

# Federation News

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • ISSUE 2 • 2017

## CRRC ROUNDBREAKING

### MARCH 16, 2017

### CHICAGO



# Rail Car Manufacturing Returns to Chicago

Chicago Federation of Labor leads the charge to bring rail car manufacturing back to Chicago's South Side

# FederationNews

CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

INDUSTRIAL UNION COUNCIL

ENDORSES

ACWA

Campaign Against  
Imported Clothing

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Throughout history, women were there

The women of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America union.

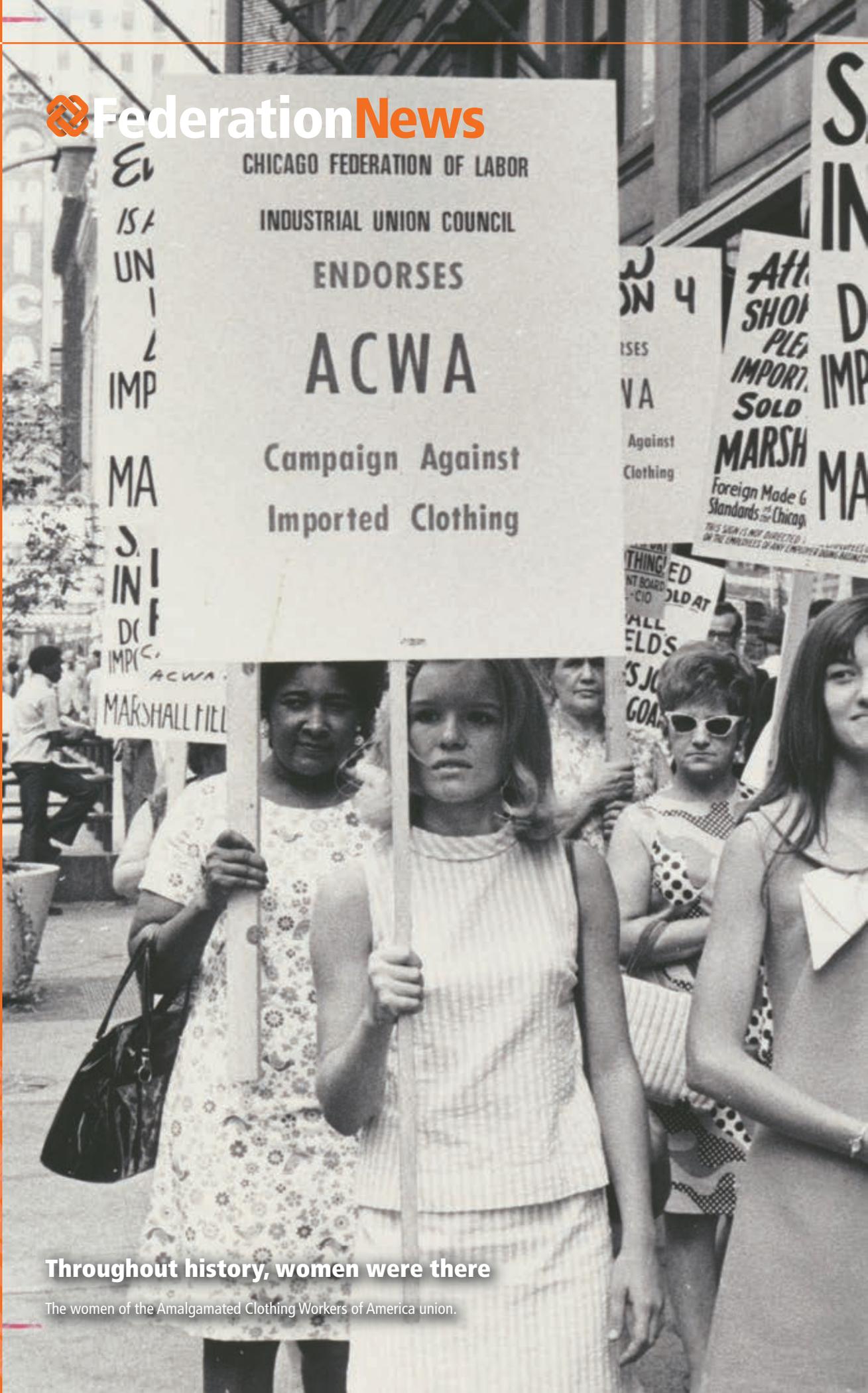




PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

## President's Report

The Chicago Federation of Labor was established in November 1896 to strengthen the efforts of individual local unions by creating a unified voice for the labor movement across the Chicagoland area.

