

Federation News

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • WINTER 2016



**TERRENCE J. HANCOCK
FAMILY CAMPUS**
in Honor of Bryan D. Hancock



Easter Seals Honors Union Family

Chicago Campus dedicated to the
Terrence J. Hancock Family for their
commitment to curing autism

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Protecting Chicago

Beth Clolino and Victoria Green-Majka, members of Chicago Fire Fighters Local 2, operate an ambulance for the Chicago Fire Department.

President's Report

Between now and Tuesday, March 15, we all have one obligation to each other: to vote in the 2016 Primary Election. Not only do we all need to vote, but we need to vote for candidates that will work to advance the Labor Movement as a whole, not work to destroy it.

On February 10, President Barack Obama addressed the Illinois General Assembly in Springfield. During his address, President Obama stated that politics has become extremely partisan in this country. Following the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in February, the U.S. Constitution states the President shall appoint judges of the Supreme Court with the advice and consent of the Senate. However, the Senate Republicans have already vowed to block any nomination President Obama makes because they claim the decision should be left up to the next President. It is irresponsible of them to prolong the process in an attempt to fulfill their own political agenda. Whether we are sending a representative to Washington, D.C. or to Springfield, Ill., our elected officials have an obligation to represent the best interests of us, the voters.

Here in Illinois' 5th Legislative House District, Ken Dunkin is working against the best interests of working families in his district, the very men, women and children he was elected to represent. Last fall, Representative Dunkin sided with Governor Rauner to kill a measure supported by Democrats when he refused to show up for a critical vote that would set up a procedure for arbitration of state labor negotiations. He voted twice to strip retirement security from elderly workers. He voted against labor protections, like a bill to crack down on employers who don't pay the wages they owe. He also voted against a bill that would allow firefighters and paramedics to receive assistance when they get cancer or heart disease as a result of their jobs. What does that say about Representative Dunkin's perceived value of the hard working men and women of his district? He is not protecting the men and women in his district who put their lives on the line every day to protect us. He is not protecting the families of his district from wage theft, an unlawful practice by unscrupulous employers that costs workers in the City of Chicago roughly \$1 million dollars a day. He is not fighting to maintain unemployment and workers compensation benefits for his district. The inability of working families to access support programs and services, like child care, adult education classes and healthcare, holds them back and in many cases, puts them at the brink of poverty.

Illinois Republicans used to find common ground with Democrats on bipartisan issues that are now being held hostage by Governor Rauner. The General Assembly has always been able to work with other governors to pass a budget that works for the people of Illinois. However, over the last year, Governor Rauner has driven a wedge between Democrats and Republicans and has made it impossible for Republicans to vote with Democrats on the policies that will help families in their districts. Illinois cannot withstand three more years of a governor who is willing to place the people of Illinois in harm's way in order to pass his own ideological agenda.

We are in this together, and it is going to take a collective effort to elect leaders who will represent the workers of their district. A lost vote from the Labor Movement is a vote in favor of the destructive policies that threaten our very livelihood. Make the commitment to get out and vote this election season, and talk to your friends and family about it as well. The complete list of CFL-endorsed candidates for the 2016 Primary Election is on pages 8-9. For information on voting in your area, visit chicagolabor.org/vote.




JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT

Affiliate News

Read more on these topics at www.chicagolabor.org/news.

Thousands of Working Families Rally for Fairness across Illinois

Thousands of active and retired union members, community groups, elected officials and faith leaders participated in seven separate “Rallies for Fairness” across the state, sending Gov. Rauner a clear message: anti-worker agendas have no place in Illinois.

The kickoff in Chicago on December 5 drew approximately 1,300 people. Rallies in Joliet, Rock Island, Marion, Rockford and Collinsville built momentum as thousands more came out to protest Gov. Rauner’s anti-worker agenda. In Springfield, more than 2,000 people filled the street to march and swamped the rally hall to hear messages from state senators, AFSCME members on the front lines and representatives from other unions and community groups fighting for a fair budget.

The rallies send a message of solidarity, determination and urgency: The citizens of Illinois need a fair budget to fund the vitally important public services

they rely on every day, the men and women of state government who provide those services need a fair union contract, and Governor Rauner must stop holding this state hostage to his demands that would hurt all working people.

