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FEDERATION NEWS

Issue 3 | 2021



SAYING GOODBYE TO A LEGEND

Workers Nationwide Mourn
Loss of an Electrifying Leader

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On the Cover

**Now-CFL President Bob Reiter and AFL-CIO
President Richard Trumka visit a worksite in 2010**

Photo: CFL

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125 Years of the Chicago Federation of Labor



The 1933 Labor Day parade

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Just weeks before Labor Day, the labor movement suffered a huge loss when AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Rich devoted his life to fighting for the right of all workers to organize. He also championed workplace safety, worker-centered trade, building a society that lifts up all families, and so much more. He embodied the spirit of solidarity we hold so dear in the labor movement. He never forgot his roots as a Pennsylvania coal miner, but he also continued to listen to and learn from the experiences of others as he fought for union members. His courage and conviction were unparalleled. He was a true friend to working people.

A few weeks after his death, the AFL-CIO Executive Council elected Liz Shuler its first female President in its history. In addition, Chicagoan Fred Redmond from the Steelworkers Union was elected as Secretary-Treasurer, making him the first African-American to hold this title, and Tefere Gebre will continue to serve in his role as Executive Vice President. This was a historic moment as the most diverse leadership team will take lead of the organization. I am ready to join them in

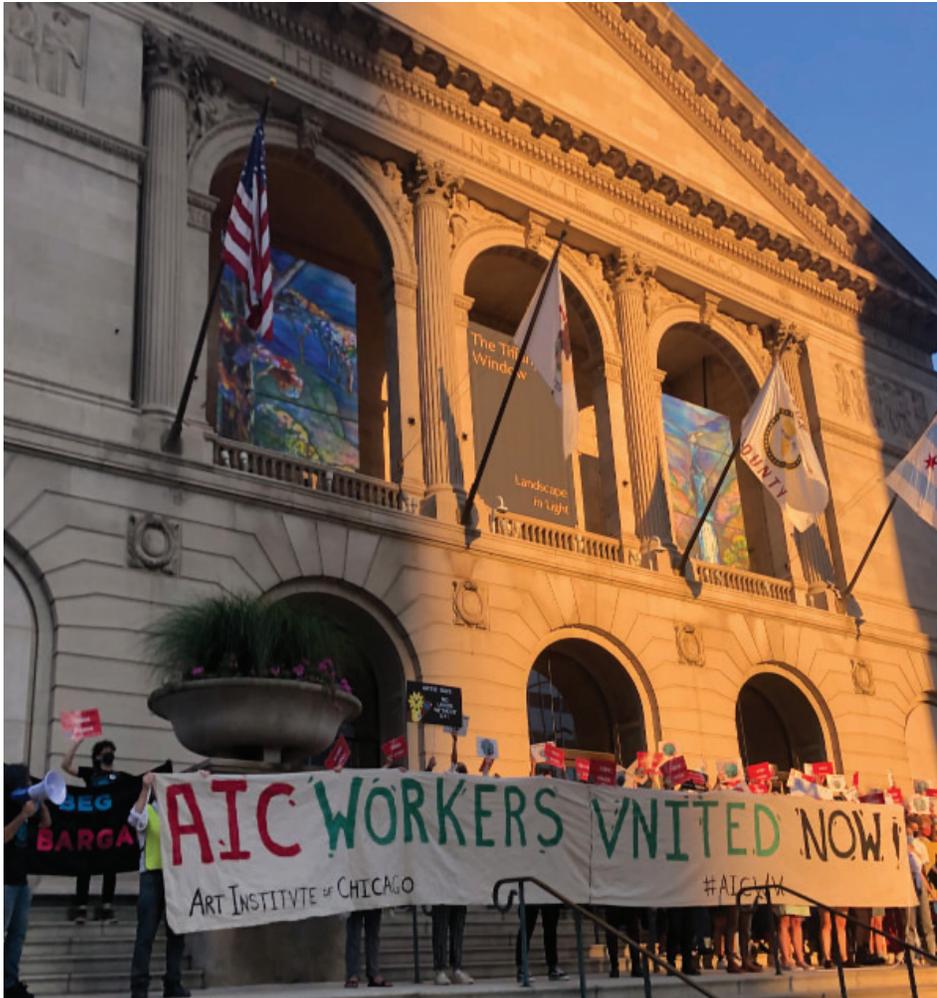
the fight at such a pivotal and fragile time in our country, and I hope you are ready to join me.

As I write this, we are a little over a month away from the CFL's 125 anniversary. We must remember and honor our past to keep our movement alive for the future. In the late 19th century, Chicago was the hub of labor activism in this country. In November 1896, Samuel Gompers granted the CFL its charter, establishing it as the voice for working people across Chicago and Cook County. Throughout history, the CFL has remained committed to fighting for social and economic equity to improve the lives of all working families. Today, we build on President Trumka's passion to promote justice in the workplace, which is why we support passing the Richard Trumka Protect the Rights to Organize Act and are committed to passage of the statewide Workers Rights Amendment in Illinois' General Election in November 2022.