When people ask me what I do, what I always tell them is everything we do at the CFL is to better the lives of workers, the unionized, those who are fighting to organize their workplaces and those we intend to organize, because at the end of the day, it's the workers who matter most.

I am proud of what we do at the CFL every day. I think one of the best examples of our work is bringing rail car manufacturing back to Chicago's South Side. (Read more on page 6.) In late 2016, CRRC Siafang won the bid and in March 2017, they held a groundbreaking to begin construction on the new facility. The groundbreaking was the culmination of four years of the CFL collaborating with IBEW Local 134, Sheet Metal Workers Local 73, their international unions, Jobs to Move America, the city and the CTA.

Chicago has a proud history of rail car manufacturing, produced at the Pullman factory from the 1880s until the last car rolled off the assembly line in 1981. Now, 36 years later, good American jobs are returning, and rail cars will once again be union made on Chicago's South Side.

We commend the CTA for including the U.S. Employment Plan in this bid process, requiring bidders to outline a robust American jobs program that includes a commitment to worker recruitment and a workforce development program. JMA originally created the U.S. Employment Plan to responsibly leverage our public dollars to purchase transit equipment, and, make no mistake about it, without the language contained in the U.S. Employment Plan, we would not be celebrating a new rail car facility here in Chicago.

For many years, we watched U.S. manufacturing jobs move overseas. However, the size of this bid put Chicago in a unique position to leverage a robust manufacturing jobs program that will strengthen the middle class, stimulate increased investment in new domestic manufacturing facilities, and create opportunities for low-income communities. We have shown that our comprehensive plan, that takes vision and effort to bring to fruition, should be emulated by other cities across America. It ensures we are working to not only improve Chicago's transit system, but to help our tax dollars go further by taking into account the long-term economic impact on the region and the country.

CRRC also agreed to a community benefits agreement with the CFL, IBEW, SMART, and the JMA coalition. What does that mean? It means CRRC has signed a multi-lateral agreement with us to make sure the residents in this region come first. CRRC is developing a job training and apprenticeship program, in collaboration with the CFL Workforce and Community Initiative, IBEW, SMART, and JMA, that focuses on hiring and training workers from disadvantaged communities, such as veterans, women, formerly incarcerated individuals and communities of color.

This is what lifting up our communities looks like, and this is why the CFL spent four years working to bring this rail car facility to fruition. I would like to thank our union partners, IBEW, SMART, and their local leadership, Don Finn, Business Manager of IBEW Local 134, and Rocco Terranova, President and Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 73.

This coalition from across Chicago is leading the way to bringing good high-road manufacturing jobs back to the United States because we know that working together moves the needle for everyone.



**JORGE RAMIREZ**  
PRESIDENT

# Affiliate News

Read more on these topics at [www.chicagolabor.org/news](http://www.chicagolabor.org/news).

## Apprentices with the Drywall Finishers Help Local Homeless Shelter Repair Damaged Space

The Chicago Area Drywall Finishers of Painters District Council 14, in conjunction with the Chicago Federation of Labor and United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, volunteered to help South Suburban PADS, a local homeless shelter, to install and finish the drywall at one of their shelter locations.

After PADS performed some necessary renovations in their basement, much of the drywall was destroyed. As a result, a huge portion of their shelter space became unusable, which was limiting the number of individuals that could utilize this emergency shelter.

When the Drywall Finishers heard about the issue, their Joint Apprenticeship Training Council immediately volunteered to send a class of their apprentices to help finish the drywall. Instructor

Matthew Chamorro directed the team, and they were able to complete the job in under a week. The volunteers will be able to make their entire basement space suitable as an emergency shelter again, which means PADS will be able to go back to serving more people in need.