To watch the video of the rallies, visit: https://youtu.be/08B_ppQ1Sbs.

Local High School Teacher goes to U.S. Supreme Court for Historic Labor Case

On Monday, January 11, Niles North High School teacher Pankaj Sharma (North Suburban Teachers Union, Local 1274) went to Washington, D.C. to speak on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court before oral arguments began in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, a historic labor case that threatens workers’ rights to join with colleagues and advocate for the communities they serve.

“I teach my high school students about the importance of our fundamental rights to come together and stand up for

our beliefs,” said Sharma. “I’m very proud to take this lesson from my classroom to our nation’s highest court, to show my students that we can’t just talk about democracy, but we must take an active role in it. And that’s what this case is all about—powerful special interests trying to silence the voices of teachers like me, who work hard every day in an imbalanced economy that currently favors the most wealthy, not average Americans.”

The *Friedrichs* case asks the Court to decide whether public sector unions may continue to charge non-members a fee equal to the cost of representing them to their employer. Since no one is required to join a union—though unions are required by law to represent everyone in the workplace—this “fair share” fee ensures that all employees contribute to the cost of securing the benefits, security, and job protections the union negotiates and everyone enjoys.

An unfair ruling would gut the existing collective bargaining laws in Illinois and 16 other states that give teachers, state employees, nurses, firefighters, and other workers the right to negotiate with employers over wages,

benefits, working conditions, and to advocate for high-quality education and services. With the recent death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, it is unclear when the Supreme Court will rule on *Friedrichs*.

Labor Supports United Way’s Holiday Gift Drive

In December, United Way held its annual Adopt-A-Family Gift Drive, which provides holiday and winter essentials to families in need. Gifts were donated to 400 families (1,916 individuals) in the Brighton Park and Blue Island communities. Many unions joined the Chicago Federation of Labor in supporting this program, including IBEW Local 9, Machinists Local 126, Sheet Metal Workers’ Local 73, Chicago Laborers’ District Council and Teamsters Local 703, in addition to individual union members and staff.

The program provided an estimated total of over \$130,000 in donated clothing, books, toys, food and other gifts for these families. Thank you to everyone

who supported this program and to United Way’s dedication to serving our community members who need it the most.

Unions Translate Manuals for Workers

Laborers International Union of North America and UFCW Local 881 made it easier for workers in Chicago to understand the new minimum wage law in Chicago. In December, each of these organizations stepped up to help ARISE Chicago translate and print 1,000 copies of the newest version of their Workers’ Rights Manual into Spanish and Polish. The manuals include comprehensive updates on the new minimum wage and provide new tools for workers.

UFCW Holds Rally for Minimum Wage Workers Days before the Christmas Holiday

Every day, all across this nation, countless numbers of hard-working minimum wage workers, including Walmart workers, live in poverty, struggle to pay bills, and are unable to support their families. On December 21, dozens of union members and community activists joined UFCW for their “Are You With Us Rally” for Walmart and other retail workers, and helped bring attention to the fight for fair wages for all workers.

The Voice of Older Americans

As the arm of the AFL-CIO that organizes retired union members, the Alliance for Retired Americans mobilizes and engages seniors across the country to fight to protect and improve retirement

security for all. With 4.3 million members nationwide, the ARA’s priorities include working toward expanded Social Security benefits, pension protection, equal opportunity employment and a living wage. The ARA is also committed to quality, affordable health and long-term care, including the preservation of Medicare.

The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans represents over 247,000 members, which includes 80 affiliated organizations, many of whom are retired union members. As Governor Rauner continues to push his “Turnaround Agenda,” the IARA is dedicating its time to standing up for seniors and union members across the state. The IARA is in the streets of Chicago and in Springfield reminding our lawmakers to protect those who built Illinois and continue to provide essential services for all.

In the coming year, the IARA is committed to standing with Labor to fight back against the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, working to lower the cost of prescription drugs and making sure our voices are heard at the ballot box.

If you are interested in having a representative from the IARA speak to your retirees, or to learn more about the IARA, please contact Jeanne Cameron, Executive Director, Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans, at 312-427-2114, ext. 207 or by email at illinoisara@gmail.com. Visit them online at www.illinoisretiredamericans.org.

