



Federation News

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • ISSUE 1 • 2021

Chicago Says Goodbye to Two Labor Legends

The Passion, Courage, and Solidarity of Karen Lewis and Bob Simpson Will Never Be Forgotten



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COVER PHOTO

BOB SIMPSON AND
KAREN LEWIS

PHOTOS: CFL



Sub-Zero Scabby

Members of IATSE Local 2 rally with Scabby the Rat on Dec. 11 against Starvox Entertainment's Immersive Van Gogh exhibit for using non-local, non-union labor. IATSE Local 2 would later reach a deal with Starvox.

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President's Report



Two months into his presidency and President Joe Biden has made good on his promise to working people by addressing issues on health care, the economy and—most importantly—the COVID-19 pandemic. The executive order he signed on Jan. 29 protecting worker health and safety, reflects the need for greater protections and PPE that labor has called for since the beginning of the pandemic.

The new COVID-19 guidelines for employers and workers released by the Biden administration at the Occupational Health and Safety Administration takes a worker-centered approach. The guidelines call on workers to contribute in the development of their employers' COVID-19 prevention



PHOTO: CFL

programs and give stronger protections to workers who speak out when their employers are in violation. The guidelines also encourage OSHA to establish an Emergency Temporary Standard no later than March 15.

OSHA acknowledges that “the most effective programs engage workers and their union or other representatives in the program’s development.” OSHA also outlines the following key elements in creating an efficient COVID-19 prevention program: “conducting a hazard assessment; identifying a combination of measures that limit the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace; adopting measures to ensure that workers who are infected or potentially infected are

separated and sent home from the workplace; and implementing protections from retaliation for workers who raise COVID-19 related concerns.”

Not only do these guidelines provide a clearer outline for protecting workers who are on the front lines, but it also empowers workers by giving them a seat at the table to discuss the appropriate measures that need to be implemented within their workspace. No one knows the risks of being exposed to and/or contracting COVID-19 in the workspace better than workers on the jobsite.

Employers are also now responsible for providing all their workers with face coverings and, when the time comes, providing workers

with the COVID-19 vaccine for no cost. Working people have been on the front lines since the start of this pandemic, risking their health and the health of their families.

It’s high time employers start listening to their needs, establishing protocols to keep them safe, and giving them the tools they need to do their job. This order brings them one step closer to doing just that.

BOB REITER
PRESIDENT

Affiliate News

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

Infinity Healthcare Workers Win New Contract After 12 Day Strike

Striking front line workers at 11 Infinity Healthcare facilities won a major victory in bargaining on Dec. 5, securing a tentative agreement with significant gains in base wages, pandemic pay, sick days, and personal protective equipment provisions.

The strike by the over 800 essential Infinity nursing home workers began on Nov. 23, when the caregivers walked off the job in their fight for above-poverty-level base wages, expanded pandemic pay, and improved policies related to PPE and COVID-19-related sick time.

The tentative agreement workers won is for a two-and-a-half year contract which includes the following gains:

- All workers will immediately receive significant wage increases—a minimum of \$1 an hour, with an average increase of over \$2 an hour. Workers will receive additional wage increases in years two and three of the contract.

- Pandemic pay will increase from \$2 to \$2.50 an hour and is now secured for all workers who work in areas that either have verified cases of COVID-19 or areas with residents under observation for COVID for as long as COVID-19 is present in a facility.

- Workers will gain an additional five days of COVID-19-related sick time.

- Workers won significant PPE guarantees and protections.

Additionally, the tentative agreement will raise standards for Certified Nursing Assistant pay across all 11 Infinity Healthcare facilities, which in turn will help improve staffing levels and the level of resident care.

“I’ve been at Lakeview Nursing and Rehab for 15 years even though I could easily earn a lot more at another facility,” said CNA and SEIU Healthcare member Rosalind Reggans. “With this new contract, we won’t have people leaving for other facilities because they can’t afford to work here—and that means higher quality care for my residents.”

“This contract is about more than base wages and pandemic pay—though it’s

absolutely crucial that front line caregivers make enough to support their own families and are compensated for risking their lives during this pandemic. It’s about lifting up the standard of care at Infinity facilities and across the state, because workers deserve better and residents deserve better,” said SEIU Healthcare Illinois President Greg Kelley.

Workers received an outpouring of support from community members, residents, residents’ families, labor and faith leaders as well as from many elected leaders.

