

FEDERATION NEWS

Issue 2 | 2021



A SHOT IN THE ARM

CFL clinics vaccinate
thousands of Chicagoland
union members

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On the Cover

A union member is vaccinated at a CFL clinic on April 6, 2021

Photo: CFL

Federation News is a quarterly publication of the Chicago Federation of Labor ©2021

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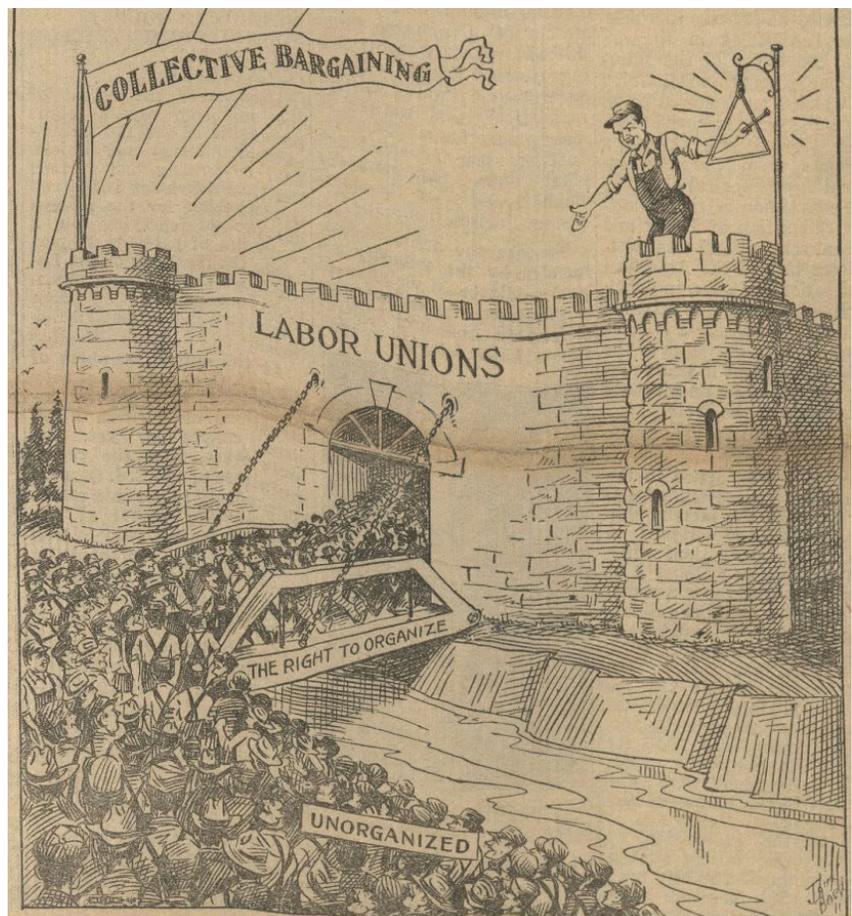
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125 Years of Organizing Chicago Workers

For 125 years, the CFL has supported organizing campaigns throughout Cook County. Here's an editorial cartoon from a 1937 edition of *The Federation News* supporting organizing. Visit [CFLOrganize.org](https://www.cflorganize.org) to learn more about the CFL's organizing efforts, and search the hashtag #CFL125 on social media to see more content from our archives!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the Biden administration ramped up vaccine distribution across the country, Chicago union workers have led the way in getting vaccinated. With the vaccine now accessible to all, it will be even more important to encourage our fellow Chicagoans to get vaccinated, so as the summer continues, we can see more of our workers back on the job.

In April, the CFL was proud to lead the way in vaccinations for union members. In collaboration with the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois, the CFL hosted several mass vaccination clinics across the Chicagoland area that were aimed at union essential workers who live and work in the city of Chicago, Cook County, and the broader Northeast Illinois region. We vaccinated nearly 5,000 union members as part of these efforts, the first in the nation to be run by the labor movement for union members. Yet again, Chicago union members are demonstrating that we are the backbone of the city and the heart of the American Labor movement.

