



FederationNews

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Chicago To Hotel Guests: "Hands Off Pants On"

Chicago Federation of Labor and UNITE HERE Local 1 advocate for worker protections against sexual harassment

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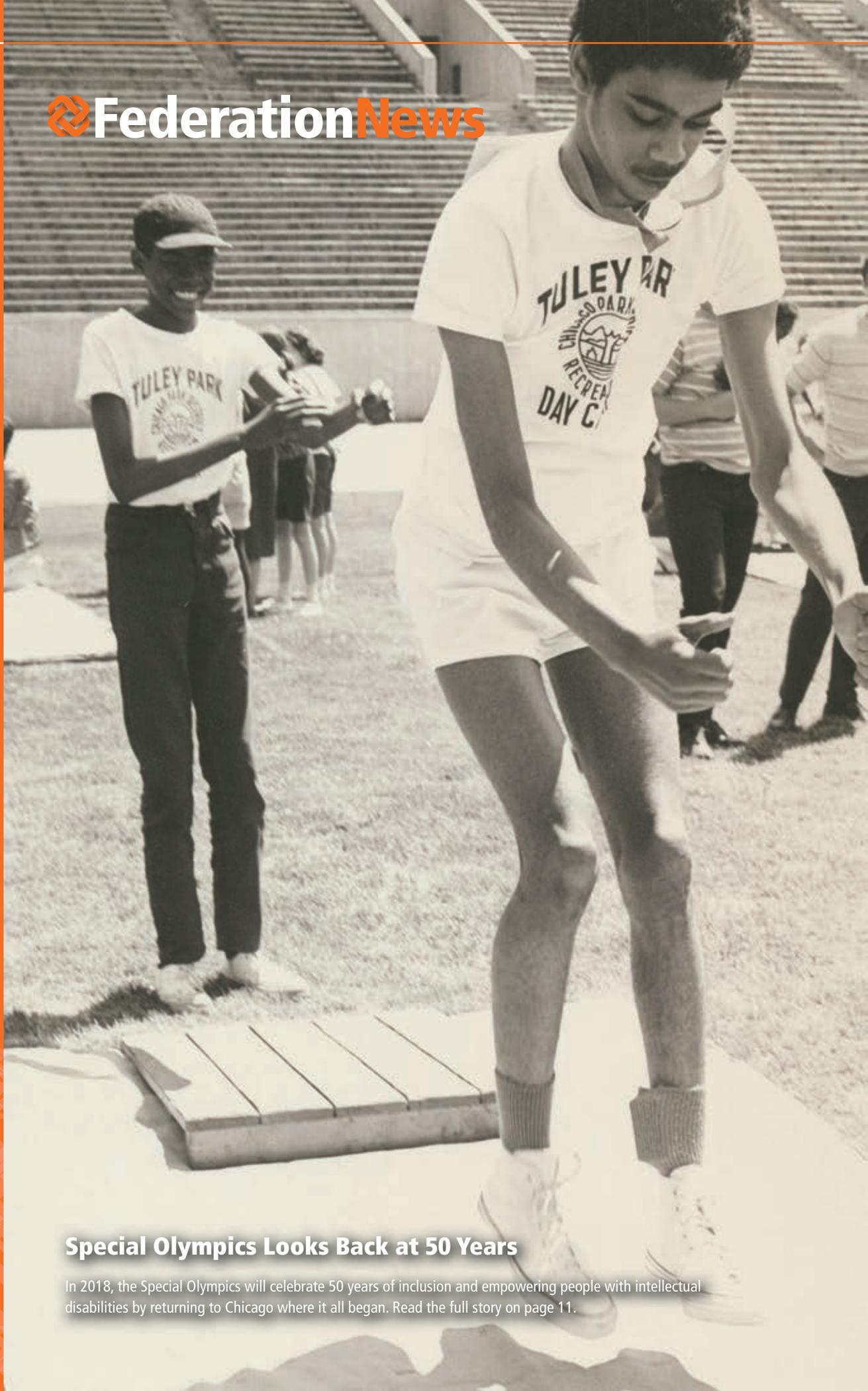
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Special Olympics Looks Back at 50 Years

In 2018, the Special Olympics will celebrate 50 years of inclusion and empowering people with intellectual disabilities by returning to Chicago where it all began. Read the full story on page 11.



President's Report

The end of every year is always a bittersweet time. It is a chance to reflect on what happened over the previous 12 months and to look ahead to what the new year brings.

