a Manufacturing Career Path System in Cook County," that paved the way for the creation of the CMRC to prepare a workforce to fill highly-skilled manufacturing jobs.

American manufacturing got another boost from President Obama who mentioned it prominently in his State of the Union address. In the speech, the President committed to a reinvestment in long-lasting manufacturing jobs here in the U.S.

"Tonight, I want to speak about how we move forward, and lay out a blueprint for an economy that's built to last – an economy built on American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers, and a renewal of American values. This blueprint begins with American manufacturing," said President Obama.

American manufacturers should bring jobs back to the U.S. and they should be rewarded for doing so, he argued. He added that companies that export jobs to other countries should not receive tax breaks or other incentives or rewards.

Joe Pijanowski, Business Manager of the Machinists Local 126 and Chicago Federation of Labor Executive Board member, also serves as co-chair of the CMRC.

"The severe shortage of workers with mechanical or manufacturing skills has unfortunately been concealed by the reductions caused by outsourcing and budget cuts," said Pijanowski. "Most workers that presently have mechanical skills are in an age 'bubble' of 57-62 years old and this will result in large numbers of retirements in the near future. The number of high skilled workers must be increased if we are to receive the skilled jobs which are slowly developing in the USA."

According to a report released this month by Manufacturers' News Inc., Illinois companies added 3,496 jobs in 2011, a positive sign that manufacturing can still be a significant segment of the economy.



Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) helped organize the hearing in support of American manufacturing

Unions push back on protest restrictions

Organized labor joined with the civil rights community and other groups to oppose action by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the City Council to clamp down on protest rights in advance of the NATO and G8 summits.

The ordinance restricts amplified sound and makes the permit application more extensive and costly. It also requires disclosure and explanation of any large signs that are to be carried by more than one person.

In a letter to aldermen, the Chicago Federation of Labor spoke out on behalf of its affiliated unions that opposed the ordinance.

"While the upcoming G8 and

NATO conferences bring security concerns for the public and our brothers and sisters in law enforcement, major provisions contained in the proposed ordinance are intended to be wide ranging in scope and permanent in duration, restricting the rights of individuals with no connection to the G8 and NATO summits to exercise their right to peaceful protest," wrote CFL President Jorge Ramirez.

Stand Up Chicago, a coalition of labor and community groups similarly sent a letter signed on to by almost twenty organizations, including SEIU, Chicago Teachers Union, Workers United, Rainbow/ Push Coalition and others.

"The danger of these proposed restrictions is especially apparent as the city comes together to celebrate the civil rights legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.," they wrote. "Had these restrictions been in place during Rev. King's lifetime, much of the civil rights movement could have been squelched—with the result that we would be living in a much less free, much less diverse country today."

While the new restrictions deal with parades and major demonstrations, the Illinois Labor Dispute Act supersedes the city ordinance to protect union members' right to picket and leaflet during labor disputes.



Letter to Chicago Aldermen:

January 12, 2012

Dear Alderman:

The Chicago Federation of Labor, on behalf of our affiliated unions, expresses deep concern regarding proposed ordinance O2011-9743 submitted to City Council last month by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and slated for consideration at the January 18 City Council meeting. The collective Chicago labor movement urges you to reject this proposed ordinance that stands to diminish both the rights of citizens to peaceful public protest and the democratic tradition of our great city.

While the upcoming G8 and NATO conferences bring security concerns for the public and our brothers and sisters in law enforcement, major provisions contained in the proposed ordinance are intended to be wide ranging in scope and permanent in duration, restricting the rights of individuals with no connection to the G8 and NATO summits to exercise their right to peaceful protest.

In particular, the proposed ordinance will serve to limit the basic rights of workers to engage in concerted activity and collective action and will hamper the ability of grassroots community organizations to engage in public protest. As such, this legislation also threatens to undermine the reputation of Chicago as a city where spirited protest is tolerated and First Amendment rights are respected.

Chicago's labor movement urges you to stand up for the rights of workers, community groups and other constituents to engage in peaceful protest and oppose any ordinance that seeks to silence their voices.

