

# FederationNews

Issue 3 | 2023

## WRITERS WIN, ACTORS FIGHT ON





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### On the Cover

WGA Chicago Strike Captain Martin Zimmerman speaks to a crowd of hundreds of supporters at a WGA & SAG-AFTRA rally at Daley Plaza on June 15.

Federation News is a quarterly publication of the Chicago Federation of Labor ©2022

Federation News is owned and controlled by the Chicago Federation of Labor for the education, protection, and advancement of the labor movement.

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## Support Uniting for the Holidays

Join the CFL in supporting the 2023 Uniting for the Holidays program. Uniting for the Holidays serves six communities across Greater Chicago, featuring festive events that will provide warm holiday meals, winter clothing, toys, and more to thousands of families over several weeks. A donation to Uniting for the Holidays directly supports families taking part in the event, most of which have four to six family members. All amounts are welcome. Donations can be sent to: United Way of Metro Chicago, ATTN: Uniting for the Holidays, 231196 Momentum Place, Chicago, IL 60689. For more information, please contact Gus Fuguitt, CFL Director of Community Engagement at (312) 906-2434.





# President's Report

I can't remember a season in recent memory as active as this past summer with workers taking action to demand justice. We saw some incredible victories for working people over the last few months, with no end to worker activism in sight. The kids started calling it #HotLaborSummer, and I think that momentum is here to stay.

Worker power was on display all summer from coast-to-coast. The Writers Guild of America won an incredible victory after going on strike for 148 days. Their new contract includes nearly everything they demanded at the onset of the strike: increased payment for writers, length of employment, size of staff, protections against AI, and redefined residual payments from streaming services, ensuring protection and stability in their careers.

This win is significant for two reasons. First, it gives the 160,000 SAG-AFTRA members who joined WGA on strike against the AMPTP in July some momentum in their contract negotiations. Second, it's a win for the entire labor movement's fight against AI. As technology evolves and corporate greed grips our economy, we need to ratchet up labor's fight against these attacks and defend good jobs.

SEIU Healthcare Members on strike at Loretto Hospital on Chicago's West Side embarked on an 11-day strike in August. Workers demanded an end to low wages, unsafe working conditions, and chronic understaffing that all-too-often led to workers working 16 hours a day, seven days a week. In the end, the hospital caved, and workers won starting rate increases, years of service increases, raises for all job classifications, across the board increases, and Juneteenth as paid holiday.

Earlier this summer, the Teamsters secured an historic contract at UPS after showing the company they were ready and willing to strike. Teamsters won increases in pay and benefits and an end to tiers through strong internal organizing. Practice pickets and a strong communications campaign forced UPS to give in to the Teamsters' demands before the contract expired. This battle in particular shows that strong contracts can be won without having to go on strike, but it takes a lot of organizing.

As the seasons change, #HotLaborSummer leads us into #Striketober, and the UAW is entrenched in a major fight with the Big Three automakers. The UAW took a novel approach to their strike. UAW President Shawn Fain strategically called on certain local unions to strike, while leaving other units on the job. This has caused major problems for GM, Ford, and Stellantis who were not prepared for the innovative strategy.

This summer we have seen what solidarity can do. Solidarity leads to better contracts, higher wages, and expanded benefits. Solidarity leads to a more powerful labor movement. And for solidarity to keep growing it needs to be shared.

I challenge each and every union member in Chicago to go out of your way to show solidarity with our friends in the labor movement in some way. Honk for striking workers. Join a picket line. Sign a petition. Share on social media. Show the billionaire class we know the score and which side we are on. Solidarity works. Solidarity wins.



**Bob Reiter**  
President



CFL President Bob Reiter lends the CFL's support to striking workers at Loretto Hospital in August.

# AffiliateNews



SEIU Healthcare Illinois President Greg Kelley calls out Loretto Hospital for their chronic understaffing and other issues at a rally outside the hospital on Chicago's West Side in August.