In 2017, we continued the fight for workers and made substantial gains in the process. We stood up to sexual harassment and assault in the hospitality industry with the passage of the "Hands Off Pants On" ordinance at Chicago City Council. (Read more on page 6.) Our affiliated unions raised money to support individual causes that are important to them, including veteran groups, Easter Seals and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Then we came together to help families in need across the area through the NALC's annual food



drive in May and United Way's United for the Holidays programs in December. (Read more on page 8.) We collaborated with area worker centers in their efforts to organize day laborers on Chicago's Southwest Side. (2017 Issue 1) We broke ground on the CTA's new \$100 million rail car facility on the Southeast Side of Chicago. This new facility will create hundreds of new construction and skilled factory jobs. (2017 Issue 2) Several labor organizations, including the CFL, joined with private investors to purchase the iconic Chicago Sun-Times, the newspaper for Chicago's working class. (2017 Issue 3) We teamed up with CISCO, the Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council, and United Way Metro Chicago to introduce Access United, a program that helps candidates on Chicago's South and West sides identify, apply for, and succeed in apprenticeship programs within the building trades. (2017 Issue 3) But despite all the good we do in our communities, there are forces out there who seek to destroy unions.

In February 2018, the Supreme Court will take up the case *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*. On the surface, this case will determine if public-sector unions can charge "fair share" fees, the amount each member of a bargaining unit must pay to cover the cost associated with representation, to every member within the unit, regardless of their membership status. What this case is really about is the super-rich systematically dismantling the gains unions have won for all working people. They want to take away working people's freedom to join together in strong unions because without unions, corporations will not have to bargain with workers for decent wages, affordable health benefits, safe worksites, time off to care for a loved one and dignity in retirement. If the Supreme Court sides with corporate interests, it could cut off a path to the middle class for millions of Americans, especially minorities and communities of color.

Governor Bruce Rauner filed the original lawsuit against AFSCME Council 31 in an attempt try to weaken the union by banning "fair share" fees in state government. When the federal court struck down Rauner's case because he did not have the legal standing to bring it, Rauner found Mark Janus, a state employee who would allow the legal challenge to proceed in his name.

Whatever the outcome of the *Janus* case, know that our movement is strong and is here to stay, because unions give a voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless. No one person by him or herself is as powerful as we all are together.

Since Governor Rauner took office in 2015, our movement has banned together to overcome his anti-worker and anti-union rhetoric and his blatant attacks on our livelihoods. We stood together and fought off his attempts to pass his so-called Turnaround Agenda both at the state legislature and within local municipalities. We will continue to combat him throughout 2018 and will work hard to elect JB Pritzker Governor of Illinois.


JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT

CFL Teams with Affiliates to Battle So-Called “Right-To-Work”

As Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner and his allies amp up their efforts to push an anti-worker/anti-union agenda, the CFL and its affiliates have formed a committee to combat the propaganda hurting Illinois’ working families, specifically so-called “Right-to-Work” laws.

A vast majority of the general public, as well as many union members, do not truly understand the dangers of so-called “Right-to-Work” laws. The name is a misnomer, intentionally meant to mislead workers into thinking it protects their rights. Instead, these laws take away their freedom to join together and negotiate for a fair return on their work. Real freedom is about more than simply making a living; it’s also about having time to take a loved one to the doctor, attend a conference at your kid’s school and retire in dignity.

Many unions on the CFL’s Anti-Right-to-Work Committee have begun reaching out to their members and the public at large to combat the anti-worker message that RTW brings. For example, the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 have been instrumental to date on educating the public on topics such as RTW and prevailing wage by creating positive messages about what a union contract provides like training and equality.

Visit the CRCC’s website RightToWorkHurts.com and IUOE Local 150’s website fightbackwithbus.com.

Rerum Novarum Awarded to Leader of the Building Trades Council

On Sept. 20, Saint Joseph College Seminary held its annual Seminary Salutes Awards Dinner to honor outstanding leaders in

labor, business and government. Ralph Affrunti, President of the Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council received the labor award from Cardinal Blase Cupich for his outstanding commitment to the men and women of the building trades.

Saint Joseph College Seminary, through the Seminary Salutes event, provides an opportunity to identify Catholics in their fields, who by their example promote the Church’s social teachings.

