



FederationNews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • SUMMER/FALL 2014

Raising the Wage In Illinois

This November, voters will have an opportunity to weigh-in on the issue.



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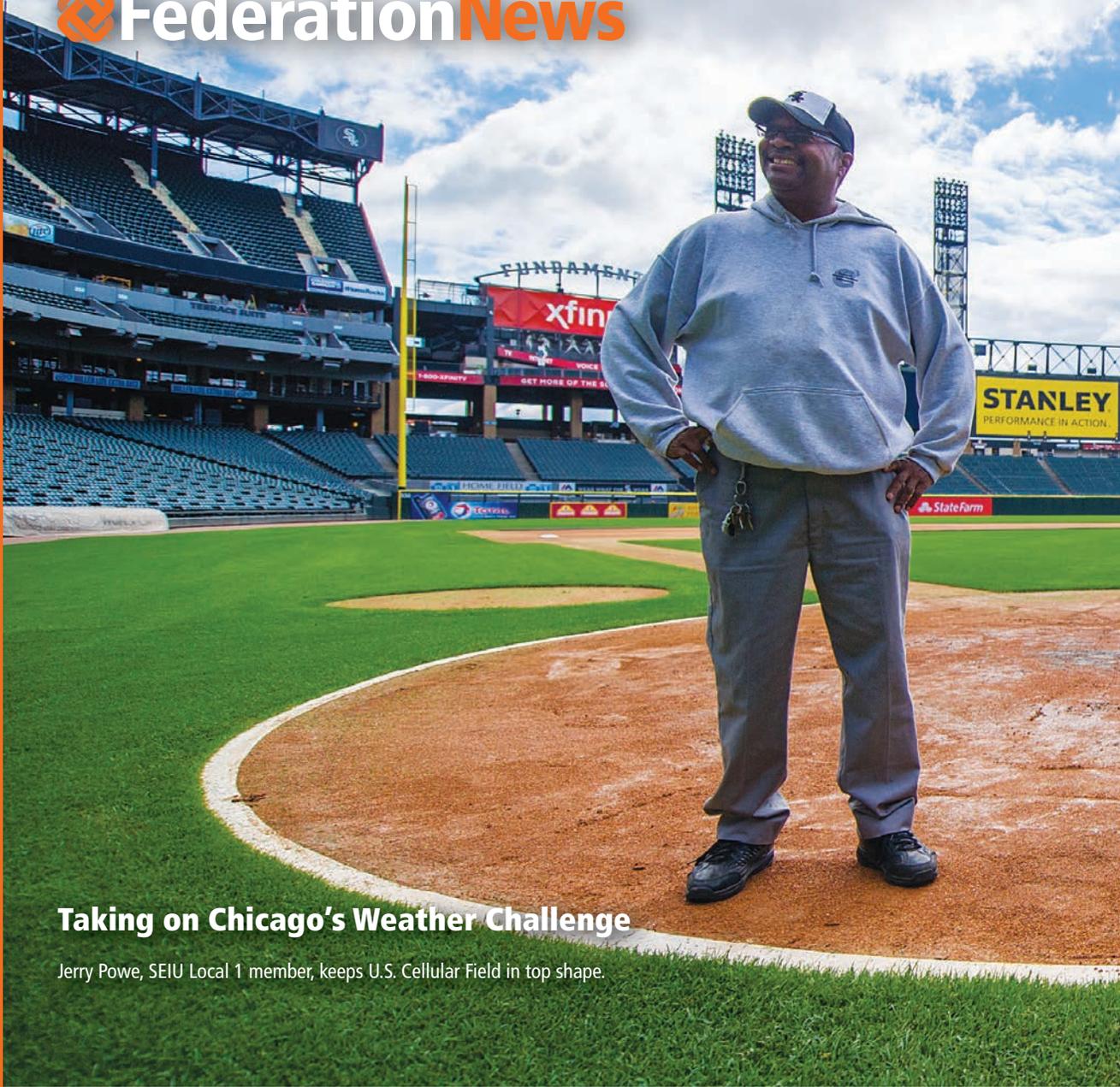
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Taking on Chicago's Weather Challenge

Jerry Powe, SEIU Local 1 member, keeps U.S. Cellular Field in top shape.