Story submitted by SEIU Healthcare

Labor Leaders Join Rep. Marie Newman to Push for Trade Show Industry Support

On Dec. 7, 2020, CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar joined then Congresswoman-elect Marie Newman and other labor leaders representing workers in the trade

show industry at McCormick Place to call for Congress to Pass the Heroes Act and give workers the lifeline they desperately need.

In no other industry has the pandemic produced nearly 100% unemployment like in the trade show sector. And, while these sacrifices were necessary to keep our communities safe, these workers have been out of work for over 10 months, and they have been struggling.

The entertainment and convention industry is absolutely essential to Chicago’s economy. Not only in terms of the revenue it brings in, but also in the way it is connected to the stability of many other sectors all across the city. It affects restaurant business, hotels, and transportation revenue. If the government does not act to ensure these workers are able to come back to work when this is over, industries all across Chicago will struggle.

“When the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation expired in July, hundreds of thousands of workers in Illinois lost their compensation and their benefits,” CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar said. “They have lost dozens of paychecks,



PHOTO: SEIU HEALTHCARE

Submit your stories

Unions and their members are doing great work throughout our communities, and we want to hear about it.

Email your stories (200 words or less) and high-resolution photos (300 dpi or greater) to info@chicagolabor.org.

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

LEFT: SEIU HEALTHCARE MEMBERS AT INFINITY HEALTHCARE NURSING HOMES ON THE PICKET LINE DURING A 12-DAY STRIKE. OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT: CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER DON VILLAR JOINS LABOR LEADERS AND CONGRESSWOMAN-ELECT MARIE NEWMAN IN HIGHLIGHTING THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE TRADE SHOW INDUSTRY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE. OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT: AFS-CME LOCAL 919 MEMBER KENA PETERSON RECEIVES A COVID-19 VACCINATION SHOT IN CHICAGO.

and it is essential that Congress stop delaying. They are dragging their feet in supporting our workers and their families, risking their future every day that they wait.”

As relief negotiations resumed in Washington, leaders in Chicago stressed that the next stimulus package must help working people first and foremost through extended unemployment relief, paid sick leave, extended health care coverage, direct cash payments, and support for struggling states, counties, and municipalities.

Committed to passing the Heroes Act and fighting for the protections and relief measures, Congresswoman-elect Newman said “workers need that relief, they needed it yesterday, they needed it last month.”

Congress passed a second stimulus package in December, and negotiations are underway on a third relief bill.

Local and National Leaders Urge Congress to Pass the PRO Act

Nearly 60 million people say they would join a union today if they could. The problem? Union-busters, big business, and woefully outdated laws continue

to undermine the right to collectively bargain. A critical step in overcoming updating labor law in America is passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

The PRO Act was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last year but was blocked in the Senate. This year, Congress has another chance to make history. It’s time to pass the PRO Act and end so-called “right-to-work” for good.

If it passes, the PRO Act would:

- Empower workers to organize and bargain.
- Hold corporations accountable for union-busting.
- Repeal “right to work” laws, which were created during the Jim Crow era to keep White and Black workers from unionizing together.

“Labor law in this country is woefully out of date,” said CFL President Bob Reiter. “We need to pass the PRO Act and put the federal government back on the side of working people, where it belongs. Especially after the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, workers need to have the freedom to organize for wages, benefits, and safety on the job.”

According to the Economic Policy Institute, on average, workers in states with “right-to-work” laws make nearly \$9,000

less per year than workers in states without these laws (\$50,174 compared with \$59,163). In 2019, 24% of jobs in “right-to-work” states were in low-wage occupations, compared to just 14.5% of jobs in other states. The rate of workplace deaths is 37% higher in states with “right-to-work” laws.

The PRO Act would override these laws and strike a major victory for civil rights as our country demands racial and economic justice.

Stronger unions mean higher wages, safer working conditions, and dignity for all people who work. The PRO Act is the first step to get there.

Union Members Urged to Receive COVID-19 Vaccine As Soon As They Are Eligible

Several safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines are currently being rolled out to residents across Chicago and Cook County. Some union members are now eligible for the vaccine based on the age and occupation.

CFL President Bob Reiter encouraged union members to take the vaccine as soon as they are eligible and able.

“The vaccine is safe, effective, and necessary to get us all past this terrible pandemic,” said President Reiter. “Please, whenever you are eligible and able, take the vaccine. Protect yourself, your family, and your siblings in the labor movement.”

