



FederationNews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • WINTER 2015



“Right-to-Work” is Wrong for Workers

“Right to work” laws tip labor laws
in favor of employers.



CONTENTS

4 Affiliate News

6 Cover Story
Right To Work

8 Union Member
Profile Series

10 CFL News



Ladies need apply

Tammy Hellman, a third generation union member, can't imagine working anywhere else.

President's Report



In January, Governor Bruce Rauner delivered his first state of the state address to the people of Illinois, and as we all saw, he resorted back to his old campaign rhetoric, continuing his attack on working men and women across this state.

The labor movement raises people up and creates a robust middle class by protecting basic rights like a living wage, access to health care and workplace safety. However, Rauner's proposals ensure the complete annihilation of the middle class and the elimination of the economic mobility that is necessary to continue to make Illinois a great state for all people.

In his speech Gov. Rauner said he is here to serve all people of Illinois, the ones who voted for him and the ones who didn't. However, throughout his speech, he places the onus of Illinois' financial woes and the means to fix

CONNECT

 FACEBOOK
CHICAGOFEDERATION
OFLABOR

 TWITTER
@CHICAGOFLCIO

 YOUTUBE
WEAREONECHICAGO



PHOTO COURTESY PAT BARCAS

them squarely on the backs of working families. He vilified our public workers, who care for our sick and vulnerable, keep our communities safe, teach our children, clean our streets after snow storms and respond in emergencies. He recommended policies that weaken our collective voice in the workplace, drive down wages, reduce workers' ability to participate in democracy and gut higher education opportunities for our children, all while conveniently ignoring corporations' responsibilities to the state and our communities.

While Gov. Rauner suggests raising the minimum wage to \$10 per hour, he completely diminishes its significance by doing it over a seven year period. What does that say about Governor Rauner's perceived value of the hardworking men and women of Illinois? Minimum wage workers already live below the poverty level, earning around \$17,000

a year, when given the opportunity to work full-time. His proposed increase is not enough to boost these workers into the middle class. His statements trivialize these workers, the single mothers, the recent graduates and the senior citizens who cannot afford to retire. These are members of our families, our neighbors and the people we see at church. They deserve the right to earn a living wage and to be able to provide for their families' quality of life. If Governor Rauner is truly here to serve all the people of Illinois, why does he perpetuate the marginalization of minimum-wage workers?

Rauner's speech left no sector of workers untouched, besides wealthy corporations. Going after the men and women who construct our buildings and roads, and install our fire safety systems, is a misguided attack. He wants to eliminate prevailing wage laws that would

in turn create policies that are more harmful to workers and the state budget. According to a study out of the University of Illinois, the elimination of prevailing wage laws would cause the state to lose jobs, increase workplace fatalities and result in the loss of millions of dollars of tax revenue.

Corporations have been trying to take away the rights of working families and the middle class, but we are going to fight like hell to make sure that does not happen. Workers across Illinois need to unite together rather than be pulled apart by Rauner's political wedge. It's one thing for him to say he wants to lead with compassion; it's another thing for him to actually be compassionate.



JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT

Letter Carriers Walk to End Breast Cancer

On Sunday, October 12, 2014, over 400 members of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch #11 participated in their Second Annual Breast Cancer Walk. The 5K walk started and ended at their Union Hall on 39th and Wabash. Immediately after the walk a brunch was held at the hall where survivors talked about and celebrated their recovery from breast cancer. Over \$12,000 was raised for the Chicago Area American Cancer Society "Making Strides." NALC Branch #11 President Mack I. Julion stated, "Next year we plan to reach out to other Locals, and hopefully this event will be even larger and more successful!"

The 2014 Union Hall of Honor

Each year, the Illinois Labor History Society honors the men and women who worked tirelessly for the union rights we have today. At the Union Hall of Honor Awards ceremony in November, the ILHS honored three

outstanding union members for their unwavering commitment to Labor: Robert Gibson, Connell F. Smith and Regina V. Polk.

Robert Gibson served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO for 15 years and then its President for a decade until 1989. He was instrumental in winning the long battle for public sector union rights, which culminated in the 1983 collective bargaining laws for public employees.

Connell F. Smith was the Secretary-Treasurer of Laborers' Local 773 in Southern Illinois, serving from the Local's first charter in 1940 to 1976. Smith threw open the doors of Local 773 and helped build a widely diverse downstate Local representing workers in both the private and public sectors.