President's Report



The Illinois Governor's election this November is about a fundamental choice for working people. Do we want to elect a governor who supports rolling back the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour or one who supports raising the minimum wage to over \$10 per hour and as much as \$15?

We need to move forward in a direction that will rebuild our middle class, modernize our infrastructure for the 21 century, and protect basic rights like a living wage, health care and the right to join a union.

The labor movement has always been about raising people up, building strong communities, and giving working men and women a voice. Since its inception, the labor movement has created a robust middle class

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PHOTO COURTESY PAT BARCAS

and protected those who are unionized and those we are working to organize.

You may have heard the cliché: either you do politics or politics will do you. Unfortunately, what we gain at the bargaining table can very easily be lost in the halls of government. We as a labor movement need to take an aggressive role in the politics of Illinois to ensure that we do not suffer the same fate as our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio and Missouri. Elections have consequences. People were stripped of their voice on the job; workplaces made less safe; public services outsourced and sold to the highest bidder. We do not have to be next, and we will not be next.

In the 2010 mid-term elections in Illinois,

we held on to the Governor's Mansion—but it was close. Governor Quinn won his office by one percent—just 30,000 votes—carrying just four of 102 counties. In 2010, 26 percent of all Illinois voters were from union households. That means slightly more than one out of every four voters comes from a union family. However, in 2014, we still have a significant number of union members who are not registered to vote. A lost vote from the labor movement is a vote in favor of Rauner.

We are in this together, and it is going to take a collective effort to survive this election. As we look toward November, we are building a strategy that will unify all our union brothers and sisters. We all need to understand that it is not just the Governor's mansion that is at

stake here. It's our livelihoods; it's our way of life. There is work to be done, and we need your help to accomplish it. Stay informed and get involved by registering to vote, following us on Facebook and Twitter, and volunteering with the CFL. For more information on getting involved, see the back cover of this publication.

Our work does not end on November 4. We must be ready to keep fighting, because the forces working against us are not going to stop.


JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT

Affiliate News

Read more on these topics at www.chicagolabor.org/news.

Rebuilding Together

On April 26, 2014, a couple hundred union members from the building trades gave up a Saturday with their families to participate in a national day of service through Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago.

Members from IBEW Local 134, Plumbers Local 130 U.A., the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and Painters District Council 14 spent the day putting their expert training and skills to work by repairing the homes of residents in need.

In conjunction with additional volunteers from business and service organizations, these union members made major repairs in 70 homes in Chicago's West Englewood neighborhood and the Cook County suburb of Riverdale, Ill. Rebuilding Together seeks the participation of the unions to ensure the work is done properly.

"We have a lot of people out here today that have the heart to do this work, but don't have the skill to get some of these jobs done without the trades," said Steve Brummer, President of Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago. "Together with the trades, we can

make a bigger impact than what we could do on our own."

TO READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLE, VISIT: WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/REBUILD.

Retirees Fight For Benefits

On April 23, 2014, approximately 70 GE retirees from Erie, Pa., Louisville, Ky., New York, N.Y., Milwaukee, Wis. and Chicago, Ill. demonstrated outside the annual Shareholders meeting at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Suites. The retirees included members from NABET-CWA, IUE-CWA, UE, IAM and representatives from CWA Local 4250.

The group was protesting GE's termination of the post-65 retirement benefits for any employee, retiree or spouse that will not be 65, enrolled in Medicare, and enrolled in their post-65 plans by January 1, 2015. The cancellation of this retirement benefit could affect many NABET-CWA Local 41 members, retirees and their spouses as well as retired IUE members.

Several musicians from the Chicago Federation of Musicians, under the leadership of Gary Matts, CFM

President and CFL Finance Committee member, were on hand during the rally to help bring attention to this important issue.

All in a Day's Work

For Jason Patt, a member of AFSCME Local 2452, what started as a typical night at work quickly spiraled into a night he won't soon forget. On the night of May 12, Jason risked his own safety to bravely save a family of five from drowning in their car.

Flash flooding swept across the area after heavy thunderstorms passed through the suburbs north of Chicago. The rain created a pool of water underneath an overpass on Route 41 near Route 176. According to a report in the Chicago Sun-Times, five people, including one child, were trapped in their car, with the water up to their chests.

A Lake Bluff police officer was unable to urge the family out of the car, so Patt knew he had to get in the water to rescue the family. When the family hailed him as a hero, Patt said he was just doing his job as a public servant.