Union members have sacrificed their lives and livelihoods throughout this pandemic to keep our city, state, and nation moving. Illinois has made great progress in vaccinating its residents ahead of the goals

set out by the Biden administration. It is because of the efforts of Chicago's unions that so many workers are now protected from COVID-19. If we keep this up, we can move past this pandemic once and for all.



However, now is not the time to take our foot off of the gas.

This summer will be critical in our city's vaccination timeline.

With all Illinoisans eligible to receive the vaccine and our city and state on to Phase Five reopening, we have to encourage our friends and family to make a plan to get vaccinated if they have not done so already. Labor has shown up from the start, and we will continue to show up and lead the way in our return to normalcy.

Unions understand the importance of sticking together through to the end of this pandemic, and as one we will lead the way out of this crisis.

Bob Reiter
President

AFFILIATE NEWS



Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Executive Secretary Treasurer Gary Perinar joins state leaders to announce the Tax Fraud Days of Action.

Carpenters Battle Wage Theft and Tax Fraud

On April 7, the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters launched an aggressive campaign to raise public awareness about pervasive tax fraud in the construction industry and called on elected officials to help crack down on subcontractors who cheat the system.

In coordination with the 500,000-member United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, the Chicago Regional Council and its 30,000 hardworking men and women stood up and joined workers across North America for 'Tax Fraud Days of Action' from April 13 to 16. The Council planned numerous events across the state that included appearances by the Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer and other statewide

officials to clearly explain how much tax revenue and insurance compensation the State of Illinois is losing because tax fraud has been left unchecked.

"Construction industry tax fraud affects ever man, woman and child in Illinois," said Gary Perinar, Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters. "Every time an unscrupulous contractor cheats the system and doesn't pay the state what they owe, that means less money in the public coffers for education, public safety, healthcare and other essential services. We're calling on our elected officials at the local, state and federal levels to hold cheating contractors accountable and help ease the burden on taxpayers."

In the construction industry, tax fraud most often comes in two forms: paying employees in cash, and purposely misclassifying

employees as independent contractors. When this occurs, the state loses out on key revenue because cheating contractors are not paying income taxes, employment taxes for Social Security and Medicare, and contributions for workers' compensation and unemployment insurance.

A recent study from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute said 20 percent of construction workers in Illinois are victims of payroll fraud. Factoring in lost wages and benefits, this cost the state \$186 million in lost revenue in 2018.

Article submitted by the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters

Jewel Transportation Workers Ratify New Contract

On April 9, the Teamsters Local 710 members who work in the Transportation division of the Jewel Food Stores Distribution Center in Melrose Park, Ill. ratified a new five-year agreement with over 72 percent voting to accept the new tentative agreement.

The Transportation members voted to reject the original tentative agreement on March 22, and the union and the company resumed negotiations to continue bargaining on April 1.

"We made it clear to the employer at the bargaining table that the original tentative agreement had some problematic areas, and



On April 15, arts educators and facilitators from The Second City-Chicago celebrated the announcement by the National Labor Relations Board that workers have overwhelmingly (95 percent) voted to form a union, the Association of International Comedy Educators (AICE).

“From this day forward, our educators have an official means to work with management that parallels the impact they have on our students,” said Taylor Walters-Chapman, a four-year acting program teacher. “We are so ready to build this new relationship in which the The Second City faculty, facilitators, and musical directors are instrumental in upholding the integrity of this institution and advocating for the next generation of talent and teachers alike.”

The Chicago-based AICE members are now affiliates of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, a state chapter of the American Federation of Teachers/AFL-CIO.

“We are excited to welcome the incredible

comedy educators from The Second City-Chicago into the Illinois Federation of Teachers,” said IFT President Dan Montgomery. “As members of the Association of International Comedy Educators and IFT/AFT, these professionals will now have the powerful voice they deserve to make improvements in their workplace for themselves, their students, and the famed institution they love. It’s a win for everyone at The Second City.”