South Suburban PADS is funded in part by the CFL's Community Engagement partner, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. South Suburban PADS supports 16 communities in the south suburbs of Chicago with 24 emergency shelter locations.

The Chicago Area Drywall Finishers of Painters District Council 14's commitment to supporting their community demonstrates the kind of solidarity that makes the Chicago labor movement strong.

## New Teamster Members Ratify First Contract

On March 7, 43 workers at Peco Pallet voted unanimously to ratify their first contract. Workers voted

to join Teamsters Local 743 in June 2016 and negotiations for their first contract began in July. Peco workers Joe Nauracy, Danny Sanchez, Valentine Miranda and Derrick Rudd served on the bargaining team along with Union Representative Jarvis Gutter and Local 743 Vice President Catharine Schutzius.

Workers at Peco decided to unionize after the company failed to respond to their concerns about unfair performance appraisal-based pay increases, exploitative use of temporary workers, the refusal of the managers to post vacant positions, and management's disregard for the worker's health and safety concerns. The Peco workers' new contract provides for annual across the board pay increases, seniority rights, posting of vacancies, just cause for discipline, and health and safety protections.

It took hard work and a fight to win a fair contract. Bargaining team members kept the workers in the plant informed about bargaining meetings during the eight-months-long contract fight. Local 743 members, Peco

employees and allies, including members of the United Auto Workers Local 551 who work at the nearby Ford assembly plant, rallied in front of the plant in December 2016.

## Nada Nada Campaign Reminds Immigrants of Their Rights When Confronted by ICE

UNITE HERE Local 1 launched a multi-platform campaign, called "Nada Nada," to help folks remember their right to say nothing and sign nothing if they encounter Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. At the center of the campaign is a catchy Cumbia-style ringtone. The campaign message is displayed on bus shelter and bench ads throughout Chicago.

Since Trump was elected President, the message to immigrants coming out of union halls, places of worship, and "Know Your Rights" workshops is, "with immigration, you have



APPRENTICES FROM THE CHICAGO AREA DRYWALL FINISHERS OF PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 14 VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME TO HELP FIX THE DRYWALL AT A SOUTH SIDE PADS SHELTER. PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JOSE MEJIA, CARLOS RAMIREZ, RIGGOBERTO PELAYO AND IGNACIO RODRIGUEZ.



WORKERS AT PECO PALLET WHO ARE MEMBERS OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 743 CELEBRATE THEIR FIRST CONTRACT. THE WORKERS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT.

the right not to sign anything and not to say anything.” UNITE HERE Local 1 hopes this ringtone earworm will help folks remember their rights, even in moments of stress.

To download the ringtone, visit [www.unitehere1.org/ringtone](http://www.unitehere1.org/ringtone).

## BCTGM Joined by Labor and Community Activists Outside Nabisco Shareholder Meeting

BCTGM members and Nabisco workers from across the country gathered in Lincolnshire, Ill. on May 17 to rally outside the annual Mondelez International shareholders meeting. They were there to protest the company’s continued outsourcing of jobs and disregard of American workers and their communities.

“This is OUR time to fight back! To let the CEO, shareholders and board of directors hear OUR VOICE!” proclaimed laid-off Nabisco worker and Local 300 member

Anthony Jackson in his greeting to the assembled crowd. The spirited event was led by BCTGM Strategic Campaign Coordinator Ron Baker and included remarks by laid-off Nabisco worker Michael Smith.

BCTGM union members who gathered for the Nabisco/Mondelez shareholder rally traveled from near and far. Among those joining Local 300 Nabisco workers in Lincolnshire were members of Locals 1 (Chicago), 253 (Cincinnati, Ohio), 719 (Fairlawn, N.J.), 358 (Richmond, Va.), 22 (Twin Cities, Minn.), 13G (Hastings, Minn.), 70 (Grand Rapids, Mich.), 111 (Dallas), 3G (Battle Creek, Mich.), 42 (Atlanta), and 342 (Bloomington, Ill.).

Representatives from BCTGM International, the national AFL-CIO, Chicago Federation of Labor, Illinois AFL-CIO and Northeastern Illinois, AFL-CIO were on hand for the protest along with members from UAW, Steelworkers, APWU, AFSCME, UFCW, LIUNA, and Bricklayers, among others.