UAW Locals Continue Their Commitment to The Community

UAW Locals 551 and 588 continue to show their commitment to Chicago’s communities through their UAW/Ford Community Service Team. Once again, the team worked with Blue Cap, a facility in Blue Island that serves the area’s disabled residents. The team

constructed a ramp in front of the home of Dominique, 28, who has Cerebral Palsy. Previously, Dominique’s family would have to carry her up and down five concrete steps each day to get in and out of the house.

“This has been a life-changing experience for the whole family,” Blue Cap writes.

The CFL thanks the UAW/Ford Community Service Team and all of the members of UAW Locals 551 and 588 for this important work. Their commitment shows the best of the labor community here in the Chicago area.

Boy Scouts Present Annual George Meany Award

The Chicago Federation of Labor and the Boy Scouts of America recently honored James Allen, President of the BAC Administrative District Council 1 of Illinois, with the 2017 AFL-CIO George Meany Award. Allen received this award for his



DOMINIQUE WILL GAIN INDEPENDENCE THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF UAW LOCALS 551 AND 588 AND THE UAW/FORD COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM.



RALPH AFFRONTI (CENTER) RECEIVED THE RERUM NOVARUM AWARD FROM ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE SEMINARY. PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: VERY REV. PETER SNIEG (ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE SEMINARY), CARDINAL BLASE CUPICH, RALPH AFFRONTI, DEBRA AFFRONTI, RALPH’S WIFE, AND JORGE RAMIREZ (CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR).

dedication to the working families in the union trades and his service to the greater community.

Allen is a third-generation bricklayer; he has worked as both a bricklayer and a certified welder in the residential and commercial markets in the Chicago area. After working his way up through the ranks, including serving as President of Local 21, he was named President of the District Council in 2004.

The George Meany Award is a national recognition approved by the AFL-CIO Executive Council to acknowledge union members who have made a significant contribution to the youth of their communities by volunteering in the programs of the BSA.

Two Labor Leaders Honored by Peggy Browning Fund

Each year, the Peggy Browning Fund recognizes outstanding leaders across the country for their achievements on behalf of workers. In 2017, the Peggy Browning Fund's Chicago Awards Reception honored James Connolly, Business Manager of Chicago Laborers' District Council and CFL Board member, and Craig Rosenbaum, Esq.,

Executive Director & General Counsel for the Chicago News Guild.

Connolly has been a proud member of Laborers Local 4 for over 45 years. Every day, he proudly serves and fights to improve the lives of the 20,000 men and women who comprise the membership of the 15 LiUNA Locals throughout the nine counties of northeastern Illinois.

Craig Rosenbaum is a mentor and member of the Peggy Browning Fund's Advisory Board. He has mentored well over 30 legal interns over the past 18 years—many of whom are practicing labor law today.

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.

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



PHOTO: PEGGY BROWNING FUND

2017 PEGGY BROWNING FUND HONOREES (L TO R): STANLEY EISENSTEIN, ESQ., KATZ, FRIEDMAN, EAGLE, EISENSTEIN, JOHNSON & BARECK, PC; JAMES P. CONNOLLY, CHICAGO LABORERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL; AND CRAIG ROSENBAUM, ESQ., CHICAGO NEWS GUILD, PICTURED WITH RICH BREAN, UNITED STEELWORKERS.

Chicagoland Unions Participate in National Apprenticeship Week

In November, several unions and programs across Chicago participated in National Apprenticeship Week, a week the U.S. Department of Labor has dedicated to celebrate and champion apprenticeship programs across the country. Local programs use this time to promote access to apprenticeship opportunities in the area. Led by CISCO, the Construction Industry Service Corporation, many unions offered information sessions, open houses and tours promoting their programs.

Open houses were held by two CFL-affiliated unions. The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters held an initial open house on Nov. 15, but quickly added another one on Nov. 16 to accommodate the abundance of registrants. Attendees were treated to a tour of the Carpenters Regional Training Center in Elk Grove Village, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, and their state-of-the-art training facilities. After the tour, the Carpenters Apprentice Training Program presented a program focused on life as an apprentice, and they told prospective candidates about the many benefits of their apprenticeship program.

Painters District Council 14 held their open house on Nov. 17 at their training center in Berkley, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. Visitors toured the facilities at the Painters and Drywall Finishers Apprenticeship Program, which included trade demonstrations and opportunities to meet with instructors and apprentices. The event drew a large crowd of interested candidates, community organizations and educators.

