

# Federation News

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## The CFL Turns 120 Years Old

Chicago Federation of Labor celebrates milestone in history

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## The Voice of Labor

Frank Sinatra and radio announcer at WCFL radio station.



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## President's Report

In January 2017, Donald Trump will become the 45th President of the United States. Rather than fixate on what we lost at the national level, we need to appreciate what we were able to accomplish here at home, and there is good news to share.

Here in Cook County, Hillary Clinton outperformed President Obama's vote totals in 2012, earning 123,000 more votes than him. But

why is this significant? Nationally, many are trying to figure out how we did this because our demographics are similar to rest of the United States. It's because our movement does things here that no one else does. In Chicago and Cook County, we bucked a serious national trend in electoral politics because we know how to talk to working men and women.

There are very few national platforms that will resonate with voters in all corners of this country. So rather than talk to our members about issues that are not important to them, we worked to get results that would resonate within our communities. We fought for \$15 an hour for hourly employees, just like many cities across the country continue to do, and we won \$13 an hour. But, what sets us apart is we are the only city to include an index. This means in a few years when workers in other cities are fighting to raise the minimum wage again, our minimum wage will automatically increase with inflation. Additionally, we fought for worker protections at both the city and county level, including wage theft ordinances. In Chicago, approximately \$1 million is stolen every day from workers' pay checks. To combat this, we passed a wage theft ordinance in Cook County that prevents companies guilty of wage theft from winning county contracts and tax incentives. We also fought for earned sick time for workers, and in July 2017, ordinances in the city and the county will go into effect.

Our members are not directly impacted by increasing the minimum wage or earned sick time, but as a movement, we don't just fight for those that are organized. We fight for those our unions intend to organize. We do this because it is right and just for all workers.

As a movement, we work to make our communities stronger. We continually fight to secure funding for social services. We fight for a budget that respects the most vulnerable in our communities. We fight to make sure we are moving the ball forward on education, and we stand with AFSCME in their ongoing fight for a fair contract with the governor.

There are 60 million Americans that would join a union today if they were free from interference from their employer. Policies should make it easier for folks to join a union, not harder. Why? Because unions elevate workers into the middle class. No political party, Republican or Democrat, can lay claim to that. Over the last 20 years, the Labor Movement has worked relentlessly to raise people up and improve working conditions for everyone.

Right now, I encourage all of us to stay focused on the 2018 elections. We must work together to do our part to bring more people to the game, to build our grassroots infrastructure and keep talking to our members about the issues. This is where our attention should be.



  
**JORGE RAMIREZ**  
PRESIDENT

## Saint Joseph College Seminary Honors Prominent Labor Leader

On Sept. 20, Saint Joseph College Seminary held its annual Seminary Salutes Awards Dinner. As part of the annual event, Archbishop Blase Cupich presented the Rerum Novarum award to Don Finn, Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 134 and a CFL Executive Board member.

In 1891, Pope Leo XIII issued the first modern papal encyclical, Rerum Novarum, on labor and the dignity of the worker. The fundamentals of the encyclical have remained constant in the Church's teaching: respect for the dignity of the human being and human labor, the right to organize and the right to a living wage. Saint Joseph College Seminary, through the Seminary Salutes event, provides an opportunity to identify Catholic men and women in their fields, who by their example have promoted the social teachings of the Church.

## Workers Across Several Job Sectors Support Chicago Reader's Editorial Staff in Their Fight for a Fair Contract

On Thursday, Oct. 6, the Chicago News Guild held a rally outside the Chicago Reader's office to demonstrate public support for the editorial staff of the Chicago Reader. For 45 years, the Chicago Reader has been a big part of Chicago, delivering smart and stylish arts coverage, incisive reporting on public corruption and social ills. But for the past 10 years, the vast majority of News Guild members have not received a raise. The editorial staff of the Chicago Reader was certified in January 2015, and almost two years later, the Guild still has no contract. Furthermore, the company has cut staff and valuable content. In a story on the Chicago News Guild's website, Executive Director Craig Rosenbaum stated, "This is a fight for fair treatment of our members, but it's also about preserving a voice for progressive journalism at a time when a progressive voice must be heard."

