FederationNews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • SUMMER 2012

What's Right for America

Unions back policies that will spur job creation

FederationNews

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Machinists on strike at Caterpillar

Nearly 800 Caterpillar workers near Joliet went on strike May 1 after contract talks broke down with their union, IAM Local Lodge 851. The company wants to freeze wages, gut pensions and seniority rights, and double health care costs. Caterpillar generated $4.9 billion in profits last year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT BARACAS

President's Report

While Chicago's working men and women spend time this summer relaxing with their families and friends, the state of the economy isn't far off in anyone's mind. Watching monthly jobs reports is like taking two steps forward and one step back. Workers in the public sector keep a close eye on projected budget reports to see how their jobs might be impacted. Private sector workers see a glimmer of hope with added jobs, but more work to be done.

One thing that's clear is working men and women are tired of policies that reward corporate CEOs while the gap between the top 1 percent and the rest of the country grows wider every day to now-historic levels.

It's time we build an economy that works for everyone. Not just the Fortune 500 CEOs or Wall Street bankers. But the teachers, the painters, the nurses, the social workers, the carpenters, the janitors, and everyone else who wants nothing more than to be rewarded with fair pay for a day's work.

President Obama is calling for an economy that's "built to last" and we have his back. The United States cannot remain the greatest nation in the world if we no longer build the kind of goods the world demands. We can't be the best and the brightest if we mortgage our children's future to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

This summer, we urged people to honor our nation's heritage by stocking their 4th of July barbeques with food, drinks and other products made here in the United States by hard working union members. And we backed the AFL-CIO and other unions in supporting the "Bring Jobs Home Act" that would end tax breaks to companies that export jobs to other countries and instead reward those who actually bring jobs back to the U.S.—not a very radical idea if you ask me.

The election in November is a face-off between two men with polar-opposite philosophies when it comes to fixing the economy. President Obama wants to end the tax breaks for corporate offshoring. Mitt Romney, on the other hand, made his fortune as a hedge fund manager responsible for costing thousands of American jobs and shipping many overseas.

President Obama fought for a stimulus package early in his term that cut taxes for 95% of working families, included emergency funding to support about 300,000 educator jobs, more than 4,600 law enforcement positions, and investments in the clean energy sector that supported 224,500 jobs through 2010. Mitt Romney, on the other hand, urged him to let Detroit and the American auto industry go bankrupt.

This election puts a spotlight on the issues working men and women care most dearly about. President Obama has a record of creating jobs and standing up for the middle class. Romney's record shows he cares more about profits than people. The more we learn about Mitt Romney, the more he looks like the wolf in sheep's clothing.

In Unity,

JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT

Affiliate News

UNITE HERE Launches Global Hyatt Boycott

On July 23rd, Hyatt workers and allies formally launched the global boycott of Hyatt. Leaders from the NFL Players Association, the National Organization of Women (NOW), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Netroots Nation, Interfaith Worker Justice, and more joined Hyatt housekeepers at a press conference in Washington, D.C. to make a formal announcement about the boycott launch.

The launch of the global boycott marks the largest escalation to date in an ongoing campaign for basic worker rights.

In Chicago, workers at Hyatt have launched several job actions against the hotel chain, including a week-long strike last year.

The hotel workers have spent the last two and a half years fighting for a contract.

Letter Carriers Launch National Food Drive

In a highly successful nationwide food drive, the National Association of Letter Carriers collected more than 70.5 million pounds of food on Saturday, May 12, at a time when hunger is a major problem. In Chicago, Branch 11 letter carriers collected more than 634,000 pounds of food delivered to local pantries.

The NALC's annual one-day drive, largest in the nation, is held on the second Saturday in May in 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. This was the 20th annual NALC Food Drive to stamp out hunger.

"The food drive is especially meaningful to letter carriers in Chicago because we started the idea here 30 years ago," said Mack Julion, NALC Branch 11 president. "Our members work in every neighborhood and see the need within various communities every day. I am hopeful that our customers will give from their heart and together we can help stamp out hunger!"