Gone, But Not Forgotten

On May 30, 2014, the labor movement lost one of its most influential and passionate members. Leslie Fray Orear, a union organizer for the United Packinghouse Workers of America, and co-founder and President Emeritus of the Illinois Labor History Society, died peacefully in his home surrounded by family. He was 103 years old.

Orear grew up in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and went to work in the stockyards for Armour & Co. in 1932. Orear and a group of co-workers began to organize the packinghouse workers, promising equality for all members.

In 1969, he co-founded the Illinois Labor History Society with the late Bill Adelman and Studs Terkel, and he served as its President until age 98 and President Emeritus until his death. He believed in and lived "truth, beauty and love" and fought for justice and equality for all races and classes. He will truly be missed.



PHOTO BY BILL FREEDA, NABET-CWA NATIONAL RETIREE COORDINATOR

MEMBERS OF THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS HELP THE GE RETIREES MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN OUTSIDE THE GE SHAREHOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING.



STEVE MANDARINO OF CHICAGO JOURNEYMAN PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 130 UA INSTALLS A NEW SHOWER FAUCET FOR THE HOMEOWNER THROUGH THE REBUILDING TOGETHER METRO CHICAGO DAY OF SERVICE.

Giving Summer School a Whole New Meaning

Two members of the Chicago chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women made the most of their weeklong experience at the Midwest School for Women Workers.

For the first time, the Chicago Federation of Labor sponsored the tuition for two women who are both from CFL affiliated unions and members of CLUW. "It is important for our union sisters to develop leadership skills and build relationships with other union women from across the region," said CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter. "An experience like the Midwest School is important to strengthening the labor movement as a whole."

This year's school took place June 22-26, 2014, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For nearly 30 years, the School has provided labor education and leadership development, empowering women to take their careers to the next level.

Throughout the week, participants talked about the challenges and issues facing the labor movement, such as the concerns facing working families, and they shared their own experiences. They also planned an action and participated in an American Postal Workers Union rally at a near-by Staple store. Katie Jordan, President of Chicago CLUW and an instructor at the Midwest School, said, "It's important for women to continue to educate themselves on the 'how to' if we are to continue to organize and build a stronger labor movement." Kristine Mayle, Chicago Teachers Union Financial Secretary, was the keynote speaker for the event.

Chicago CLUW and its members are grateful to President Jorge Ramirez and Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter for sending two deserving sisters to the school.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AFSCME COUNCIL 31

JASON PATT, A MEMBER OF AFSCME LOCAL 2452



PHOTO BY ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

LESLIE OREAR



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLUW

(LEFT TO RIGHT): KATIE JORDAN, CLUW PRESIDENT AND MIDWEST SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR; HARRIETTA HUMPHREY, CLUW MEMBER AND CFL MIDWEST SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT; KRISTINE MAYLE, CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND MIDWEST SCHOOL KEYNOTE SPEAKER; LOLITA GRIFFIN, CLUW MEMBER AND CFL MIDWEST SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT.

Journeyman Training Funds Available

CFL Workers Assistance Committee can help your union access funds to reimburse training costs of journeymen through the Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP). In 2013, CFLWAC provided Illinois unions and businesses with nearly \$1.5 million in training funds to "upskill" over 10,000 workers. Illinois companies and unions can access ETIP funds to reimburse 50 percent of the cost of training and related materials for current employees between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014.

CFLWAC is dedicated to developing and strengthening the skills of Chicagoland workers to fulfill the needs of area employers and vitalize the local economy. For a free ETIP eligibility consultation and application assistance, contact CFLWAC's Business Services Team at 708.344.3714 or training@cflwac.org. To learn more about CFLWAC's business and union services, visit www.cflwac.org.

ETIP funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis. Do not miss your chance to take advantage of this great opportunity!



Raising the Wage In Illinois

Imagine having to decide whether to pay the gas or electric bill this month. Imagine having to choose between a full tank of gas or food on the table. Imagine not having enough money to fill a prescription at your local pharmacy. For 400,000 workers in Illinois, these hypotheticals are the realities they face day after day because they hold minimum wage jobs.