Sincerely,

Jorge Ramirez, President

America's jobs deficit, and why it's still more important than the budget deficit

By Robert Reich www.robertreich.org

The most significant aspect of January's jobs report is political. The fact that America's labor market continues to improve is good news for the White House. But as a practical matter the improvement is less significant for the American work force.

President Obama's only chance for rebutting Republican claims that he's responsible for a bad economy is to point to a positive trend. Voters respond to economic trends as much as they respond to absolute levels of economic activity. Under ordinary circumstances January's unemployment rate of 8.3 percent would be terrible. But compared to September's 9.1 percent, it looks quite good. And the trend line – 9 percent in October, 8.6 percent in November, 8.5 percent in December, and now 8.3 percent – is enough to make Democrats gleeful.

But the U.S. labor market is far from healthy. America's job deficit is still mammoth. Our working-age population has grown by nearly 10 million since the recession officially began in December 2007 but many of these people never entered the workforce. Millions of others are still too discouraged to look for work.

The most direct way of measuring the jobs deficit is to look at the share of the working-age population in jobs. Before the recession, 63.3 percent of working-age Americans had jobs. That employmentto-population ratio reached a low last summer of 58.2 percent. Now it's 58.5 percent. That's better than it was, but not by much. The trend line here isn't quite as encouraging.

Given how many people have lost their jobs and how much larger the total working-age population is now, we've got a long road ahead. At January's rate of job gains – 243,000 – the nation wouldn't return to full employment for another seven years.

When they're not blaming Obama for a bad economy, Republicans are decrying the federal budget deficit and demanding more cuts. But America's jobs deficit continues to be a much larger problem than the budget deficit.

In fact, we can't possibly achieve the growth needed to reduce the budget deficit as a proportion of the total economy unless far more people are employed. Workers are consumers, and consumer spending is 70 percent of economic activity. And cutting the budget means fewer workers, directly (as government continues to shed workers) and indirectly (as government contractors have to lay off workers) and therefore fewer consumers.

Yet deficit hawks continue to circle. State and local budgets are still being slashed. The federal government is scheduled to begin major spending cuts less than a year from now. Republicans are calling for more cuts in the short term. Austerity economics continues to gain traction.

Meanwhile Congress is debating whether to renew extended unemployment benefits. This should be a no-brainer. The long-term unemployed, who have been jobless for more than six months, comprise a growing share of the unemployed. (In January they rose from 42.5 percent to 42.9 percent).

Republicans say unemployment benefits are prolonging unemployment, that people won't get jobs if they get unemployment checks from the government. That's claptrap, especially when there's only 1 job opening for every 4 people who need a job. Republicans also say we can't afford to extend jobless benefits. Also untrue. Jobless workers spend whatever money they get, and their spending keeps other people in jobs.

Government should extend unemployment benefits, and not cut spending until the nation's rate of unemployment is down to 5 percent. Then, and only then, should we move toward budget austerity.

The job situation is better than it was but it's still awful. The jobs deficit is still our number one economic problem. Forget the budget deficit until we tame it.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He served as secretary of labor during the Clinton administration.

Ally stands up for public employees

In a letter to the editor published in the *Chicago Sun-Times* (February 1, 2012), Cook County Clerk defends public employees from blame that they are the cause of the state's fiscal problems. He writes in response to an op-ed by Steve Stanek from a conservative policy institute arguing against collective bargaining rights for government employees.

Public union members don't get rich

Steve Stanek's Sunday oped ["Illinois' woes show why we can't afford public unions"] is a misleading diatribe against working people. According to Stanek, collective bargaining is to blame for Illinois' credit rating and economic trouble because public employees retire as millionaires. What a cheap sleight of hand.

These so-called millionaires pay a hefty slice of their paychecks into a pension fund for 30 years before they withdraw it. Then, for example, the average Cook County worker's pension is \$32,000. The average Forest Preserve pension is \$28,000. And Stanek conveniently overlooks this: most public employees do not collect Social Security.