This was the ninth consecutive NALC drive surpassing 70 million pounds of food collected. Several local NALC branches are still compiling their figures, but already this year's total tops last year's 70.2 million pounds.

Since the annual food drive began in 1993, letter carriers have collected more than 1.2 billion pounds of food.

Nurses Rally for 'Robin Hood Tax'

Thousands of registered nurses belonging to National Nurses United (NNU) were joined by labor, community and Occupy Wall Street activists at a rally in Chicago's Daley Plaza on the eve of the NATO summit in May calling for a tax on Wall Street to fix the nation's economy.

The rally supported a 'Robin Hood Tax,' a small levy of 50 cents or less on $100 of trades of stocks, bonds, derivatives and other financial instruments that could raise up to $350 billion every year in revenue.

The revenue from the Robin Hood tax would be used to heal distressed communities and set the U.S. on the road to a real recovery. More than 40 countries, including many of the fastest growing economies, already have such a tax, and European officials are considering adopting it later this year.

Renowned musician Tom Morello gave a special guest performance at the rally.

The Robin Hood Tax is supported by prominent leaders including former Vice President Al Gore, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu, investor Warren Buffett and many others. Learn more about the campaign at www.robinhoodtax.org.

McCormick Place Agreement Helps Draw New Shows

Trade show organizers cited a new agreement between IBEW Local 134, IATSE Local 2 and the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority in their decision to bring thousands of attendees and millions of dollars in direct expenditures to Chicago.

The deal and the show confirmations were announced at a press conference with Governor Pat Quinn, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, labor leaders and Chicago convention and tourism officials.

"IBEW Local 134 is proud of this historic agreement with the MPEA and Navy Pier, Inc.," said Terry Allen, Business Manager, Local 134. "The agreement not only promotes the growth of the trade show industry resulting in an increase in working hours for our members, it also protects the historic work jurisdiction of Local 134. The parties to the agreement look forward to its positive influence on the economy in Chicago."

"I thank Mayor Emanuel and Governor Quinn for their leadership and efforts to align labor and management to a formula that will attract more convention business to Chicago," said Craig Carlson, Business Manager of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 2. "I also want to thank the IBEW and the management of McCormick Place and Navy Pier for their foresight in this collaborative initiative which will position Chicago to unprecedented success with tradeshow and corporate events."

SEIU 73 Gets Contract With CPS

Members of SEIU Local 73 voted to ratify a new contract with Chicago Public Schools recently. The three year contract covers 5,500 custodians, child welfare attendants, watchmen, special education classroom assistants, security officers, school bus aides and other employees in the school district.

The agreement gives the members two percent raises for each of the next three years and saves thousands of jobs.

Charter School Teachers Fight Proposed Closing

Teachers, staff, parents and students succeeded in keeping the Youth Connection Leadership Academy (YCLA) open after management

threatened closure just two days after staff unanimously decided to form a union.

On May 21, teachers and staff at the alternative high school in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood notified their employer that they plan to join Chicago ACTS (Alliance of Charter Teachers and Staff), an affiliate of the Illinois Federation of Teachers representing charter school teachers and staff. Just two days later, management announced it would permanently close the schools' doors.

After hearing public comments in a room full of YCLA staff and their supporters, the Board of Directors elected not to take action to close or otherwise alter the status of the campus. The board members also agreed to cooperate with the certification of the staff's union and collaborate with them to make improvements at the school.

SEIU Healthcare Leaders Named To International Posts

April Verrett, Vice President of SEIU Healthcare Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas (SEIU HCIIMK) was elected to serve on the International Executive Board at the union's convention in Denver recently. As a member of the board, the South Side native will help direct policy for the union representing 2.1 million members across three countries.

A graduate of Chicago's St. Ignatius College Prep's Class of 1992, Verrett began her career in the social justice movement as a labor organizer and quickly rose to become a leader of a local union where she organized thousands of private sector hospital workers. In 2008, she played an instrumental role in shepherding the consolidation of her local and two others into what is now HCIIMK, Illinois' largest union.