Bob Reiter
President

AFFILIATE NEWS



Workers at the Art Institute of Chicago and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago join together to form a union

More than 600 employees of the Art Institute of Chicago and the affiliated School of the Art Institute of Chicago are coming together to form their union, Art Institute of Chicago Workers United (AICWU), part of AFSCME Council 31.

Employees want a seat at the table and a voice in the decisions that affect them. By forming their

union they can help make the museum a better place to visit, the school a better place to learn, and both better places to work.

“We believe the Art Institute of Chicago’s vision of an inspired and just society must begin with the inclusive, humane, and respectful treatment of its staff,” the AICWU organizing committee wrote in an August open letter to all employees. “We believe there can be no equity without power sharing; therefore, we are uniting to form our union.”

On Sept. 9 CFL President Bob Reiter spoke at a rally of hundreds

Members of Art Institute of Chicago Workers United rally on the front steps of the Art Institute to build support for their organizing efforts.

of AIC and SAIC workers in Millennium Park. He told workers that their organizing is historic and will make these iconic Chicago institutions more responsible and responsive parts of the community. Then the crowd marched past the school and up the steps of the museum on Michigan Avenue where they unfurled a huge banner reading, “AIC Workers United Now!”

The organizing committees are collecting union cards from their coworkers, building strong majorities in support of the union in order to request voluntary recognition from museum and school leadership.

To learn more about the campaign and how you can help, visit www.AICWU.org.

Article by AFSCME Council 31

Colectivo Coffee Employees Vote to Unionize with the IBEW in Historic Election

The employees at Colectivo Coffee won their long-fought union election to join the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The organizing campaign, which began in March 2020, was a long road filled with many obstacles and challenges. Ultimately, the Colectivans were victorious in late August.

A Milwaukee-based company, Colectivo Coffee will become the largest national coffee chain ever

to organize. Since their cafes are located in both Milwaukee and Chicago, this will be a joint agreement between IBEW Local 494 and IBEW Local 1220, respectively. The two locals will team together to bargain, maintain, and represent the membership in their corresponding states.

“Colectivo means collective, and what a fitting way for this campaign to end—with a collective bargaining agreement,” said IBEW Local 1220 Business Manager John Rizzo. “This group is one of the most energized we’ve ever seen throughout organizing. Our union could not be more excited to work with them on securing their first negotiated labor contract and making their voices heard by management.”

Colectivo Coffee has two locations in Chicago, including Andersonville (5425 N. Clark St.) and Lincoln Park (2530 N Clark St.), and one

location in Evanston (716 Church St.). Show your support for the newest members of the labor movement by ordering your coffee, smoothies, bakery, and other items “IBEW STRONG.” To add the union message to an order, use the Colectivo app to make a purchase and change the pickup name to add IBEWSTRONG and then the first name without spaces.

Article by IBEW Local 1220

Nabisco Strike Ends: BCTGM Members Overwhelmingly Accept New Contract

Members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union working for Nabisco/Mondelez in Portland, Ore., Aurora, Colo., Richmond, Va., Chicago, Ill. and Norcross, Ga. voted overwhelmingly in

September to accept a new collective bargaining agreement. Approval of the contract ends the BCTGM’s strike against Nabisco which began on Aug. 10.

In commenting on the membership vote to ratify the new contract, BCTGM International President Anthony Shelton stated, “This has been a long and difficult fight for our striking members, their families and our Union. Throughout the strike, our members displayed tremendous courage, grit and determination.

“The BCTGM’s striking members made enormous sacrifices in order to achieve a quality contract that preserves our Union’s high standards for wages, hours and benefits for current and future Nabisco workers. Their sacrifice will benefit all BCTGM members and working people around the country for years to come. Those Brothers

and Sisters who walked the picket lines day in and day out are true BCTGM heroes.

“The BCTGM is grateful for the outpouring of fraternal support and Solidarity we received from across the labor movement in the U.S. and around the world.

“We offer our deepest gratitude to AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler for directing the full resources and power of the AFL-CIO at the federal, state and local levels in support of our striking members and our Union. This support was critical to the success of the strike.

“The BCTGM has shown, once again, that this Union will do whatever it takes, make any sacrifice, take on any employer or adversary in order to preserve the rights and jobs of our members and the standard of living of BCTGM families.”

Article by BCTGM



Left: CFL staff enjoying their morning pick-me-up from Colectivo Coffee IBEW STRONG, in support of the newly unionized workers. Right: CFL President Bob Reiter (second from left), AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre (third from left), and CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar (second from right) stand with labor activists at the BCTGM strike line over the Labor Day weekend.