For more pictures and to watch a recording of the rally, visit <http://www.fightforamericanjobs.org/bctgm-joined-by-labor-and-community-activists-for-nabiscosshareholdershowdown/>.



NABISCO WORKERS AND BCTGM MEMBERS ARE JOINED BY LABOR AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS AT THE MONDELEZ SHAREHOLDERS MEETING IN LINCOLNSHIRE, ILL. TO PROTEST THE OUTSOURCING OF AMERICAN JOBS TO LOW-WAGE COUNTRIES.

## Rest In Peace

### Robert Pierson (IBEW Local 9)

Bob Pierson retired in 2015 after a 50-year career with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He was initiated into Local 9 in 1966, where he worked as an outside construction lineman with Hecker Electric out of Chicago. During that time, he was part of the original build of the Red Line, the busiest line of Chicago’s “L” mass transit system.

In 1997, Pierson was elected Business Manager, and served in this role until his retirement. In addition to his work at the local, he was a member of the CFL Executive Board and chairman of the IBEW International Executive Council.

In a 2013 video produced by the Chicago Federation of Labor, Pierson summed up his relationship with the IBEW over the last 50 years: “This is your union. You have to respect it, love it, earn it and keep it every day of your life. If you don’t, it’ll go away.”

His tireless commitment to the men and women of his local as well as the overall movement will always be a benchmark for labor leaders to achieve.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pierson’s wife, Shirley, their four children and nine grandchildren.

TO WATCH THE TRIBUTE VIDEO, VISIT:  
[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/WEAREONECHICAGO](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/WEAREONECHICAGO)



## Submit your stories

Unions and their members are doing great work throughout our communities, and we want to hear about it.

Email your stories (200 words or less) and high-resolution photos (300 dpi or greater) to [info@chicagolabor.org](mailto:info@chicagolabor.org).

The CFL reserves the right to edit stories for content and space allowance.

# Rail Car Manufacturing Returns to Chicago

The city of Chicago had much to celebrate when representatives from CRRC Sifang America joined with the Chicago Federation of Labor, IBEW, SMART, Jobs to Move America, the CTA, Alderman Susan Sadlowski Garza and Mayor Emanuel to break ground on a new \$100 million rail car facility on the Southeast Side of Chicago. This new facility will house the assembly plant for the CTA's newest rail cars, the 7000-series, and create hundreds of new construction and skilled factory jobs.

At the groundbreaking ceremony on March 16, CFL President Jorge Ramirez stated, "This groundbreaking is the culmination of four years of collaboration with the city of Chicago to bring rail car manufacturing back to where it belongs. Chicago has a proud history of rail car manufacturing, produced at the Pullman plant from the 1880s until the last car rolled off the assembly line in 1981. Today, I'm proud to say that 36 years later, good American jobs are returning and rail cars will once again be union made on Chicago's Southside."

"This new facility represents a major investment in Chicago that will bring economic opportunities to the Southeast Side, while creating good-paying jobs for hundreds of workers," Mayor Emanuel said. "The rail cars that emerge from this facility will be the latest step we've taken to invest in world-class transportation, and to create a 21st Century transit system."

As part of CTA's ongoing modernization efforts, the agency last year awarded a manufacturing contract to CRRC's U.S. subsidiary, CRRC Sifang America, to build up to 846 new rail cars. The CTA's first order of 400 rail cars will be assembled at the new facility and will replace CTA's oldest railcars, which are more than 30 years old. Once these new vehicles are in service, CTA will have one of the youngest fleets of any U.S. transit agency.

CRRC Sifang America is committed to hiring from communities that make up the city of Chicago and surrounding areas, and is working with the CFL's Workforce & Community Initiative, IBEW Local 134 and Sheet Metal Workers' Local 73 to hire and train a union workforce from within these communities.