"I'm so honored that our President, Mary Kay Henry, nominated me to this post, and I'm so thankful to the members of our union who saw me as worthy of election as their representative," Ms. Verrett said. "It's the members of this union – the hard-working, low-wage workers who withstand financial struggles to serve the public every day in the health care, public safety and other vitally important industries – that inspire me and give me strength. I'm proud to serve them, and I look forward to continuing that lifelong commitment in this new capacity."

"April's extensive experience in member leadership development, organizing, negotiating and bargaining has been invaluable to our local union and will be a vital resource to SEIU at the national level and beyond. We're tremendously proud of her." said Keith Kelleher, President of SEIU HCIIMK and a Vice President of SEIU International.

SEIU HCIIMK represents more than 91,000 workers in the home care, child care, nursing home and health systems industry.

Hancock Joins Easter Seals Board of Trustees

For his enduring commitment to children and families affected by autism, Teamsters Joint Council 25 Vice President Terrence J. Hancock was recently named to the Board of Trustees of Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago.

Over the last decade, Hancock has raised more than $1 million for autism research and regional support with the "In Search of a Cure" golf event in honor of his autistic son, Bryan. The annual event is a vital component of Hancock's pledge to help Easter Seals finalize a new $46 million therapeutic school and medical center for individuals living with autism in Chicago.

"Together we will cure autism," said Hancock, who serves as President of Teamsters Local 731. "The explosive growth of autism in America simply cannot be ignored, and the Teamsters will continue our full support of finding a cure and caring for these brave young men and women."

Approximately nine in every 1,000 children in the United States are born with autism. There is currently no known cure for the developmental disorder. To learn more about autism and find ways to get involved, visit AutismSpeaks.org.

Coli Honored for Leadership, Service

Teamsters Joint Council 25 President John T. Coli was honored along with Mayor Rahm Emanuel by the American Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center for their decades of leadership and public service at a recent gala event in Chicago.

The event raised money for the Yitzhak Rabin Center in Tel Aviv, Israel, an organization dedicated to improving education and promoting tolerance among students, soldiers and military personnel in honor of the former Israeli Prime Minister.

"Everything the Yitzhak Rabin Center stands for is at the core of my beliefs, morally, ethically and religiously," said Coli. "This is a vital institution that defends working families while it encourages personal enrichment, education and prosperity among all people. I am honored to receive this award alongside Mayor Emanuel and to continue to fight for working people in Chicago and beyond."

The Israeli center is the official memorial to Rabin, who was assassinated in 1995. The center's strong relationship with the U.S. labor movement is exemplified by its past honorees including Laborers' International President Terry O'Sullivan and Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa, who co-chaired the event.

TERRY ALLEN SPEAKS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON CHICAGO'S CONVENTION INDUSTRY (PHOTO: BROOKE COLLINS/CITY OF CHICAGO); VOLUNTEERS UNLOAD FOOD ITEMS COLLECTED BY LETTER CARRIERS DURING THE UNION'S ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE; WORKERS AT THE UIC MEDICAL CENTER, REPRESENTED BY SEIU LOCAL 73, WENT ON STRIKE RECENTLY AFTER WAITING MORE THAN TWO YEARS FOR A FIRST CONTRACT; SEIU HEALTHCARE LEADERS KEITH KELLEHER AND APRIL VERRETT WITH INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MARY KAY HENRY; JOHN COLI IS RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE YITZHAK RABIN CENTER

What's right for America

On June 20, a group of labor activists dressed in green hats marched in front of the Chase Bank building in Chicago with a simple message: it's time for banks to pay up.

The rally was coordinated by the National Nurses United as part the fifteen-city kickoff to its Robin Hood Tax campaign aimed at fixing the lingering damage Wall Street banks caused to America's public finances with a small tax on Wall Street transactions. The small tax of less than ½ of 1 percent would generate hundreds of billions of dollars that could provide funding for jobs to kickstart the economy and get America back on its feet.