Access United, a partnership between the CFL, CISCO, Chicago-Cook Building Trades Council, and United Way of Metro Chicago, also used the week to promote trade apprenticeships. Access United candidates received information about open houses and were encouraged to participate and apply to programs. United Way also participated in public outreach via Twitter, helping to inform the public of these great opportunities. Access United is an important part of the CFL's commitment to support trade apprenticeship programs throughout the Chicagoland region.

The local success of National Apprenticeship Week would not be possible without the committed leadership of CISCO and their essential role in helping promote these trade programs. The CFL's continued partnership with CISCO, the Chicago-Cook County Building Trades Council and United Way is helping ensure apprenticeship programs are promoted throughout the region.



PHOTO: CISCO

LOCAL RESIDENTS TOUR THE CHICAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS TRAINING CENTER DURING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK.

Chicago To Hotel Guests: “Hands Off Pants On”

On Oct. 5, 2017, the *New York Times* published an article that sent shock waves through the entertainment industry. The story was about a powerful movie producer, Harvey Weinstein, and the allegations of chronic sexual harassment that spanned decades. What happened next could not have been predicted. Women came out of the shadows with stories of harassment at the hands of other powerful players in Hollywood, in government and virtually every other industry. The solidarity continued on social media when the viral #MeToo campaign allowed women to denote their own experiences. The movement was so powerful it generated a national conversation, with *Time Magazine* naming “The Silence Breakers” their 2017 Person of the Year.

About 18 months before any of this came to light, a group of women from UNITE HERE Local 1 participated in a survey that unmasked the widespread sexual harassment that silently plagues the hospitality industry. These brave women went on to publicly share their stories of harassment and saw for the first time that they were not alone.

With the help of the Chicago Federation of Labor and support from Chicago’s labor movement, UNITE HERE Local 1 began the “Hands Off Pants On” campaign, HOPO, to introduce a citywide ordinance to help protect hotel workers from unwanted sexual advances. The ordinance requires hotels to provide a “panic button” to any worker who works in rooms alone, such as guest rooms or restrooms. They must develop, maintain and comply with a written anti-sexual harassment policy, which includes allowing workers to leave the area of perceived danger. It also prohibits hotels from retaliating against workers for reporting harassment or assault by a guest, or exercising any right afforded by the ordinance.

“When City Council passed the ordinance, the cheer from the hotel workers in the room was full of joy, relief and pride,” said UNITE HERE Local 1 President Karen Kent. “We began this campaign listening to the stories of hundreds of women working in Chicago hotels about their experiences of sexual harassment and assault by guests. With this victory, we are breaking the ‘Sisterhood of Silence.’ Our members have expressed how empowering it feels to know that the Chicago labor movement and the city of Chicago have their backs.”

History

In early 2016, UNITE HERE Local 1 surveyed nearly 500 female members to understand the culture of harassment they face on the job. The study showed that female hotel and casinos workers face a high level of sexual harassment, mainly from male guests:

- 58 percent of hotel workers and 77 percent of casino workers said they were sexually harassed by a guest.¹
- 49 percent of hotel housekeepers said guests had exposed themselves, flashed them or answered the door naked.²

According to the report, “Some women explained that they chose not to report some sexual harassment because inappropriate guest behavior is so frequent and widespread, it ‘feels normal’ or they had become ‘immune’ to it.”³

Changing the Law to Change the Culture

After the leadership at UNITE HERE Local 1 processed the results of the survey, Kent contacted CFL President Jorge Ramirez to engage the larger movement in this fight.

“When Karen called, it wasn’t a matter of if we would get involved, but how,” said Ramirez. “Every day, the labor movement fights for dignity and respect in the workplace, and every worker’s right to a safe and secure work environment. No one should ever have to know what this kind of abuse feels like.”

The first step was creating a video to raise awareness of the problem. Ramirez and several male labor leaders read quotes from housekeepers and wait staff about their experiences with workplace harassment. To date, the video has been viewed more than 118,000 times.

“Filming this video was an eye-opening experience for all of us involved,” said Ramirez. “If we as a country are going to stop this type of behavior from happening, then we as men need to stand up and speak out against it.”

In early 2017, the CFL and UNITE HERE Local 1 approached 8th Ward Alderman Michelle Harris about an ordinance to help protect all Chicago hotel workers—union and nonunion—from sexual harassment and assault. Alderman Harris introduced HOPO

at the April 19 City Council meeting, and over the next few months, Alderman Harris, the CFL and UNITE HERE Local 1 worked with city officials to finalize the language. In all, 18 Aldermen cosponsored the ordinance. The ordinance passed out of the Committee on Workforce Development on Oct. 2 and was approved by City Council on Oct. 11.