FROM LEFT: AFSCME MEMBERS MARCH FOR FAIRNESS IN CHICAGO, FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER 5 RALLY; UNION AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHER OUTSIDE A SOUTHSIDE WALMART FOR A RALLY TO RAISE WAGES; FROM TOP: GIFTS COLLECTED FOR THE UNITED WAY’S ANNUAL ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFT DRIVE; NILES NORTH HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER PANKAJ SHARMA (NORTH SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1274) ON THE STEPS OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT; IARA MEMBERS AND CONGRESSWOMAN JAN SCHAKOWSKY SPEAKING OUT ON THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED WAY OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO



PHOTO COURTESY OF ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM CALVERT, AFSCME LOCAL 2258



Easter Seals Honors Proud Union Family

Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago honored one of its biggest supporting families by dedicating their campus at 1939 W. 13th Street in Chicago as the “Terrence J. Hancock Family Campus.” For more than a decade, Terry, his wife Deirdre, and their three sons, Andrew, Bryan and Colin, have supported Easter Seals’ mission to serve children and young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. It is a cause that is very dear to their hearts because Bryan is living with autism.

“Bryan has changed my life for the better,” said Terry, the family patriarch. “It is important for all of us to be involved as a family. My sons Andrew and Colin have formed a partnership with Bryan. They look after him, and I couldn’t be more proud to see the bond between them. My wife is a miracle worker. She never took no for an answer. I wanted to protect Bryan, shield him when it came to mainstreaming him in school and allowing him to get his driver’s license. Everything I did to protect him was with what I thought was in his best interest, but that wasn’t helping him. My wife is always thinking outside the box. She said he is going to have everything else a kid his age has. It’s made all the difference. When I see him driving, he’s always smiling. It gives him so much pleasure.”

Terry is Vice President of Teamsters Joint Council 25, President of Teamsters Local 731 and a member of the Chicago Federation of Labor Executive Board. He is also President of “In Search of a Cure,” a charitable organization established in honor of his son, Bryan, and a member of the Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago’s Board of Trustees.

“It is important that we give back and help those with lesser resources. I am very fortunate to have strong union resources, supportive friends and, more importantly, wonderful health benefits. It’s made all the difference. The largest hurdle is finding job placement opportunities and to help individuals with autism learn to live independently. As these children age and become teenagers, big decisions have to be made, and many families simply cannot afford it. Bryan is very high functioning, and we are fortunate that he is able to work full time in the mail room of a law firm in downtown Chicago. Seeing Bryan’s progress gives me more drive and determination to continue to push for a cure.”



“Bryan has changed my life for the better. It is important for all of us to be involved as a family. My other two sons, Andrew and Colin, have formed a partnership with Bryan. They look after him, and I couldn’t be more proud to see the bond between them. My wife is a miracle worker. She never took no for an answer.”

TERRY HANCOCK
PICTURED WITH HIS SON BRYAN

For over 14 years, the annual “In Search of a Cure” golf event remains a leader in autism awareness and support in the Chicago area, raising over \$4.8 million to date. Hundreds of sponsors and golfers assemble each year at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park, Ill., Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, Ill., and Old Oak County Club in Homer Glen, Ill. to shine a light on curing the developmental disorder.

The annual event is a vital component of Terry’s personal and professional pledge to help Easter Seals. Donations from the golf outing helped Easter Seals build their new \$46 million therapeutic school and medical center for individuals living with autism in Chicago. This unique facility is the only one to combine on a single campus educational and medical research, training, early intervention, school-to-work transition and independent living capabilities. The center helps individuals realize their full potential and become independent citizens of society. In addition to the facility, “In Search of a Cure” donated three vans to Easter Seals and Little Friends, a non-profit organization in Naperville, Ill. serving children and adults with autism.

“Together we will cure autism,” Terry previously said. “The millions we have already raised will benefit children and adults living with autism in and around Chicago for years to come. Such significant strides in therapy and new research would not be possible without the support of our Teamster affiliates and local partners throughout the city.”

Approximately one in 68 children born today in the United States are diagnosed with autism. There is currently no known cure.