## SEIU Healthcare Illinois Makes Loretto Pay

SEIU Healthcare Illinois members at Loretto Hospital came out on top after an 11-day strike, winning a new contract that included raises in pay and benefits.

Roughly 200 SEIU Healthcare Illinois members working as frontline, service, and technical employees walked off the job July 31 after months of bargaining. SEIU Healthcare Illinois members at Loretto Hospital said they faced vacancy rates of up to 35% for various positions, experienced unsafe staffing conditions and Loretto lagged behind other hospitals on wages, despite the state allocating \$10 million in funding to address worker recruitment and retention. Because of this, some workers said they sometimes worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

The CFL was right there on the frontline with SEIU Healthcare and workers at Loretto Hospital showing support and solidarity along with elected officials, faith leaders, and community organizers. SEIU Healthcare Illinois members held daily pickets and shared their stories on social media to turn up the pressure on Loretto. The entire effort forced Loretto Hospital to give in to workers' demands after less than two weeks on strike.

"We are really pleased with this agreement," SEIU Healthcare Illinois president Greg Kelley said. "We got raises for all of the job classifications, and almost as important, we got minimum rates that increased for all job classifications."

Among other improvements to the contract, members won starting rate increases, years of service increases, raises for all job classifications, across the board increases, and Juneteenth as paid holiday.

Kelley said the proposed deal would make Loretto "far more competitive than it was before the strike."

"We think it's really just the first step in really making safety net hospitals like Loretto good places to work that really will help make these communities better," said Kelley.

"We know we could make more at another hospital, but we stay here because we care about our patients and community. This contract isn't just a win for us – this is a win for all of Austin. This fight has always been about securing quality healthcare for Loretto patients and Austin community members – a community

we workers belong to ourselves. This contract is a major first step that will help Loretto retain and hire more workers to address the staffing crisis," said Carla Haskins, a Loretto patient care tech and bargaining committee member, in a statement.

*SEIU Healthcare Illinois contributed to this report.*

## "Enough is enough!" Letter Carriers Fight for Increased Safety

Letter carriers are facing violent attacks at an alarming rate. NALC Branch 11 President Elise Foster said roughly 100 letter carriers have been assaulted or robbed over the last calendar year. In an especially violent attack on Aug. 1, two separate letter carriers were robbed at gunpoint within 15 minutes of each other, and one of them was shot.

In the face of increasing and escalating violence, NALC Branch 11 called a press conference on Aug. 17 to highlight the issue and demand action to protect letter carriers.

"Just the other day, our brother from the Irving Park station was shot while performing his duty. Just delivering the mail. This is personal for me and every letter carrier. "An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us," Foster said before TV news cameras.

The latest attacks on letter carriers add to the growing violence targeting them and other workers in recent years. Letter carriers just want to do their jobs in order to support themselves and their families.

"Enough is enough! Enough is enough!" the crowd of letter carriers chanted.

"It keeps happening weekly, sometimes daily. We should not have to work in fear, we're calling on postmaster DeJoy to do more. We are calling on the Postal Police to do more. We are calling on all of our elected leaders to do everything they can to protect us. We need to remind our elected officials, that the safety of letter carriers is on the ballot," Foster said.

Violence against mail carriers has been growing in recent years. Thieves often target mail carriers in hopes of stealing "arrow keys," which are generally used to open cluster boxes. The postal service has been looking into technologies to protect the mailboxes, but letter carriers say they are being left to fend for themselves. Former



Members of NALC Branch 11 made their voices heard at a rally in August, calling for an end to violence against letter carriers.



NALC Branch 11 President Mack Julion is now Assistant Secretary Treasurer at the NALC, and has been working in Washington D.C. to find a solution.

"In the postal service creed, it says 'neither snow nor rain nor hail...' but we don't do bullets," Julion said. "Somebody is going to have to figure it out. Somebody is going to have to do something because my coworkers, our members, are not going to keep putting themselves in harm's way."

"What's it going to take? Something needs to be done and it needs to be done now!" Foster said.