Just ask anyone trying to pay a modest mortgage and utility bills on a \$32,000 income if they feel like a millionaire. You will not get a chorus of yeses.

It's no secret why Stanek blames little people and ignores the role of the mortgage lenders and giant corporate tax loopholes in our fiscal mess. He speaks for the Heartland Institute, a conservative think tank that wants to eliminate health care benefits, deregulate banks and eliminate student loans. But that's no excuse for pretending people with modest incomes are millionaires.

David Orr, Cook County Clerk

Chicago unions fight Indiana



Union members from Chicago mobilized to fight back against a controversial 'right-to-work' proposal passed by Indiana state lawmakers, the latest in a rash of anti-union measures in nearby Midwestern states. Hundreds of volunteers from dozens of local unions volunteered at two phone banks set up by the Chicago Federation of Labor at IUOE Local 399 in Chicago and IUOE Local 150 in Countryside and went door-to-door in northwest Indiana to oppose the measure.

"Many of our affiliated unions represent members who live or work in northwest Indiana," said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. "Others just wanted to show their solidarity with our Hoosier brothers and sisters. This is a bad law that will hurt working families, drive down wages and limit unions' ability to protect workers throughout the Midwest."

Both IUOE Locals 150 and 399, the

sites of the two Chicago-area phone bank operations, have jurisdiction in Indiana. But for them, it's just as much about protecting those members as it is a defense of unions.



"Right-to-work will harm collective bargaining in Indiana and set the wheel in motion for regressive wages, benefits and working conditions which may bleed into the rest of the Midwest," said Brian Hickey, Business Manager of IUOE Local 399 and Chicago Federation of Labor Executive Board member. "This sets back unionism and the possibility of organizing twenty years."

Republican lawmakers, including Governor Mitch Daniels, made rightto-work a top priority during the state's legislative session and narrowly passed the measure despite outcry from the public for more debate and questions about why it was being rushed through the process. According to a poll commissioned by the AFL-CIO, 47 percent of Hoosiers oppose right-to-work and an overwhelming 67 percent disapprove with Statehouse Republicans' decision to make it their top priority.

Gov. Daniels' support signals a major

flip-flop of positions after he told union leaders he opposed right-towork while seeking support for his 2004 campaign for governor. In a letter to IUOE Local 150 during that campaign, Gov. Daniels wrote that he did not support the policy for Indiana. James Sweeney, President-Business



Union members at the CFL phone bank show solidarity in Indiana's right-to-work fight

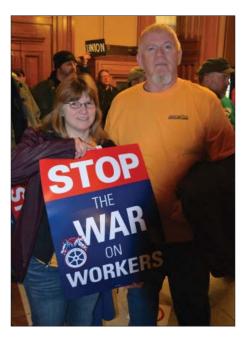
'right-to-work' bill

Manager of Local 150 and Chicago Federation of Labor Executive Board member, called out his about-face. "To say we are disappointed in your flip-flop would be an understatement," Sweeney wrote.

"Indiana does not need 'right-towork.' It offers no new protection for workers, and it will diminish workers' quality of life. If worker protections are truly your goal, remember that federal law has prohibited forced unionism since 1963," added Sweeney.

Thousands of union members flocked to the state capitol in Indianapolis to express their opposition to the law and to call for public input in such a controversial issue. Democrats, who blocked previous attempts to pass the bill by preventing a quorum, tried to put the question to voters in a referendum but were stymied by Republicans who forced through the measure.

With Indianapolis hosting this year's Super Bowl, the NFL Players Association and several high-profile athletes spoke out against right-to-work. In a statement, the



Bears' quarterback Rex Grossman. Cutler and Grossman, both Indiana natives, sent letters to members of the Indiana House urging them to oppose the bill.



Photo credits: IUOE Local 150, CWA, UFCW International; Cover: UFCW International

NFLPA Statement on So-Called 'Right-To-Work' Legislation in Indiana

WASHINGTON—As NFL players, we know our success on the field comes from working together as a team. We're not just a team of football players—we're also the fans at games and at home, the employees who work the concession stands and the kids who wear the jerseys of our favorite football heroes. NFL players know what it means to fight for workers' rights, better pensions and health and safety in the workplace.

