

A photograph of a man from behind, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and a bright yellow safety vest. The vest has reflective silver stripes and the words "PROUD UNION HEROES" printed in bold black letters on the back. He is standing in a factory or industrial setting, with a red car visible in the foreground and blurred machinery in the background.

# FederationNews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • ISSUE 4 • 2020

## Solidarity in Times of Crisis

Food Distributions Support Union Members as the COVID-19  
Pandemic Continues to Ravage Chicagoland

## CONTENTS

### 4 Affiliate News

### 6 Cover Story

*Food Distributions  
Highlight Relief Efforts  
Amid Pandemic*

### 8 Feature Stories

### 10 CFL News

## COVER PHOTO

UNION MEMBERS  
RECEIVE FOOD DURING  
THE MCCORMICK PLACE  
FOOD DISTRIBUTION

PHOTO: CFL

Federation News is a quarterly publication of the Chicago Federation of Labor ©2020

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

Editor in Chief: Robert G. Reiter Jr.,  
President  
Editor: Don V. Villar,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Managing Editor: Jake Lewis  
Contributors: Gus Fuguitt,  
Andrea Kluger, Jazmine Reyes and  
Nora Cay Ryan.



## All Workers Deserve Protection

Members of UNITE HERE Local 1 gather for a press conference and rally in support of out-of-work hotel employees.



PHOTO: CFL

## President's Report

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take the time to reflect and acknowledge the difficulties the labor movement has faced, while simultaneously giving appreciation to all of the workers in Chicago for the work they do to make sure the city continues to run.

This year, 2020, has not been an easy year. Our world was struck with a pandemic that continues to stress our communities to this day, adding a greater burden to workers across the Chicago area who are now faced with the reality of risking their health, and the health of their families, each time they head out of the door to do their job. We have to find ways to support all of the working people of this city as the pandemic continues to impact our world heading into the new year.

In an effort to alleviate some of these burdens and uncertainty, the Chicago Federation of Labor and its affiliate unions are actively finding ways to reach workers and their families to help where we can. Throughout the months of October and November, the CFL ran food distribution events at McCormick Place, O'Hare Airport, and Midway Airport distributing tens of thousands of pounds of food to support union members who have been furloughed, laid off, or otherwise had their employment impacted by COVID-19. Union members are proud, hardworking people who would much prefer to work for their paycheck. But when times get tough, we must reach out and help one another. That is what solidarity is all about.

As the holiday season approaches, and the city continues to grapple with the financial implications of the pandemic, providing something as simple as a meal for union families could be the difference between being able to have something to eat come Christmas morning. Chicago workers have sacrificed a lot to make sure they have food on the table at the end of the day, and we are grateful to be able to help them in this small way for all that they do.

Even though this year's holiday season will look extremely different than that of years past, the core values of family and unity in celebration will still be there, just in smaller social circles. COVID-19 has shown us how valuable each moment we have with our loved ones is. And, regardless of whether the celebration is in-person or from a distant screen, the time we dedicate to celebrating an important moment can't be taken away.



**BOB REITER**  
PRESIDENT

## Gas Workers Local 18007 Continues to Move Forward

On Sept. 23, Gas Workers Local 18007 held a flag raising ceremony and commemoration of a new plaque honoring veteran union members at their new logistics building.

Local 18007 had three of their own members who are veterans take part in the ceremony and raise the flags: Melvin Lira, Army, who works in the machine repair shop; Luis Aguilar, Air Force, who works in the logistic support center; and Dennis Fuller, Navy, who works in the meter shop.

Local 18007 also welcomed Art Carlson, who volunteered his time to play the national anthem and taps on his bugle during the flag raising ceremony.

The idea of the plaque commemorating veterans that work at Peoples Gas came from the Local 18007 Veterans Committee. Local 18007 offered its thanks to those who were able

to work with Peoples Gas to make this idea a reality.

*Story submitted by Gas Workers Local 18007*

## Nursing Home Workers Vote Early to Honor Fallen Co-workers

On Oct. 26, nursing home workers pledged to “vote early” as a tribute and to honor their fallen co-workers who died from COVID-19.

Workers demanded accountability for President Donald Trump and the nursing home industry for their failures to save lives and enact a comprehensive plan to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Records are not kept about the numbers of nursing home workers in Illinois who have died, but preliminary reports say at least 17 lives have been lost, though researchers at SEIU

Healthcare believe it is a gross under count.