"The size of this bid provided Chicago an opportunity to leverage

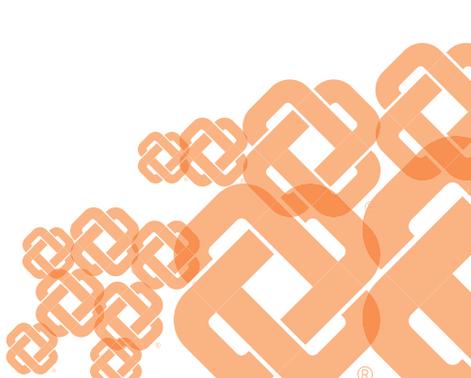
a robust manufacturing jobs program and communities benefit agreement that will strengthen the middle class, stimulate increased investment in new domestic manufacturing facilities, and create opportunities for low-income communities," said Ramirez.

As part of this agreement, CRRC and a coalition of labor and community groups signed a landmark agreement that will promote good jobs and economic growth in the manufacturing sector. "The community benefits agreement marks the first comprehensive jobs program of its kind that focuses on economic development in communities historically excluded from the manufacturing sector. Chicago is setting a precedent for the nation, lifting up industry standards and creating a model for how communities and businesses can work together in the future," said Linda Nguyen, Deputy Director of Jobs to Move America.

The deal is a result of years of planning and discussions between the CFL, JMA, IBEW, SMART, the mayor and CRRC. "The community benefits agreement provides the opportunity for labor, business and the community to build a pipeline and help workers gain the skills necessary for good paying, family-supporting manufacturing jobs in Chicago," said Joe Costigan, Executive Director for the CFL Workforce & Community Initiative.

Among the crowd that gathered for the official groundbreaking were brothers Alfonso and Ramon Quiroz. They both worked at the Pullman factory as members of Steelworkers Local 1834 until the day it closed in 1981. With historic pictures in hand, they talked to President Ramirez about their experiences working at the original Pullman facility and expressed the pride they feel to see rail car manufacturing returning to Chicago.

The new facility, expected to be complete in spring 2018, will assemble the CTA's base order of 400 railcars for a total of \$632 million or \$1.58 million per car, with future options for an additional 446 railcars. The first rail car prototypes are expected to be completed in 2019.



"The community benefits agreement provides the opportunity for labor, business and the community to build a pipeline and help workers gain the skills necessary for good paying, family-supporting manufacturing jobs in Chicago."

**JOE COSTIGAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CFL WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY INITIATIVE



PHOTO: BROOKE COLLINS/CITY OF CHICAGO

ABOVE: THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR, JOBS TO MOVE AMERICA, AND THE UNIONS WHO WILL REPRESENT THE WORKERS AT THE NEW RAIL CAR FACILITY SIGN THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT WITH CRRC SIFANG AMERICA. SEATED FROM L TO R: JORGE RAMIREZ, CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR; DONALD FINN, IBEW LOCAL 134; ROCCO TERRANOVA, SHEET METAL WORKERS' LOCAL 73; LINDA NGUYEN, JOBS TO MOVE AMERICA.

RIGHT: PICTURED FROM L TO R: JORGE RAMIREZ, CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR; FORMER PULLMAN WORKERS AND BROTHERS ALFONSO AND RAMON QUIROZ; AND LINDA NGUYEN, JOBS TO MOVE AMERICA.

BELOW: REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNIONS WERE ON HAND FOR THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY. PICTURED FROM L TO R: JOSEPH SELLERS, SMART; JERRY KURIMSKI, IBEW; JAMES WHITE, SMART; TODD ANDERSON, AFL-CIO; ROCCO TERRANOVA, SHEET METAL WORKERS' LOCAL 73; LINDA NGUYEN, JOBS TO MOVE AMERICA; JORGE RAMIREZ, CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR.



PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR



PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

# Feature Stories

## CFL Woman of the Year

The Chicago Federation of Labor held its annual Woman of the Year celebration at the April 2017 Delegates meeting. This year's recipient, Rona Pileggi Spano (Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 277), is known and recognized as a champion for working families, organized labor, and progressive politics that promote economic and social justice. She is a passionate advocate on all things she holds dear, family, friends, organized labor, politics, fundraising, and helping children with special needs. Spano loves what she does and is touching lives across the world. She is a great role model and mentor for women across the labor movement.

CFL 2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT, RONA PILEGGI SPANO, ADDRESSES THE DELEGATES UPON RECEIVING HER AWARD.



PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

## Women in Labor

Over 50 sisters and brothers gathered at IUOE Local 399 for the CFL's annual Women in Labor Panel. This year's panel included representatives from various unions and allies. Event attendees also brought in over \$200 in supplies for a local women's shelter.

PHOTO: THE WOMEN IN LABOR PANELISTS WERE CLUW PRESIDENT KATIE JORDAN, IBEW LOCAL 134 BUSINESS AGENT CAROLE POLLITZ, UFCW LOCAL 881 BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE MAMIE PRATT, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER BRIDGET GAINER, AND CFL 1ST VICE PRESIDENT ROSE DAYLIE.



PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

## CLUW Honors Women for Strength, Power and Commitment

Every year the Coalition of Labor Union Women honors women who are devoted to advancing the roles of women in the labor movement. CLUW President Katie Jordan presented six distinguished women with awards, including two from the CFL.

Recipients of the Florence Criley Award included: Bridget Early (Chicago Federation of Labor), Marilyn Blunt Massey (AFSCME), Nora Cay Ryan (Chicago Federation of Labor) and Kenya Townsend (United Auto Workers Local 551). The Olga Madar Award went to Mary Fears Crayton (retired AFL-CIO Regional Director) and Dr. Emily E. LB. Twarog (UNITE HERE Local 1). The Joyce D. Miller Award was presented to Lynn Fox (Workers United International Union).



PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

FRONT ROW: KENYA TOWNSEND, BRIDGET EARLY, NORA CAY RYAN, LYNNE FOX. BACK ROW: MARY FEARS CRAYTON, KATIE JORDAN, MARILYN BLUNT MASSEY, AND KATHY HANSHEW.



# e Can Do It!

## A Woman's Place is in her Union

“From the very founding of the organized labor movement, women were there,” said Addie Wyatt in her speech during a special tribute to trade union women at the March 1983 CFL Delegates meeting. Wyatt was the first African-American woman elected International Vice President of a major labor union, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union, now the UFCW, “In all of the major struggles and minor struggles of the organized labor movement, even though history doesn’t always record it, women were there.” Wyatt was honored that evening as the second recipient of the CFL’s Woman of the Year award.

Before women earned the right to vote in 1920, the only place they truly had a voice that was equal to men was in their union. Unions have been and continue to be the equalizer that level the playing field for men and women. Collective bargaining agreements genuinely enforce what should be the law of the land through legislation such as the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act of 1963 and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.

For the women of the labor movement, increasing the strength of working women across the United States meant building protection for their nonunion counterparts. On March 12, 1974, more than 1,200 union women from across the United States convened in Chicago to form the Coalition of Labor Union Women. The new coalition set a major goal to bring an estimated 30 million unorganized women into unions and expand the influence of women within the labor movement. Other goals included child care facilities, a livable minimum wage, improved maternity and pension benefits, and stronger job safety and health standards and enforcement. Olga Madar, a Vice President of United Auto Workers, was elected to head the new coalition, and Wyatt was elected Vice President.

Spanning the generations were women like Lillian Herstein, who helped organize Steelworkers in 1919 and 1937, Mollie Levitas, who was a founder of the Office Employees Union, and Peg Bautsch (SEIU) who pioneered labor in the field of health care. Joyce Miller of the Clothing and Textile Workers union, became the first woman Vice President of the national AFL-CIO and served as the President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women from 1977 to 1993. Jacqueline Vaughn was the first African-American and the first woman to lead the Chicago Teachers Union, the third largest teachers’ union in the United States. As the head of CTU, she led a strike in 1987 that lasted four weeks and resulted in smaller class sizes and pay increases.

When Vaughn received the CFL’s Woman of the Year award in 1985, she told the room of CFL delegates, “May I remind my brothers in the trade union movement of the purpose of the creation of woman – woman was made from the rib of man; she was not created from his head to tophim, nor from his feet to be stepped upon. She was made from his side to be equal to him; from beneath his arm – to be protected by him; near his heart to be loved by him. In the house of labor, we will work side by side, our brothers, walk side by side in the picket lines, and talk across the table for equal rights. But you must first reach out to touch the most valuable asset the labor movement has... a working woman.”