The common misconception regarding low-wage workers is they are mostly teenagers. In reality, they are on average 35 years old. More than half of these workers are women, and for more than half of these workers, this is their full-time job.¹ A full-time minimum wage worker in Illinois earns \$330 a week, or \$17,160 a year, when based on 40 hours a week and 52 weeks a year. However, because of corporations like Walmart and McDonald's, the work week is changing. Instead of 40 hours per week, workers are only receiving between 30 and 32 hours. People are forced to work multiple low-wage jobs to make ends meet, keeping them away from their homes and families for longer periods of time.

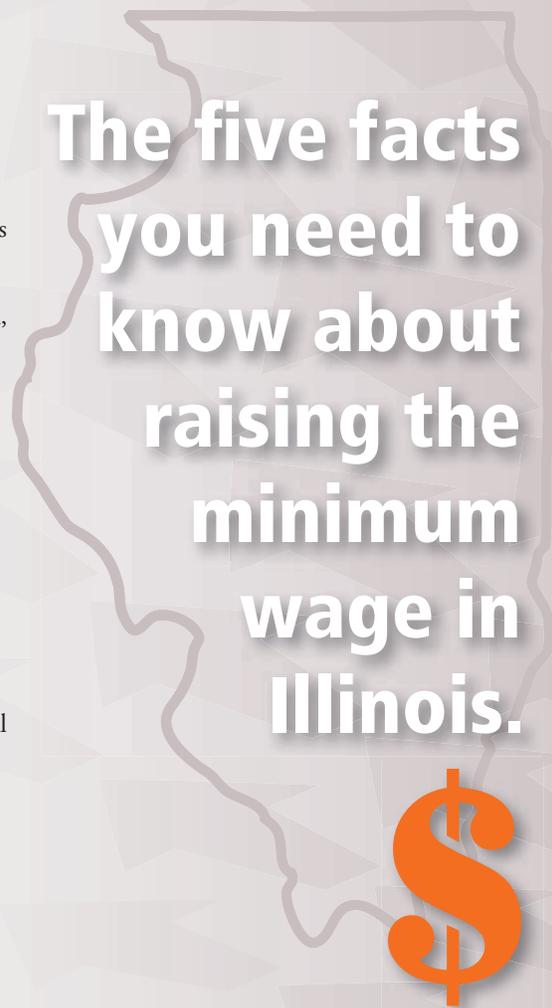
Minimum wage workers in Illinois need a raise, and this November, voters will have an opportunity to voice their opinion. The Chicago Federation of Labor endorses the minimum wage question on the November ballot, because workers in Chicago, Cook County and across Illinois need a raise.

The last federal minimum wage increase in the United States was in July 2009, when the wage went from \$6.55 to \$7.25. Within the state of Illinois, the minimum wage was raised to \$8.25 in June 2010, giving the state the third-highest minimum wage in the nation, at that time. Today, Illinois is sixth behind California, Connecticut, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

In 1938 the Fair Labor Standards Act established the minimum wage, overtime pay, record keeping requirements and child labor regulations. When the act was passed, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, it “sets a floor below wages and a ceiling over the hours of labor.” While the minimum wage continues to protect the country’s lowest-paid, most vulnerable sector the workforce, today it is well below what workers need to keep pace with inflation. If the federal minimum wage would have kept up with inflation it would be \$10.75 an hour, not \$7.25. This leaves minimum wage workers of today with less purchasing power than a minimum wage worker in the late 1960s. In the meantime, CEO salaries have continued to escalate at an alarming pace. The median salary of a CEO in the United States in 2013 was \$10.5 million, up 8.8 percent over the previous year.² That is approximately 696 times the salary of a full-time worker earning the federal minimum wage.

Today, there is a movement in Illinois to raise the minimum wage. Raise Illinois is a major legislative and grassroots campaign working to increase Illinois’ minimum wage to \$10.65 an hour. It is led by a coalition made up of community, business, faith and labor organizations, along with minimum wage workers and supporters. Additionally, the Fight for 15 campaign seeks to raise the living wage to \$15 per hour and give workers the right to form a union without retaliation.

Raising the minimum wage is a significant, yet simple, way to create jobs and grow our economy. This November, we need to send a message to Springfield that minimum wage workers need a raise. Show your support by answering “yes” to the ballot question.



The five facts you need to know about raising the minimum wage in Illinois.