Workers renewed their demands for more resources to deal with the pandemic, such as more personal protective equipment, rapid testing, hazard pay, ending short staffing, paid sick leave, and adding more public health investigators to hold the nursing home industry accountable.

Jackie Ford, a receptionist at Bria Forest Edge nursing home for nine years, spoke in honor of her co-worker and friend Leola Grady. “Leola was nothing less than a guardian angel to our residents and seniors. Even though she wasn’t paid nearly enough she would actually buy gifts and clothes for the residents to cheer them up. That’s just who she was — she was always giving of herself to help others. Because back in March and April, even though the pandemic was exploding, management actually told Leola and other workers to take off her own mask because the administrators said it would

‘upset’ the residents and other staff.”

Shantonia Jackson, a Certified Nursing Assistant at City View nursing home in Cicero, recounted a similar story. Her co-worker of eight years and a fellow CNA, Camelia Kirkwood, was just a couple months away from retiring on June 1 when she suddenly died of COVID-19 in April.

Camelia worked at her nursing home for 30-years. “She had just gotten a senior apartment and was making plans to enjoy her retirement. She was looking forward to getting more sleep, to go on long walks by herself, and to able to relax in a comfortable chair without being told to jump up and respond to some crisis,” said Jackson. “Ms. Kirkwood was almost motherly to me. She was loving — joyful — and serious. She was fiercely loyal.”

Erica N. Bland-Durosini, the new Executive Vice President of SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana Missouri Kansas put this year’s election in moral terms.

“Our lives, our livelihoods, and our future is on the ballot. Whether it’s the Fair Tax on the ballot to FINALLY make the rich pay their fair share in taxes — to getting rid of Donald Trump and his goons who are destroying and dividing this country like we have never seen before — voting this year has never been more important.”

Finally, workers drew attention to the racial disparities of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Guardian reported, “in Chicago, COVID-19 is battering Black communities. Despite only accounting for 30% of the city’s population, Black people make up 60% of COVID cases there and have the highest mortality rate out of any racial or ethnic group.”

*Story submitted by SEIU Healthcare*



PHOTO: SEIU HEALTHCARE

## Hotel Workers Fight for Job Protections for Out-Of-Work Members

On Friday, Nov. 13, UNITE HERE Local 1 held a rally and press conference calling for job protections for out-of-work Chicago hotel workers. Laid off and terminated workers demanded that, when guests come back to Chicago, they should go back to their jobs.

“It felt horrible getting that call, telling me I was being fired” said Melisa Magaña, a terminated room attendant at the Hyatt Centric Loop Chicago. “We were always there for the hotel company. The job was my life. I had to leave my kids at home a lot. I worked weekends. I missed their games. When the hotel called, I was there. Why can’t they be there for us? I deserve the right to go back to work when the guests come back,” said Magaña.

With thousands of Chicago hotel workers out of work when their hotels closed during the pandemic, workers are calling on Chicago hotels and civic leaders to ensure that workers come back when business comes back.

“When we welcome guests back to the city, the people who work in these hotels need to get to go back to their jobs,” said CFL President Bob Reiter. “To those UNITE HERE members anxious about the future, please

know this: the working women and men of Chicago have your backs.”

At least 62 Chicago hotels have laid off more than 12,000 hotel workers since the pandemic began, according to WARN data from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. At least 16 downtown Chicago hotels are still closed.

*Story submitted by UNITE HERE Local 1*

## Postal Workers Continue Fight Against Cuts

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, postal unions held a press conference demanding a reversal to harmful postal cuts from the Trump Administration. Mail-in ballots played a critical role in the November election, which postal workers delivered to ensure a fair election. However, the U.S. Postal Service continues to implement damaging cuts.

In August, the unions representing postal workers, letter carriers, and mail handlers raised the alarm that the Administration and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy were working to hobble their members’ ability to do their jobs and deliver the mail.

“The cuts that [DeJoy] tried to implement before Nov. 3, don’t institute them now,” said Keith Richardson, president of the American Postal Workers Union Local 0001. “We want America’s mail to keep being delivered [for] every customer, every day.”

Coinciding with President Trump’s disparagement of mail-in voting to protect the public from COVID-19, USPS management cut resources and staff at many postal facilities. Now that the election has passed, DeJoy has resumed the cuts to the USPS. This latest round comes during the busiest time of the year when the USPS is preparing to move hundreds of millions of pieces of mail during the holidays.