## Chicago Teachers Union Reaches Agreement with Chicago Public Schools to Avoid Strike

Moments before the midnight deadline struck on Oct. 10 that would have sent thousands of Chicago Teachers Union members to the street in a strike over their contract with Chicago Public Schools, a tentative agreement was reached between the union and CPS. Every active member of the CTU had an opportunity to review the TA and vote with a secret ballot in their school on Monday, Oct. 31 and Tuesday, Nov. 1 to decide whether the contract would be ratified. Over 70 percent of members voted to ratify the contract, preventing the second major strike for the CTU in four years.

## Labor Leaders Go Live on the Wayne Besen Show

On Thursday, Oct. 13, the CFL sponsored a live broadcast of the Wayne Besen Show on WCPT

820 AM. The broadcast was held at Painters District Council 14's union hall. Besen engaged Chicago Labor leaders during a live panel discussion about the issues facing Labor and workers. CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter was a panelist throughout the broadcast. Rotating panelists included John Spiros, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Painters District Council 14; Bill LePinske, Business Rep., Mechanics Local 701; Ray Taylor, President Emeritus, NABET-CWA Local 41; Vito Marchese, Business Manager, Machinists Local 126, District 8; Jack Darin, Sierra Club, IL Chapter; and Clark Johnson, Finishing Chicago.

## IATSE Local 2 Holds Various Rallies in Support of Their Members

On Oct. 14, members of IATSE Local 2 held an action outside the Studebaker Theatre, alerting passers-by that the management of the Studebaker Theatre does not pay their stagehands "area standard wages."

The following week, IATSE Local 2 also held a rally outside the Jam Production office, telling Jam to stop stonewalling and to bargain with their stagehands. An article in the Chicago Reader stated, "The morning of Thursday, Oct. 20, the stagehands escalated their fight for a contract, organizing a protest with a 'trick or treat' theme outside the Jam Productions offices in Old Town. Local clergy gave passionate speeches, the stagehands put on Halloween costumes and chanted along to a live band, and of course the giant inflatable rodent that the protesting workers have named Stinky the Riv Rat made an appearance."<sup>1</sup>



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE SEMINARY

## UNO Charter School Network Averts First Strike of Charter Operator in U.S. History

One of Chicago's largest charter school operators narrowly averted what would have been the first strike of a charter school operator in the nation. Bargaining team members from United Educators of UNO came to a tentative agreement with the UNO Charter School Network at just after 3 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 20 -- three hours after the strike deadline.

"We've said repeatedly that we didn't want to strike, but we would if that was what it took to protect the quality of education in our classrooms," said 5th grade teacher and union spokesperson Erica Stewart. "We had a tremendous bargaining team and a huge amount of solidarity from our own union, our sister unions, allies across the city and nation, and the leader of our parent union, the American Federation of Teachers. That groundswell of solidarity and support helped us shape an agreement with terms that allow our teachers and support staff to continue to nurture the educational success of our students."

## Carpenters Apprenticeship Open House 2016 a Home Run

Inclement weather and Game 7 of the World Series between the Cubs and Indians didn't stop nearly 200 attendees from participating in the 2nd annual Apprenticeship Open House on Nov. 2 at the Carpenter Training Center in Elk Grove Village. This was more than double the attendance of last year's event! The Open House showcased the training center and the apprenticeship program, and

started with tours of the facility led by 13 apprentice and journeymen volunteers from various locals and six instructors from the school. A presentation included the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' video "One Trade, Many Crafts," highlighting the various crafts that fall under the carpentry trade. Attendees learned about the Carpenters union, what an apprenticeship was all about, and that starting as an apprentice could potentially end up with the individual being a union signatory contractor running his/her own company. This was all possible with the help of the UBC offering training, from skill-advancement classes to leadership, foreman and superintendent training, at no cost to members.

## Thousands of AFSCME members tell Rauner to negotiate

Standing together to send a strong message to Governor Rauner—Don't Dictate, Negotiate!—thousands of AFSCME-represented state employees took part in the Nov. 17 Day of Action in every corner of the state. The Day of Action followed a ruling by the Rauner-appointed Illinois Labor Relations Board that could allow the governor to impose his extreme terms. He would also do away with standards that prevent unaccountable outsourcing of public services for private profit. Outside Chicago, where some 200 AFSCME members rallied in Homewood, DHS caseworker Brittany Adams told the Daily Southtown that, "We want a fair contract. That's all we want." *To learn more about AFSCME's contract negotiations, turn to page 6.*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.chicagoreader.com/Bleader/archives/2016/10/21/jam-productions-slams-the-door-on-contract-negotiations-with-unionized-riviera-theatre-stagehands>