¹ [HTTP://WWW.EPL.ORG/PUBLICATION/WAGE-WORKERS-OLDER-88-PERCENT-WORKERS-BENEFIT/](http://www.epl.org/publication/wage-workers-older-88-percent-workers-benefit/)
² STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND EQUILAR



FACT: A minimum wage worker in Illinois, making \$8.25 an hour, and working full time, earns just \$17,160 annually.



FACT: Raising the minimum wage to \$10.65 an hour can boost low-wage workers' income up to \$4,992 per year to spend on vital necessities such as food, gas, rent and child care.



FACT: Raising the minimum wage to \$10.65 in Illinois will inject \$2.5 billion into our state economy and will benefit small businesses.



FACT: Over 600 of our nation's top economists, including 7 Nobel Prize winners, all agree that raising the minimum wage will grow our economy, create more jobs, and support small businesses by giving working families more money in their pockets to spend in our local economy.



FACT: Raising the minimum wage will immediately help over 400,000 minimum wage workers in Illinois and the families they support.

Feature Stories



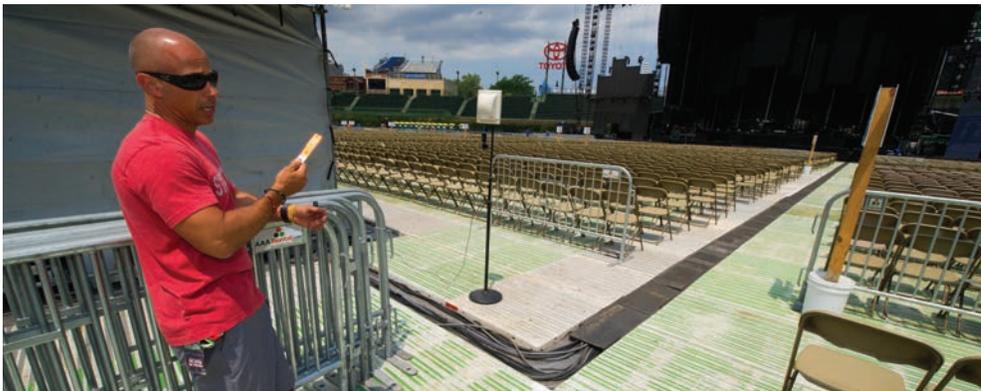
The Man Behind the Scenes

A major film or television production has its stars, its directors, and the other members of the Screen Actors Guild, sure. They get credit and recognition at high profile events like the Academy Awards. But what about the union workers who make it all possible away from the camera lens?

In July of this year, Teamsters Local 727 member Philip Gutowsky worked on the new Andy and Lana Wachowski project, Sense 8, a science fiction series that will debut on Netflix next year.

“We get here before everyone else at 4:30 in the morning and set the whole thing up. We have to be here first for the whole operation to work,” Gutowsky said. “People don’t see a lot of the work we do because we do it before they get here, or after they’ve left.”

TO READ THE FULL STORY, VISIT WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/MEMBERPROFILES



Behind Every Great Performer Is an Even Greater Stagehand

The men of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees union, Local 2 are tough union guys.

“I don’t know any other job where 24 semis worth of stuff comes in at eight a.m., you set it up by four p.m., and have it loaded back on the trucks at two a.m.,” said Christopher Iovino, union steward for Local 2.

The members of IATSE Local 2 have set up the rigging, lights, stage, lawn decking and anything else a major concert needs for all venues in the Chicago area, from acts like the Rolling Stones and U2, to Billy Joel and Beyonce this summer. They construct about five stadium shows per year, as well as events like the Winter Classic at Wrigley Field and the Ringling Brothers Circus at All State Arena.

TO READ THE FULL STORY, VISIT WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/MEMBERPROFILES



Polar Vortex No Match For This Crew

As Chicago emerged from its brutal winter this spring, playing baseball on a stunning green natural turf moved beyond a mere challenge—it was looking to be almost a sheer impossibility.

“There was ice everywhere. Some spots in the outfield, it was two to three feet deep. It was pretty dire,” said Jerry Powe, Service Employees International Union Local 1 member and Grounds Crew Foreman for the Chicago White Sox.

He worked diligently with fellow SEIU and Grounds Crew member Harry Smith. Powe has been with the Sox since 1980, Smith since 1991, and the two are the most senior members of the crew, serving under the “Sodfather” Head Groundskeeper Roger Bossard.