Affiliate Spotlight: Teamsters 743

Debra Simmons-Peterson is the President of Teamsters Local 743, a union located in Chicago that represents 10,000 members in the health care, mail order, technical and warehouse industries. In 2013, she made history when she was elected by the membership to serve as President, earning her the distinction of not only being the first woman but also the first African-American woman to serve in this role.

Simmons-Peterson was a member of Local 743 for 28 years when she worked for Rush Medical Center as a Patient Transporter and served as a steward in her unit for 20 of those years. Driven by her deep commitment and passion to the members, Simmons-Peterson became a Business Representative in 2007. In 2010, she was appointed Vice President of the Local and was elected Secretary-Treasurer that same year.

“A lot has changed from my days as a union member,” she stated, “and the last two years has made it much harder with the pandemic. But I am here to empower our members to live their best lives and pursue greater possibilities. I believe that those two things are accomplished through a strong union.”

Simmons-Peterson believes in the power of working hand-in-hand with the members for the betterment of everyone. The union offers one-on-one mentoring as well as organizer training. The Local also provides various trainings and workshops to help members in their personal lives, including immigrant rights. And even in retirement, there is a place for members in the Local. The Retiree’s Club plans social activities throughout the year, including a perennial favorite, BINGO.

When the pandemic hit the United States in March of 2020, no one knew what was going to happen or the impact it would have on workers across the country.

“Right from the start, fear ran through the membership because they were out there on the frontlines as essential workers,” Simmons-Peterson said. “There was nothing that could have prepared any of us for what was about to happen. They saw coworkers get incredibly sick, and they even saw some of them die. Our members were afraid to go to work; some even quit the industry. They feared catching the virus and bringing it home to their families. It was our responsibility as leaders of this union to help our members through this unprecedented time. We were available any time the members needed to talk to us. We did things outside the contract to ensure the safety of our members. We also sent masks to various locations to make sure they had the proper equipment initially, then stayed on the facilities to ensure they continued to provide proper PPE from there.”

As vaccine mandates begin to emerge, Simmons-Peterson is helping members work through their hesitancy and considering their options. She said, “We don’t just hammer down on our members to take the vaccine. We encourage them to do what is best for them and their families. The big healthcare facilities are requiring everyone to get vaccinated. Unfortunately, each person needs to weigh taking the vaccine or potentially facing discipline. Whatever they choose, we will be there to support them every step of the way.”



Teamsters Local 743 President Debra Simmons-Peterson.

In addition to supporting workers on the job, Teamsters 743 is proposing new language for their contracts that includes hazard pay and higher starting wages, as well as work-from-home options for those who can.

In May, Teamsters 743 celebrated a huge organizing victory when the student library workers at University of Chicago ratified their first contract. “This is the second largest library system in Chicago, and one of the first student-worker contracts in the country. Local 743 has represented the professional library staff at the university since 1980, so it made perfect sense for the students to join our union,” said Simmons-Peterson.

The campaign began back in May 2017 when 200 student-workers, working with Teamsters 743, began an organizing drive to fight for respect on the job, more reliable scheduling, and raising the minimum wage. They

(Spotlight continued from page 6)

held their election the following month, and over 80 percent of voters supported joining the union. In December 2019, after the university refused to bargain with the workers, the Teamsters brought the battle to the National Labor Relations Board and the federal court. Amongst its reasons, the university held it was not appropriate for the students

to organize because they are students, and therefore, did not justify collective-bargaining representation. The federal court disagreed with this assessment and forced the employer to bargain with the unit. In May of 2021, their first contract was ratified.

Simmons-Peterson stated, “Winning this contract was important to the students. As the older students would graduate,

they would pass the torch onto the incoming ones because they knew that this was a fight that was bigger than any one of them individually. This contract means they don’t have to work multiple jobs or extra hours to cover the costs of their education. And more importantly, it gives them a voice in the workplace. That gets to the core of what Local 743 is all about.”

(Affiliate News continued from page 5)

Chicago Letter Carriers Speak Out Against Unsafe Working Conditions and Subpar Delivery Standards of the Chicago Post Office