Regina Polk was one of the first female organizers on the International Brotherhood of Teamsters' staff. She pioneered the organizing of clerical employees, predominantly women, from both the private and public sectors into IBT Local 743. Regina's life was tragically cut short in a plane crash in 1983.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka delivered the keynote address. During

his speech, he reminded the crowd that, "the labor movement is much bigger than a list of our jobs and professions. We're greater than the sum of our members. We are the voice of all those who get up in the morning and go to work. We are the people who clock in and clock out, who strive and struggle and fight and scramble for just a little bit more, so we can earn a better life for ourselves and our families... Working people are the power behind the American economy, in the work we do on the job, and in the food and shelter and everything else we provide ourselves and our families with the pay we earn." He also sent messages to the members of the U.S. Congress that put the priorities of working families at the forefront.

Utility Workers Military Assistance Program Extended Five Years

In January, the Utility Workers Union of America Local 18007 announced a five-year extension of the Utility Work-

ers Military Assistance Program. This seven-month classroom, internship and mentorship program has already prepared over 100 military veterans for careers in the natural gas industry within Chicago whose focus will be to upgrade and modernize Chicago's natural gas system.

"The program is a national training-to-placement model that will assist those who have honorably served their country in transitioning their military occupational skills into gainful career opportunities in the gas sector," said Richard Passarelli, Local 18007 Business Manager.

Passarelli was joined by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter for this announcement.

"Veterans make great employees. They possess leadership skills, team-building skills and discipline. Those traits don't end when they take off the uniform; they transfer into the workplace and help businesses grow and succeed," said Secretary McDonald.

Through the program, students take general education and core courses for six months. Participants who complete the training program



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH #11

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS BRANCH #11 AT THE BREAST CANCER WALK.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

AFL-CIO PRESIDENT RICHARD TRUMKA WITH ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY PRESIDENT LARRY SPIVACK AT THE UNION HALL OF HONOR.

receive a Certificate of Completion and 52 units of college credit toward their associate degree. Following the completion of the classroom program, students immediately transition into a one-month, on-the-job, paid internship with Peoples Gas, providing real-world application of the skills they have learned.

The Chicago Federation of Labor Workers Assistance Committee administers the Workforce Investment Act funding for the program, ensuring the veterans receive this high-demand training. Through the CFL-WAC's Dislocated Worker program, funding is provided to fully cover their tuition and other class expenses. In addition, they receive access to housing resources, transportation assistance, and health and childcare services.

Labor Sponsors Important Convention at McCormick Place

Over the last few years, organized labor and the city of Chicago have come together to boost the meetings and convention industry by attracting new shows and restoring partnerships with shows that have left. In January, the Chicago Federation of Labor and nine local Chicago unions representing the hospitality and building trades presented Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Don Welsh, President and CEO of Choose Chicago, with a \$105,000 sponsorship for the Professional Convention

Management Association's Convening Leaders conference. This sponsorship shows their continued commitment to strengthening this industry.

"Sponsoring Convening Leaders is more than just a financial commitment from Labor," said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. "It shows that Labor is intent on working with the Mayor and Choose Chicago to create a one-of-a-kind visitor experience that will bring more conventioners and tourists to our world-class city."

A significant portion of the \$105,000 sponsorship came from the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters through the trade show promotion fund, which was created following the implementation of reforms at McCormick Place. Additional sponsor unions include IATSE Local 2; IATSE Local 110; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134; International Union of Operating Engineers Local 399; Pipefitters Local 597; Machinery Movers, Riggers & Machinery Erectors Local 136; United Steelworkers Local 17 Decorators Union; and UNITE HERE Local 1.

PCMA Convening Leaders, the meetings and convention industry's premier education and networking event, returned to Chicago in January after a 20 year hiatus. More than 4,000 key influencers, including 2,000 meeting planners who each plan an average of 34 meetings per year, visited Chicago during this convention and experienced all Chicago has to offer.



LABOR LEADERS PRESENT THEIR SPONSORSHIP FOR PCMA CONVENING LEADERS TO MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL AND DON WELSH OF CHOOSE CHICAGO.

In Memoriam

At the end of 2014, the Labor movement in Chicago lost two strong advocates: Terry Allen (IBEW Local 134) and Judy Baar Topinka (Musicians Local 10-208).