"The Robin Hood tax is a tiny tax, 0.5% which is only cents on the dollar at the point of sale," said Jan Rodolfo, NNU Midwest Director. "And with this tax we're going to raise 350 billion dollars every year for the United States. That's enough to take care of every state deficit three times over."

It's not just the nurses who are taking a stand against bad corporate behavior during a time when millions of Americans continue to suffer from unemployment and underemployment.

This summer, the AFL-CIO launched its "Bring Jobs Homes" campaign calling for an end to tax incentives to companies that ship U.S. jobs out of the country and instead rewarding those who bring jobs back.

Master Lock recently moved jobs back to its union facility in Milwaukee from China and was heralded by President Barack Obama in his State of the Union address for taking the initiative to the benefit of communities in the company's home state of Wisconsin.

Organized labor backed the Bring Jobs Home Act, a bill sponsored by Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow (D) and New Jersey Representative Bill Pascrell (D) to reward businesses that bring good jobs back to the U.S. with a tax credit.

Over the last decade, more than 50,000 American manufacturing facilities have closed and nearly 6 million manufacturing jobs have been lost due to outsourcing.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka believes it's high-time America stops rewarding business practices that harm our communities and starts enacting policies like the Bring Jobs Home Act and others that will hold corporations accountable to the American working people.

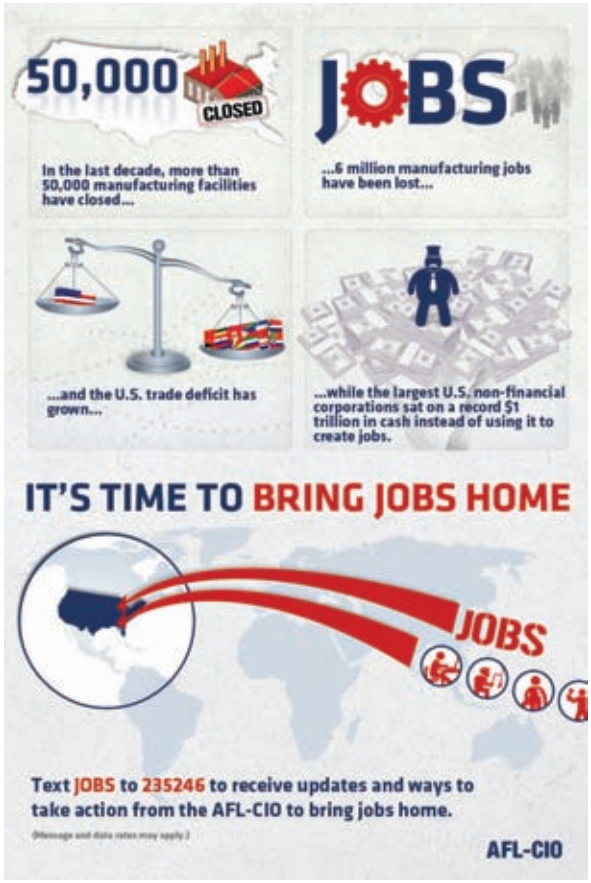
"Every major industrial country has a strategic plan to create and keep good jobs. It's time for us to follow suit," said President Trumka in a statement. "We need a real plan that lives up to our patriotic ideals – a plan to put our people back to work and end the tax breaks and flawed trade policies that encourage rampant offshoring."

The AFL-CIO is also urging elected officials to address currency manipulation by other countries, a key driver of off-shoring, tax the overseas income of U.S. corporations the same way we tax their domestic income, push for fair trade policies that benefit workers and pass the United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act to prevent offshoring more service-sector jobs.

During an election year in which Washington is tied up in gridlock, working men and women are demanding more. And they are raising these issues to the forefront of the discussion. Survey after survey shows the public wants corporations to stop sending jobs overseas and hopes the federal government takes action to get jobs back to this country, as demonstrated in a recent compilation of polling data by the Center for American Progress Action Fund.