In September, Chicago-area letter carriers for the U.S. Postal Service,

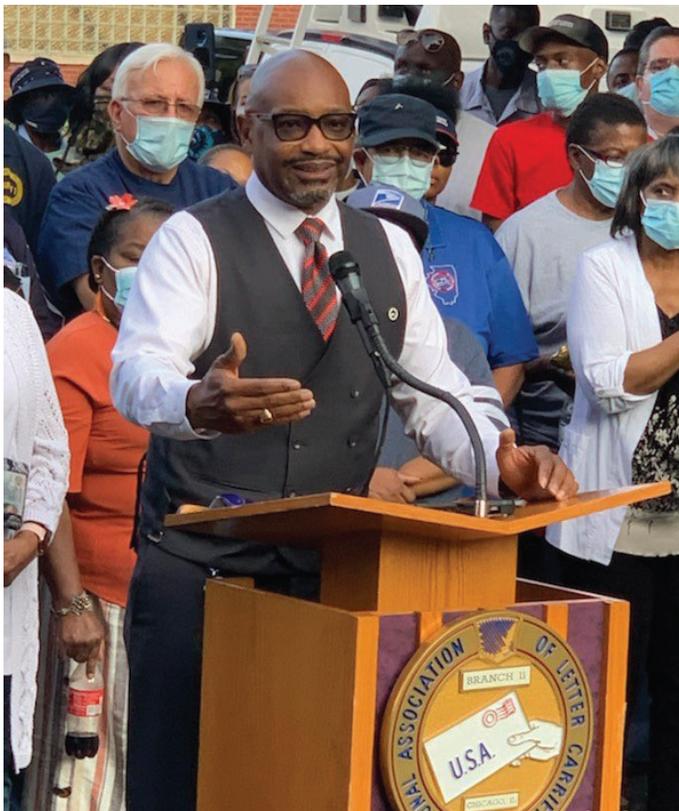
who are also union members with the National Association of Letter Carriers Local Branch #11, held a rally to protest the late start times and the subpar delivery performance and standards in Chicago Postal Facilities. The city Letter Carriers are frustrated with the lack of staffing, the overburdened workloads, and the implementation of later start times, which are all considered daily safety hazards. The Chicago

decision of Postal leadership in Chicago to implement later start times is an insult to letter carriers and the customers that we serve. This will only ensure that letter carriers will be working in the dark, and our customers will continue to receive inconsistent service!”

Area Mechanics Return to Work After Strike

After eight weeks on strike, Automobile Mechanics’ Local 701 ended their strike against the New Car Dealers Committee. The membership just narrowly passed the acceptance of the offer. The Local 701 staff is extremely proud of the resolve and solidarity of the membership to stand up to the anti-labor agenda put forth in this set of negotiations by the NCDC. The membership’s commitment to not let destructive language enter into their agreement has preserved Local 701 for generations to come.

Local 701 expressed gratitude to the many supporters from other local unions, the Chicago Federation of Labor, their customers that honored the strike line, and the many community members that stepped up to provide support during this strike. Without everyone’s support this strike would have been much more difficult.



Mack Julion, President of NALC Local Branch #11.

Post Office recently notified carriers that their start times will move from one to two hours later at each facility.

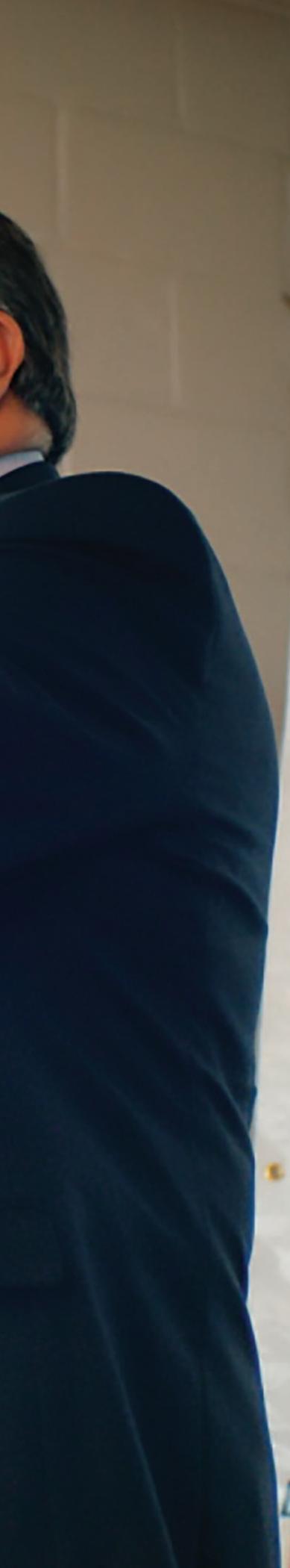
Mack Julion, President of NALC Local Branch #11 stated, “We have been trying hard to work with the U.S. Postal Service to improve delivery issues and address staffing shortages, but they have made no real effort to enhance the service to our customers and improve working conditions of our members. The recent unilateral

A NEW AFL-CIO

Liz Shuler elected AFL-CIO
President following death
of Legendary Leader
Richard Trumka

By Don Villar and Jake Lewis w/ AFL-CIO contributing

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka at an immigration rally in Chicago in 2009.



On Aug. 5, 2021, workers lost a giant in the Labor Movement when Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Trumka was a dedicated unionist, a ferocious fighter for working people, and a beloved friend to so many.