The labor movement across the United States was enhanced thanks to the skill, courage and dedication of the women who were a part of it.

## Annual Food Drive Surpasses Expectations Thanks to Strong Support from Labor

This year, the Chicago Federation of Labor was proud to once again be a sponsor, supporter and donor for the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Led by NALC Branch 11, the drive helped stock food pantries and depositories in communities across Chicago.

This union-led drive served as an opportunity for the labor community in Cook County to step up and lend a hand to families in need throughout the city and suburbs. The CFL's affiliated unions answered the call, and over 25 local unions and labor organizations collected food at their halls, promoted the drive to members, or sponsored donation bags to be distributed to USPS customers.

The CFL, along with the Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council, UFCW Local 1546, Lou's Lads Foundation, AARP, and United Way of



Metropolitan Chicago, helped NALC Branch 11 create and deliver 500,000 bags to Chicago residents to encourage participation in the food drive.

At the May CFL Delegates meeting, an impromptu collection was started by delegates during the "Good and Welfare" portion of the meeting, with a CFL offer to match the

donations dollar for dollar. By the end of the meeting, the delegates raised \$603, with the CFL contributing an additional \$603 to the food drive.

At the June CFL Executive Board meeting, NALC Branch 11 President Mack Julion reported approximately 600,000 pounds of food were collected with contributions still arriving. This crushed the total amount raised in 2016, which was 137,000 pounds. Julion added there was so much food that they increased the number of pantries that would receive the donations.

Labor's contribution to the food drive is a tremendous demonstration of the union values that organized labor stands for every day. The CFL would like to thank everyone who donated either food or money to the drive for their effort to show solidarity with families in need throughout Chicagoland.

## 2017 William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship Recipients

In May, the Chicago Federation of Labor awarded 10 scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, to five winners of the academic competition and five winners of the random drawing for the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship.

"This is the first year we incorporated an essay into our application process," said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. "It is important for the recipients of the CFL's scholarship to understand why the labor movement is important in their own individual lives, and I think our winners did a great job expressing this idea in their essays."

Esterah Brown, the daughter of an Ironworkers Local 1 member, stated in her essay, "The labor movement stands out to me as a powerful, relentless fight for justice: a true voice of the American people."

For Samantha Hendrickson, the daughter of a West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571 member, she drew on the experiences of three generations of union members, from her great-grandfathers down through her father. She wrote, "If my family's past in the union movement has taught me anything, it would be the rewards of working hard. Even in the face of adversity, these men persevered

and did not back down or act like victims."

William A. Lee was the longest-serving President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, serving in this capacity from 1946 to 1984. He dedicated his life to improving the lives of working people by strengthening the Labor Movement, and promoting other like-minded civic and community service issues.

This year's winners include Matthew Armenta (member of UFCW Local 881), Esterah Brown (daughter of Ironworkers Local 1 member), Abigail Dasbach (daughter of IATSE Local 476 member), Samantha Hendrickson (daughter of West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571 member), Miriam Hyman (daughter of AFGE Local 704 member), Lindsey Jackson (daughter of Iron

Workers Local 1 member), Alec Molve (son of IBEW Local 15 member), Kelly Richards (daughter of Chicago Fire Fighters Union Local 2 member), Blair Ripley (daughter of West Suburban Teachers Union, Local 571 member), Rocky Salvo (son of IUOE Local 399 member).



MATTHEW ARMENTA (CENTER), A MEMBER OF UFCW LOCAL 881, STATED IN HIS ESSAY THAT HE SEES THE BENEFITS OF A UNION CONTRACT COMPARED TO HIS FRIENDS WHO WORK IN NONUNION ENVIRONMENTS. "OPEN STORE JOBS GIVE THEM LESS FLEXIBLE HOURS, AND NO SAY ON HOW THEIR JOB IS RUN IN THE WORKPLACE." HE WANTS TO BE A TEACHER WHEN HE GRADUATES FROM COLLEGE. HE IS PICTURED WITH CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER BOB REITER (LEFT) AND PRESIDENT JORGE RAMIREZ (RIGHT).