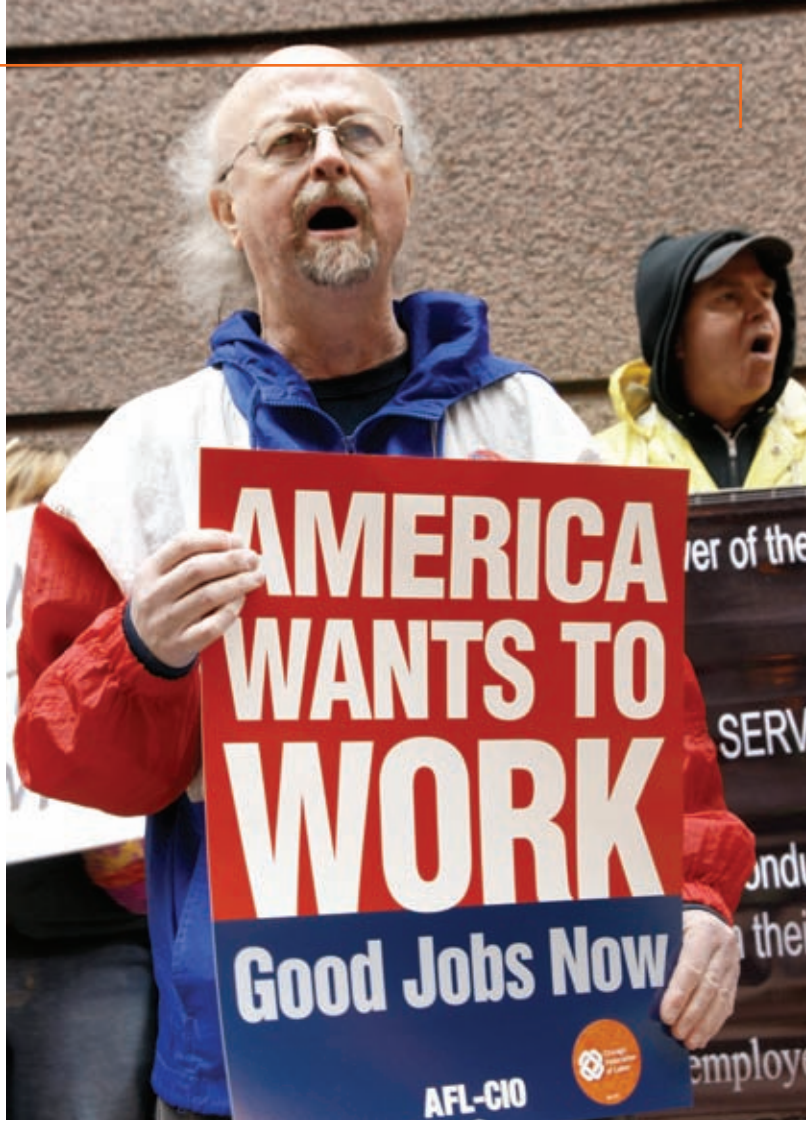
Millions of Americans who have lost their jobs to outsourcing or offshoring, lost their homes to foreclosure, or even lost their faith in the American dream deserve at least a fighting chance.

> "Every major industrial country has a strategic plan to create and keep good jobs. It's time for us to follow suit.'"
>
> **RICHARD TRUMKA**
> PRESIDENT OF AFL-CIO



THIS SUMMER, WORKING PEOPLE TOOK TO THE STREETS CALLING FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FROM WALL STREET BANKS AND CORPORATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUTSOURCING AND OFFSHORING AMERICAN JOBS ; MUSICIAN TOM MORELLO GAVE A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE IN DALEY PLAZA FOR ACTIVISTS PHOTO: ORLANDO J. VELEZ, NNU

IT'S TIME
FOR BANKS
TO PAY UP


AMERICA
WANTS TO
WORK
Good Jobs Now
AFL-CIO

to Heal the
Economy
for the 99%
Tax Wall Street —

Wisconsin Recall Results More About Campaign Cash Than Unions

Critics were quick to write off labor after Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker survived a massive effort to recall him from office in the wake of his attack on collective bargaining for public employees and other rights for workers.