“I met Rich over 11 years ago during my early days at the Chicago Federation of Labor,” said CFL President Bob Reiter. “I was fortunate to spend a lot of time with Rich speaking to workers all over the Chicago area. It gave me an early opportunity to get to know him personally and learn firsthand how to carry the spirit of the American worker wherever I go. It was clear that he loved Chicago and its workers.”

Trumka partnered with the CFL and local affiliates countless times throughout the course of his career to improve the lives of workers in Chicago and beyond. He saw the strength of the movement here in Chicago. He saw the struggles workers endured throughout the pandemic and the solidarity and energy of the CFL and its affiliated unions to overcome every obstacle, together.

As the CFL celebrates 125 years of fighting for social and economic equity to improve the lives of all working families, it is dedicated to building on Trumka’s passion to promote justice in the workplace by ensuring anyone who wants to form a union has that right.

“President Trumka never forgot where he came from and who he was fighting for,” said CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar. “His uncompromising pursuit to lift up workers will be felt for generations to come.”

Because of President Trumka’s passing, the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO took the opportunity to make history by electing Liz Shuler, a visionary leader and longtime trade unionist, to serve as President of the federation of 56 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold this office. The Executive Council also elected United Steelworkers International Vice President Fred Redmond to succeed Shuler as Secretary-Treasurer, the first African-American to hold the number two office. Tefere Gebre continues as executive vice president, rounding out the most diverse team of officers ever to lead the AFL-CIO.

“I am humbled, honored and ready to guide this federation forward,” Shuler said after her election. “I believe in my bones the labor movement is the single greatest organized force for progress. This is a moment for us to lead societal transformations—to leverage our power to bring women and people of color from the margins to the center—at work, in our unions and in our economy, and to be the center of gravity for incubating new ideas that will unleash unprecedented union growth.”

“I could not be more excited to get to work with President Shuler so we can build on the labor movement’s legacy of change, writing a new chapter that brings the promise of union membership to workers across this country,” Redmond said. “This is the right team at the right time to help bring about the economic and social justice America is hungry for.”

“Our country is at a crossroads. Now more than ever, the labor movement is the best vehicle to fight inequality, systemic racism, and attacks on our basic rights and freedoms,” said Gebre. “I am honored to work with our historic team led by President Shuler and look forward to fighting every day for working families.”

President Reiter congratulated Shuler and Redmond on their elections, “I can’t think of a better person to lead us into this era of change than Liz Shuler. As a



Liz Shuler (second from right), who at the time was the AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, on the picket line with members of Chicago Teachers Union and SEIU Local 73 during their historic strike in 2019.

leader, she's adaptable, but committed. She's proven time and time again that she knows how to bridge the complexity of the Labor Movement by directly engaging issues and developing young leaders. And Fred? Fred's a Chicago guy. A steelworker. Don't worry about Fred Redmond. He's the real deal. With Liz, Fred, and Tefere, we can attack everyone coming at us from every angle."

In the wake of these ground shifting changes at the AFL-CIO, EVP Gebre fired up striking NABISCO workers, encouraged members of the CFL's Airport Labor Committee, walked in the footsteps of history at the Pullman National Monument, preached at a Northside Church, joined in solidarity with newly organize baristas and café workers, and toured the country's only museum dedicated to the first black labor union in a whirlwind 36-hour visit to Chicago over Labor Day weekend.

Gebre joined President Reiter, CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar, BCTGM Local 1 President Don Woods, AFL-CIO Midwest Director

Stephen Cousins, hundreds of striking Nabisco workers, activists from several other unions, workers centers, community groups, and elected officials at what was dubbed a friends and family rally in support of the striking workers. BCTGM members went on strike on Aug. 10 at the Chicago bakery and four other Nabisco facilities around the country.

"On behalf of the 12.5 million union members, working men and women across the country, the AFL-CIO stands with you until you get justice," said Gebre at the solidarity rally across from the factory. "We want Nabisco to hear this message not only here in Chicago. They need to hear us in Richmond, Virginia; Portland, Oregon; Aurora, Colorado; and Norcross, Georgia. Brave men and women are standing up for their rights, and the rest of the labor movement has their backs."

Following speeches from President Reiter, President Woods and other labor activists at the rally, EVP Gebre led a march across Kedzie Avenue to the front gates of the Nabisco factory. Reinforcing his

message of solidarity and call for Nabisco to respect their workers, Gebre led picketers in a sit-down demonstration by the entrance to the factory building.

Woods said he and his members were grateful for the support from Gebre and the CFL. The speeches and show of solidarity gave a boost to striking Local 1 members. Since walking off the job, Local 1 members have maintained a 24-hour picket line outside the bakery, demanding that Nabisco respect their workers.