As Business Manager of Local 134, Terry Allen restructured Local 134 to be more responsive to the needs of its members through politics, organizing and collective bargaining. He enacted profound and essential changes within Local 134 by bringing greater transparency, accountability and stronger fiscal management by cutting costs and creating an open environment. He worked with elected officials, locally and across the state, to strengthen policies and laws that protect and create more jobs for his members. Through the CFL Executive Board, Terry was an effective partner and a trustworthy adviser who fully participated in the CFL's fight to protect working families in Chicago and Cook County. Terry fought tirelessly to increase the visibility and viability of the labor movement as a whole, while keeping the issues important to his members at the forefront.

As a 20-year member of the Chicago Federation of Musicians Local 10-208, Judy Baar Topinka understood the issues facing families across Illinois. She was a forward thinker who put the best interest of this state and the people who live here above all else. She will be remembered for her larger than life personality, integrity and commitment to working people. At a time in politics where partisanship has nearly crippled state government, Judy was universally liked and respected for her ability to work across the aisle.

Both Terry and Judy will be missed by all who knew them.



TERRY ALLEN
IBEW LOCAL 134



JUDY BAAR TOPINKA
MUSICIANS LOCAL 10-208



Across the country, there has been a dramatic assault on working people in the public and private sector, with government officials irresponsibly asserting their power to strip workers of their voice on the job.

Here in Illinois, the beginning of Bruce Rauner's term as governor has been focused squarely on placing the onus of Illinois' financial woes on the union members and the means to fix them squarely on the backs of working families. In his state of the state address, Rauner vilified public-sector workers, the ones who care for our sick and vulnerable, keep our communities safe, teach our children, clean our streets after a snow storm and respond in emergencies.

Since taking office, Governor Rauner has stressed the notion of working together to solve Illinois' financial crisis and that it will need to be a shared sacrifice. However, the budget he has presented shows he chooses not to reconcile his actions with his words. This is not a thoughtful budget aimed at growing the economy and expanding the middle class. During his budget address, he presented a budget that eliminates services and securities that are vital to the health and well-being of the children, adults and seniors across the state of Illinois. Additionally, he has gone so far to weaken unions and deprive its members of the democratic process a union provides by attempting to eliminate fair share fees for non-union members.

What is Right to Work?

Rauner has been traveling around the state of Illinois presenting his plan to introduce Right-to-Work zones, disguised as "employee empowerment zones," which he claims would give local employees the ability to decide for themselves whether they want to join a union. The problem with his claim is under the Illinois Labor Relations Act and the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, employees already have the right to decide if they want to join a union. In collective-bargaining states, like Illinois, employees covered by a union are only required to pay for bargaining costs, known as "fair share fees." They are not forced to fund political activities or any other activities outside bargaining that they do not agree with.

Rauner claims that these "empowerment zones" will make Illinois more attractive to businesses. However, in a report released in January by credit-ratings agency Moody's Analytic for the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, Moody's stated, "Since laws that hurt unions shift the balance of power from employees to owners, they tend to erode wages and lead to a more uneven distribution of the gains of economic growth. Consequently, even if the impact of Right-to-Work laws is positive in the short run, it can diminish over time because of the downward pressure on incomes."¹

RIGHT TO WORK

Why Right-to-Work is Wrong for Workers

According to a study out of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the impact of Right-to-Work laws in Illinois would lower workers' earnings, increase race and gender income inequalities, and lead to increased workplace injuries and fatalities.

Additionally, the workers in Right-to-Work states earn less than workers in collective bargaining states. "Right-to-Work laws are associated with a 2.1 to 8.2 percent decrease in worker earnings, with the general effect being about a 6 percent drop. In general, Right-to-Work appears to be associated with a very small positive effect on wage growth (between 0 percent and 0.4 percent), but the effect diminishes over time and never compensates for the policy's prominent downward effect on wages."²

When looking at income, Right-to-Work laws hurt minority groups the most. "Per-hour work incomes are at least \$2.49 lower in Right-to-Work states for native-born African-American, Latino/a, and Asian workers compared to their respective collective bargaining counterparts. By contrast, wages are \$1.82 per hour lower in Right-to-Work states than in collective bargaining states for whites born in the United States. For foreign-born workers, Right-to-Work has a negative effect, but generally less negative than for those born in America. Only the wages of immigrant white workers fall by more on average than their native-born equivalents due to Right-to-Work; immigrant white workers experience a \$2.20 hourly wage penalty from Right-to-Work. Among immigrant workers, Asians suffer the largest drop in hourly wages

associated with Right-to-Work (-\$2.65), while African-Americans (-\$1.76) and Latinos and Latinas (-\$0.80) still see a wage penalty."³