“Terry’s dedication to curing and assisting those with autism is as great as his love for his family,” said Jorge Ramirez, Chicago Federation of Labor President. “His family’s tireless efforts have benefited many in need right here in our own communities. Nearly everyone knows someone who is touched by autism. Terry and Easter Seals make it possible for all of us to do something about it.”

The 15th annual “In Search of a Cure” golf event will be held on Thursday, July 28. For more information visit insearchofacure.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EASTER SEALS METROPOLITAN CHICAGO



PHOTO COURTESY OF EBERT STUDIO, OAK PARK, IL

TOP: THE NEW SIGN OUTSIDE EASTER SEALS’ CHICAGO LOCATION. PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ANDREW SPROGIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE EASTER SEALS METROPOLITAN CHICAGO BOARD; TERRY HANCOCK; DEIRDRE HANCOCK; BRYAN HANCOCK; ANDREW HANCOCK; MARGARET HANCOCK, TERRY’S MOTHER; KATHY SHORT, TERRY’S SISTER; WILLIAM HANCOCK, TERRY’S FATHER; AND TIM MURI, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF EASTER SEALS METROPOLITAN CHICAGO.
LEFT: THE TERRENCE J. HANCOCK FAMILY. FRONT ROW: COLIN, BRYAN AND ANDREW. BACK ROW: TERRY AND DEIRDRE.
BOTTOM LEFT: ONE OF THE VANS DONATED TO EASTER SEALS BY “IN SEARCH OF A CURE.”
BOTTOM RIGHT: TERRY HANCOCK ADDRESSES THE CROWD AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRY HANCOCK



PHOTO COURTESY OF EASTER SEALS METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

2016 Primary Election Slate Card

The Chicago Federation of Labor is proud to endorse candidates in the 2016 primary election on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. 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.

U.S. Senate

Tammy Duckworth Statewide Democrat

Illinois Comptroller

Susana Mendoza Statewide Democrat

U.S. House of Representatives

Bobby Rush 1st District Democrat
 Robin Kelly 2nd District Democrat
 Dan Lipinski 3rd District Democrat
 Luis Gutierrez 4th District Democrat
 Mike Quigley 5th District Democrat

Danny Davis 7th District Democrat
 Jan Schakowsky 9th District Democrat
 Brad Schneider 10th District Democrat
 Bill Foster 11th District Democrat

Illinois Senate

Tony Munoz 1st District Democrat
 Omar Aquino 2nd District Democrat
 Kimberly Lightford 4th District Democrat
 Patricia Van Pelt 5th District Democrat
 Heather Steans 7th District Democrat
 Ira Silverstein 8th District Democrat
 John Mulroe 10th District Democrat
 Martin Sandoval 11th District Democrat
 Kwame Raoul 13th District Democrat

Emil Jones III 14th District Democrat
 Jacqueline Collins 16th District Democrat
 Donne Trotter 17th District Democrat
 Michael Hastings 19th District Democrat
 Iris Martinez 20th District Democrat
 Thomas Cullerton 23rd District Democrat
 Laura Murphy 28th District Democrat
 Julie Morrison 29th District Democrat
 Toi Hutchinson 40th District Democrat

Illinois House of Representatives

Dan Burke 1st District Democrat
 Alex Acevedo 2nd District Democrat
 Luis Arroyo 3rd District Democrat
 Cynthia Soto 4th District Democrat
 Juliana Stratton 5th District Democrat
 Sonya Harper 6th District Democrat
 Emanuel "Chris" Welch 7th District Democrat
 LaShawn Ford 8th District Democrat
 Art Turner, Jr. 9th District Democrat
 Melissa Conyears 10th District Democrat
 Ann Williams 11th District Democrat
 Sara Feigenholtz 12th District Democrat
 Gregory Harris 13th District Democrat
 Kelly Cassidy 14th District Democrat
 John D'Amico 15th District Democrat
 Lou Lang 16th District Democrat
 Laura Fine 17th District Democrat
 Robyn Gabel 18th District Democrat
 Rob Martwick 19th District Democrat
 Merry Marwig 20th District Democrat
 Silvana Tabares 21st District Democrat
 Michael Madigan 22nd District Democrat
 Michael J. Zalewski 23rd District Democrat