Afterward, Alderman Harris stated, “I’m proud and humbled to have helped make this ordinance a reality today. These workers are our friends and neighbors and deserve to feel safe at their jobs.”

Cecilia, a Chicago hotel worker and member of UNITE HERE Local 1, added, “To know I can easily call for help if something happens will be such a relief. I’m here today not just for myself but for my co-workers. We deserve to be treated with respect and to feel safe at work.”

“Unfortunately, sexual harassment leaves victims feeling too embarrassed and humiliated to want to talk about it with others,” said CFL Director of Political & Legislative Affairs Bridget Early. “While it took us 12 months to get this ordinance passed, my hope is women in cities across the country will see what we have done here and have the courage to start making changes where they live and work.”

Moving Forward

Since the passage of the citywide ordinance, UNITE HERE Local 1 has heard from women across all industries. They are working with their sister locals across the country to move similar laws within local and statewide municipalities.

“We have received a huge amount of support,” said Sarah Lyons, lead researcher on the HOPO survey. “HOPO is about real, concrete protections for hotel workers. It is also about creating a culture shift, where women are supported when they stand up and speak out. With so many women coming forward in Hollywood, at state houses, and many other workplaces, we are at crossroads: How do we create systemic change? The HOPO win is a testament to how organizing collectively can help transform an industry.”

THE REPORT & VIDEO ARE AT HANDSOFFPANTSON.ORG

¹ PAGE 4

² PAGE 5

³ PAGE 8



PHOTO: UNITE HERE LOCAL 1



PHOTO: UNITE HERE LOCAL 1



PHOTO: CFL

ABOVE LEFT: CFL PRESIDENT JORGE RAMIREZ SPEAKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "HANDS OFF PANTS ON" ORDINANCE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 19. HE IS JOINED BY FELLOW SPEAKERS ESTHELA, A MEMBER OF UNITE HERE LOCAL 1 AND "HOPO" ADVOCATE, (SECOND FROM RIGHT) AND 8TH WARD ALDERMAN MICHELLE HARRIS (FAR RIGHT). FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, ALDERMAN HARRIS INTRODUCED THE "HOPO" ORDINANCE AT CITY COUNCIL.

ABOVE RIGHT: 8TH WARD ALDERMAN MICHELLE HARRIS (LEFT) AND CITY CLERK ANNA VALENCIA (RIGHT) CUT A CAKE AT CITY HALL ON NOV. 14, 2017, TO KICK-OFF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "HOPO" ORDINANCE.

LEFT: CFL PRESIDENT JORGE RAMIREZ (RIGHT) STOPPED IN TO TALK WITH THE FOX 32 CHICAGO MORNING TEAM, SCOTT SCHNEIDER AND ANITA PADILLA, ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE AND CHICAGO'S NEW "HOPO" ORDINANCE.

BELOW: REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNITE HERE LOCAL 1 CELEBRATE THE "HOPO" ORDINANCE PASSING THE CITY'S COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ON OCT. 2. WITH THE APPROVAL OF THIS COMMITTEE, THE ORDINANCE MOVED TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL FOR A VOTE.



PHOTO: UNITE HERE LOCAL 1

Feature Stories

The CFL Executive Board Welcomes New Faces

The Chicago Federation of Labor is proud to welcome two new members to its Executive Board: Greg Kelley, President of SEIU Healthcare, and Robert O'Toole, President of UFCW Local 1546.

Greg Kelley (SEIU Healthcare) is the first African American to head the largest SEIU local union in the Midwest. SEIU Healthcare represents 90,000 healthcare, child care, nursing home and home healthcare workers in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas. Kelley's 20-plus years of labor experience includes working in the Cook County Clerk's office, where he organized his co-workers to improve workplace conditions prior to becoming an organizer at SEIU Local 46. Currently, Kelley also is a member of SEIU's International Executive Board.

Robert O'Toole (UFCW Local 1546) began his union membership in 1984 while working as a stock clerk at a local retail drug store that was represented by the UFCW. He moved from there to the warehousing and distribution center where in addition to his job responsibilities, he served as a Union Steward for several years. In 1996, O'Toole launched his career in the labor movement as he became a Union Representative. He later served as the Recorder for Local 1546 before becoming President. O'Toole has extensive experience in representing members, organizing and negotiating contracts. In addition to his responsibilities as President he also serves on the boards of three Health and Welfare Funds (two as Chairman) and two Pension Funds (one as Chairman).