CFL PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF IATSE LOCAL 2



PHOTO BY KELLY ARMSTRONG TURNER

OPPOSITE PAGE: DON FINN, BUSINESS MANAGER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF IBEW LOCAL 134, (THIRD FROM RIGHT) IS AWARDED THE RERUM NOVARUM AWARD FROM SAINT JOSEPH COLLEGE SEMINARY. PICTURED WITH MR. FINN (L TO R) VERY REV. PETER SNIEG, 14TH WARD ALDERMAN EDWARD M. BURKE, ARCHBISHOP BLASE CUPICH, MR. FINN'S WIFE, JOAN, AND CFL PRESIDENT AND RERUM NOVARUM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JORGE RAMIREZ. FROM TOP: WCPT RADIO HOST WAYNE BESEN TALKS WITH LABOR PANELISTS BILL LEPINSKE (MECHANICS LOCAL 701), RAY TAYLOR (NABET-CWA LOCAL 41) AND BOB REITER (CFL) DURING THE LIVE BROADCAST ON OCT. 13; MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF IATSE LOCAL 2 AT A RALLY OUTSIDE JAM PRODUCTIONS; AFSCME MEMBERS RALLY ACROSS CHICAGO AND ILLINOIS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR A FAIR CONTRACT.

# 120 Years and Counting

The Chicago Federation of Labor was chartered on November 9, 1896, as an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor to strengthen the efforts of individual local unions by creating a unified voice for the labor movement in the Chicago area. Samuel Gompers, President of the AFL at the time, granted the first charter for the CFL.

Chicago is the home of the American Labor Movement, boasting more Local 1s than any other city in America. From the Haymarket Affair in 1886 spurred by the fight for the eight-hour day, to the Pullman railroad strike in 1894 over corporate greed and poverty, to the Memorial Day Massacre during the “Little Steel” strike in 1937, Chicago’s rich labor history stems back to the formative years of our nation’s economy and the modern Labor Movement.

## Forming the Federation

Prior to the Civil War in the 1860s, little is known about labor history in Chicago. It was not until the Civil War, with the rising price of goods and falling wages, that workers here and across the country began to form delegate bodies to serve the interests of the local Labor Movement. However, these bodies would form around a particular issue and eventually disband. Various organizations came about, including the General Trades Assembly, the Trades Council, and the Trade and Labor Assembly. There was much fighting between the organizations, with delegates accused of representing both organizations, internal disputes, and dissatisfaction with the leadership by its members, causing many unions to withdraw their support. In 1895, the AFL stepped in to organize a suitable body, which came to be known as the Chicago Federation of Labor.

In 1962, the CFL merged with the Cook County Industrial Union Council, the South Chicago Trades and Labor Assembly, and the Calumet Joint Labor Council to form the CFL as it is today. At the merger meeting at Plumbers’ Hall on Jan. 8, 1962, CFL President William A. Lee stated, “Our influence is felt in (sic) behalf of all the people in the parks and in housing in the field of human relations, in health and all the welfare services provided through charity and by government agencies. Now we will have more man power and fresh

ideas so we can make even more impact on our community. Our purpose is simply this: to make the areas we represent better places in which to live and work.”<sup>1</sup>

## Leadership

In the CFL’s early years, elections were held annually, causing an uneasiness within the organization. Thomas J. Morgan was elected its first President in 1896. John Fitzpatrick was elected President in 1899 and served for two years until 1901, when he became an organizer for the movement. In 1905, Fitzpatrick and a small group of supporters were discouraged with the direction of the CFL and the corruption of the leaders who succeeded him, most notably Martin “Skinny” Madden. Madden was accused of employing bullying tactics to intimidate the members and stuffing ballot boxes to ensure he would retain control of the CFL. This prompted Fitzpatrick, with the help of Edward Nockels, Raymond Robins and his wife, Margaret Dreier Robins, Jane Addams, and others to campaign for Fitzpatrick and ultimately get him elected in 1906.

Fitzpatrick and Nockels, who served as Secretary-Treasurer under Fitzpatrick until his death in 1937, are widely credited with building the CFL’s political prowess. They recognized that Labor needed a more powerful political voice, and together they developed the Labor platform, which included equal rights for women, an inheritance tax, a graduated income tax, a tax on corporate profit, national health insurance and the right to bargain collectively. In an effort to spread their message, and in response to what they called “a bought and purchased press,” the two established a weekly newspaper in 1919, owned by the CFL, called “The New Majority,” and in 1926, the WFCL, a radio station that was broadcast in Lithuanian, Polish, Italian, German and other languages.<sup>2</sup> Fitzpatrick died in office in September 1946 at the age of 75.