OPPOSITE PAGE: SHANTONIA JACKSON, CNA AT CITY VIEW NURSING HOME AND SEIU HEALTHCARE MEMBER, SPEAKS AT AN EARLY VOTE RALLY. TOP: GAS WORKERS LOCAL 18007 COMMEMORATE A NEW PLAQUE DEDICATED TO VETERAN UNION MEMBERS PLACED OUTSIDE THEIR LOGISTICS BUILDING. MIDDLE: UNITE HERE LOCAL 1 MEMBERS RALLY TO DEMAND OUT-OF-WORK HOTEL EMPLOYEES BE REINSTATED UPON THE END OF THE PANDEMIC. BOTTOM: POSTAL UNIONS LEADERS HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE DEMANDING A REVERSAL TO HARMFUL CUTS FROM THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AHEAD OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

### 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](mailto:info@chicagolabor.org).

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

# Amid Pandemic, CFL Supports Workers Through Food Distributions

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the United States in a myriad of ways, overwhelming hospitals, shuttering businesses, and forcing thousands of workers out of their jobs. As cities and states struggled to keep residents safe, the convention and tourism, entertainment, and travel industries were among the industries hardest hit with the almost immediate shut down of operations to help prevent the spread of this devastating virus. Tens of thousands of workers found themselves unemployed overnight with little hope of recovery in the foreseeable future.

As thousands of union members in these industries struggled with the reality of the situation, they turned to their unions for help. The Chicago Federation of Labor worked closely with its affiliated unions and other partners to organize several food distribution events across the Chicagoland area for those workers whose lives were upended due to COVID-19 and the community at large.

“What we’ve seen over the last several months is unprecedented,” said Don Villar, CFL Secretary-Treasurer. “Workers everywhere saw their job disappear through no fault of their own. But these are the moments when the labor movement comes together to help out union members as well as the community.

We’ve seen an overwhelming outpouring of support. So many folks wanting to get involved, donate money to help their brothers, sisters, and siblings endure these tough times. This is what solidarity in action looks like.”

## Cicero Community Collaborative

BCTGM International Union and Bimbo Bakeries have partnered across the country to donate baked goods and fresh food to communities hit hard by COVID-19. Locally, BCTGM Local 1 and the CFL coordinated the effort in Cook County, recruiting Cicero District 99 to host the Oct. 22 distribution. Families in saw an increase in food insecurity due to the pandemic, with many families not able to receive traditional government assistance, such as unemployment or stimulus checks. Volunteers from the Cicero Community Collaborative and United Way of Metro Chicago partnered with the CFL and BCTGM Local 1 to pack bags and distribute them to participants via a contact-free drive-through. The event also featured free COVID-19 tests and other United Way resources for community members.

## CFL Airport Labor Committee

Thanks to a grant the CFL received from the national AFL-CIO for COVID relief, the CFL Airport Labor Committee targeted food distribution events at both airports to help unemployed union

members. The first event was held in late October at O’Hare Airport, with volunteers distributing more than 25,000 pounds of food to support union members affected by furloughs and layoffs. A week later at Midway Airport, the CFL Airport Labor Committee held another event supporting union members based there, distributing over 19,000 pounds of food. Recipients from both events received frozen meat, onions, potatoes, and non-perishable food in a COVID-19 safe environment.

## McCormick Place Thanksgiving Distribution

Leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, the CFL Workforce & Community Initiative partnered with Larita Clark, CEO of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and the team at MPEA, the CFL, IBEW Local 134, and the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters to host a Thanksgiving food distribution for the workers who power McCormick Place. Thanks to the support of many donors

(see next page for complete list), the CFL Initiative purchased turkeys, common ingredients found in Thanksgiving side dishes, and gift cards to distribute to 2,100 families. Thanks in large part to the generosity of donors, the CFL Initiative included five additional unions outside McCormick Place whose members could use an extra boost during the Thanksgiving holiday.

“Our event at McCormick Place was more successful than originally imagined thanks to the generosity of our affiliates and sponsors,” said Nora Cay Ryan, CFL Assistant

to the President. “Over the course of eight hours, we were able to distribute the ingredients for a complete thanksgiving dinner to the very workers who make McCormick Place the premier convention facility in North America. Thank you to all our donors for your incredible kindness and to our volunteers who packed boxes and help with the distribution.”

“Each of these food distributions exhibited the very best of Chicago’s labor movement,” said Villar, who is also Vice Chair of the MPEA Board of Directors. “It could not have happened without the hard work of volunteers, and we thank them along with our partners at MPEA, the Chicago Department of Aviation, Greater Chicago Food Depository, and United Way of Metro Chicago.”