NALC Branch 11 and NALC are working with city, state, and federal officials to address the issue of attacks against letter carriers, and exploring options. Senator Dick Durbin sent a letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and Attorney General Merrick Garland urging the U.S. Postal Service and the Department of Justice to institute additional safety measures and investigate the continued uptick in attacks against mail carriers as they complete their routes. There is also legislation being put forward in Illinois to address the issue of "arrow key" thefts.

NALC Branch 11 represents over 4,800 Letter Carriers and Retiree's in the Illinois 1 and Illinois 2 Districts of the United Postal Service, including Chicago, Evanston, Glenview, Harvey, Lombard, Maywood, and Westchester Installations.



CFL President Bob Reiter speaks at UPS Teamsters' practice picket on July 14 at the company's Jefferson St. facility in Chicago.

## Teamsters Win Historic UPS Contract

In August, Teamsters voted by an overwhelming 86.3 percent to ratify the most historic collective bargaining agreement in the history of UPS. The five-year contract protects and rewards more than 340,000 UPS Teamsters nationwide, raising wages for full- and part-time workers, creating more full-time jobs, and securing important workplace protections, including air conditioning.

"Our members just ratified the most lucrative agreement the Teamsters have ever negotiated at UPS. This contract will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers," said Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien. "Teamsters have set a new standard and raised the bar for pay, benefits, and working conditions in the package delivery industry. This is the template for how workers should be paid and protected nationwide, and nonunion companies like Amazon better pay attention."

The IBT ran an impressive internal organizing campaign beginning more than two years ago. Teamsters Local 705 and Local 710 held several practice pickets and rallies leading up the Sept. 1, 2023 contract expiration date. UPS saw the worker power and cohesive organizing strength of UPS Teamsters, and gave in to their demands before the deadline.

AICWU members rally in March on the steps of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The 2023-2028 Teamsters agreement includes 60 total improvements and zero concessions from the rank-and-file. Among the improvements:

- Existing part-timers will be raised to no less than \$21 per hour immediately
- Wage increases for full-timers will keep UPS Teamsters the highest paid delivery drivers in the nation, improving their average top rate to \$49 per hour
- An end to the two-tier wage system.
- Safety and health protections, including vehicle air conditioning and cargo ventilation.
- All UPS Teamsters will receive Martin Luther King Day as a full holiday for the first time.

The UPS Teamsters National Master Agreement is the single largest private-sector collective bargaining agreement in North America.

*The International Brotherhood of Teamsters contributed to this report.*

## AICWU Ratifies Double-Digit Raises in First Contract

More than 500 members of the Art Institute of Chicago Workers United have ratified their first union contract with the museum and school.

Workers at the Art Institute of Chicago formed their union with AFSCME Council 31 in January 2022. Contract negotiations began in May 2022 and resulted in a tentative agreement on July 31 this year.

Under the four-year agreement, wages will increase at least 12.25% and as much as 16.25% across the board, with lower-paid employees receiving higher increases. In addition, the wage floor will rise to \$17 an hour now and \$18 an hour in 2025, and employees will continue to be eligible for additional raises based on merit.

"AIC and SAIC staff made history when they formed the first major museum union in Chicago. Now they've secured a landmark union contract that raises pay, creates new career opportunities, keeps health care affordable and protects workers' rights on the job," AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director Roberta Lynch said. "By coming together, AIC and SAIC employees are improving their working lives and blazing the trail for other cultural workers in Chicago and beyond."

AICWU/AFSCME also represents some 600 non-tenure-track faculty at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, who have begun negotiations toward their own collective bargaining agreement.

*AFSCME Council 31 contributed to this report.*



# WGA WINS BIG, SAG-AFTRA

**Writers Guild of America and Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists members made history, hitting the picket lines at the same time this summer.**

The entertainment industry strike brought film and television production to a halt as union members demanded fair pay and working conditions.

Just under 12,000 WGA members went on strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers on May 2. Ninety-seven percent of WGA members voted to authorize the strike.