Vaccine rollout is currently divided into several phases, with different groups of people eligible for the vaccine in each phase depending on their age, occupation, and other underlying health factors. Currently, vaccine rollout has begun for Phases 1A and 1B, which include those 65 and older, and “front line essential workers” in specified categories. Phase 1B+, underway in some parts of Illinois, includes those aged 16-64 with underlying medical conditions.

Kena Peterson, a housekeeper/laundry aide at Smith Village senior community in Chicago and AFSCME Local 919 member said, “I took the vaccine for my safety, my co-workers and residents and for my parents.”

Phase 1C, scheduled to start in late March, would include all other essential workers. Phase 2, encompassing all Chicagoans above the age of 16, is scheduled to begin at the end of May.

For more information, visit chicago.gov/covid or CFLcares.com



PHOTO: CFL



PHOTO: AFSCME COUNCIL 31

Remembering Bob Simpson, Leader in the Struggle for Labor and Civil Rights

Robert T. “Bob” Simpson, born Dec. 1, 1934, began his career in labor at the age of 18, when he was employed as a Montgomery Ward Catalog House employee in the city of Chicago. One year later—in 1953—he began organizing his fellow employees thus beginning his 68-year career in labor organizing. Simpson passed away on Jan 6 at the age of 86.

A man of large build and passionate demeanor, Simpson commanded the attention of any room. Yet on first impression, many would be surprised by the soft-spoken nature of his voice.

“To be such a big guy, with a tiny voice,” said Rose Daylie, member of the National Executive Board of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. “People would have to turn around and ask, ‘who is that speaking?’—because he had a tiny voice. But really once you got to know him you never noticed it afterwards.”

But it was part of his personality—his soft voice. It was a voice that reflected the patient, calm attitude he practiced when organizing his community members. Though he was a soft-spoken man, his voice always carried. It reverberated, and people listened to what he had to say.

“He always gave everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion about issues that we disagreed on, and he had the ability to balance that,” Daylie said. “When people were going in different directions, he knew how to bring us together in a kind of way that many people can’t. He actually listened to us and—most



PHOTO: KEITH RICHARDSON

of the time—was able to bring us to a middle ground.” It was his ability to reach people and bring them together that made him the man to reach out to for advice.

Keith Richardson, President of the American Postal Workers Union Local 0001 and a close friend of Simpson, recalled his mentor as a strong, compassionate leader. “It motivated him to put people of color in opportunities to be seen and heard.” Richardson said. “Whether it was a mayoral election, a presidential election, or even just someone picketing at a Walmart. He wanted us to be there—front and center—to have a voice. For him it was always a ‘no person left behind’ mentality. He was always speaking up for us.”

And it was his passion and steadfast dedication to labor and the Black community that took him all over the country.

In addition to his involvement with Teamsters Local 743, Simpson served as the President of the Chicago Chapter of the CBTU and the Corresponding Secretary and Executive Council of the International CBTU. He was a National Board Member of Operation Push, a Board Member of the Teamsters Black Caucus, Little City Foundation, NAACP, A. Philip Randolph Institute, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. He served on the transition teams of Secretary of State Jim Ryan and Attorney General Roland Burris, and he also introduced President Barack Obama to the National CBTU when he was a state senator.

“Bob brought his skills and ability to training of local leadership,” said William Lucy, President of national CBTU. “Bob was well prepared to lead strong leaders in the Chicago area, and we had a very large, very active chapter in Chicago because he was able to bring around people who were ready to follow his leadership.”

Through all his organizing efforts, Simpson’s goal remained the same: he wanted to empower his community. He was a true trade unionist. He had the ability to communicate the value of the union to the lives of people. So many leaders from other organizations gravitated to him because he was that kind of leader. He had the commitment and dedication to organized labor that not only showed through his words but in his actions. He donated food to those in need. He was involved with programs that helped battered women. He got resources in the hands of the people that needed it.

“He had the ability to communicate the value of the trade unions to the lives of people and developed so many capable leaders that will be able to carry out the agenda he set into motion,” Lucy said. “Very seldom do you find someone that people naturally gravitate toward simply because they believe in their leadership—in their vision. In that, I am a beneficiary as well.”