The CFL plans to hold additional food distributions as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to meet the needs of fellow union members and help alleviate some of the challenges workers face during these uncertain times.

“[T]hese are the moments when the labor movement comes together to help out union members as well as the community. We’ve seen an overwhelming outpouring of support...This is what solidarity in action looks like.”

**DON VILLAR**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

# McCormick Place FOOD DISTRIBUTION

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS



METROPOLITAN PIER  
AND EXPOSITION AUTHORITY  
AT MCCORMICK SQUARE



## GOLD SPONSORS

BlueCross and BlueShield of Illinois  
Grosvenor Capital Management  
LSV Asset Management  
Mesirow Financial  
Ridge & Downes, Worker Comp Atty.

Legacy Professionals, LLP  
McGann, Ketterman & Rioux

IBEW Local 9  
Nicholas J. Cortesi - Union Legal  
Services, LLC  
Teamsters Local 731

## SILVER SPONSORS

AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust  
AFL-CIO ITC Financial, LLC  
AFSCME Council 31  
Carpenters Local 10  
Chicago & Cook County Building &  
Construction Trades Council  
Chicago Federation of Labor  
Clayco, Inc.  
Marquette Associates  
Painters District Council 14  
Plumbers Local 130  
Sheet Metal Workers' Local 73

Automobile Mechanics'  
Local 701  
Bond Brothers Printing  
Brett Hart  
Carpenters Local 1027  
Great Lakes Credit Union  
Illinois Hotel & Lodging Assoc.  
Joel Radakovitz - Exult Wealth, LLC  
Segal Advisors  
Stars & Stripes - Screen Print &  
Embroidery  
Teamsters Joint Council 25

Ariel Investments  
Construction Industry Service  
Corporation (CISCO)  
National Investment Services  
Ullico

Carpenters Local 13  
Carpenters Local 1185

Carpenters Local 1  
Carpenters Local 243  
G&R Public Law and Strategies  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers  
National Association of Letter  
Carriers Branch 11  
Roger Kiley  
Special T Unlimited  
Teamsters JC Women's Committee

Sponsor list as of Dec. 1, 2020



PHOTO: CFL



PHOTO: CFL

TOP RIGHT: VOLUNTEERS MOVE PALLETS OF FOOD DURING THE MCCORMICK PLACE FOOD DISTRIBUTION.  
RIGHT: VOLUNTEERS LOAD UP CARS FOR UNION MEMBERS AT THE MCCORMICK PLACE FOOD DISTRIBUTION.  
BOTTOM: VOLUNTEERS LOAD CARS UNDER THE PEOPLE MOVER AT THE O'HARE AIRPORT FOOD DISTRIBUTION.