The Second City boasts stages and training centers in three cities, including the original Chicago location, as well as in Toronto and Hollywood. In February, more than 100 comedy educators in Toronto voted to join AICE and the Communications Workers of America (CWA)-Canada. On April 7, educators and facilitators at The Second City-Hollywood location also voted to join AICE and are now represented by CWA Local #9400.

Article submitted by the Illinois Federation of Teachers

the members enforced that when they strongly rejected it,” said Teamsters Local 710 Secretary-Treasurer Mike Cales. “There were only a handful of issues to still address, and they were near and dear to the members. We had some productive dialogue with Jewel, and the union was successful in securing additional protections for the rank and file.”

Improvements to the latest agreement centered around the employer’s use of onboard cameras. The new language limits the use of audio recordings, reduces discipline arising from the cameras, and driving behaviors with regard to the cameras will be a topic of discussion with the joint Safety Committee so the union can stay on top of those issues.

“Our Jewel brothers on the committee did an outstanding job throughout these very difficult negotiations,” said Cales. “This was no easy task, and while you’ll never get everything you want at the bargaining table, we were still able to win strong improvements across the board for our Transportation members. Now the real work begins. This Local is committed to continue to hold Jewel’s feet to the fire as we enforce this new agreement and ensure our members are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace.”

Article submitted by the Teamsters Local 710

Educators at Chicago’s Famed Second City Win Union Election



PROTECTING CHICAGO'S HEROES

CFL vaccination clinics bring
COVID-19 vaccine directly to
union members

Union members receive the
COVID-19 vaccine during
the CFL vaccination clinic
on April 6, 2021.



The advantages of unionization have long been tied to better wages, dignity on the job, and expanded benefits. In Chicago, union members added one more advantage to the growing list: the COVID-19 vaccine.

In late March, the city announced vaccine eligibility would enter Phase 1C, expanding eligibility to Chicagoans aged 16-64 with underlying medical conditions, as well as all other essential workers who had not qualified during Phase 1B. With a large portion of union members falling into this category, the Chicago Federation of Labor jumped into action to get essential workers vaccinated.

“Many of our affiliates were frustrated with the fact that most union members were put into the 1C category, even though these women and men remained on the job throughout the pandemic,” said CFL Assistant to the President/Chief of Staff Nora Cay Ryan. “We knew that when the 1C category became eligible, it would be critical to have a union-run program to ensure we were vaccinating as many members as quickly as possible.”

Top leadership at the city and state level acknowledged the value of partnering with Labor, and with their cooperation, the CFL opened its very own union-led COVID-19 vaccination clinic on Monday, March 29 at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 399.

“Unions are trusted messengers and dedicated advocates for thousands of Chicago’s essential workers, and this collaboration will ensure that workers with the highest need will have access to the vaccine as we enter Phase 1C,” said city of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. “I want to thank the Chicago Federation of Labor for their partnership, which will help to reduce vaccine hesitancy, support our equity goals and put our city on a path to true recovery from this terrible pandemic.”

The CFL’s vaccine program had the capacity to handle approximately 1,200 vaccinations a week—with 1,185 shots administered to union members at the first clinic. The system was unlike any other. Its layout allowed for 100 chairs to be spaced out throughout the large union hall where 50 people could get vaccinated every 15 minutes. “This vaccination site is one of a kind,” said CFL President Bob Reiter. “It is the first in the country that is run by the labor movement specifically for union members. Two thirds of our members are



Vice President Kamala Harris (left) talks with SEIU Local 1 member Lucio Polanco (seated) as he receives his COVID-19 vaccination.

Black and Brown workers, and we must do everything we can to get this vaccine into arms as quickly as possible... Today is a new beginning, a huge step forward out of the darkness of the past year toward a brighter future.”