A major issue has been decreasing residual pay for writers on TV shows on streaming platforms. Writers also sought to curb the use of “mini rooms” that create fewer writing jobs on shows and takes writers out of the production process, meaning that once filming starts, they stop getting paid. One issue that rallied the entire labor movement around the writers’ cause was preventing the AMPTP from using AI to replace writers for various parts of the writing process as well as replacing them entirely.

The CFL helped plan several rallies with the writers over the summer. The sight of Scabby the Rat and his Fat Cat friends outside NBC Tower and across from CBS/Viacom in downtown Chicago, surrounded by a sea of union members from the building trades, education, healthcare, public service, and more sent a strong message. WGA Chicago Strike Captain Brett Neveu has posted to social media near constantly leading up to and

during the strike, and said the writers appreciated how the entire Chicago labor movement joined in their fight.

“Social media, connectivity, we’re all able to speak to each other,” Neveu said. “I can’t believe the post we had about the event went so completely crazy, and that’s where we heard from all the unions who came out to support. We did not have that 15 years ago, we just had email and where you go and where you stand and where you sign in.”

At one point, writers were actively shutting down productions of TV and film projects in Chicago. On May 12, Neveu put a call out on social media to show up to a site where Showtime’s “The Chi” was filming, and enough union members and supporters showed up that day to shut down the production.

On Sept. 27, the WGA announced they reached a deal with the AMPTP, and the strike was over. The three-year contract includes significant wins in the major areas writers had fought for: compensation, length of employment, size of staffs, and control of how artificial intelligence is used.

While everything with WGA was happening, the AMPTP was also in negotiations with SAG-AFTRA for a new contract. SAG-AFTRA demands include increased minimum pay rates and streaming residuals (neither of which have kept up with inflation), and improved working conditions, royalty payments, streaming residuals and guarantees from studio and production companies about how, exactly, artificial intelligence will be used.





# EYES MAJOR GAINS

On July 14, 65,000 SAG-AFTRA members went on strike. Having supported the WGA's strike actions earlier in the summer, SAG-AFTRA Chicago members were ready to stand up and join their fellow union members on strike against the AMPTP. SAG-AFTRA Chicago Local Executive Director Eric Chaudron knows the stakes are high for his members and the future of the entertainment industry.

"For months, our members have walked picket lines, fighting for a fair and decent contract. Not only are we struggling for decent wages and benefits like healthcare and retirement, we are in an existential battle against our names and likenesses being taken forever—all while the real human beings are left behind," said Chaudron.

Buckingham fountain has provided a great backdrop for several SAG-AFTRA rallies this summer, drawing hundreds of supporters and notable people speaking in support of actors and writers on strike, including AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond, SAG-AFTRA National Board and Negotiating Committee member Sean Astin, and a trove of local elected officials.

As the strike continues to affect the entertainment industry, the CFL Community Services department has provided support for writers, actors, and all other workers affected by the strike. The CFL assisted IATSE Studio Mechanics Local 476 to hold a food distribution event in September at Chicago Studio City in Austin. The Greater Chicago Food Depository, Metro Chicago 211 and United Way of Metro Chicago shared resources and information with members of Local 476, many of whom have been out of work since May.

WGA Strike Captain Brett Neveu relays the writers demands at a rally at Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park in August.



SAG-AFTRA negotiating committee member Sean Astin marched with actors, writers, and members from across the Chicago labor movement at Daley Plaza on Aug. 4.



SAG-AFTRA Chicago Local Executive Director Eric Chaudron speaks at a rally at Daley Plaza on June 15.



CFL President Bob Reiter fires up the crowd of actors, writers and supporters at Grant Park at a rally in August.



# Featured News

## Labor Peace Agreement Signed for 2024 DNC

There is no doubt that Chicago, the hometown of the American labor movement, is the perfect city to host the 2024 Democratic National Convention. Chicago is a rich and diverse Democratic Party stronghold, and its world-class convention and tourism industries are second to none. Just a few months after Chicago was announced as the host city, the CFL helped secure an unprecedented labor peace agreement to cover operations of the 2024 convention. The CFL, along with union partners from the convention and tourism industry, made history by signing the most expansive labor peace agreement in convention record with the Democratic National Committee and the Chicago Host Committee.