"We are proud to welcome these distinguished leaders to the CFL Executive Board," said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. "Our movement is strong when we have diverse voices represented at the table. Both Greg and Bob show a strong commitment to their members and advancing the labor movement as a whole. I look forward to working with each of them in the coming years."

SNAPSHOTS



IN NOVEMBER, THE CFL COSPONSORED A LIVE BROADCAST OF THE THOM HARTMANN PROGRAM ON WCPT 820 AM. PICTURED (L TO R): RYAN KELLY (IAM LOCAL 126), ED MAHER (IUOE LOCAL 150), THOM HARTMANN, AND CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER BOB REITER.

Lights! Camera! Activism!

SAG-AFTRA member helps lives on and off the screen

"Joy Billings. 44-year-old female. Triple zero. GSW to the chest. 18 gauge IV in the right AC. No drugs given for protocol."

While the average person may not know what that means, for Courtney Rioux, a seven-year member of SAG-AFTRA, the union that represents actors, announcers, broadcast journalists, recording artists, and voiceover artists, among others, it's just another day on the set of Chicago Med.

"After all these episodes, I am used to all the technical medical jargon," said Rioux. "What's tough is when I have a lot of lines and a short period of time to say them. If I'm going to a room in the back of the [Emergency Department], it's fine. But when I've got two paragraphs, and we're going from the entrance to the first room in the ED, that's when it's tough. My mind has to work in overdrive, and I have to speak quickly!"

Since 2014, Rioux has appeared on the "Chicago" series of shows produced by Dick Wolf, which includes Chicago Fire, Chicago PD and Chicago Med.

"My first TV job was a paramedic on Chicago Fire, and then they used me as a paramedic on Chicago PD. Then Chicago Med started using me. Now that I've been a recurring character on Chicago Med for three seasons, they gave my character a name. I'm Paramedic Courtney, which makes it pretty easy to remember," she joked.

When Rioux arrives on set, she signs in and goes to her trailer to put her costume on before heading to hair and makeup. From there, she waits to be called to set.

"The actors have rehearsal with the director, then with the camera crew to find out where the cameras are going to be and what marks we need to hit as we move around the set," she said. "Then we head back to our trailers while the crew sets the lights, the sets, the cameras. We shoot the scene a few times as a wide shot first. Then they move the



cameras around to do close-ups on individual characters. So, we run the same scene over and over until they get everything they need. It could take three hours or ten hours to shoot one scene, which might only last a minute or so in the episode."

Rioux earned her first union card through the Screen Actors Guild, while working on a series of demo commercials for a household cleanser. Her first AFTRA job came as an extra on Saturday Night Live.

"In New York and LA, extra work on tv shows are under the SAG-AFTRA contract. I did a couple of those jobs on SNL and started earning points toward my AFTRA card. When I came back to Chicago and booked a radio commercial, that's when I officially got my card."

She continued, "I never made a living as an actor until I joined SAG-AFTRA. Not only did it raise my wages as an actor, but there was a different feeling of respect on set. That's when I felt for the first time that I was a professional."

Rioux knew she wanted to join SAG-AFTRA early. Union membership runs in her family, so she knew a union contract would benefit her throughout her career. Her father and grandfather were both members of the Carpenters union, and two of her aunts worked for one of the locals. Her uncle, Richard "Buzz"

Rioux, is a former president of IBEW Local 134, and her cousin is a partner at a labor law firm in Chicago.

"Unfortunately, there are actors who would do this work for little to no money just to get themselves out there," Rioux stated. "They don't understand the effect it can have on the industry as a whole. It would be a race to the bottom if not for the standards that are laid out in the contract for both the actors and the production companies. Thanks to our contract, there is a designated place for actors to get dressed out of view, and an appropriate place for hair and makeup. We also have hourly minimums and scheduled breaks. Through the union we get health insurance and a pension. There's also safety guidelines while on set, thanks to our union. You don't think about how dangerous a set really can be, and unfortunately, actors, especially stunt people, can get hurt if proper procedures aren't followed. There are so many things that most of us wouldn't even think about today because they are rights the union already fought for and continue to preserve. Those kinds of things are really important to ensure we as actors don't get taken advantage of. And I haven't even talked about other perks like the free workshops and classes SAG-AFTRA offers."