Another notable leader for the CFL was William A. Lee. He succeeded Fitzpatrick as President, following Fitzpatrick’s death in 1946, and served in this capacity until his own death in 1984. Lee expanded the work of Fitzpatrick to ensure the CFL maintained a strong influence in local politics. One of

his most notable moments came when he presided over the merger in 1962. When the merger was complete, he was elected President of this newly strengthened body.

## The CFL Today

Today, under the leadership of President Jorge Ramirez and Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter, the CFL represents 300 unions and organizations comprised of half a million working men and women throughout Chicago and Cook County. Chicago’s union members continue to be students of history and the struggles of the men and women who fought for fairness, justice, and equality at work.

The Chicago Federation of Labor is dedicated to developing and strengthening the skills of Chicagoland workers to fulfill the needs of area employers and vitalize the local economy. In 1985, the CFL created the Workers Assistance Committee to connect job seekers to employers. By offering workers the tools and training they need to be successful, employers are finding experienced workers eager to contribute to the company’s overall growth. In 2015, the program was expanded to include community revitalization, and renamed to be the CFL Workforce & Community Initiative.

The CFL continues to fight for the rights of all workers, the organized and unorganized. In recent years, the CFL has fought for and won an increased minimum wage that is indexed for inflation, harsher penalties for companies guilty of wage theft, and earned sick time for all full-time workers. They fight for a stronger middle class that gives workers the dignity and respect they deserve.

<sup>1</sup> Federation News, January 13, 1962, p3.

<sup>2</sup> Keiser, John H. Federation News, June 1996, p5.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BAKERY UNION MEMBERS; JOHN F. KENNEDY AND WILLIAM A. LEE; AMERICAN SHOE PROTECTORS PARADING ON STRIKE ON WILLOUGHBY AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILL., JUNE 14, 1926; JACQUELINE VAUGHN JOINS THE TWO-DAY STRIKE AGAINST THE CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION IN 1987; CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL UNION COUNCIL BANNER WITH BAND FOLLOWING, PARADING ON A STREET IN CHICAGO, ILL.



PHOTO: CFL ARCHIVE



PHOTO: CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM, ICHL-73061; NEWS-AD PHOTOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAPHER PHOTO CROPPED FOR SPACE



PHOTO: CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM, ICHL-73044; INTERNATIONAL NEWSREEL CORPORATION, PHOTOGRAPHER PHOTO CROPPED FOR SPACE

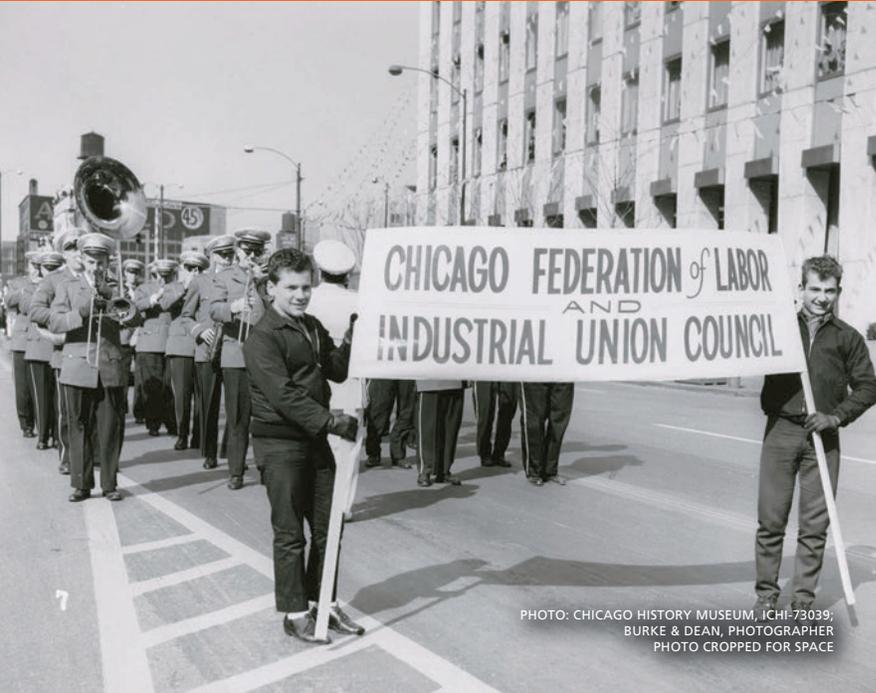


PHOTO: CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM, ICHL-73039; BURKE & DEAN, PHOTOGRAPHER PHOTO CROPPED FOR SPACE