After speaking to workers and labor activists at the southwest side bakery, Gebre headed downtown, to the CFL's new headquarters for a roundtable with members of the CFL's Airport Labor Committee. Members of Machinist District Lodge 141 and Local Lodge 1487, Communications Workers of America Local 4201, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA Local Executive Council 8, Transport Workers Union Locals 556 & 555, and UNITE-HERE Local 1 discussed the upcoming "Air Rage Town Hall" and the issues that aviation workers face on the

job every day. In the past year, airlines and airport workers have dealt with an increase in verbal and physical abuse from passengers.

“To have seen the level of support given by Tefere for our work on the CFL Aviation Labor Committee firsthand, I was inspired,” said Corliss King, 2nd Vice President of TWU 556 and Southwest Airlines flight attendant. “It proves that innovations we do on a local level can bubble up to impact and inspire the direction of not just other local organizations, but our international leadership as well. It was nice to see Chicago recognized by Tefere for leading the way.”

Gebre made a final stop in his busy first day in Chicago. He traveled down to the grand opening of the Pullman National Monument, the reason we celebrate Labor Day in September.

Pullman National Monument Superintendent Teri Gage welcomed Gebre to the historic grounds and facilitated a tour of the new visitors’ center inside the restored clock tower building. Tenth Ward Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza and the City of Chicago’s first Director of Labor Standards Andrew Fox, also welcomed Gebre.

The National Park Service and Illinois Department of Natural Resources worked together to turn the factory grounds into a place to celebrate and remember the history that took place here. In 1894, after Pullman cut his workers’ wages, he refused to also reduce their rents and the cost of food and goods at his company’s store. The financial burden became so difficult on the workers that

during pay day, bill collectors would accompany Pullman’s paymasters. After deducting rent and expenses, many families were left with just pennies to live on until the next pay day. Workers, fed up with the unfairness and disrespect, went on strike. They put their tools down, walked out the factory gates, and made history.

In remembrance of their courageous fight, Gebre, along with Reiter, Alderwoman Garza, Fox, UNITE HERE Local 1 President Karen Kent, and other labor activists, walked out the Pullman gates.

Sunday, Sept. 5, was not a day of rest for Gebre. He was up early to join Villar at a church on the city’s northside for Labor in the Pulpits. At Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Villar and Gebre talked to nearly 200 parishioners about faith and the labor movement, and how Catholic social teaching is aligned with the struggle of working families.

Not far from the church in Humboldt Park, Gebre went to a Colectivo Coffee shop to support a group of workers fighting for a union. After organizing the small coffee chain with shops in Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison, Wis., the new IBEW members have been in a tough fight with the company. Gebre, along with Villar and

Cousins, participated in a reverse boycott at the shop. In a show of solidarity with the baristas, café workers, and other workers, they ordered their Colectivo coffee “IBEW STRONG.”

In his final stop during his packed visit to Chicago, Gebre visited the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum. The museum, founded in 1995, celebrates the life of the legendary labor and civil rights leader, and Randolph’s struggle to organize the first Black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Dr. Lynn Hughes, the founder of the museum, gave Gebre a tour of the museum.

“The late President Richard Trumka visited the museum shortly after he was elected to lead the AFL-CIO,” said Hughes. “I was so touched and moved to have Executive Vice President Gebre follow in his footsteps and visit our museum dedicated to A. Philip Randolph, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and the Black labor movement.”

Reflecting again on President Shuler and Secretary-Treasurer Redmond’s election along with EVP Gebre’s visit, President Reiter commented: “I’m excited about the Labor Movement Rich Trumka left us. In many ways, it’s better than when he found it. And true leadership is leaving things better than when you found them. He inspired a fighting spirit. Its a fighting spirit that lives on in the new leadership of the AFL-CIO. Liz, Fred, and Tefere are activists. They are organizers. They are fighters. And I’m ready to continue the fight for the soul of this country under their leadership.”



AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre (left) with SEIU Healthcare President Greg Kelley and CFL President Bob Reiter at the BCTGM strike outside the Nabisco factory in Chicago over Labor Day weekend 2021.

FEATURES

Union-Built O'Hare Modernization Project Reaches Finish Line

After 16 years and the hard work of thousands of union members, the O'Hare Modernization Project is now complete. The more than \$6 billion project untangled the crisscrossing runways of one of the world's busiest airports.

"With all the activity out on the airfield, it seemed like every month there was a new structure going up," said Hector Tellado, a member of Teamsters 700 and a 25-year aviation department employee. Tellado supervises the movement of vehicles around the airfield. "It has been amazing to see the airport transform before our eyes."

While the airport was fully operational, union members realigned the runways—creating six parallel runways. In all, they added two new runways and

extended four others. The new configuration will cut flight delays down dramatically.