To win, we have to work together and look out for one another. Today, even as the city of Indianapolis is exemplifying that teamwork in preparing to host the Super Bowl, politicians are looking to destroy it trying to ram through so-called "right-to-work" legislation.

"Right-to-work" is a political ploy designed to destroy basic workers' rights. It's not about jobs or rights, and it's the wrong priority for Indiana.

The facts are clear—according to a January 2012 Economic Policy Institute briefing report ("Working Hard to Make Indiana Look Bad"), "right-to-work" will lower wages for a worker in Indiana by \$1,500 a year because it weakens the ability of working families to work together, and it will make it less likely that working people will get health care and pensions.

So-called "right-to-work" bills divide working families at a time when communities need to stand united. We need unity-not division. We urge legislators in Indiana to oppose "right-to-work" efforts, and focus instead on job creation.

As Indianapolis proudly prepares to host the Super Bowl it should be a time to shine in the national spotlight and highlight the hard-working families that make Indiana run instead of launching political attacks on their basic rights. It is important to keep in mind the plight of the average Indiana worker and not let them get lost in the ceremony and spectacle of such a special event. This Super Bowl should be about celebrating the best of what Indianapolis has to offer, not about legislation that hurts the people of Indiana.

CFL endorses candidates in March Primary Election

Delegates to the Chicago Federation of Labor's Committee on Political Education voted recently to endorse candidates in the upcoming March Primary Election.

Delegates voted to endorse incumbents Anita Alvarez for Cook County State's Attorney, Debra Shore for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, as well as judicial candidates for Ap-



Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez Cook County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough

Metro. Water Reclamation Dist. (Vote For 3)

Debra Shore Patricia Young Patrick Daley Thompson

Board Of Review 2nd District **Michael Cabonargi**

Board Of Review 3rd District Larry Rogers, Jr.

1st Appellate - Cahill Vacancy Mathias Delort

1 st Appellate - Coleman Vacancy Nathaniel Roosevelt Howse, Jr.

1 st Appellate - Gallagher Vacancy **P. Scott Neville, Jr.**

1 st Appellate - O'Brien Vacancy William Stewart Boyd

1 st Appellate - Theis Vacancy Maureen Elizabeth Connors

1 st Appellate - Tully Vacancy Terrence J. Lavin

Cook Circuit - Conlon Vacancy Stanley L. Hill, Sr. pellate, Circuit and Subcircuit vacancies. The CFL also endorsed Patricia Young and Patrick Daley Thompson for the MWRD.

"In this heated political climate, working men and women are looking for elected officials who will fight for good jobs, a strong middle class and the right to bargain collectively," said CFL President Jorge Ramirez.

Cook Circuit - Jordan Vacancy Jean Prendergast Rooney

Cook Circuit - Kinnaird Vacancy Erica L. Reddick

Cook Circuit - Moran Vacancy Russell W. Hartigan

Cook Circuit - O'Brien, Jr. Vacancy

Cynthia Ramirez

Cook Circuit - Frossard Vacancy Diann Karen Marsalek

Cook Circuit - Pucinski Vacancy Edward J. Maloney

Cook Circuit - Simmons, Jr. Vacancy Jessica A. O'Brien

Cook Circuit - Stewart Vacancy Steve Demitro

Cook Circuit - Stralka Vacancy Michael Tully Mullen

Cook Circuit - Ward Vacancy Alfred M. Swanson, Jr.