But while the loss of labor-backed candidate Tom Barrett was tough to swallow, it is far from the end of the road. A closer look at the numbers tells a better story of what really happened in Wisconsin.

Working people standing up for their rights had a tough task in attempting to recall a sitting governor. They were energized and hardworking. While only half a million signatures were required to trigger the recall election, activists collected more than one million. Workers from across the country chipped in, even making get-out-the-vote phone calls from labor phone banks in Chicago.

Unions were able to mobilize their members to vote in high numbers, with 75 percent supporting Walker's recall according to an election night poll Wisconsin union members by Hart Research Associates for the AFL-CIO.

But the recall effort faced a significant roadblock right off the bat: according to exit polls, six in ten voters said recalls are appropriate only for reasons of official misconduct, not policy decisions, according to Edison Research for the National Election Pool Consortium.

But the biggest factor at play was the amount of money raised by each candidate. Gov. Walker raised tens of millions—as much as $50 million by some accounts—while Barrett raised just a few million. Walker spent $35 million compared to Barrett's $3.9 million spent. In a post-Citizens United election landscape, this election was a warning sign for the impact unlimited money can have on a campaign.

Walker was able to accept unlimited donations under the state law while Barrett was limited to a $10,000 cap. Walker received nearly 70% of his funding from out-of-state while Barrett got just 26% of his from non-Wisconsin donors.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka applauded the people of Wisconsin for not allowing their voices to be taken away, yet sounded a cautionary alarm about campaign finance rules that allow corporations and billionaires to spend unlimited money on a candidate.

"Adding to the challenge of recalling only the third governor in American history was the flood of secret corporate cash distorting our Democrat—a dangerous example of a post-Citizens United America."

Big money played a big role in the Republican Presidential primary and will continue to be an issue throughout the fall. Already in the Presidential election, Republican candidate Mitt Romney is outspending President Obama by a 2 to 1 margin in swing states when factoring in campaign, national party and independent group spending.

A MAN PORTRAYS GOVERNOR WALKER AS A PUPPET OF BILLIONAIRE CONSERVATIVES DAVID AND CHARLES KOCH PHOTO: ORLANDO J. VELEZ

Conservative pundits and anti-union critics had a field day writing organized labor's obituary after the Wisconsin election. But that wasn't the whole story. Labor-backed Democrats were able to win back control of the state Senate, although it won't reconvene before the November General Election.

Union members remain energized and now, having seen the influence unlimited money and independent spending from corporations and anti-union billionaires, they are ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead in the fall. With unlimited spending from outside groups certain, organized labor and pro-union Democrats know that their field operations will be more important than ever before.

Teachers Reach Breakthrough Agreement

CONCERNS ADDRESSED AS UNION STAYS UNITED, STRONG IN NEGOTIATIONS

Just weeks after an independent fact-finder criticized Chicago Public Schools (CPS) for pushing a longer school day without a way to pay for it and after 90 percent of teachers voted to authorize a strike, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) reached an interim agreement that closely reflects the union's position throughout the long process of negotiating its new contract.

In the breakthrough agreement, which applies to schools scheduled to start August 13, CPS backed off the unworkable seven-hour, 40-minute teacher work day and instead agreed to a more modest increase in the school day that will be staffed by hiring nearly 500 new teaching positions. Tenured teachers displaced over the last three years will make up the pool from which principals will hire.

While the union hailed the agreement as significant progress, it warned many important issues remain in the ongoing contract negotiations.

"This is movement in the right direction, but this does not settle the outstanding and mandatory issues in the contract," said CTU President Karen Lewis. "It is too bad this solution—which was actually presented months ago—was rejected out of hand. It has taken a march of nearly 10,000 educators, a strike authorization vote and a fact-finder's report to get CPS to move on this issue. This is yet another example of the CTU's determination and dedication to fighting for solutions that will strengthen our schools."