Elizabeth Hernandez 24th District Democrat
 Barbara Flynn Currie 25th District Democrat
 Christian Mitchell 26th District Democrat
 Monique Davis 27th District Democrat
 Robert Rita 28th District Democrat
 Thaddeus Jones 29th District Democrat
 Will Davis 30th District Democrat
 Mary Flowers 31st District Democrat
 Andre Thapedi 32nd District Democrat
 Marcus Evans, Jr. 33rd District Democrat
 Elgie Sims, Jr. 34th District Democrat
 Fran Hurley 35th District Democrat
 Kelly Burke 36th District Democrat
 Al Riley 38th District Democrat
 Will Guzzardi 39th District Democrat
 Jaime Andrade, Jr. 40th District Democrat
 Fred Crespo 44th District Democrat
 Martin Moylan 55th District Democrat
 Michelle Mussman 56th District Democrat
 Elaine Nekritz 57th District Democrat
 Kathleen Willis 77th District Democrat
 Camille Lilly 78th District Democrat
 Anthony DeLuca 80th District Democrat

Cook County State's Attorney

Neutral Countywide Democrat

Cook County Recorder of Deeds

Karen A. Yarbrough Countywide Democrat

Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Michelle Harris Countywide Democrat

Cook County Board of Review Commissioner

Michael Cabonargi 2nd District Democrat

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Six-Year Term

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos Countywide Democrat
 Barbara McGowan Countywide Democrat
 Josina Morita Countywide Democrat

Two-Year Term

Martin J. Durkan Countywide Democrat

Appellate Court

Eileen O'Neill Burke 1st District Epstein Vacancy
 Bertina E. Lampkin 1st District Quinn Vacancy

Circuit Court

Rossana Patricia Fernandez Countywide	Elrod Vacancy	Maureen O'Donoghue Countywide	O'Brien Vacancy
Alison C. Conlon Countywide	Hogan Vacancy	Hannon	
Aleksandra Gillespie Countywide	Howlett, Jr. Vacancy	Pat Heneghan Countywide	Palmer Vacancy
Carolyn J. Gallagher Countywide	Johnson Vacancy	Daniel Patrick Duffy Countywide	Ruscitti-Grussel Vacancy
Mary Kathleen McHugh Countywide	Karnezis Vacancy	Fredrick H. Bates Countywide	Walsh Vacancy
Brendan A. O'Brien Countywide	Love Vacancy		

Subcircuit Court

Maryam Ahmad 1st Subcircuit	Brim Vacancy	Eve Marie Reilly 10th Subcircuit	Howard Vacancy
Anthony E. Simpkins 1st Subcircuit	Hopkins Vacancy	Marc Martin 11th Subcircuit	Kelly Vacancy
Celeste K. Jones 2nd Subcircuit	Savage Vacancy	William B. Sullivan 11th Subcircuit	Zwick Vacancy
Robin Shoffner 5th Subcircuit	Williams Vacancy	Frank J. Andreou 12th Subcircuit	Kazmierski, Jr.
Eulalia "Evie" DeLaRosa 6th Subcircuit	Ponce De Leon Vacancy	Janet Cronin Mahoney 12th Subcircuit	Mathein Vacancy
Richard C. Cooke 6th Subcircuit	Santiago Vacancy	Carrie Hamilton 12th Subcircuit	Tristano Vacancy
Carlos Claudio 6th Subcircuit	A Vacancy	James Edward Hanlon, Jr. 12th Subcircuit	A Vacancy
Jennifer Ballard 7th Subcircuit	Rivkin-Carothers Vacancy	Ketki "Kay" Steffen 13th Subcircuit	Fecarotta, Jr. Vacancy
Jerry Esrig 9th Subcircuit	Berman Vacancy		

2016 PRIMARY ELECTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

Early Voting

Runs through March 10.
 Time and locations vary.

Vote By Mail/Absentee Ballot

All requests must be received by
 March 10, 2016, at 5 p.m.

Grace Period Registration

Voter must immediately vote when
 using Grace Period registration.