“Bob was good at understanding that the issues people are struggling through don’t exist in a vacuum,” said CFL President Bob Reiter. “He was a statesman, representing the values that we embody in the labor movement... And, while there’s this idea in society that some people in our world aren’t seen—whether it’s because of their skin color or their gender—Bob is someone you couldn’t help but to see, and he made sure that everyone else was seen as well.”

“He cared about his family, he cared about the people he represented,” Richardson said. “Even when they didn’t see eye to eye, he still cared about them. And he never went through a door and closed it, he always left it open for someone and brought in the next person—that was very important to him. He didn’t put people into situations they didn’t need to be, but he definitely put you where you were supposed to be... He wanted his people to shine, and I am glad to be one of his people.”



PHOTO: KEITH RICHARDSON

BOB SIMPSON (CENTER) WITH APWU LOCAL 0001 PRESIDENT KEITH RICHARDSON (LEFT) AND CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER DON VILLAR (RIGHT).

Karen Lewis Revitalized Fight for Public Education in Chicago and Beyond

Chicago lost a legend on Feb. 8 with the passing of Chicago Teachers Union President Emerita and former Chicago Federation of Labor Executive Board member Karen GJ Lewis.

A teacher, a leader, a trailblazer, and a friend, Lewis was someone who stood tall not only for the educators of this city, but for every single worker in Chicago. She never compromised on the values she held dear, fighting for her students and their families with a fierce determination that will never be

was fun, loyal, and personal. That relationship between us became more than just the table. She was a great leader, but she was a person too.”

Lewis’ leadership gave rise to a generation of activists across the country, sparking a renewed energy in the fight for public education that continues to this day. She also inspired countless Chicagoans within and outside of the labor movement as she spoke truth to power without fear.

“Karen did not just lead our movement,” said the Chicago Teachers Union in a statement. “Karen was our movement. In 2013, she said that in order to change public education in Chicago, we had to change Chicago, and change the political landscape of our city. Chicago has changed because of her. We have more fighters for justice and equity because of Karen, and because she was a champion—the people’s champion.”

“We will never forget Sister Lewis’ courage, charisma, and passion for teachers and the labor movement,” said CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar. “From the classrooms at Lane Tech to city hall, she inspired students, teachers, families, and labor activists in her fight for equity, dignity, and respect for educators. Sister Lewis is that once in a lifetime legend, a game changer. In leading CTU, she sparked a renewed call for

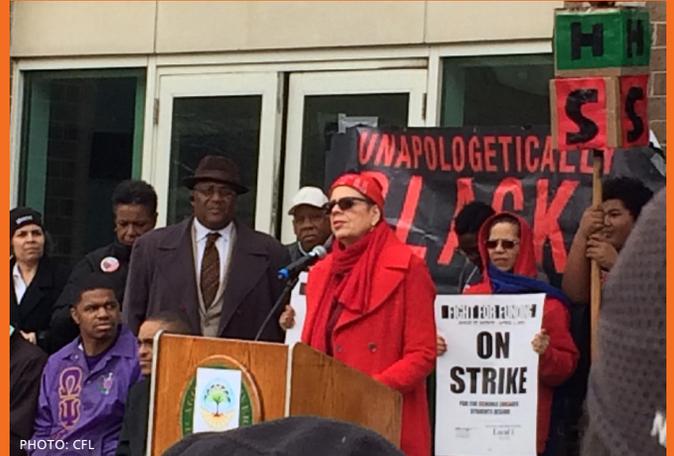


PHOTO: CFL

activism in the labor movement that spread across the country.”

She was beloved and revered as a member of the Chicago Federation of Labor Executive Board, serving as a role model of the solidarity we hold dear.

“We made light of situations happening around us,” said Reiter. “I ran interference for her. She ran interference for me. I believed in her. She believed in me. We shared. We talked. We supported each other. I’ll miss her, and I’m heartbroken. John and the rest of her family have my undying support for sharing her with me, Chicago, and the entire labor movement. I love you, Karen.”

Her voice—unique, uncompromising, brilliant, and kind—will be forever missed.

TOP: KAREN LEWIS SPEAKING AT A ONE-DAY TEACHERS STRIKE IN 2016.
LEFT: KAREN LEWIS SPEAKS AT A RALLY IN 2013.
BELOW: KAREN LEWIS ACCEPTS THE 2014 CFL WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD.



PHOTO: CFL

matched.