PHOTO: CFL ARCHIVE

## “Hands Off Pants On” Event Launches Campaign to Protect Women in Hospitality Industry

In October, UNITE HERE Local 1 released the findings of a first-of-its-kind survey of women working in Chicagoland’s hospitality industry at an event titled, “Hands Off Pants On: Sexual Harassment in Chicago’s Hospitality Industry.” The survey explicitly shows their experiences of sexual harassment on the job. Among the findings, the survey of nearly 500 women working in Chicago area hotels and casinos revealed:

- 58 percent of hotel workers surveyed said they had been sexually harassed by a guest;
- 49 percent of hotel housekeepers surveyed said guests had exposed themselves, flashed them or answered the door naked;
- 65 percent of casino cocktail servers surveyed said a guest had grabbed, groped, patted, kissed them or a guest had tried to touch them in an unwelcome way;
- 15 percent of casino workers surveyed said they had been followed by a guest (such as to their car after a shift).

The Honorable Anne M. Burke, Illinois Supreme Court Justice, moderated a rich and engaging panel discussion among women leaders from across different industries about workplace sexual harassment. Justice Burke opened by referencing the millions of women

who tweeted their experience of sexual assault after the Trump video was released. “This is not something that is just a small area of concern; it is endemic across the country. And I’m proud of UNITE HERE for coming forward with all of this,” said Justice Burke.

Kasey Nalls, casino cocktail server and member of the “Hands Off Pants On”

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**65 percent of casino cocktail servers surveyed said a guest had grabbed, groped, patted, or kissed them or a guest had tried to touch them in an unwelcome way**

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survey team, was one of the panelists. Nalls stated, “I started working in the casino at 23. It was just hours into my first day on the job as a cocktail server when one of the guests told me, ‘I’ve got the cock, you got the tail.’ I was shocked. I felt like I had to go out of my body to get through the shift. I felt so degraded. But the scary thing is, over time, it starts to feel normal. But today I feel hope that we can do something to change it for the next generation of young women in the hospitality industry.”

The panel also included Robin Robinson, media-personality and journalist, Dr. Julienne Rutherford, UIC professor and co-author of the first empirical study of sexual harassment and assault in field-based sciences, and Victoria Elena Nones, founder and Executive Director of Women In Comedy. Julie DiCaro, a sports columnist featured in the award-winning video #MoreThanMean about online harassment, gave concluding remarks.

Following the panel was the first public screening of the video, “Chicago Union Men React to Workplace Harassment & Assault.” Featuring Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the video shows Chicago-area labor leaders reading quotes from housekeepers and waitresses about their experiences with harassment in the workplace. After the video was screened, Ramirez addressed the event attendees, saying, “The video may have featured men, but our movement, just like our families, isn’t just men. It’s daughters, wives, sisters, mothers, nieces...it’s workers. And it’s our job to stand up, fight back, and make change whenever and wherever we can. I hope you will welcome us into your fight to end this abuse in the workplace.”

In response to the graphic harassment and assault that the “Hands Off Pants On” survey revealed, Karen Kent, President of UNITE HERE Local 1, said the union will pursue policies to protect women in hotels and casinos from predatory guests. The union proposes the adoption of a state law protecting women working in state-licensed casinos and a city ordinance protecting women in locally-governed hotels. Both laws require employers to ban guests who have sexually harassed an employee and require employers to provide panic buttons to any employee who works alone in rooms without other employees present (like guest rooms or bathrooms).

Kent concluded with, “This is a moment in time. Maybe a tipping point. I want us to change lives and to make change in our community. That is what today is about.”

**THE VIDEO AND REPORT CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.HANDSOFFPANTSON.ORG](http://WWW.HANDSOFFPANTSON.ORG)**



SARAH LYONS, A RESEARCH ANALYST AND MEMBER OF THE “HANDS OFF PANTS ON” SURVEY TEAM FOR UNITE HERE LOCAL 1 (FAR RIGHT) INTRODUCES THE PANELISTS, WHICH INCLUDED (L TO R) THE HONORABLE ANNE M. BURKE, ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE; KASEY NALLS (UNITE HERE LOCAL 1), COCKTAIL SERVER AND MEMBER OF THE “HANDS OFF PANTS ON” SURVEY TEAM; DR. JULIENNE RUTHERFORD, UIC PROFESSOR; ROBIN ROBINSON, MEDIA PERSONALITY AND JOURNALIST; AND VICTORIA ELENA NONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WOMEN IN COMEDY.