And these union-led efforts did not go unnoticed. The following week, the CFL welcomed Vice President Kamala Harris, alongside Mayor Lightfoot, Gov. J.B. Pritzker, U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, and U.S. Rep. Danny Davis at IUOE Local 399. During her special visit, Vice President Harris toured the vaccination site and praised the effort.

“I came to say thank you,” said Vice President

Harris. “Because this site is a model for the rest of the country, a safe place to come where the dignity of work is recognized... We see light at the end of the tunnel because we’ve gone through so much as a nation.”

“You know the power of the collective. You know the importance and the strength of people standing together,” she said. “We’re all here to make a statement that we understand the significance of getting vaccinated, that it’s bigger than us” adding that now more than ever it is critical that union members reach out to their friends and family to encourage them to get vaccinated.

STILL NEED TO GET VACCINATED?

Visit vaccines.gov to find your closest vaccine location and make your appointment today!

“Please help us. Tell your friends and your family members and your co-workers when it’s their time to get vaccinated, remind people of their power to do something that will save their lives,” Harris said. “The people who carry the most weight are our peers, the people we respect. So I’m here to ask you to do a little bit more and help us, so we can truly get back up on our feet.”

And workers who have stood on the frontlines since the pandemic began understand not only the importance of getting vaccinated, but also the importance of banding together to protect one another.

“I am out there every day with the members,” said John Rule, a Teamsters Local 710 member. “I caught COVID back in early November. Thank God I didn’t have any real problems, but the wife was in the hospital... Just get it done.”

“It’s important to get the vaccine, not just for you, but for other people,” said Slick Jorgensen, member of IATSE Local 2, who has

been out of work since the pandemic began 15 months ago. “The more vaccinations we get, the more potential we have to open our venues—to at least some capacity—if not full capacity. That’ll mean our work comes back, and people can get back to concert season, ballets, shows, all of that. The more people get the vaccine, the closer we are to getting back on the job.”

Over the course of six clinics, the CFL

vaccinated nearly 5,000 members.

“What made our program so successful is it was for union members by union members,” said Ryan. “We teamed up with the pharmacists at Jewel-Osco, all of whom are represented by either Teamsters Local 727 or UFCW Local 881, to distribute to vaccine. We also teamed up with IUOE Local 399 and Plumbers Local 130, both in Chicago, and Cement Masons Local 502 in

Bellwood, Ill. to use their union halls to run these clinics. It really took the combined efforts of so many people and organizations to bring this program to life.”

“Chicago’s union workers have sacrificed their lives and livelihoods to keep this city moving during this unimaginable crisis,” said Reiter.

“Unions work every day to help ensure the health and safety of their members, and we

are proud to have vaccinated thousands of workers in the city of Chicago across dozens of industries, especially Black and Latinx workers who have been hit especially hard by the virus,” said Reiter. “Yet again, Chicago is leading the way for the rest of the nation in standing up for working people. If there is one thing this city can count on—it’s that Chicago’s union women and men will rise to any challenge to keep this city running.”



Union members wait for their vaccine appointments outside of IUOE Local 399.

“[T]his site is a model for the rest of the country, a safe place to come where the dignity of work is recognized”

**- Vice President
Kamala Harris**

Visit the CFL’s website at chicagolabor.org or the CFL’s social media channels

@ChicagoLabor on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for photos and videos of the CFL’s vaccination clinics as well as more from Vice President Kamala Harris’ visit to Chicago.

CFL NEWS

CFL Celebrates the Women of Labor

To mark Women’s History Month and celebrate the hardworking women of labor, the CFL held its annual Woman of the Year ceremony as well as a virtual panel discussion about the impact of the pandemic on women workers.

At the April 6 CFL Delegates meeting, the CFL honored Carole Pollitz as the 2021 Woman of the Year. She has been a member of IBEW Local 134 for more than 30 years. She began her career in the labor movement as a union apprentice, then continued as Journeyman Wireman/Foreman in the construction field. She then served as an instructor for the IBEW-NECA Apprenticeship.