While Rioux has been a member since 2010,

she did not get actively involved with her union until 2014. That's when the union asked her to participate in a workshop that teaches Taft-Hartley actors, nonunion actors who are eligible to join SAG-AFTRA, about the benefits of union membership. From there, she joined the committee that plans these events and then the Communications Committee. In July 2017, she was elected to a two-year term on the Chicago Local's Board.

"I didn't know that I could or should be involved in any way other than paying my dues," she said. "I like being involved in the union because every time I go to a meeting for anything, I learn so much about my own business as an actor, about the union, the rights we have, what the contracts cover. But it also feels really good to give back to something that has given me so much in my career. I recommend to everyone to get involved in your unions, whatever industry it's in, because you never know what you're going to learn, what experience you will have, or who you are going to meet."

CAPTION: COURTNEY RIOUX SHARES A SCENE WITH CHICAGO P.D. STAR JASON BEGHE, WHO PLAYS HANK VOIGHT.

CHICAGO MED AIRS TUESDAYS ON NBC 10/9 CENTRAL

PHOTO: NBC

Chicago Federation of Labor's Donation to "For the Love of Lee" Helps Families in Need

As part of the Chicago Federation of Labor's annual Labor Day event, CFL President Jorge Ramirez highlighted programs local unions work with and contribute to that are making a difference within the surrounding communities. During his speech, Ramirez reported the CFL Executive Board would make a \$25,000 donation to the organization For the Love of Lee.

For the Love of Lee is a nonprofit organization started by Margarita and Jaime Rivera after their son Lee was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Their story was captured in Season 4, Episode 2 of *Built to Last* on ABC 7. When Lee was diagnosed, the Riveras knew they needed to rehab their house to make it safe and accessible for their son. Despite their best efforts, they were not able to complete the necessary repairs and reached out to the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters for help. The Carpenters, along with the Chicago Laborers District Council's Locals and Training Center, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Painters District Council 14 and Plumbers Local 130, helped transform the house to fit Lee's needs. Following this incredible generosity, For the Love of Lee focused its mission on assisting other families with children whose illnesses result in substantial financial hardships.

In the weeks following Labor Day 2017, Keith Jutkins, Assistant to the President of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, and Jose Maldonado, Financial Secretary for Carpenters Local 54, presented the CFL's \$25,000 check to Margarita, Jaime, and Lee to benefit the For the Love of Lee foundation. Two more families were helped, thanks to this donation.



PHOTO: CHICAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JOSE MALDONADO, CARPENTERS LOCAL 54, MARGARITA RIVERA, FOR THE LOVE OF LEE, AND KEITH JUTKINS, CHICAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS.

Chicago Area Unions Give Back Through United Way's United For The Holidays Program

Each holiday season, United Way of Metro Chicago holds an annual holiday drive to make the holidays brighter for families in need throughout Chicagoland. Building on the success of their annual Adopt-a-Family program, United Way transformed the program into a family resource fair, called United for the Holidays, that celebrates community and service in the South Chicago Neighborhood Network. Chicago-area unions were major funders of this important event, contributing over \$11,500 in donations and hundreds of toys to serve the needs of 500 community residents.

United for the Holidays was held blocks from the historic Steelworkers Park in South Chicago. Families from the neighborhood were given the chance to choose from a wide assortment of coats, hats, gloves and scarves. Additionally, each child that attended the event received two toys.

Donations and sponsorships from 22 unions and their representatives, including the CFL, were used to purchase coats, grocery stores gift cards, and family essentials, such as diapers, to give to local families in need. Elevator Constructors Local 2 and Rona Pileggi Spano (OPEIU Local 277), CFL's 2017 Woman of the Year, contributed a combined donation of 600 toys to the event. The toys were a huge hit and helped spread holiday joy to kids in the South Chicago neighborhood.

"This effort of solidarity is an excellent demonstration of the ways that local labor unions work to give back and support local



PHOTO: UNITED WAY OF METRO CHICAGO

MORE THAN 100 FAMILIES PICKED OUT COATS, SCARVES AND OTHER WINTER APPAREL DURING THE UNITED WAY'S UNITED FOR THE HOLIDAYS RESOURCE FAIR. OVER 20 CFL-AFFILIATED UNIONS DONATED MORE THAN \$11,000 TO THE EVENT.

communities," said CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter. "Labor has always enjoyed an active, collaborative relationship with the United Way because building strong communities is a responsibility everyone should share. Thank you to all our affiliated unions that made the holidays brighter for hundreds of community residents by participating in this important program."