Traditionally the convention labor agreements have been narrowly tailored to the workers at the convention sites, but 2024 will mark the first time it will apply to hotel workers who host delegates and party officials from across the country. The agreement will ensure labor standards for everyone who builds and powers the convention and will help avoid labor disputes leading to a disruption in convention activities. The Democratic Party has been an ally of the labor movement, and this agreement shows the party's commitment to supporting working people as the country heads into the 2024 Presidential Election.

"From airports to hotels to the convention floor, union workers are going to make the 2024 Democratic National Convention the best convention in modern history," said President Bob Reiter.

The agreement was signed more than a year ahead of the convention, one of the fastest agreements reached in the DNC's convention history.

"I was confident early on that Chicago was the best pick and would be chosen to host the 2024 convention," Reiter said. "We started convening unions early, before a host city was

announced, to discuss what a convention in the hometown of the American labor movement should look like."

CFL Chief of Staff Nora Cay Ryan, who oversees much of the CFL's convention work, was tapped to convene the pertinent unions and make the labor agreement a reality. In July, parties to the agreement, including DNC Chair Jaime Harrison, Mayor Brandon Johnson, and Governor JB Pritzker, signed the historic agreement with labor. The CFL was proud to be a part of this achievement and help set the stage for a pro-union DNC agenda at the convention in August.

## SEIU Healthcare Illinois Sends Another Member to General Assembly

The CFL celebrates the swearing in of two SEIU Healthcare Illinois members to the Illinois State Senate and the Illinois House of Representatives – State Senator Lakesia Collins and State Representative Yolanda Morris.

State Senator Lakesia Collins was appointed to serve as the State Senator for Illinois' 5th District following the resignation of State Senator Patricia Van Pelt. Collins was a fierce advocate for labor in her former role as state representative and passed bills such as the Support Youth in Foster Care Bill to require exit interviews to foster care youth when they leave a foster home. As a former child in foster care, Collins is passionate about ensuring that kids in care are heard. Collins also protected workers' rights by requiring employers to give meal breaks to any worker who works for longer than 7.5 hours in a day. The bill also redefines a "work week" as any 7 consecutive days. This bill was supported by the Illinois AFL-CIO, Illinois Nurses Association, and many others.

Collins' roots run deep in labor. She started her career as a Certified Nurses Assistant at a nursing home represented by SEIU Healthcare Illinois and later became an organizer for the union. The Chicago Federation of Labor has been a proud partner of Senator Collins and looks forward to working with her to advance the lives of working families from the State Senate Chambers!

Collins' vacancy from the Illinois House of Representatives' 9th District was filled by a fellow SEIU Healthcare Illinois member with the appointment of Yolanda Morris to fill her vacancy. Yolanda previously served as a nursing home worker and SEIU Healthcare organizer.

The Chicago Federation of Labor looks forward to working with these labor advocates in the General Assembly.

**CFL President Bob Reiter, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and DNC Chair Jaime Harrison celebrate the signing of a labor peace agreement for the 2024 Democratic National Convention taking place in Chicago in 2024.**







CFL Workforce and Community Initiative and HIRE360 Executive Director Jay Rowell leads acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su on a tour of the soon-to-be complete HIRE360 training Center.



## FLOTUS at LD Reception: “You are the backbone of this country”

First Lady of the United States Jill Biden reiterated her and President Joe Biden’s support for working people at the CFL’s annual Labor Day Reception at McCormick Place on Aug. 30.

CFL President Bob Reiter introduced the First Lady at the event, touting her lifelong support for working people.

“Dr. Jill Biden has long been a great friend and ally of working people, and a member of the National Education Association,” Reiter said. “She may be the First Lady, but she’s a rank-and-file union member too.”