## Access United Provides Greater Connection to Union Apprenticeship Programs

The Chicago Federation of Labor, in partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, CISCO, the Construction Industry Service Corporation, and the Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council, launched Access United in April, an initiative to expand access to building trades apprenticeship programs to candidates from Chicago's South and West sides.

Access United is designed to assist candidates with identifying, preparing for and applying to apprenticeship programs within the building trades unions throughout Chicago and Cook County. It uses a neighborhood-based model where established community partners of the United Way identify, screen and recruit candidates for union apprenticeship opportunities. These



partners also coordinate supportive services to address the barriers individuals face in accessing employment, with recruitment programs currently running in the neighborhoods of Bronzeville, Austin, Blue Island, and Robbins.

Through the initiative, candidates receive information about apprenticeship programs, application processes and program requirements so that they can choose the

career path that is best suited for their interests. Additionally, Access United provides tutoring resources to prepare applicants for apprenticeship aptitude tests and one-on-one case management to guide them through the application process. Resources are also available through United Way to cover apprenticeship application fees, union initiation fees and other costs associated with entering apprenticeships that can be a barrier for struggling individuals.

In the first few months, Access United has already had success assisting one candidate with joining the Carpenters' apprenticeship program, and is working with 24 additional candidates, many of whom are preparing to apply for apprenticeship programs in the spring.

## Distinguishing Free Press from Fake News

The CFL joined with NABET-CWA Local 41 and the Loyola University Chicago School of Communication to present a panel discussion about attacks on the free press and the propagation of fake news. Craig Dellimore, President of the SAG-AFTRA Chicago Local, moderated a discussion between Chicago-area reporters, photographers, and legal experts.

Panelists included TV anchor/reporter Ariel Gurian (SAG-AFTRA), Chicago Sun-Times reporter Rummana Hussain (Chicago News Guild), WBEZ reporter Michael Puente (SAG-AFTRA), news photographer Raza Siddiqui (NABET-CWA), and Associate Professor and Program Director for the Center for Digital Ethics and Policy at Loyola

University Chicago Bastiaan Vanacker.

The panel discussed the rise of fake news via social media and the changing landscape of news media consumption. They explored how false news stories muddled political debates, altered media narratives and influenced public opinion. They offered thoughts on how to identify and challenge fake news stories online.

The CFL was proud to sponsor the event as part of its ongoing commitment to a healthy free press and to informing the public about important issues affecting Chicago and the nation.

TO WATCH THE COMPLETE BROADCAST OF THE FREE PRESS VS FAKE NEWS PANEL, VISIT [HTTP://CANTV.ORG/WATCH-NOW/FREE-PRESS-VS-FAKE-NEWS/](http://CANTV.ORG/WATCH-NOW/FREE-PRESS-VS-FAKE-NEWS/)



NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER AND CFL DELEGATE RAZA SIDDIQUI (NABET-CWA) DISCUSSING THE RESPONSIBILITY THE MEDIA HAS TO TELL A GOOD AND ACCURATE STORY. PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

## Chicago Jobs with Justice Presents Annual Leadership Awards



JACK DARIN (LEFT), DIRECTOR OF THE SIERRA CLUB OF ILLINOIS, INTRODUCED 2017 CHARLIE HAYES AWARD WINNER BOB REITER. PHOTO: CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

Each year, Chicago Jobs with Justice presents its annual Charlie Hayes Leadership awards to community members who are committed to making life better for working men and women. In 2017, this award was presented to Bob Reiter, CFL Secretary-Treasurer, and Tania Unzueta, Legal and Policy Director of Mijente.

The award is named for Charlie Hayes, a respected union man. He served as the first Executive Vice President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. Additionally, he was the first trade unionist to be elected to Congress, representing the South Side of Chicago for five terms from 1983 to 1993. Throughout his tenure as a Congressman, he was often referred to as the "voice of conscience" because he fought to save federal job training and anti-poverty programs.

Chicago Jobs with Justice is a coalition of labor, faith, and community organizations working together to win campaigns for workers' rights and social and economic justice. It is the only nonprofit organization of its kind leading strategic campaigns and shaping public discourse on every front to build power for working people. They rely heavily on individual donations to help fund their work. To make a donation, visit <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/support-jwj-chicago>.



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# CFL Delegates' Meetings

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

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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