## Leader of Chicago's Archdiocese Among 17 Men Elevated to the College of Cardinals

Catholics across Cook and Lake counties had reason to celebrate when His Holiness, Pope Francis, announced on Oct. 9 that the Archbishop of Chicago, Blase J. Cupich, is a cardinal-designate. This placed Archbishop Cupich among the 17 new cardinals to be created at the consistory on Nov. 19, 2016, at the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City. This announcement comes a little more than two years after Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Cupich to head the nation's third largest archdiocese on Sept. 20, 2014.

In a statement from the Archdiocese of Chicago following the October announcement, Archbishop Cupich stated, "The news this morning that Pope Francis has named me to the College of Cardinals is both humbling and encouraging. I offer my best wishes to the other Cardinals-elect, especially [Bishop] Kevin Farrell [of Dallas] and [Archbishop] Joseph Tobin [of Indianapolis], and I look forward to joining with them and the other cardinals as we work together with the Holy Father for the good of the Church."

Archbishop Cupich continued, "When Pope Francis appointed me Archbishop of Chicago more than two years ago, the people of the archdiocese welcomed me as a friend and brother and I committed wholeheartedly to serve them. The role of Cardinal brings

new responsibilities, but with your prayers and help, we will continue the task we have begun of renewing the Church in the archdiocese and preparing it to thrive in the decades ahead."



POPE FRANCIS GIVES THE RED BIRETTA TO NEW CARDINAL BLASE J. CUPICH DURING A CONSISTORY IN ST. PETER'S BASILICA AT THE VATICAN ON NOV. 19.

The Labor Movement in the United States shares many important values with the Catholic Church, including the Catholic Church's social teaching on the dignity of work and the rights of workers. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII wrote the *Rerum Novarum*, an open letter that addresses the issues facing the working class, among them the rights of workers to join a union.

In September 2015, the Chicago Federation of Labor invited Archbishop Blase Cupich to speak to the men and women of

Organized Labor, as well as elected officials, and community and business leaders, as he settled into his role as Archbishop of Chicago, serving more than 2.2 million

Catholics in Cook and Lake Counties in northeastern Illinois. Hundreds gathered in Plumbers Hall to hear his thoughts and insights on the shared values between the Church and working families, including workers' rights, immigration rights and dignity of the human person. Archbishop Cupich's address came just days before Pope Francis' first visit to the United States. Throughout the course of his nearly 40-minute address, then Archbishop Cupich outlined areas that the Archdiocese of Chicago offers Organized Labor, including offering a vision and raising its voice on issues that affect workers.

During this address, Archbishop Cupich said, "I come today to offer my friendship and support as Chicago's new Archbishop and to renew an essential and longstanding relationship between the Catholic Church and the Labor Movement. Our ties are built not on personalities, though we have been blessed with great leaders, but on enduring principles: the dignity of each and every human being made in the image and likeness of God, the dignity of work and the rights of workers."

## State Workers Continue Their Battle for Fair and Just Contract

For over a year, the bargaining unit of AFSCME Council 31 has tried to negotiate a contract for approximately 38,000 state workers with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner. In January 2016, the governor's representatives ended negotiations, stating the two sides would never agree. Since then, AFSCME has made their intentions to bargain in good faith decidedly clear.

"Public service workers in state government protect kids, care for veterans, keep us safe and more," AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director Roberta Lynch said. "State workers have always been willing to do their part. We're prepared to compromise. But we can only do that if Governor Rauner puts the public good ahead of his personal demands and returns to bargaining ready to negotiate."

The Illinois Labor Relations Board began hearings in April to determine whether contract negotiations between both sides are

truly at an impasse. Following months of testimony, on September 2, an administrative law officer with the ILRB rejected Governor Rauner's contention that the parties are at an impasse on wages, health care and other key issues and said the administration should be required to resume negotiations with AFSCME.

The matter was then kicked up to the state panel of the ILRB, whose members are appointed by the governor, and on Nov. 15 they issued a ruling rejecting the September ruling, instead stating that contract negotiations between both sides are at an impasse. An impasse ruling from the board opens the door for Governor Rauner to try to unilaterally impose his demands.