“Karen was my friend,” said Chicago Federation of Labor President Bob Reiter. “We started out as seatmates and as the new people in the room at the CFL Executive Board meetings. We had our own little corner of the table, and we built a relationship that



PHOTO: CFL

Feature Stories

Chicago Union Activist Helps Deliver Senate Victory In Georgia

Labor showed up for the 2020 elections.

At the local level, unions across Chicago mobilized their members, encouraged them to vote, and organized grassroots campaigns to increase turnout for the Democratic party.

Deborah Lane, Secretary-Treasurer for the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308—one of the largest rail labor locals in the ATU—traveled from Chicago to Georgia during the election cycle, hoping to help deliver the Georgia senate seats to the Democrats.

“I got off the plane—literally—boots running,” Lane said. “I checked into my hotel, headed over to the union office at Local 732,

got t-shirts, meals, and signs for all of the volunteers that were coming from other locals like SEIU, IBEW, UNITE HERE... They were all galvanizing there to pick up literature that they were going to distribute all around Georgia.” On the first day she spent eight hours driving across the state, getting pro-Warnock signs to voters.

During her three day trip, Lane knocked on doors, distributed literature, and participated in a parade honoring John Lewis. On the first day of voting, she coordinated with the local unions to provide meals to voters who had cast their ballots.

“I felt the sensation that I had to be there,” Lane said. “I am grateful that I not only represented my union as a whole, but I also represented labor across the U.S. That’s how I felt—that I had to do this for labor.”

And, when the race was called on Jan. 6, 2021, Lane felt a sigh of relief.

“Everything that we went through in 2020—the loss of so many transit workers with COVID—this election



DEBORAH LANE (ATU LOCAL 308) PLACES YARD SIGNS IN GEORGIA DURING THE SENATE RUNOFF ELECTION.



DEBORAH LANE (THIRD FROM LEFT) POSES WITH UNION CANVASSERS FROM UNITE HERE IN FRONT OF AN ATU CAMPAIGN BUS.

gave us a redeeming spirit as far as labor,” she said. “We’ve come so far and struggled so much. Everyday we’re struggling just to get the respect. Everyone thinks labor is at the bottom, but my dad always said what’s at the bottom is what’s holding you up. And that’s what labor is doing, it’s holding this country up, and it shows that despite all these losses, labor stuck in and it pushed through.”

SNAPSHOTS



MORE THAN 3,000 FAMILIES ACROSS GREATER CHICAGO RECEIVED WARM MEALS, GIFTS, BACKPACKS, AND PPE IN A COVID-19-SAFE PROCESS AS PART OF THE UNITING FOR THE HOLIDAYS PROGRAM. THANKS TO THE CHICAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS, IAM LODGE 126, IAMAW AUTO MECHANICS LOCAL 701, IUOE LOCAL 399, IUOC LOCAL 2, PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 597, PLUMBERS LOCAL 130, SMART LOCAL 73, SMART TD LOCAL 597, AND THE TOYBOX CONNECTION FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EVENT.

THE NEW MAJORITY

Vol. 1, No. 1

CHICAGO, JANUARY 4, 1919

Five Cents a C

THE NEW MAJORITY

A new party and a new paper have been called into being by the Chicago Federation of Labor for the great mass of the workers. The new party, the Labor Party, which held its first convention last Sunday perfected a temporary organization and adopted a local platform, undertook with shouts of enthusiasm to assemble into a new majority, the men and women who toil, but who have been scattered as helpless minorities in the old parties under the leadership of the confidence men of big business.

The New Majority, with the same cheerful determination attempts in behalf of the Labor Party and of the workers generally, the task that should be performed by the great newspapers that have betrayed the City of Chicago.

Here, as in every other community, the great majority is composed of the men and women who, with hand and brain perform the useful work of the world—skilled tradesmen, clerks, teachers, laborers, busy mothers, workers in the professions. These are entitled to control public affairs and in order that they may do so they are entitled also to free and fair interchange of information and opinions and to correct and unbiased reports of the news of current events. This service should be performed by the public press, which has no other valid excuse for existence.

Instead of these—the great majority—being permitted to rule in this city and land of the free, the government is controlled by a minority—the public utility corporations and other predatory financial interests, constituting the money power which fattens on special privilege, and by their hosts of mercenaries including professional office-holders, lobbyists and shrewd, unprincipled lawyers.

Willing legislators, kept in power by the money of these interests, enact baffling election laws that make political success at the polls the prize of skillful manipulation. The clever propagandists of the interests keep the workers—the great majority—divided, so that they will be minorities in several hostile groups instead of a majority with a group of their own, able to grasp political power, unseat the money kings and govern themselves.