When it comes to a safe workplace, the University of Illinois report compared the fatality rates in Right-to-Work and collective bargaining states, since occupational injuries tend to go underreported. "Fatality rates provide a more accurate assessment of comparative experiences on the state level. Data from BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) report that construction fatality rates in Right-to-Work states averaged 13.1 deaths per 100,000 workers from 2008 to 2010. In collective bargaining states, on the other hand, fatality rates are much lower at 9.6 deaths per 100,000 workers. For construction workers in Illinois, the fatality rate was lower at 9.4 deaths per 100,000."⁴

Stand Together

It is important for the labor movement to continue to stand together in solidarity, rather than be pulled apart by corporate and political tactics that will diminish our collective voice. Rauner says he is here to serve all people of Illinois, the ones who voted for him and the ones who did not. However, he chooses to shield large corporations from their fiscal responsibilities by failing to acknowledge the impact corporate tax loopholes have on the budget. Corporations in Illinois need to have a vested interest in the well-being of their employees and begin to contribute their fair share to Illinois' economic climate. Right-to-Work zones are not the answer and will prove to be detrimental to all workers across the state.

Right-to-Work lowers workers earnings. **Over 10 years**, the effect of RTW on **incomes would be a loss of almost \$24,000** for all workers.

Nationwide, union membership is correlated with approximately a **12-13 percent increase** in earnings.

When isolated and measured against other job creation variables, **Right-to-Work has no proven record** of stimulating economic growth.

Over time, the **hourly wages of African-American workers would decrease by 2-9 percent**, the hourly wages of **women would fall by 2-8 percent**, and the hourly wages of **Latino/a workers would fall by as much as 8 percent**.

Construction **fatality rates** in Right-to-Work states **were higher** than those in collective bargaining states.

More people **lack health insurance** in Right-to-Work states.

Right-to-Work is **not a major factor** in where businesses locate.

Fair share fee payers **do not have to pay for political causes** or other non-representation costs with which they do not agree.

1 MOODY'S ANALYTIC. STATE OF ILLINOIS ECONOMIC FORECAST. [HTTP://CGFA.ILGA.GOV/UPLOAD/2015MOODYSECONOMYILFORECAST.PDF](http://CGFA.ILGA.GOV/UPLOAD/2015MOODYSECONOMYILFORECAST.PDF). P 24.
2 MANZO, F. IV, ZULLO, R., BRUNO, R., QUESADA, A. D., (2013) THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ADOPTING A RIGHT-TO-WORK LAW: IMPLICATIONS FOR ILLINOIS. P 3.
3 MANZO, F. IV, ZULLO, R., BRUNO, R., QUESADA, A. D., (2013) THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ADOPTING A RIGHT-TO-WORK LAW: IMPLICATIONS FOR ILLINOIS. P 6.
4 MANZO, F. IV, ZULLO, R., BRUNO, R., QUESADA, A. D., (2013) THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ADOPTING A RIGHT-TO-WORK LAW: IMPLICATIONS FOR ILLINOIS. P 9.

Construction's Gatekeeper

Danielle Heath has many jobs and possesses many talents on the job site, being a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 for the past 17 years.

Heath has worked as an operator of a modern rack and pinion type crane, as well as hydraulic and refinery style cranes. However, she is most known for operating an old friction type crane, which is notable because these cranes require a lot of leg strength to step on the pedal and hold the load in place—something most women do not do or are not capable of doing.

Heath estimates there are only a few women in the city who operate the friction type crane, an older design that is stout—it can haul larger loads and take more abuse, but is controlled manually via a gear driven system. The operator must use a heavy clutch and use gear sticks to operate all the separate components.

“I like running the friction cranes because there’s a lot of moving, running around, and keeping up with the machine. Sitting around on hydraulics drove me crazy,” she said.

She started as a welder on a production line. Her toughness had to develop over the years, and she said she clearly remembers her first day on the job.

“I was a 17-year-old girl. They’d yell and scream at you to move the line. It was hard, and I remember crying under my welding helmet,” she said. Local 150 eventually admitted her to the apprenticeship program, and she became a crane operator.