For more information, visit chicagolabor.org/vote

Chicago Federation of Labor Workers Assistance Committee Partners on \$5 Million Grant to Expand Manufacturing Apprenticeships

Manufacturing jobs matter. Across Chicagoland, manufacturing contributes more than \$6 billion in direct wages with each manufacturing job creating five new jobs. However, our economy continues to face important challenges in manufacturing. According to news reports, 20,000 local manufacturing jobs remain unfilled due to a shortage of apprenticeship programs that prepare new generations for today's production jobs. Today's manufacturing continues to evolve into a high performance, high skilled work environment.

At the same time, workers struggle to find decent, livable wage jobs to support themselves and their families.

"Manufacturing is a critical sector that can build and retain a broad-based middle class in our city." According to CFL President Jorge Ramirez, "This new manufacturing apprenticeship will help labor and management address workplace challenges. Collaboratively, we can help workers obtain middle class, high-road jobs that will support their families and sustain their communities."

To address this growing crisis, the Chicago Federation of Labor and CFL Worker's Assistance Committee joined a partnership to create the Next Generation Industrial

Manufacturing Technician Apprenticeship (Next Gen - IMT). CFL Workers Assistance Committee was created more than 20 years ago to assist workers suffering from job loss with training and workforce services. Next Gen - IMT is a targeted effort to grow a highly qualified and diverse pipeline of



excited to serve as a sub-grantee of Jobs for the Future as one of the grant recipients working to establish and promote the new Industrial Manufacturing Technician hybrid apprenticeship model. The apprenticeship will prepare new and incumbent entry-level production workers for the knowledge and competencies needed in the advanced manufacturing environment. The IMT on-the-job training and related instruction are relevant in manufacturing settings from food processing or metal fabrication to plastics or bio-medical production, and can be customized to a particular firm's criteria. Upon completion of training, workers earn nationally recognized manufacturing journey worker credentials.

Next Gen - IMT funds will be used to create 1,450 industrial manufacturing technician apprenticeships across eight states: Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Illinois.

CFL Workers Assistance Committee looks forward to engaging unions and employers to promote career pathways and entry into advanced manufacturing through apprenticeship. **If you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, contact Program Manager Eileen Vesey at 708.344.3539 or by email at vesey@cflwac.org.**

workers in advanced manufacturing.

The U.S. Department of Labor is awarding \$175 million in American Apprenticeship Grants with the largest investment in apprenticeships ever made by the U.S. Government. The funds will support 34,000 apprenticeships across the country to support the joint efforts of employers, organized labor, nonprofits, local governments, and educational institutions to expand high-quality apprenticeships.

CFL Workers Assistance Committee is

CFL Secretary-Treasurer Visits Teachers' Annual Legislative Breakfast

CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter addressed the delegation at the West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571 annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, November 7. He spoke of the concerted, national effort to destroy the rights of workers, from public sector to the industrial unions. He opined that Governor Rauner is using the people least able to care for themselves as pawns in his fight to introduce so-called "Right-to-Work" laws.

In a letter to Secretary-Treasurer Reiter following the event, Jane Russell, President of Local WSTU 571, stated, "The members were very appreciative of your work and that

of other CFL union members who encourage us and drive us to do more in the Labor Movement. It is important to see that we are all connected through like causes."

CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER BOB REITER WARNS THE MEMBERS OF WEST SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION LOCAL 571 ABOUT THE NATIONAL ATTACK ON UNION MEMBERS AND THE EFFORT TO DISMANTLE ALL UNIONS, INCLUDING THE ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF LABOR AND ITS AFFILIATES.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION LOCAL 571

Workers Call on Governor Rauner to Stop Playing Political Games

On the eve of Governor Rauner's second State of the State address, workers spoke out on Tuesday, January 26 in Springfield, imploring Gov. Bruce Rauner to quit holding the state budget hostage and insisting on advancing harmful plans that erode wages and safety net programs for working people.

Jeffrey Maher, a firefighter with the Galesburg Fire Department, asked the governor, "Instead of punishing the least among us by your failure to execute a budget, would you please make an effort to improve the quality of life for our citizens?"

Illinois has now gone the longest period in its history without a budget. Governor Rauner has insisted on the General Assembly passing components of his corporate agenda before he addresses the state's spending plan.