Foremost of the propagandists in the interest of special privilege are the newspapers—subsidized by millions of dollars worth of advertising given them by food trusts, State street stores, telephone, gas and electric companies and other profiteering and franchise-seeking corporations.

In return for the tribute they levy, the newspapers color and distort the news of the day, dispense editorials devised in the interest of the powers that rob the workers and otherwise seek to keep the public in ignorance and in such confusion as will prevent an uprising at the ballot box to capture the power of government for the great majority.

The special business of The New Majority will be to combat this big business propaganda of the newspapers.

Chicago has been particularly unfortunate in its betrayal by the newspapers that should have insured honest reporting of news and enlightened discussion of current events. Recently they have been seen to try to mislead

citizens into voting for a traction grab ordinance. They have, within the last few months, done all in their power to embarrass the Heney investigation and exposure of the beef trust. They are now doing everything in their power to discredit government ownership of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines. They have given labor the worst of it in every strike of importance.

It is fitting, therefore, that in Chicago the toilers should have their own newspaper, upon which they can rely for the truth about things of interest to workers and in which they can find expression of their point of view—a voice for the new majority composed of the hand and brain workers who heretofore have been diffused into various groups where they have been minorities, but who now are becoming conscious of their power of numbers and who are instinctively withdrawing from their respective political groups and are banding together here as in other countries to seize the reins of political power.

The New Majority and the Labor Party come together, hand in hand. Neither is complete alone. The Republican and Democratic parties have betrayed the people. The Labor Party comes to smite them. The newspapers have been the mouthpieces of the two old parties and their bosses, the money kings. The New Majority arises to defeat them by providing the workers with a mouthpiece and a forum for free discussion.

COOKS AND WAITERS VOTE BIG STRIKE

Men Authorize Leaders to Call Walk-out Wherever Necessary to Win

Cooks and waiters are engaged in a sink or swim struggle with the La Salle hotel that threatened, as this paper went to press, to tie up every hotel and restaurant in Chicago.

Last Monday the rank and file of the union voted by referendum overwhelmingly in favor of a general walkout, authorizing the executive committee of the union to use its judgment and call strikes wherever necessary until the Hotel Keepers' Association exerts pressure on the La Salle hotel to play fair with its employees.

The strike came as a result of a fight for an eight hour day, one day off in seven, higher wages and other decent conditions. The cooks and waiters employed in several hotels and restaurants got their case before the National War Labor Board, but that board indefinitely postponed the case, practically refusing to act.

Thereupon the La Salle hotel management discharged all of its employees who were to appear as complainants before the board. The union men remaining at work called Business Agent Frederick E. Peabody to the hotel to talk to the chef in their behalf. The chef told Peabody he would have to see E. J. Stevens, manager of the hotel. Peabody said he could not do so without his committee, whereupon he was slugged.

The men walked out and as they were leaving the hotel several of them were assaulted.

The Sherman and Grand Pacific hotels were shortly afterward tied up with strikes and the question was discussed of calling a strike on all places members of the Hotel Keepers' Association on New Year's eve, the annual restaurant keeper's harvest night.

COUNTY LABOR PARTY IS NOW A REALITY

Convention Organizes With Enthusiasm Adopts Constitution and City Platform

The nominating convention to name candidates for mayor, city clerk and city treasurer will meet at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, January 12. The hall was not yet selected when this paper went to press, but will be announced in the next issue.

Like a well made machine, the Labor Party of Cook county made its start at the first delegate convention on Sunday afternoon at McManis' hall.

The democracy of the Chicago Federation of Labor and affiliated unions had produced the parts and when the assemblers began work they found the parts were not yet put together.

There was life and promise manifested in the old-time struggle of the labor movement and in the scores of the majority, declared they had never seen a situation and a union that revealed such a spirit.

- Officers of the Party
- Chairman, Charles Dole
- C. A. Samuel, Secretary, International Iron Molders
- Wm. R. Brown, Secretary, Amalgamated Makers Union
- W. J. ...
- C. M. Madsen, Secretary, Painters and Decorators Union No. 194.

This year, 2021, marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Chicago Federation of Labor in 1896. All year, the CFL will share content from its archives to celebrate this historic moment, including news clippings, photos, videos, and more. You can find anniversary content here in *The Federation News* or on the CFL's social media pages with the hashtag #CFL125.