"The \$6 billion O'Hare Modernization Project was a major victory for working men and women across Chicagoland," said Jeremy Esparza, LiUNA Local 1 Business Agent. "The initiative was one of the largest airport construction projects in the world. It provided thousands of high-quality union jobs over the past 16 years. Our members are proud of their work and contribution to this project which will benefit all of us who call the Chicago area home."

"I know when I go past O'Hare, I can say proudly that union members built that," said John Patrick, Business Agent for the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters. "When union members

hop on that plane at O'Hare with their families, as the plane taxis to the runway, they can point out the window and tell their family members, you see that runway, we built that."

In a city that boasts its superlatives, with eight runways, O'Hare will have more runways than any commercial airport in the world. But it is not the structures that make it work, it is the people.

"This great airport—the buildings, taxiways and runways—are all union built and maintained. The union workers who make Chicago fly," said Don Villar, CFL Secretary-Treasurer. "I am so proud of their role here at O'Hare. This investment, this expansion... will not just benefit the traveling public... but it means so much for these workers and their families."



CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar, sixth from right, visits with airport workers and union representatives to mark the completion of the O'Hare Modernization Program.

Historic Energy Bill Signed Into Law

Last month Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act into law, a top priority of the Illinois labor movement. Discussions over clean energy reform in Illinois have been recurring for some time now, but each year, the Illinois General Assembly recessed without a deal. This year was different.

In 2020, labor unions across the state formed a coalition called Climate Jobs Illinois to advocate for pro-worker, clean energy legislation for the State of Illinois. CFL President Bob Reiter serves as a Governing Board Member of Climate Jobs Illinois alongside IL AFL-CIO President Tim Drea and Secretary-Treasurer Pat Devaney, who serve as Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of Climate Jobs Illinois respectively. The coalition is comprised of numerous labor unions who represents hundreds of thousands of working people who are best skilled to build Illinois' new clean-energy economy from the ground up. By focusing on the construction of clean energy sources to combat the climate crisis, Climate Jobs Illinois was able to offer a compelling new approach to creating an equitable and clean economy.

Climate Jobs Illinois' priority was to advocate for a clean energy economy at the scale climate science demands, while creating good union jobs and supporting more equitable communities. Thanks to labor's advocacy, this landmark legislation will:

- Create the strongest labor standards in the country for wind and solar developments. Project labor agreements are required for all utility-scale wind and solar projects and prevailing wage is required for all non-residential clean energy projects.
- Double Illinois' investment



Illinois AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Pat Devaney speaking at the press conference for the signing of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

in renewable energy, putting the state on a path to 50% renewable energy by 2040 and zero carbon emissions by 2045.

- Safeguard the Byron, Dresden, and Braidwood nuclear plants, currently Illinois' primary source of clean energy and employer of thousands of good-paying union jobs.
- Increase energy efficiency for public schools.
- Expand apprenticeship and training programs to increase representation of Black and Latinx communities in the energy workforce, with required diversity hiring reports by renewable industry employers.
- Create a "just transition" program to support communities and workers who are economically reliant on fossil fuel generation.
- Transition Illinois to performance-based ratemaking practices instead of using formula rates and requires utilities to comply with new

accountability and transparency mechanisms.

Climate Jobs Illinois commends Governor Pritzker, Senate President Don Harmon, and House Speaker Chris Welch for passing an ambitious bill that takes on climate change while putting union members to work building Illinois' clean energy economy. Thank you also to all the labor leaders who helped bring this legislation to fruition.

The CFL is deeply proud of the role that Climate Jobs Illinois was able to play in negotiating this landmark energy legislation. Building a clean energy economy will be an opportunity for labor to lead in climate by creating high-quality, family-sustaining jobs that spur economic development, reduce carbon emissions, and create new opportunities for underserved communities that have been greatly impacted by the climate crisis.

CFL NEWS

Pullman National Monument Visitor Center Opens to the Public

The only National Monument in the city of Chicago was the place to be on Labor Day weekend. Thousands came down to celebrate the grand opening of the Pullman National Monument visitors center and State Historic site grounds.

A year ago on Labor Day, CFL President Bob Reiter, along with community and elected leaders participated in a groundbreaking at the historic factory site. After more than a year of work on the Administration and Clock Tower Building, which is home to the visitor's center, and the renovated grounds, the site is now open to the public. The official ribbon cutting took place on Labor Day itself. U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland joined Reiter, Pullman Monument Superintendent Teri Gage, and community and elected leaders to mark the opening of the visitor center and grounds.

“As we celebrate Labor Day in this

beautiful monument to workers, we cannot overlook the steps to protect and support workers every single day,” said Reiter. “Supporting workers means supporting elected leaders who will pass laws to raise minimum wage, promote the freedom of workers to organize, and provide benefits like predictable schedules and paid sick leave. I thank every single leader and activist here today who has helped us do that, including those here on the stage.”