Gabriel Gomez, a professor in the College of Education at Chicago State University, has experienced firsthand the devastation the cutbacks has had on his students. "Our students are predominantly African-American and face challenges in their communities, from crime to hunger to poverty and racism. It makes me angry that the governor would allow these students—who so many have given up on—to suffer, all because of his obsessive political agenda against my union."

"The delay in passing a state budget has resulted in funding reductions for state programs and agencies that provide treatment and support to families experiencing drug and alcohol addiction, abuse and neglect, and mental illness," said Annice Brave, a high

school teacher in southern Illinois. "When home life overwhelms a child, too often, they lose touch with their lifeline: their school. This can be the life-changer, because education is that one thing that can help them overcome problems to become contributing citizens."

Rauner's proposals drive down wages and restrict access to working family economic recovery programs like workers' compensation and unemployment insurance. He also insists on politically-charged changes to legislative districts and term limits in exchange for doing his job.

Additionally, since July, the social services infrastructure is crumbling because of Governor Rauner's refusal to enact a budget.

Home healthcare worker Robert Taylor said, "Governor Rauner has broken the child care and home healthcare programs and brought dangerous instability to the social services safety net in Illinois."

Stephen Mittons, a child protection investigator for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, said, "For the past 20 years, I have been a frontline worker protecting the safety of children in some of



the poorest areas of Chicago. We know the harm the governor is causing by refusing to agree to a budget, like children left home alone so their parents could go to work."

Rauner's agenda was overwhelmingly rejected or ignored on the local level and the General Assembly has been firm on not passing any of his right-wing think tank playbook.

Terrence Neal, a painter with Painters District Council #14, stated, "Over the last year, Governor Rauner has been pushing so called 'Right-to-Work' zones in Illinois. He wants us to think that these policies will benefit workers; instead, it is a power grab to move us into part-time positions, offshore our jobs, cut back on health and safety protections in the workplace, and pay us less."

Terry Biggs, a steelworker from Granite City, added, "It's time for Governor Rauner to stop trying to sell us on a bad deal and get to work on making sure we get a fair shake."

"A Flowing Economy" Details Clean Water Benefits to Workers & Regional Economy

The Chicago Federation of Labor and the Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter made a unique joint appearance before the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) on January 7 to release a new report titled "A Flowing Economy: How Clean Water Infrastructure Investments Support Good Jobs in Chicago and in Illinois." The report highlights the benefits that investments in clean water generate for the economy and the environment both locally and statewide, and opportunities for clean water projects.

"We are fortunate to have one-fifth of the world's fresh water right outside our front door, in Lake Michigan and all our Great Lakes," said Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor. "Thanks to an initial investment by the MWRD and

the City of Chicago Department of Water Management in 2014, we have already begun to see the economic and environmental benefits of investing in clean water projects in the Chicago area, namely job creation and increased worker productivity thanks to improved health. We need to build on this success and focus on upgrading and repairing the state's clean water infrastructure."

"Protecting Lake Michigan and restoring our rivers are not only essential for public health but also significantly contributes to a healthy economy," said Jack Darin, Director of the Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter.

The report finds that for every \$1 billion invested in clean water infrastructure, approximately 6,200 direct jobs are created in construction or water and sewage facilities, and 11,200 total jobs are created throughout

the economy. Additionally, every \$1 billion investment brings an 8 percent one-year GDP return on investment. The report was prepared by Illinois Economic Policy Institute and the School of Labor and Employment Relations at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

While investments in clean water have led to major improvements in water quality and efficient water management, there are outstanding needs for additional investments that will continue to bolster the economy and enrich our communities. The report offers a snapshot of the challenges facing the Chicago Waterway System and waterways throughout Illinois and the opportunities to address these challenges through future investments.

To read the report visit: illinoisepi.org/policy-briefs-countrywide/.



Prudential Plaza
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CFL Delegates' Meetings

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

START TIME: 6 p.m.

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



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

ROBERT G. REITER, JR.
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Stay Informed!

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

Follow us:

www.facebook.com/chicagofederationoflabor

www.twitter.com/chicagoaflcio

www.youtube.com/user/WeAreOneChicago

Get Involved

Phone banks for the 2016 Primary Election will run now through Election Day at Painters District Council #14, 1456 W Adams Street in Chicago.

To volunteer, contact bearly@chicagolabor.org