(The executive secretary will be appointed by the committee.)

We begin our commemoration with the front page of the first issue of *The New Majority*, later to be renamed *The Federation News*, from January 1919. Though our battles may change, the labor movement's commitment to solidarity has remained strong for 125 years.

The platform was next considered and also adopted unanimously.

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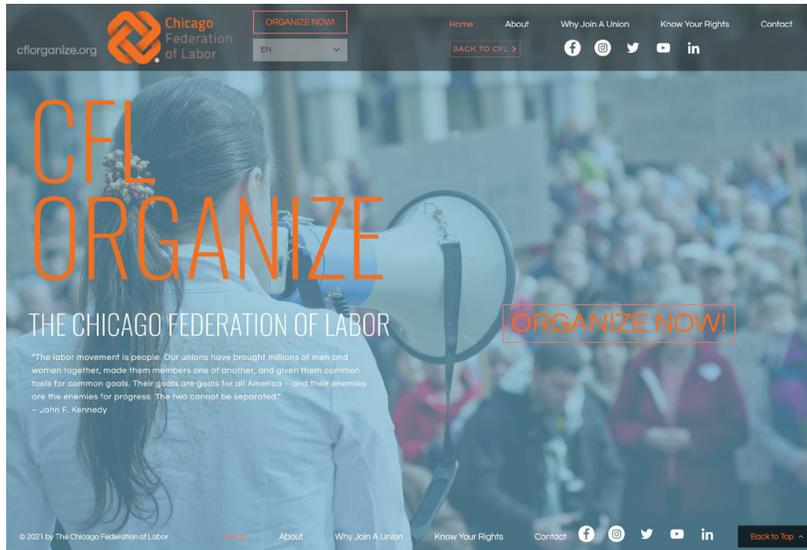
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CFL Organize Website Now Live

Organizing is the backbone of the labor movement. Unions must always work to grow the number of members and find ways to give more workers a voice on the job. Especially in the past year, Americans have all seen how important it is for workers to have the workplace safety and respect a union can bring. To help address this growing need, the Chicago Federation of Labor is excited to announce its new organizing website CFLOrganize.org is now live.

“CFL Organize is a one-stop shop for workers to find information about organizing their workplace,” said CFL Director of Organizing Marcus Shepherd. “No matter the industry, we must make it



easier for workers to organize, and that’s exactly what CFLOrganize.org will do.”

The CFL created CFL Organize to give all workers the information they need to

understand the benefits of the labor movement. At CFL Organize, workers can learn about what union membership means, understand how to form a union, and quickly connect with a union organizer.

The website is mobile friendly, including content about the latest organizing efforts in Chicago and Cook County. The site will provide consistent updates on organizing victories across the labor movement.

“Please, visit CFLOrganize.org today to sign up for more information and spread the word by sharing the site on social media,” said CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar “Together with our 300 affiliates, the

CFL will continue to work to expand the labor movement and build worker power in Chicago, Cook County, and beyond.”

Michael Bruton Workplace Safety Scholarship Awarded To Three Students

On Feb. 18, three students were awarded the Michael Bruton Workplace Safety Scholarships, awarded to graduate students at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health to support studies in the division of environmental and occupational health sciences. The scholarships, funded in conjunction with the Chicago Federation of Labor, are named for former CFL President Michael Bruton, who passed away from an illness he contracted on the job as an IBEW Local 134 electrician.

“This scholarship is very close to my family,” said Tom Bruton, son of Michael Bruton. “We’ve watched what the school has done and what the students have done, and we are very happy with the scholarship.”

Winners included Kennedy Hedges, from Portland, Ore., Rusty Zhu from San Francisco, Cal., and Maddie Demo of Chicago.



MICHAEL BRUTON WORKPLACE SAFETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS KENNEDY HEDGES (TOP ROW CENTER), RUSTY ZHU (MIDDLE ROW CENTER), AND MADDIE DEMO (BOTTOM ROW LEFT) JOIN TOM BRUTON (MIDDLE ROW RIGHT) AND MEMBERS OF THE CFL STAFF AS THEY RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE.

Each student had unique experiences that led them to the field of environmental health and safety. “I wanted to find a program where I could keep people safe who’ve kept me safe my whole life,” said Hedges, who recently

completed her bachelor’s degree. “I decided to go into Environmental Health and Safety to learn more about how to protect workers and keep them safe,” said Zhu. “I could talk for days on end for the doors that this scholarship has opened,” said Demo.