“It’s totally different here. Nobody talks to you like that. If I have any problems, it’s one phone call that takes care of it,” she said. “It’s a lot better now.”

Heath said being in a union in Chicago is a huge point of pride for her, and a right she has fought to protect in the past.

“The union is everything. I would fight tooth and nail to protect it. They support us in every direction, our wages, our rights. I’ve spent my time on the picket lines, fighting when times got rough,” she said. “I love my job, and I love the union. I don’t have too many bad days.”

As she travels around the city, Heath said it is cool to look back on her past projects. She operated a crane during the remodel project of Soldier Field, helping drive support beams into the ground, as well as construction work on the Field Museum.

“Soldier Field was a pretty cool job. Obviously it’s something in Chicago that everyone knows about. There’s a few bridges around here that still have my welds on them, it’s cool to look back on that work,” she said.

On a sunny, crisp fall day on a construction site on Michigan Avenue, she’s found herself working the outside elevator, or “skip.” She goes up 25 floors, hauling equipment, people, and other things essential to getting work done—all with a great view overlooking Lake Michigan.

“This job’s real busy with deliveries, and you’re helping guys with carts, and moving material. It’s a lot of work; it makes you tired at the end of the day. You have to try and keep everybody happy, which is impossible,” she said while operating the elevator, which has a 7,000 pound capacity. “It’s like playing Tetris, getting all the stuff in here from different floors. And until you get that material up to where it needs to be, the work can’t get done.”

She said one of the best parts of running the elevator is the social aspect.

“You get to see all the trades—iron workers, carpenters, electricians, so that’s pretty cool too. This is a good job,” she said.

An example of a bad day was about four months ago when the brakes failed on the elevator. No, it didn’t fall—it started going up, and fast.

“It’s weighted so the counterweight is heavier than the elevator, so we shot up to the 18th floor,” said Heath, who is not afraid of heights. Her union training meant she kept calm, but some occupants were a little shaken up.

“There were guys in the elevator; they were a little scared. It was the end of the day; I walked down the stairs and didn’t get back on until the mechanic fixed it,” she said.

It was just another day on the job for one of Chicago’s toughest elevator operators.





Behind This Powerful Crane Is This Even More Powerful Woman

Tammy Hellman is a third generation International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 member who does behind the scenes work that literally makes a construction site run smoother.

As an oiler, she works on the construction cranes and makes sure they are in peak condition each workday by checking all the fluids and fuel, greasing any attachments that are in use, and working as a spotter for when the crane is moving loads around the site.

She has been with the union for 10 years and is responsible for keeping the large cranes operating all day without fail, 12 hours per day, in any type of conditions.

Without workers such as Hellman, materials would not get delivered to where they need to go, holes wouldn't get dug, and work on the site would grind to a halt.

"This union is all I've ever known," said Hellman, whose father was a business agent for 20 years. "I saw him do it his entire life, my brother joined, and a few years later, I followed suit. I love it; it's my life. This union and these guys are my family."

Hellman said the union has helped her through tough times.

"This union has put a roof over my kids' heads. My daughter is now a freshman in college, paid for by my union wages. They have healthcare. I wouldn't be where I'm at now without this union, and neither would my children."

Of course, working outside in Chicago, the issue of weather is on everyone's mind, and last winter created additional problems for Hellman and her crew when maintaining the mechanical monsters that help with work on the site.

"Last winter was brutal. It meant getting to work early and putting in more time to get

the machines ready," she said.

A big problem to overcome on the really cold days was the oil on the machines thickening up, and even worse, the diesel fuel turning to gel.

"Even with the additives it was freezing. We had to get burn barrels and put them underneath the machines, and then tent them for a couple hours in the mornings so it warms it up," she said.