Dr. Biden spoke about her middle class upbringing, and the White House’s commitment to supporting unions and increasing accessibility to more good paying jobs.

“President Biden and I understand the middle class because we’re from the middle class. And unions—you—built the middle class. And that’s why Joe is fighting for unions, so workers can fight for what they need: Better pay. Safer working conditions. Flexibility and healthcare. That way, when they step onto the construction site or into the classroom or fire station, they can do their best work for their communities.”

You can find a link to the First Lady Biden’s full remarks at [chicagolabor.org/FLOTUSLaborDay](http://chicagolabor.org/FLOTUSLaborDay)

CFL President Bob Reiter walks to the stage with First Lady of the United States Dr. Jill Biden at the CFL’s Labor Day reception on Aug. 30.



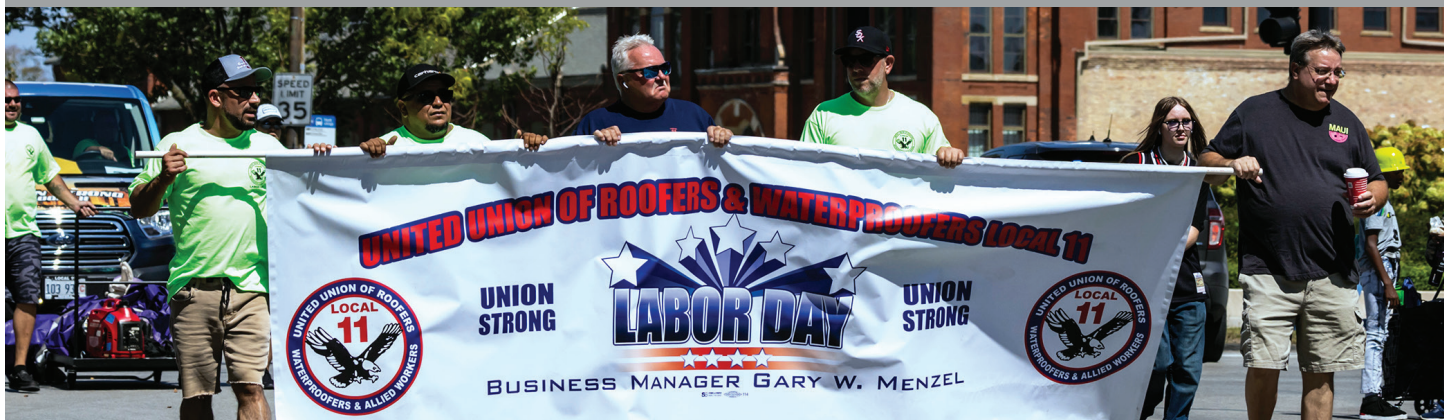
## Acting Sec. of Labor Su Hosts Roundtable at HIRE360

In August the Chicago Federation of Labor was honored to host Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Julie Su for a roundtable discussion at the future training center of HIRE360– the CFL’s partner for recruiting and training a diverse Chicago workforce. Acting Secretary Su visited Chicago while on a country-wide tour focused on centering equity and diversity in the trades and hospitality.

HIRE360 was an ideal location to host a conversation around this topic as they undergo construction on a 60,000 square foot facility on South State Street that will train workers from all backgrounds for industries such as carpentry, manufacturing and commercial cooking. Roundtable participants, including representatives from labor unions, industry, and community organizations, met at the future training center for a tour of the building, followed by a group discussion. Topics discussed include the importance of investing in youth, providing supports to diverse contractors and how the DOL can be a partner in the group’s efforts.

In partnership with HIRE360, the CFL is setting the example of how to invest in minority and women contractors, how to connect communities to apprenticeships, and how to provide the structural support to ensure quality training and success for apprentices. The CFL is proud to have its work recognized by the Department of Labor and is committed to paving the way to equity across every industry.

# CFLNews



United Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11 march in the 2023 Labor Day Parade in Pullman.