“This money came from the union men and women of Cook County and Chicago,” said Bruton. “It was raised to support individuals like you. Make us proud, keep up the great work, we’re happy to welcome you into the community, and thank you for what you do.”

“Congratulations on this achievement, and good luck in your future studies,” said

CFL President Bob Reiter. “President Bruton was an inspiration to so many in the Chicago labor movement, and we are so proud to see his legacy live on in all of you.”

Chicago Federation of Labor Endorsements | 2021 Consolidated Elections

For information on when and where to vote, visit chicagolabor.org/vote

JURISDICTION	OFFICE	CANDIDATE	JURISDICTION	OFFICE	CANDIDATE	
Alsip	Mayor	John D. Ryan	Orland Park	Mayor	Dan McLaughlin	
	Clerk	Renee A. Harding		Clerk	Pat O'Sullivan	
	Trustee	David A. Perretta		Trustee	Chris Kasmer	
	Trustee	Catalina Nava-Esparaza		Trustee	Amy Burrell	
	Trustee	William Love		Trustee	Derek Rinaldi	
Argo Community High School District 217	Board Member	Luz Rangel Raymond		Supervisor	Paul O'Grady	
Bartlett	Trustee	Dan Gunsteen		Clerk	Cindy M. Murray	
Berwyn	Mayor	Robert J. Lovero	Orland Township	Highway Commissioner	Antonio Rubino	
	Alderman, 1st Ward	James Scott Lennon		Assessor	Richard Edward Kelly	
	Alderman, 2nd Ward	James A. Woywod		Trustee	Patrick J. Feldner	
	Alderman, 3rd Ward	Richard E. Leja		Trustee	Maria Lynn Sanfilippo	
	Alderman, 4th Ward	Robert W. Fejt		Trustee	John Gerard Lynch	
	Alderman, 7th Ward	Marybeth Arenella		Trustee	Michael R. Maratea	
Bloom Township	Supervisor	Thomas "IJ" Somer		Board Member	Curtis Bradley	
Calumet City	Mayor	Thaddeus Jones	Palatine-Schaumburg Township High School District 211	Board Member	Tim McGowan	
Chicago Ridge	Trustee	Andrew Siegel		Board Member	Anna Klimkowicz	
Community High School District 218	Board Member, Subdistrict 7	Matt B. Heinlen	Palos Heights	Alderman, 3rd Ward	Heather Mulligan-Begley	
	Board Member, Subdistrict 4	Thomas Kosowski	Rich Township	Supervisor	Al Riley	
Des Plaines	Mayor	Andrew Goczkowski			Trustee	John Laliotes
		Clerk	Justin Cochran	Schaumburg Township Elementary District 54	Board Member	Nicholas Scipione
Elgin Community College District 509	Trustee	Joyce J. Fountain		Trustee	Matthew Steward	
	Trustee	Adriana Barriga-Green	Schaumburg Township	Trustee	Robert N. Fiorio	
Evergreen Park	Mayor	Kelly Burke		Trustee	Lauren Saternus	
Glenwood	Mayor	Miriam Slaughter		Trustee	Demetrius Gibson	
LaGrange School District 105	Board Member	Candice Mares	Schiller Park	Village President	Nick Caiafa	
Niles	Mayor	George Alpogianis	Tinley Park	Mayor	Mike Glotz	
Norridge	Village President	Tom Benigno			Trustee	Dennis Mahoney
Northwest Suburban High School District 214	Board Member	Andrea Rauch	Triton Community College District 504	Trustee	Norma Hernandez	
	Board Member	Leonard Walker		Supervisor	Patricia Joan Murphy	
Oak Lawn High School District 229	Board Member	Edward Wolf	Worth Township	Clerk	Eamon McMahon	
Oak Lawn Public Library	Trustee	Kim Brightmore			Trustee	Jerry Hurckes
		Laura Begani			Trustee	Kelly Sexton Kelly

CFL Delegates Meetings

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

START TIME: 6 p.m.

LOCATION: 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.



DON V. VILLAR
SECRETARY-TREASURER

CONNECT WITH THE CFL ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@CHICAGOLABOR

CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR 5K FOR MAY DAY VIRTUAL RUN & WALK

Learn more at:
Chicagolabor.org/MayDay5k