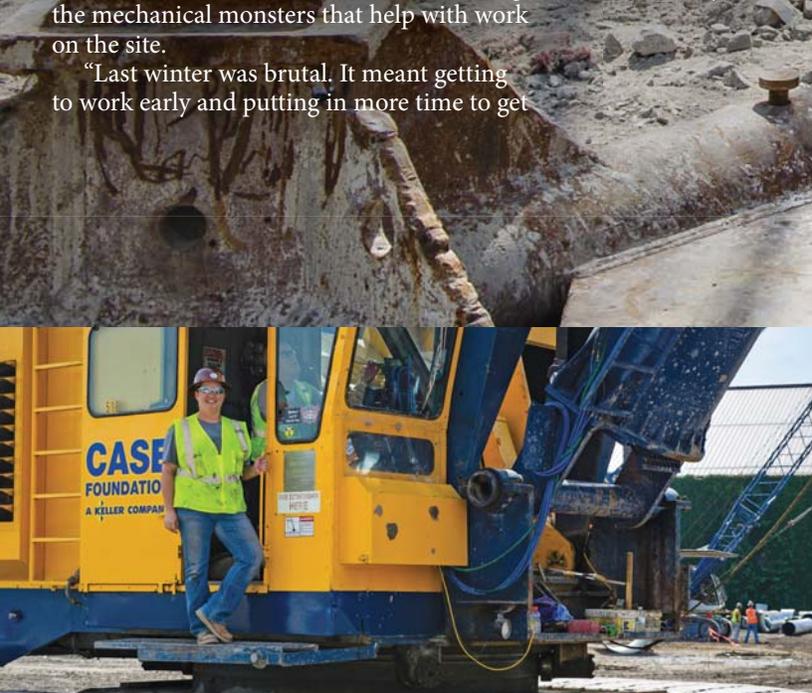
The large amount of snowfall and relentless cold last year meant additional hazards. Cason holes during construction at the Malcolm X College site were freezing and then thawing, leading to dangerous conditions.

"You had these holes, but you didn't know where they were because they were filled with snow, you'd be walking out in the morning and falling in frozen slop up to your knees.

It was the longest job of my life," she said. "We were walking around with sticks and poking the ground to make sure we knew where to walk."

Eventually getting her crane operators certificate is on the horizon for Hellman, and her daughter is applying for the apprenticeship program with Local 150 to potentially become a fourth generation member.

"All my girlfriends do office jobs, or are teachers. I couldn't imagine anything else but coming here every day. This is it for me, and I love it," she said. "For those young ladies who want to join the union, get an application, and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it, because you can."





MIKE DAMICO
(312) 906-2432 / MICHAEL.DAMICO@UW-MC.ORG



ANDREA KLUGER
(312) 906-2434 / ANDREA.KLUGER@UW-MC.ORG

The Chicago Federation of Labor's Community Services Program

The CFL believes it is important for labor to give back through community service, which is fostered through their longtime partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. The CFL currently has two community services liaisons: Mike Damico and Andrea Kluger.

Mike Damico (IAMAW Local 701) joined the Chicago Federation of Labor as a Community Services Liaison in February 2013. He has lived in the Chicago area his entire life and has been an active union member since 1978. Mike's first union job was with Jewel Food Stores, where he received his card from what was then the United Retail Workers Union. In 1982, he became a member of Teamsters Local 726 when he began his 27-year career with the Chicago Transit Authority. In his role as Emergency Supervisor, he was in charge of directing emergency response teams for the CTA. He is currently a member of IAMAW Local 701. Mike has always been passionate about giving back to his community and is committed to building a strong community services program for the CFL. Mike has three children and resides in Arlington Heights with his wife, Debbie.

Andrea Kluger (UNITE HERE Local 1) is the newest edition to the Chicago Federation of Labor, starting in December 2014 as a Community Services Liaison. Andrea has

a diverse public service background that includes working for a union-side lobbying firm, a New York City Council Member and most recently as a union organizer for the New York Hotel Trades Council, AFL-CIO. During her time in New York, Andrea was also appointed by the Manhattan Borough President to serve on Community Board 5, her local neighborhood advisory council. Andrea is passionate about the importance of having an active labor community and is committed to growing labor participation in the CFL's Community Services program. Andrea holds a master's degree in public policy and administration from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Vanderbilt University.

As community services liaisons, Mike and Andrea are housed at United Way and serve as liaisons between United Way and Chicago's labor community. In this role, they coordinate community services fundraising activities, recruit and train union volunteers, and build relationships between community organizations, unions and worker groups. They also facilitate labor participation in United Way campaigns and assist the CFL with other community engagement efforts.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED WITH OR LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CFL'S COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM, CONTACT:

MIKE DAMICO - (312) 906-2432 OR
MICHAEL.DAMICO@UW-MC.ORG

ANDREA KLUGER - (312) 906-2434 OR
ANDREA.KLUGER@UW-MC.ORG

Illinois Jobs To Move America Coalition

Jobs To Move America is a nationwide coalition uniting community, labor, faith, civil rights, philanthropic, academic and environmental groups. JMA has a plan to build better, cleaner public transit systems, to create and retain good manufacturing jobs, and to generate opportunities for all Americans.