Teachers have long countered that Chicago's public school students deserve a better school day, not just a longer one. They hope this agreement will lead to increased instruction in music, arts, foreign language, physical education and other areas that have been cut over the years.

A law passed last year was designed to limit the bargaining power of teachers during contract talks. It called for an independent fact-finding process and required 75 percent of teachers to approve a strike. The union's leadership has been critical of outside "reform" groups that lobbied for the changes and have attacked Chicago's teachers and the vital role they play both inside and outside of the classroom.

"We do not understand why Democrats for Education Reform, Education Reform Now and other organizations continue to stand on the backs of our children and profess to care about them when they ignore the harsh realities of their lives," said Lewis. "And while our members work in schools that are under-resourced, understaffed and under-appreciated, they have toiled in silence long enough while the mayors of this city have exerted control, shut down schools, and handed over facilities to their well-connected friends.

"The problems with our schools will not be answered by overpaid outside consultants or billionaire education dilettantes but rather by the people who actually work in our schools with our children in full partnership with the District," she added.

Teachers hope their remaining concerns are addressed in a fair contract by the start of the remaining schools. If not, they remain prepared to take action, including going on strike for the first time since 1987.

> "The problems with our schools will not be answered by overpaid outside consultants... but rather by the people who actually work in our schools with our children."
>
> **KAREN LEWIS**
> CTU PRESIDENT

City Workers Deserve a Big Thanks

THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR PRESIDENT JORGE RAMIREZ WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE ON MAY 25:

Chicago's public employees deserve big thanks for working overtime to keep the city clean and its residents safe during the unprecedented challenges of last weekend's NATO summit.

The police officers on the front lines of the protests kept things under control and peaceful. Firefighters and paramedics helped keep law enforcement and activists healthy in 95-degree heat. Streets and sanitation workers kept the city clean. Public transit operators navigated around road closures and other disruptions. City crews made sure international dignitaries saw the natural beauty of Chicago. And hospitality workers made sure they enjoyed their stay enough to bring repeat visits -- and business.

At a time when public employees around the country are being asked to work harder for less, Chicago's working men and women showed their true love for this city and their commitment to protecting our communities. We say thank you.

Support union jobs at your summer BBQ

For the July 4th weekend, the Chicago Federation of Labor launched a campaign highlighting union-made food, drinks and other products to bring to your summer barbeque. You can find a list of items online at **www.chicagolabor.org/unionBBQ** or get items sent right to your phone by texting **"UNIONMADE"** to **235246**.

May Day at Haymarket Monument

Chicago's working families reclaimed May Day once again, standing together in solidarity with working men and women around the world in celebrating May 1 as International Workers Day.

Activists gathered at the Haymarket Monument in Chicago's West Loop, a site commemorating Chicago's role prominent role in the fight for the eight-hour day and the global movement for workers' rights.

Chicago Federation of Labor Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter addressed the crowd along with CTU President Karen Lewis, Illinois Labor History Society President Larry Spivack, James Thindwa of Chicago ACTS, Susan Hurley of Chicago Jobs with Justice and others.

SECRETARY-TREASURER BOB REITER SPEAKS IN FRONT OF THE HAYMARKET MONUMENT ON MAY DAY

Showing Union Pride On Labor Day

This Labor Day, the Chicago Federation of Labor and its affiliates are encouraging union members to show their union pride by displaying a sign in their front yard or window. The campaign, backed by the Executive Board, will demonstrate just how strong union density is in Chicago and promote solidarity among union members living in neighborhoods across Cook County.

"Labor Day is a time for union members to be proud of who they are and what the labor movement has done for America" said President Jorge Ramirez. "We want to give them an easy way to show their brothers and sisters who they are and what they stand for. We hope they will proudly display these signs on Labor Day and throughout the year."

The Chicago Federation of Labor will distribute more than 200,000 window signs, 50,000 lawn signs and 15,000 bumper stickers to union members across the Chicago area.

PROUD UNION HOME

YOU CAN GET YOURS BY VISITING WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/LABORDAY.