Together, the team of eight full-time regulars and 26 total achieved the impossible, using a Bossard-designed heating system to blast the ice into submission, and even using jackhammers on the thickest slabs around home plate.

They successfully opened the ballpark for baseball despite the freezing weather lasting well into the spring this year.

“I like the challenge. Parks in Arizona, Texas, they have it easy. We have variety in Chicago. They don’t even have weather out there,” said Powe.

The two men take pride in their field, saying it’s the best grass in the Majors. The perfectly-trimmed greenery is unaffected by the soggy summer of 2014 thanks to an excellent drainage setup perfected by Bossard, as well as the fact that there’s no dirt under the grass, it’s all sand. The clay is old school, transplanted from the old Comiskey Park, along with home plate.

“The old clay we have, it’s a better mixture than the new stuff. You can tell it came out of the Earth. You can order 50 pound bags of

clay now, but it’s all sandy. I’m not sure where that comes from,” said Smith.

It’s that attention to detail that makes the surface at U.S. Cellular Field second to none, as well as the rest of the stadium, which the men are also in charge of taking care of.

“We wash every seat every day, and we clean the park inside and out, and make sure it’s ready for the games,” said Smith.

On game day, no fan wants to see rain clouds, and the same goes for the Grounds Crew.

“Dragging that tarp out is the hardest part about our job. It’s heavier than it looks, especially when wet, and we have to really hustle that thing out there when it’s raining,” said Powe. “We really have a limited time to get it out there.”

The record for tarp coverings during a game for the men is five. Five times they covered the field; five times they pulled it off.

“They gave every one of us a bonus that day,” said Smith. “I think it was earned.”

He recalled his best day at work—the day he started in 1991.

“I stepped onto the field. Wow! This was Major League Baseball. I was overwhelmed and excited,” he said. “I’ve been excited ever since I’ve been here. It’s been wonderful.”

For Powe, his favorite memory was an Aerosmith concert at the old Comiskey Park in 1976. He was just a teenager, cleaning up the field with an air compressor after the show, hard work that earned him a spot on the team.

“I was 16 years old, and I blew the trash off the whole field. It got me noticed and led to my job,” said Powe. “It’s been great, a true dream come true.”

FOR MORE ON THIS UNION MEMBER PROFILE VISIT WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG.



Read more on these topics at www.chicagolabor.org/news.

2014 Scholarship Winners

On Thursday, May 15, 2014, the Chicago Federation of Labor awarded 10 high school seniors the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship. Each year the CFL presents five academic-based and five random-draw scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 to students graduating from high school. Students or their parents must belong to a union affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor.

CFL President Jorge Ramirez and Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter were both on hand to welcome these outstanding students, as well as their families and union representatives.

“We are proud to help these students as they move to the next chapter in their lives,” said President Ramirez. “They all have many accomplishments to be proud of and bright futures to look forward to.”

These awards are a memorial to William A. Lee, who served as President of the Chicago Federation of Labor for 38 years. Mr. Lee devoted over 60 years to the cause of labor, and civic and community service.

The winners of this year’s scholarship are:

1. **Patrick Andrade**
Chicago Fire Fighters Local 2
2. **Kiara Butler**
AFT Local 604
3. **Katie Dieckman**
IUOE Local 150
4. **Liam Hamp**
Chicago Fire Fighters Local 2
5. **Carolyn Kelly**
AFA-CWA Local Council #8
6. **Dyllan Mattea**
Iron Workers Local 1
7. **Marcus Razor**
Teamsters Local 743
8. **Sophia Alice Svoboda**
Chicago Teachers Union
9. **Amanda Wendt**
Sprinkler Fitters Local 281
10. **Kelli Zickert**
Northwest Suburban Teacher Local 1211



Attention Class of 2015

Your chance to apply for the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship begins January 1, 2014.

Visit www.chicagolabor.org/scholarship starting January 1 to download the application. Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 2, 2015.

New Chicago Development Will Create Hundreds of Local Jobs

On Friday, July 18, 150 elected officials, workers, union members and community leaders from around Chicago were on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony at Wolf Point West Tower, located at 326 North Orleans Street, Chicago. Wolf Point West Tower is a \$160 million, 48-story multifamily project being built in Chicago. The AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust (BIT) indirectly provided a \$34 million equity investment in the project, and Ullico, the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, has invested \$32.75 million. The other partners of BIT in the joint venture and a 3rd party lender provided the remaining funds for the development.