## The Chicago Labor Day Parade Marches Through History in the Pullman Neighborhood

On Sept. 2 the Chicago Labor Day Parade made its triumphant return, this time to the historic Pullman neighborhood, celebrating the Chicago labor movement and its place in labor history. Parade participants marched down South Cottage Grove Avenue past the Pullman National Historical Park before an excited crowd of union members, their families, and supporters, and continued through the “company town” where executives, employees and their families once lived and worked.

Chicago Federation of Labor President Bob Reiter led the parade along with Grand Marshall Rose Tibayan, followed by colorful floats, cars, and walkers representing Chicago’s construction, service, government, transportation, and entertainment unions. Special guests included Mayor Brandon Johnson, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond, and Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea who marched in the parade to the delight of parade participants and spectators.

President Reiter stressed the national significance of celebrating Labor Day in the Historic Pullman neighborhood.

“The Pullman Strike in 1894 was the catalyst for the creation of a federal Labor Day holiday,” Reiter said. “The railcar workers who lived and worked in this area at the time were willing to sacrifice everything for the future of the labor movement and we honor their memory today.”

The parade also featured Ray and Al Quiroz, two of the last people who worked at the Pullman facility before it closed in the 1980s. The Quiroz brothers recalled their experiences working at the factory and growing up in the Pullman neighborhood fondly. Al worked as a building and maintenance worker and Ray worked in a variety of positions within the company. Both brothers are now union retirees who still live in the Pullman area and applauded bringing the parade to their neighborhood.

“Pullman is a wonderful place to live,” Ray Quiroz said. “It’s enjoyable to see these people come in and see the Pullman area.”

As soon as the parade wrapped up, Eddie Fest began at Pullman & Arcade Parks. Eddie Fest is named for former United Steelworkers leader and activist Ed “Oilcan” Sadlowski. This year’s fest featured exciting new partners and activities, including free coppi burger samples, archery instruction, hands-on train exhibits and more. The band “Union Rules” provided live music as festivalgoers got an up-close look at the Historic Pullman District.

## Labor on Parade All Over Chicago

Summertime means parade season in the city of Chicago and for the Chicago Federation of Labor. In that spirit, the CFL participated in three of the city’s largest celebrations this summer: the Chicago Pride Parade, the Bud Billiken Parade, and the 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade. At each event, the CFL represented the strength and diversity of Chicago’s labor movement while supporting the neighborhoods and cultures that make Chicago unique.

Kicking things off on June 25, the CFL and United Way of Metro Chicago joined forces to sponsor a float in the Chicago Pride Parade. Chicago Pride is one of the biggest Pride celebrations in the country, winding through four neighborhoods of the city: North Halsted, Uptown, Lakeview, and Lincoln Park. The float included affiliates and partners from American Federation of Government Employees, SAG-AFTRA Chicago, UNITE HERE Local 1, as well as staff from United Way’s new 2-1-1 Community Navigator team.

CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar marched along with other union members and summed up the importance of Pride events to union membership around the country.

“The CFL has many union members from the LGBTQ+ community and has always served as an ally and supporter of their rights,” said Villar. “In addition, some of the most important organizing efforts in history have been supported and strengthened by involvement from our LGBTQ+ brothers, sisters and siblings.”

The CFL continued its parade presence in August as it stepped off in the 94th Annual Bud Billiken Parade on Chicago’s South Side. Along with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the CFL marched on Saturday, Aug. 12 in the “Bud” through the historic





CFL Chaplain Fr. Clete Kiley celebrated mass at St. Benedict the African Catholic Church in Englewood on Sept. 10 for Labor In the Pulpits. CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar and AFSCME Council 31 Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Adrienne Alexander were among those attending the service.

Bronzeville neighborhood. Thousands of Chicagoans showed up to watch the traditional Back to School parade. As part of the Back-to-School theme, the CFL gave away special CFL rulers and pencils. CFL President Bob Reiter highlighted the parade's connection to Chicago's Black community.