Just days after the state panel ruling, thousands of AFSCME members participated in a Day of Action to send a message to Governor Rauner: Don't Dictate, Negotiate! AFSCME also received a huge boost of

support when a bi-partisan group of 35 state legislators held a press conference to call for renewed state contract negotiations, pointing out that "a negotiated compromise would provide certainty for the public that relies on state services, for state employees and their families who depend on fair wages and benefits, and for local businesses that fear the loss of economic activity."

In December, a circuit court issued a temporary restraining order, stopping the governor from unilaterally imposing his contract terms on state employees until the next hearing in January 2017.

To learn more, visit [www.afscme31.org](http://www.afscme31.org).



## CFL-Endorsed Candidates Overwhelmingly Win on Election Night

Each election cycle, the Chicago Federation of Labor endorses candidates that will advance the priorities that are important to working families. Following the November 2016 election, the CFL saw a 98 percent success rate for its endorsed candidates. The CFL dominated when compared to the Chicago media, including the Chicago Sun-Times (82 percent success rate), Chicago Tribune (53 percent) and Daily Herald (67 percent).

### Significant Race Results

Illinois successfully flipped its only Republican-controlled U.S. Senate seat when current U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth defeated incumbent Sen. Mark Kirk. Duckworth was elected to the U.S. Congress in 2012, and she focused on growing the economy, investing in infrastructure and helping veterans get the support they need after returning home from combat. In January, she will join Sen. Dick Durbin as the voice for Illinois families, continuing the work she started in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Statewide, Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza was sworn in as Illinois' new Comptroller on Dec. 5, after defeating Illinois Comptroller Leslie Munger in November. Munger was Governor Rauner's hand-picked replacement for Comptroller, following the death of Judy Barr Topinka in December 2014. As Mendoza transitions into her new role, she will focus on serving and protecting Illinois' social services, schools and working families. She is committed to prioritizing the fiscal health of the state.

### The CFL's Program

The CFL ran an aggressive program that focused on educating voters about where candidates stand on the issues that are most important to workers. Thanks to volunteers from across the public and private sectors, the CFL filled 2,900 volunteer shifts between the end of August and Nov. 8, and held over

24,000 conversations with voters. While this was enough to complete the work needed in 2016, the number of volunteer shifts will increase significantly to combat the money that is estimated to come from the Republicans in 2018.

In 2016, Governor Rauner alone contributed more than \$30 million to the Illinois Republican Party and various campaigns and causes around the state. Approximately 90 percent of the money the Republicans raised overall for use on radio and television ads, direct mail, polling, and other expenses came directly from Governor Rauner.<sup>1</sup> Early estimates indicate the governor and his allies could spend as much as \$100 million on the governor's race in 2018.<sup>2</sup> To combat this extreme influx of money, the CFL will continue to employ its member education programs to ensure voters know the real issues.

### Working America

In addition to a strong member program, the CFL enlisted the support of Working America, a community affiliate of the national AFL-CIO focused on uniting nonunion workers. Working America's program in the Chicago area focused on Duckworth's race and the Illinois House District 45 contest between incumbent Christine Winger and labor-endorsed candidate Cynthia Borbas. Overall, Working America knocked on 60,000 doors, had 24,000 conversations and generated 21,000 candidate IDs. This program was helpful in the Duckworth Senate race. In HD 45, Working America held over 6,000

conversations with voters. While Borbas did not overcome the incumbent, Working America kept this race competitive, with Winger winning only 53 percent of the vote. Additionally, Working America raised concern among area voters and will continue to hold Representative Winger accountable during the upcoming legislative session.

Throughout the 2016 election, polling showed that Working America remains a trusted messenger. Among voters in battleground states such as Ohio, Mo., Pa., Fla. and N.C., Republican voters canvassed by Working America backed Trump by 79 points, compared to Republican voters overall backing Trump by 86 points, a seven-point difference based on Working America's canvass contact. These are important numbers to keep in mind as the 2018 election cycle in Illinois inches closer.

The CFL would like to thank Painters District Council 14, IUOE Local 399, Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17, and NALC Branch 11 for providing the facilities to run the CFL's phone banks. Thank you also to Painters District Council 14, IUPAT Local 194, IUPAT Local 1332, Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17, and Teamsters Joint Council 25 for providing locations for neighborhood walks. Finally, the CFL would like to thank all the unions who sent volunteers to work the phone banks and neighborhood walks.