Ramirez Named to City, County Development Boards

Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez was selected to serve on two prominent boards that will help direct infrastructure and broader economic development for the City of Chicago and Cook County.

In June, Mayor Rahm Emanuel selected him to serve with four other leaders on the board of the recently created Chicago Infrastructure Trust. He joins a group that brings a wide array of experience in infrastructure finance and economic development in public and private sectors to the board.

"The Trust is going to create thousands of much needed jobs while fostering opportunity in our neighborhoods and our communities," said Ramirez. "The Trust will put our residents back to work while building the infrastructure that will carry the city forward. This is a great situation for all involved."

President Ramirez joins chairman James Bell, retired Vice President of Boeing, David Hoffman, partner at Sidley Austin and former Chicago Inspector General, Alderman John Pope of the 10th Ward and Diana Ferguson, former Chief Financial Officer of Sara Lee and also the Chicago Public Schools.

The first project that will be considered by the Trust will be Retrofit Chicago, a $225 million retrofitting of all buildings owned by the City. That project will be paid for by the savings realized form the retrofittings, which are expected to top $25 million a year.

The Chicago Infrastructure Trust passed the City Council in April after being introduced to Chicagoans with former President Clinton at a training facility operated by the Carpenters.

In July, Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle appointed Ramirez to her Council of Economic Advisors, a group of more than twenty distinguished business and civic leaders from around the region who will advise Cook County on how to promote long-term economic growth within the county as well as the larger economic region.

"I am proud to join President Preckwinkle and her team to help lead the county forward on issues such as job creation and economic growth that are critical to the region's working families," said Ramirez. "The labor movement plays a critical role in driving the economy. Our entire movement is dedicated to creating and retaining well-paying jobs that elevate our communities. We applaud President Preckwinkle for giving the labor movement and working men and women a seat at the table."

"Metropolitan Chicago's $500 billion gross regional product makes our economy the 20th largest in the world, and Cook County contains more than half of this region's population, income and jobs," said Preckwinkle at a press conference announcing her advisory group. "With half the region's economy in Cook County the county should play a leading role in promoting a collaborative and strategic approach to economic growth."

SECRETARY HILDA SOLIS IS JOINED BY FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF REV. ADDIE WYATT AT A UFCW CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO. FROM LEFT: JOEL HALL, GRANDSON-IN-LAW, RENEE WYATT-HALL, GRANDDAUGHTER, YVONNE WYATT, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, CLAUDE WYATT, SON, SECRETARY HILDA. L. SOLIS, ALLEN WYATT, GRANDSON, REV. GERALD JANUARY, KATIE JORDAN, PRESIDENT OF CHICAGO CHAPTER COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN.

Addie Wyatt to US DOL Hall of Honor

Reverend Addie Wyatt, the trailblazing labor and civil rights leader who passed away earlier this year, was inducted into the United States Department of Labor Hall of Honor on May 8. Secretary Hilda Solis made the announcement in a speech at the United Food and Commercial Workers Legislative and Political Action Conference in Chicago.

"Addie was true champion for all working people and she leaves behind a remarkable legacy of compassion and positive change," said Sec. Solis. "It's fitting that we induct her today at this conference, because Chicago was her city and community action was what she was all about."

Rev. Wyatt joins a prominent group of leaders including Frances Perkins, Mother Jones, Samuel Gompers, John Lewis and Cesar Chavez in the Hall of Honor.

Members of Rev. Wyatt's family and friends were in attendance where Sec. Solis made the announcement on behalf of President Barack Obama.

A week earlier, the Executive Board of the Chicago Federation of Labor passed a resolution honoring Rev. Wyatt for her life-long service and commitment to improving the lives of working people.

Chicago Federation of Labor

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chicagolabor.org

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228

CFL Delegates Meetings

Tuesday, October 2 • Tuesday, November 2 • Tuesday, December 4

START TIME: 6:00pm

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

Take Action!

Show your union pride on Labor Day!

Visit **www.chicagolabor.org/laborday** to receive a lawn sign, window sign or bumper sticker to display proudly on Labor Day!