"The Bud Billiken Parade attracts one of the largest crowds in the US and is an important tradition for our city's Black community," Reiter continued. "The CFL is honored to work with the CBTU to celebrate the end of summer and help get our kids ready to go back to the classroom this fall."

As the summer ended, the CFL donned the traditional red, white, and green colors of Mexico for the 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade held on Sept. 16 in the Little Village neighborhood. The CFL proudly marched alongside with the Chicago Metro Labor Council for Latin American Advancement in the parade that celebrated Latino culture. Mexican Americans have long played an important part of Chicago's labor history and LCLAA President Jose Alcalá emphasized the importance of the CFL's participation in the parade and his gratitude for those who came out to support this event.

"Chicago Metro LCLAA would like to share its appreciation with the Chicago Federation of Labor and our brothers and sisters from various unions that attended this great event," Alcalá said. "It's all about the union family and we are all one."

## AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond Joins LITP

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond fired up the congregation of a Garfield Park church on Labor Day Sunday by reviving Dr. Martin Luther King's connection between faith, civil rights, and the labor movement. Redmond joined dozens of other labor activists who spoke at houses of worship around Chicago and the suburbs for the annual Labor in the Pulpits, in the Minbar, and on the Bimah.

At New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church on Chicago's West Side, Redmond called on the faith community to stand with labor in the shared mission of justice, fairness and opportunity for all people. "We share in the faith that we are part of something greater than ourselves, that we are stronger together, and in our commitment to ending injustice," said Redmond. "Now more than ever, we need to recommit to our shared beliefs, to work to strengthen our communities, and to fight the righteous fight."

Chicago formed Redmond's labor activism. He grew up on the city's South Side. He rose from the shop floor of the former Reynolds factory in the west suburbs to lead the United Steel Workers. In 2021, he made history by becoming the first Black Secretary Treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

## IUE-CWA Local 14430 Wins Strong Contract

IUE-CWA Local 14430 members at Northstar Aerospace ratified a strong new contract on July 27 after nearly two months on strike. The new contract includes an 18% wage increase and improvements to benefits and working conditions.

IUE-CWA Local 14430 members walked off the job at midnight on June 5 in response to the company's deceptive bargaining tactics, which led to the union filing an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board. IUE-CWA Local 14430 President Dave Gerrard said his members were fed up with management's lowball contract offers.

"The contract offers from Northstar were laughable," Gerrard said. "All we want is fair wages and respect, it's that simple."

Workers at Northstar Aerospace are an essential part of the defense industry. They make critical parts for Apache and Chinook helicopters at their facility in Bedford Park. The parts they build require a great deal of skill and precision.

"You just can't farm out this kind of labor. These workers are trained for years and their work is scrutinized and certified to the highest standards."

IUE-CWA Local 14430 members held the picket line 24/7 throughout the hot summer months of June and July. The CFL and affiliate unions provided support to striking workers and helped plan several rallies outside Northstar's facility. The union received some support from local elected officials, and Rep. Sean Casten attended a rally and spoke in support of the striking workers.

The new four-year contract includes an 18% wage increase over the life of the agreement, no change in medical cost premium shares, and improvements to safety and benefits, including vacation and short-term disability. In addition, the workers successfully fought back against the company's attempt to adversely change the attendance policy.

**Congressman Sean Casten (IL-6, right) offers his support to IUE-CWA Local 14430 members and spoke at a rally outside Northstar's Bedford Park facility in July.**





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## UPCOMING CFL DELEGATES MEETINGS

Tuesday, **November 7, 2023**  
Tuesday, **December 5, 2023**

**6 p.m.**  
IBEW Local 134  
2722 S. Martin Luther King Dr, 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.

**Don V. Villar**  
Secretary-Treasurer



## Proud Union Home Store

Show that you are Union Strong. Take a moment and visit the Proud Union Home Store to see the array of Proud Union Home and CFL merchandise. From hats and apparel to yard signs, you're sure to find the perfect items to show off your union pride!

**[PROUDUNIONSTORE.COM](http://PROUDUNIONSTORE.COM)**