Pollitz became the first woman Business Representative under the Construction agreement in the history of Local 134 when she was



Panel participants during the April 8 virtual event One Year In: The Impact of the Pandmic on Women

appointed by Business Manager Don Finn in 2015.

Then, on April 8, women leaders from across the movement came together for a virtual event entitled “One Year In: The Impact of the

Pandemic on Women.” The panel discussion explored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and included: Cherita Ellens of Women Employed, Ms. Pollitz, Mamie Pratt of UFCW Local 881 and the Chicago Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Ann Bolden of Painters District Council 14, Roushaunda Williams of UNITE HERE Local 1, and Lori



2021 CFL Woman of the Year Carole Pollitz (center) with CFL President Bob Reiter (left) and Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar (right).

Torres of the Chicago Teachers Union.

Women have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, bearing the vast majority of job losses. The labor movement continues to find ways to support women as the country reopens and the pandemic recedes. The discussion is available for viewing on the CFL's Facebook and YouTube pages.

CFL Honors Workers During May Day

On May 1, workers all across the country celebrated International Workers Day, also known as May Day. May Day is a time for workers to remember the struggles of the past while rededicating themselves to the fight for fairness for all working people.

Despite the ongoing restrictions on in-person gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Labor community kept the spirit of May Day running strong by hosting a series of virtual and in-person events and programming to celebrate throughout the day.

Here in Chicago, the CFL launched its inaugural 5k for May Day Virtual Run & Walk, an event to celebrate labor while socially distant, encouraging supporters to get active as they



CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar after running the CFL 5k for May Day.

learn more about labor history. From the streets of Downtown Chicago, all the way to Washington D.C., participants laced up in celebration of workers, submitted photos of their runs, and competed for prizes.

Additionally, the CFL partnered with the Illinois Labor History Society to host a series of online events at the Haymarket Memorial. On May Day, Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar joined Larry Spivak, President of the Illinois Labor History Society to celebrate the Italian Federation of Metalworkers (Federazione Impiegati Operai Metallurgici, FIOM) by presenting them with an honorary plaque for the Haymarket

Memorial statue.

Following the FIOM dedication event, labor leaders gathered alongside community members to honor the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists with an honorary plaque as well. At the event, members of CBTU spoke honor of labor and recognize the power of workers to uplift one another.

"I want us to look at May Day as a way to rejuvenate ourselves," said Terry Melvin, national President of the CBTU. "A day to get ready for the battles we have ahead of us... Today is a great day."

CFL To Update Brand, Logo, Website as Part of Anniversary Celebration

The Chicago Federation of Labor is proud to announce its updated logo and branding (see

below) as part of its 125th anniversary celebration. The new logo and branding is rolling out this summer across CFL products.

"Our 125th anniversary is a great opportunity to revisit and refresh our brand," said CFL Director of Communications Jake Lewis. "We are excited to update our brand to stay current while not losing our important history."

In addition to the updated branding and logo, the CFL is also rolling out a newly updated website. Development is ongoing, and the site is expected to be live by late July. The site will include a newly revamped webstore featuring updated CFL and Proud Union Home gear.

"Our iconic links logo is part of who we are at the CFL, but we must continually refresh our look," said CFL President Bob Reiter. "I'm excited to update our brand as part of our 125th anniversary celebration."

Keep an eye out for the updated CFL branding later this summer!

Visit chicagolabor.org to learn more about the new branding!





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UPCOMING CFL DELEGATES MEETINGS

Tuesday, **Oct. 5,** 2021

Tuesday, **Nov. 2,** 2021

Tuesday, **Dec. 7,** 2021

6 p.m.

Location dependent on local public health orders. The CFL will email location information prior to the meeting.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Villar".

Don V. Villar
Secretary-Treasurer