The local Illinois Jobs To Move America campaign launched in early 2014, led by the Chicago Federation of Labor and Chicago Jobs with Justice. Over the summer, the CFL worked with the Mayor's office and the CTA to ensure the inclusion of the U.S.

Employment Plan Language in the \$2 billion rebid for rail cars that was released in October 2014. This language will create and retain thousands of quality manufacturing jobs in our region.

As a result of the first meeting, the three main goals for the coalition are:

- Attraction and development of manufacturing in Illinois.
- Follow through on implementation of the U.S. Employment Plan Language in the CTA Bid.
- Gathering and reviewing research on other public investments regionally and statewide as we go forward and promote use of the U.S. Employment Plan.



JOBS TO MOVE AMERICA

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COALITION, PLEASE CONTACT THE TRANSIT CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER, SUSAN, AT (312)738-6161 OR BY EMAIL AT SUSANH@JWJ.ORG.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JMA, PLEASE VISIT THEIR WEBSITE WWW.JOBSTOMOVEAMERICA.ORG.

Serving on a national stage

In February, Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez was elected to the serve on the AFL-CIO Executive Council for a term of four years. The AFL-CIO Executive Council guides the daily work of the federation and works to improve the lives of working families across the United States.

“I am proud to serve on the AFL-CIO Executive Council,” said Ramirez “We’ve seen a dramatic assault on working people in the public and private sector across the country, so it is important for the labor movement to continue to stand together in solidarity, rather than be pulled apart by corporate and political tactics that will diminish our collective voice. The labor movement has always been committed to raising people up, building strong communities and creating a robust middle class. Unions are about protecting basic rights like a living wage, access to health care, workplace safety and quality education. We need to move forward in a direction that protects these fundamental rights and makes the middle class accessible to all working men and women.”

Journeyman Training Funds Available

CFL Workers Assistance Committee can help your union access funds to reimburse training costs of journeymen through the Employer Training Investment Program. In 2013, CFL-WAC provided Illinois unions and businesses with nearly \$1.5 million in training funds to “upskill” workers. Illinois companies and unions can access ETIP funds to reimburse 50 percent of the cost of training and related materials for current employees between **January 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015**. For a free ETIP eligibility consultation and application assistance, contact CFLWAC’s Business Services Team at 708.344.3714 or at training@cflwac.org. ETIP funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis. Don’t delay in taking advantage of this great opportunity!

CFL-WAC is dedicated to developing and strengthening the skills of Chicagoland workers to fulfill the needs of area employers and vitalize the local economy. To learn more about our business and union services, visit cflwac.org.

Are Your Member Businesses Hiring In the New Year?

CFL Workers Assistance Committee’s On-the-Job Training grant provides training cost reimbursement to employers for costs associated with skills upgrade training and loss of production for newly hired employees. OJT training assists employers who are looking to expand their businesses and need additional staff trained with specialized skills.

OJT employers may receive up to \$10,000 reimbursement of the wage rate of OJT trainees to help defray personnel training costs. For a free OJT eligibility consultation, contact Account Executive Brandon Miller at 708.344.3539 or at millerb@cflwac.org.

Train *new employees* so they “hit the ground running” and become vital team members.

2015

Delegate Meeting Calendar for 2015

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

July - No Meeting

August - No Meeting

September - No Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 -
Appreciation Dinner

All meetings are scheduled to be held at Plumbers’ Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Please remember to bring your Delegate card for entry. Dates and times are subject to change. Please check for updates at www.chicagolabor.org.





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

chicagolabor.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO IL
PERMIT NO 10005



CFL Delegates' Meetings

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

No July Meeting

START TIME: 6 p.m.

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

Get Involved!

This election season, join the CFL in standing up for working people and building a strong middle class.

Follow us:

 www.facebook.com/chicagofederationoflabor

 www.twitter.com/chicagoaflcio

Volunteer to get out the vote:

www.chicagolabor.org/vote

Labor Education

The University of Illinois and DePaul University offer programs in labor education catered to union members, women and high school students.

For more information on the available programs, visit chicagolabor.org/laboreducation.

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