Chicago Welcomes Special Olympics Home for Its 50th Anniversary Celebration

Since 1968, Special Olympics has provided people with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to share their talents and at the same time, it has changed the way the world views this special group of people. That was the first time 1,000 athletes from 26 states and Canada came to Chicago to participate in the inaugural Special Olympics games.

The idea for Special Olympics came from Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who at the time was a P.E. teacher with the Chicago Park District. William McFetridge, who at the time was President of the Chicago Park District, and President of SEIU Local 1 and SEIU International, asked her to create a program that would bring more of Chicago's children with intellectual disabilities out of the shadow and to the parks. The reality of the Special Olympics was championed and supported by Eunice Shriver, the sister of former President John F. Kennedy, and Chicago's labor movement.

Burke's vision for the Special Olympics Summer Games required considerable financial and operational support. Knowing that, Burke and McFetridge solicited Shriver's

assistance, and they received a donation of \$25,000 from the Shriver Foundation. When Burke and McFetridge solicited the corporate world, potential sponsors felt a program like this would inappropriately put these kids on display and turned Burke down. But, Burke remained undaunted because she knew that with each effort she put forth, she got closer to bringing these boys and girls out of the shadows. Instead, she turned to organized labor for much needed help.

"Justice Burke had a vision all those years ago, and labor shared in that vision," said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. "Labor knows that while some may try to limit our opportunities as individuals, nothing moves our communities forward like the power of coming together. We understand our shared responsibility to our community, and it all started right here in our back yard at Soldier Field. Without any fanfare or recognition, labor stepped up in 1968 to ensure these games were a success because that's what organized labor does."

Over the last 50 years, the Special Olympics has become an international

program built on inclusion and empowerment that started at Chicago's Soldier Field. In July 2018, the world will come together once again in Chicago to celebrate the first 50 years and to launch the movement into the future. The Chicago Federation of Labor is proud to be a "Co-Chair" level sponsor for the 2018 games and encourages all of its affiliates, friends, and community partners to participate in the exciting events that will take place July 17-21.

"I will consider these games a success for Chicago if Chicagoans come out and support it," said Ramirez. "Illinois is currently ranked 49th out of the 50 states in the level of assistance it provides people with intellectual disabilities. While labor is working with Springfield to make legislative changes to ensure Illinois is a leader in this arena, here is our chance to show the world that Chicago is a leader in acceptance and inclusion. I hope everyone will make it a priority to come to at least one event throughout the week."

Special Olympics 50th Anniversary Celebration Events

July 17-20 Unified Football Cup

The inaugural Special Olympics Unified Cup soccer competition will team people with and without intellectual disabilities from all over the world. A total of 24 teams, 16 men's teams and eight women's teams, will compete. Preliminary matches will be held at the CIBC Fire Pitch in Chicago, with the championship taking place at Toyota Park in Bridgeview, Ill. ESPN will broadcast the Finals game, marking the first time a Special Olympics event will be broadcast nationally.



PHOTO: CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

July 20 Law Enforcement Torch Run/ Eternal Flame Lighting Ceremony

Since Chicago's Soldier Field is the birthplace of the Special Olympics, it is fitting that Chicago will be the permanent home for the Eternal Flame. The Flame of Hope is carried by Special Olympians and supporters ahead of the Opening Ceremony for Special Olympics state, national, Regional and World Games. Previously, the flame for the World Games came from Athens, Greece. Moving forward, the Flame of Hope will be lit in Chicago and transported around the world.

At the start of the Unified Cup championship game, members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run will light the cauldron at Toyota Park. After the game ends, hundreds of law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes from around the world will carry the Olympic Flame from Toyota Park to Soldier Field where a ceremony will be held to dedicate a permanent monument for the Eternal Flame of Hope.



July 21 Global Day of Inclusion

Special Olympics will hold a festival of inclusion at Soldier Field that will serve as the spark for people around the world to commit to making their cities more inclusive. This family-friendly festival will offer sports, games, exhibits, food offerings, and live entertainment. That evening, a star-studded concert will take place at Huntington Bank Pavilion at Northerly Island.



PHOTO: CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT



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CFL Delegates' Meetings

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Tuesday, May 1, 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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