Wolf Point West will feature 509 luxury rental units, market-leading amenities, over 400 feet of publicly accessible river walk and extensive green space. Initial occupancy is expected in fall of 2015. Wolf Point West is the first of three new buildings to be built on the Wolf Point site, which together are estimated to create more than 2,000 union construction jobs and a \$1 billion investment in Chicago.

“The BIT provides not only competitive, risk-adjusted returns for our investors, but also maintains one of the most comprehensive labor policies in the real estate industry,” said Mike Stotz, President and Managing Director of the AFL-CIO Investment Trust Corporation.

“At Wolf Point, we demonstrate a commitment to putting our money where our mouth is,” said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. “Projects like this are stimulating the economy,



employing our union members and building communities that we can be proud of.”

The BIT and its joint venture partner recently completed a 45-story apartment tower located at 500 Lake Shore Drive, located one block from Chicago’s famed Navy Pier. It was a \$157 million investment that created approximately 750 union construction jobs. It has 44 stories, 500 units and 430 parking spaces.

Ullico recently provided a total \$87.59 million in loans to finance the construction of three new Chicago real estate projects, Wolf Point; New City, a mixed use development with 199 residential units and 367,000 square feet of retail space in the Lincoln Park neighborhood; and 200 N. Michigan, a 41-story, 402-unit luxury apartment building located downtown.

“Chicago is a great city with strong labor roots and we are pleased to be adding these three projects to the region,” said Edward M. Smith, president and CEO of Ullico Inc. “These investments will not only benefit union pension funds, but also put union members and union contractors to work.”



TOP: THE PARTNERS WITH THE BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST JOINED WITH LABOR AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR THE CEREMONIAL SHOVELING OF DIRT AT WOLF POINT. BOTTOM: CONSTRUCTION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY AT WOLF POINT WEST, LOCATED ALONG THE CHICAGO RIVER.

Election 2014 - Volunteers Needed

This November, the labor movement in Illinois faces a serious threat to our livelihoods. We are facing a governor’s election where one candidate wants to dismantle all of our hard-fought progress by turning Illinois into right-to-work-for-less zones and hindering unions’ ability to bargain collectively.

The Chicago Federation of Labor is the voice of over 300 unions representing more than 500,000 working men and women. Together, we can win this November.

We need to do our part to educate our union brothers and sisters about the importance of making their voice heard this election. Phone banks will run regularly through Election Day.

As Election Day draws near, our efforts will continue to become stronger and more opportunities will present themselves. We encourage you to participate in any way you can.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CFL AT 312.222.1000 OR INFO@CHICAGOLABOR.ORG, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG

VOLUNTEER!

Every Monday from 4 - 8 p.m.

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17 – 18520 Spring Creek Drive, Tinley Park, IL

Every Tuesday from 4 - 8 p.m.

Operating Engineers Local 399 – 2260 S. Grove Street, Chicago, IL

Every Wednesday from 4 - 8 p.m.

Operating Engineers Local 150 – 6200 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL

Select Thursdays from 4 - 8 p.m.

I.B.E.W. 134 – 600 W. Washington, Chicago, IL

Times may change, please contact the CFL at 312.222.1000 for up-to-date information.



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CFL Delegates' Meetings

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Tuesday, December 2, 2014
(Christmas Party)

START TIME: 6 p.m.

WHERE: Chicago Plumbers Local 130 Hall
1340 W. Washington, Chicago

Delegates must present their current Chicago Federation of Labor membership card or this notice for admission. We look forward to full representation from your local union to assist the Federation in the development of its policies.



ROBERT G. REITER, JR.
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Get Involved!

This election season, join the CFL in standing up for working people and building a strong middle class.

Follow us:

 www.facebook.com/chicagofederationoflabor

 www.twitter.com/chicagoaficio

Volunteer to get out the vote:

www.chicagolabor.org/vote

Labor Day 2014

As we celebrate Labor Day, the CFL would like to thank our union brothers and sisters who dedicate themselves to making a difference throughout Cook County. We have created a special video to highlight the diversity of our movement and the dedication of the 500,000 members of our affiliated unions. • www.chicagolabor.org/video