<sup>1</sup> [http://chicagoist.com/2016/11/11/bruce\\_rauner\\_made\\_big\\_bucks\\_in\\_2015.php](http://chicagoist.com/2016/11/11/bruce_rauner_made_big_bucks_in_2015.php)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-dick-durbin-bruce-rauner-1117-20161116-story.html>



PHOTO FROM PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 14

THE CFL'S PHONE BANK OPERATION AT PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 14. PHONE BANK VOLUNTEERS PLACE HUNDREDS OF CALLS TO VOTERS EACH NIGHT, EDUCATING THEM ON WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO WORKING FAMILIES.

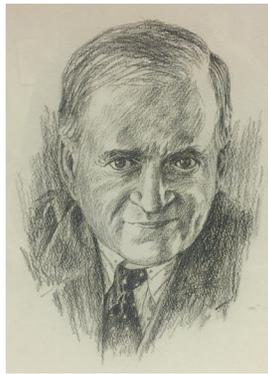
## CFL Enhances Scholarship Application to Focus on Labor's Mission

Each year the Chicago Federation of Labor awards 10 college scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, to high school seniors through the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship.

To ensure that the recipients understand the importance of the Labor Movement in their own lives, the CFL restructured the William A. Lee scholarship for 2017 to include an essay section where applicants will answer the question: How has the Labor Movement impacted my life? The goal is for the candidates, after writing this essay, to understand and appreciate how the Labor Movement gives a voice to workers, creates better standards and fights to protect workplace democracy. The William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship should inspire the next generation to continue the fight for workers and the middle class.

Essays will be evaluated and ranked by the Scholarship Committee based on best expression of personal experience and a fundamental understanding of what the Labor Movement represents. Style, grammar, spelling, punctuation and composition will also be considered while evaluating the essays.

The scholarship was created in October 1957 to demonstrate Labor's commitment to stand in solidarity with students as they continue their educational pursuits. In a letter to CFL-affiliated unions, then-President William A. Lee, wrote, "The



JOHN FITZPATRICK



WILLIAM A. LEE

Chicago Federation of Labor and its affiliated members have always been dedicated to the cause of higher education and are therefore pleased to provide assistance to the children of union members who wish to avail themselves of an opportunity to attend college." The scholarship was originally named in honor of the CFL's first President, John Fitzpatrick. He was president from 1906 until his death in 1946. At the time, four scholarships were awarded to two men and two women who were outstanding students among their peers.

In January 1985, a new scholarship program was approved by the CFL to provide 10 scholarships, at \$2,000 each, and they continue to be awarded today. The name was changed to honor William A. Lee, President of the CFL from 1946 until his death in 1984.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR THE WILLIAM A. LEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

### Applicants:

- The applicant must be a senior in high school and graduating in the spring of 2017.
- Either the applicant or the applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of a CFL-affiliated union.
- To confirm a union's affiliation status, please call 312.222.1000.

### Deadline to Apply:

- Completed applications must be received by the CFL by Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017.
- Applications may be dropped off at the office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
- Mailed applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017.
- The funds may be used at any accredited college or university in the United States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION, CLICK ON THE UNION RESOURCES TAB OF THE CFL'S WEBSITE, CHICAGOLABOR.ORG.

## Local Racetrack Honors Union Members During Annual NASCAR Event

For the second year in a row, Chicagoland Speedway honored workers and their families at the annual "Tribute to Labor" event in September during the NASCAR Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 400. This race marks the kick-off for NASCAR's annual Chase for the Sprint Cup, NASCAR's version of playoffs found in other professional sports to determine who is the top driver for that year.

Thousands of union members and their families turned out for this one-of-a-kind race day experience. Attendees were offered deeply discounted tickets that included access to the race and a Fan Zone Pit Pass.

The Chicago Federation of Labor joined with Central Labor Councils and Building & Construction Trades Councils across Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa to support the annual event for union members.

Martin Truex, Jr., who started in the 6 position, came in first place, having led only 32 of the 270 laps. Joey Logano was second and Chase Elliott was third.

CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER BOB REITER STANDS UNDER THE CFL'S PROUD UNION HOME® BANNER DISPLAYED AT CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY DURING THE NASCAR SPRINT CUP TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES 400.





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# CFL Delegates' Meetings

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

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

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# College Scholarship

Applications for the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship are due Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017.

Visit [chicagolabor.org/scholarship](http://chicagolabor.org/scholarship)