Cook - 3rd Subcircuit - Mcgann Vacancy Maureen Leahy Delehanty

Cook - 3rd Subcircuit - Moore Vacancy **Daniel R. Degnan**

Cook - 4th Subcircuit - Riley Vacancy William "Gomo" Gomolinski

Cook - 4th Subcircuit - A Vacancy Edward M. Maloney

Cook - 6th Subcircuit - Delgado Vacancy Beatriz Santiago

Cook - 7th Subcircuit Jones Vacancy

Aicha Marie Maccarthy Cook - 7th Subcircuit - Starks Vacancy

Tommy Brewer Cook - 7th Subcircuit - Toney Vacancy

Arthur P. Wheatley

The CFL required all candidates seeking its endorsement to respond to a questionnaire and meet for an interview to discuss their answers. The rigorous process is designed to give all candidates a chance to seek labor's support on a level playing field.

The Illinois AFL-CIO endorsed candidates for Congress and the Illinois House and Senate.

Cook - 8th Subcircuit - Chiola Vacancy Celia Louise Gamrath

Cook - 8th Subcircuit - Cole Vacancy James L. Kaplan

Cook - 8th Subcircuit - Roy Vacancy **Deborah Jean Gubin**

Cook - 8th Subcircuit - A Vacancy Laura Liu

Cook - 9th Subcircuit - Bender Vacancy Lionel Jean-Baptiste

Cook - 9th Subcircuit - Epstein Vacancy Abbey Fishman Romanek

Cook - 10th Subcircuit - Locallo Vacancy Thomas R. Allen

Cook - 11th Subcircuit - O'Brien Vacancy Michael R. Clancy

Cook - 11th Subcircuit - Urso Vacancy Lisa Ann Marino

Cook-12th Subcircuit - Rochford Vacancy James C. Murray

Cook - 14th Subcircuit - O'Gara Vacancy **Regina Ann Scannicchio**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, February 21 Last day to register to vote

Mon., February 27 - Thurs., March 15 Early voting period

Tuesday, March 20 Election Day

Illinois House of Representatives

(Chicago-area districts)

1st Dan Burke - D 2nd Edward Acevedo - D 3rd Luis Arroyo - D 4th Cynthia Soto - D 5th Ken Dunkin - D 6th Esther Golar - D 8th LaShawn Ford - D 9th Art Turner Jr. - D 10th Derrick Smith - D 11th Ann Williams - D 12th Sara Feigenholtz - D 13th Gregory Harris - D 14th Kelly Cassidy - D 15th John D'Amico - D 16th Lou Lang - D 17th Laura Fine - D 18th Robyn Gabel - D 19th Rob Martwick - D 20th Michael McAuliffe - R 21st Rudy Lozano - D 22nd Michael Madigan - D

Illinois Senate

(Chicago-area districts)

1 st Tony Munoz - D 2nd Willie Delgado - D 3rd Mattie Hunter - D 4th Kimberly Lightford - D 5th Annazette Collins - D 6th John Cullerton - D 7th Heather Steans - D 8th Ira I. Silverstein - D 9th Daniel Biss - D 10th John G. Mulroe - D 1 1th Martin Sandoval - D 23rd Michael J. Zalewski - D 24th Lisa Hernandez - D 25th Barbara Flynn Currie - D 27th Monique Davis - D 28th Robert Rita - D 29th Thaddeus Jones - D 30th Will Davis - D 31st Mary Flowers - D 32nd Andre Thapedi - D 33rd Marlow Colvin - D 34th Elgie Sims, Jr. - D
36th Kelly Burke - D
38th Al Riley - D
39th Toni Berrios - D
55th Martin J. Moylan - D
57th Elaine Nekritz - D
77th Angelo "Skip" Saviano - R
78th Camille Lilly - D
79th Katherine Cloonen - D
80th Anthony DeLuca - D



1 2th Steven Landek - D 1 3th Kwame Raoul - D 1 4th Emil Jones, III - D 1 5th Donna Miller - D 1 6th Jacqueline Collins - D 1 7th Donne Trotter - D 1 8th Bill Cunningham - D 20th Iris Martinez - D 28th Dan Kotowski - D 39th Don Harmon - D 40th Toi Hutchinson - D

For a complete list of endorsed candidates visit www.chicagolabor.org/2012





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CFL Delegates Will Meet On

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 6:00pm

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. In unity,

Robert G. Reiter, Jr. Secretary-Treasurer