In 1894, George Pullman cut the wages of workers who built the Pullman Palace cars. The paternalistic Pullman made his workers live in the nearby company town and shop at the company store. While he cut their wages, Pullman did not reduce the high rents workers were paying or the costs to shop at Pullman's store. Workers, who were forced to survive on just pennies after Pullman deducted their rents and

expenses, demanded justice. When Pullman refused, they put down their tools, walked out the factory gates, and went on strike on May 11, 1894.

The strike spread across the country with workers joining in the boycott of Pullman's railcars. Federal troops were called to crush the strike, leaving dozens of workers dead in Chicago and around the country. In an effort of reconciliation, President Grover Cleveland pushed to make the first Monday in September a national holiday, Labor Day.

“As you step into this beautiful national monument, remember the struggles of workers in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and take real concrete steps to support workers in the 21st century,” said Reiter. He called for the passage of the Richard Trumka Protect the Rights to Organize Act and the passage of the statewide Workers Rights Amendment.

Community groups organized several events for the grand opening weekend. They included an antique car parade, walking tours of the company town, and tours of several restored Pullman palace cars that had pulled up to the nearby 111th Street Metra Station. Besides the visitors' center and historic grounds, the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum also welcomed visitors.

The Pullman National Monument visitors' center and grounds are free and open the public. The visitor center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.



A view of Pullman Clock Tower, where the new Visitor Center is housed.

CFL Joins Mother Jones Heritage Project on Campaign to Honor Namesake

The home of the American labor movement will soon be home to a sculpture celebrating the mother of the labor movement, Mary “Mother Jones” Harris. The Chicago Federation of Labor is working with the Mother Jones Heritage Project on a campaign to honor Mother Jones with a permanent sculpture.

Across Chicago, there are many tributes to the labor movement. We see the struggles of working people at the Haymarket Sculpture, Haymarket Martyrs Memorial, the Pullman National Monument, the Union Stockyard Gates, and the Steelworkers Memorial, to name a few. We remember labor leaders

in Union Park, Gompers Park, and the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum. We honor the rank and file at the many local union halls. A sculpture of Mother Jones will soon be part of Chicago’s labor legacy.

While Mother Jones traveled around the country and was celebrated around the world, she was always close to the Chicago Federation of Labor. When the CFL was founded 125 years ago, Mother Jones was there. She lovingly referred to President John Fitzpatrick and Secretary Ed Nockels as “the boys.” She was there with the CFL leaders in countless strikes, fights,

and power struggles. Her last appearance at a picket line a few years before her death was in Chicago with striking dressmakers. After her passing, President Fitzpatrick served as the executor of her will, Secretary Nockels arranged her funeral, and WCFL broadcast the proceedings to the world.

The statue of Mother Jones will remind us that workers built this city. It would begin to rectify the absence of statues of women. It would tell the world that Chicago has always been a city of immigrants. Be on the lookout for opportunities to support the Mother Jones sculpture.

Union Members Reflect on Labor Day Both In-Person and Virtually

Amid the barbecues, picnics, and family gatherings as part of the Labor Day weekend, there was also a time for reflection and spirituality as Chicago Federation of Labor once again led the annual Labor in the Pulpits/On the Bimah/In the Minbar program. The annual Labor Day weekend program is in partnership with ARISE Chicago.

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, this year’s iteration featured guest speakers at in-person services along with videos and written reflections for virtual congregations. In his remarks, CFL Chaplain Fr. Cleve Kiley commented, “Our worlds have been turned upside down in the past 20 months, as we have adapted how we worship, work, educate our children, grocery shop, and so much more. This Labor Day, let’s honor all [...] workers and recommit ourselves to support them in securing their rights.”

CFL Secretary Treasurer Don Villar spoke in-person at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in

Lincoln Square and Saint Theresa of Avila Church in Lincoln Park, attesting to the solidarity between faith and labor communities.

“This year marks the 130th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII’s landmark encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which held up the rights of workers to form labor unions, and the dignity of work,” said Villar. “You can see the influence of *Rerum Novarum* in the hometown of the American Labor movement. Five years after *Rerum Novarum*, in 1896, workers from across the city... guilds, craftsmen, and nascent unions... came together to form the Chicago Federation of Labor. We are stronger together, than we are apart. Throughout the 125 years since, the CFL has fought for laws and public policy that promote the dignity, value,

and respect of workers, and the common good.”

AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Tefere Gebre, who was in town for Labor Day weekend, joined Villar at Queen of Apostles Church. He held up Pope Francis words in support of workers and the rights to form unions.

Thanks to the hybrid model combining in-person and virtual reflections, this year’s program had a presence in more than 30 houses of worship.



CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar delivering his reflection for Labor in the Pulpits/On the Bimah/In the Minbar.



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UPCOMING CFL DELEGATES MEETINGS

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