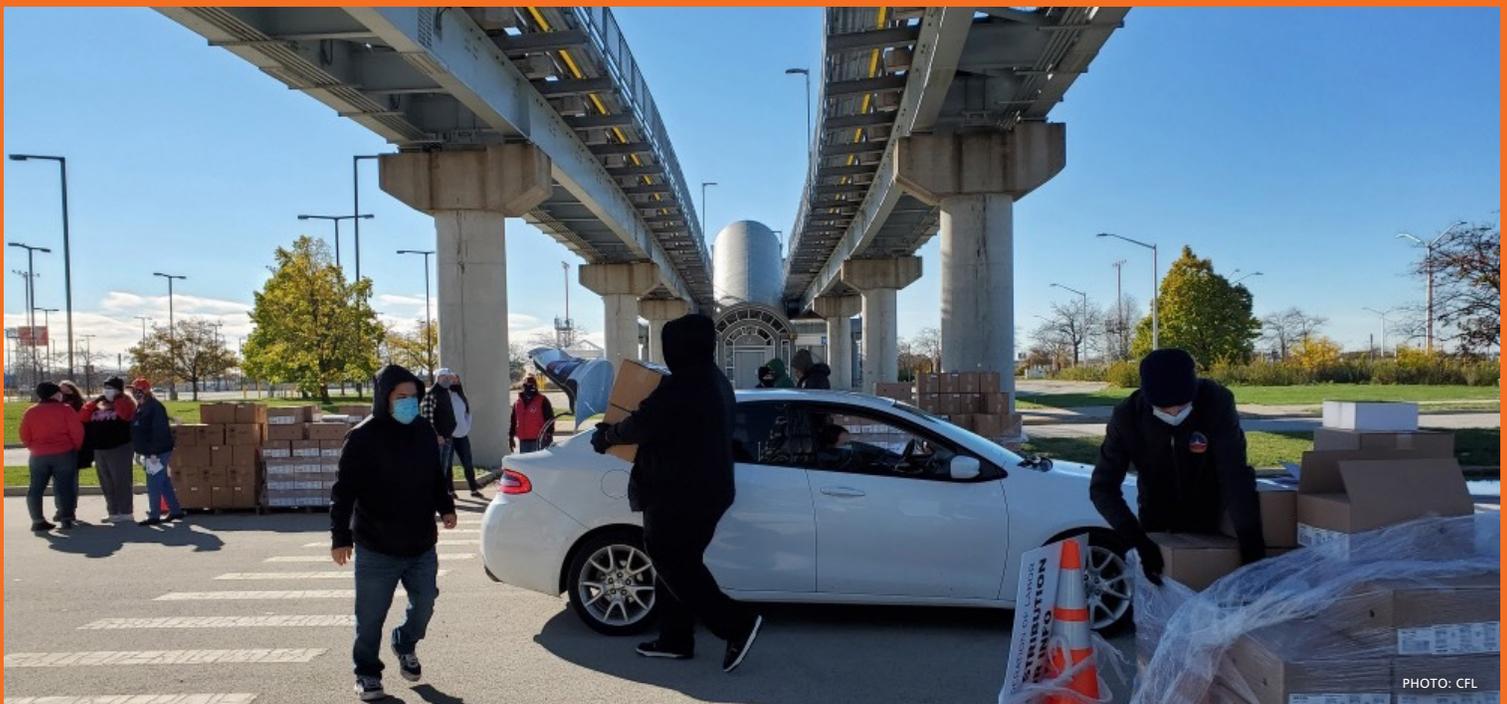


PHOTO: CFL

# Feature Stories

## The CFL Celebrates Victories of Labor-Endorsed Candidates

The labor movement scored several victories on Election Day 2020 both locally and nationally.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin won his bid for reelection to the Senate, where he will continue to serve as the Democratic Whip in the 166th Congress, the second-highest position among Senate Democrats. Marie Newman won her race for the 3rd Congressional District, while Kim Foxx won reelection for Cook County State's Attorney. On the judicial level, labor-endorsed candidates were overwhelmingly successful, and the CFL looks forward to their leadership.

The greatest highlight, however, came four days after Election Day, when the 2020 presidential election was called for Democratic candidates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Following their historic

victory, CFL President Bob Reiter wrote in a statement: "Congratulations to President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect

**LABOR**  
**2020**  
**AFL-CIO**

Kamala Harris! We still have much to do, but this is truly an exciting moment and it should be celebrated by all... Soon it will be time to rebuild institutions like the National

Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor, institutions originally created to protect working people. We are excited about the role labor unions played in helping to protect and defend democracy, and we stand ready to get to work putting the White House back on the side of working people."

Despite falling short on the Fair Tax ballot measure to reform the Illinois tax system, the CFL strongly believes Illinois' workers deserve a fair tax system that makes wealthy residents pay their fair share. The CFL will continue to fight to fix the rigged economy and ensure that workers are protected during the pandemic.

The CFL looks forward to continuing the fight for fairness at the city, state, and national level with the incoming Biden Administration.

## SNAPSHOTS



CFL SECRETARY-TREASURER DON VILLAR AT A REMEMBRANCE FOR THE LIVES LOST TO COVID-19 ON OCT. 8.

## Rising Up to Protect the Vote

According to data estimates from the United States Elections Project, the turnout rate for this year's election was 66.9 percent, the highest rate since 1900, when 73.7 percent of voting eligible people cast a ballot. However, with just over 40 percent of these ballots cast through mail-in voting due to the ongoing pandemic, it took much longer to declare the presidential election winner.

Under these unprecedented circumstances, some, including the incumbent President Donald Trump, began calling for election officials to stop the count of mail-in votes, particularly those states where the president held the lead on the day of the election.

However, as the election swung toward Joe Biden, and the calls to stop the counting grew stronger, union leaders, workers, and communities all

across Chicago and the country rose up to protect the vote.

In a statement released the night after Election Day, CFL President Bob Reiter said, "As Joe Biden reaches 270 electoral votes, President Donald Trump has again unleashed his fury on democracy. Here in Chicago, the labor movement helped elect leaders like Senator Dick Durbin and freshman Congresswoman Marie Newman, and stood strongly with Joe Biden... The Chicago Federation of Labor is ready to assist our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin and Michigan in protecting the vote. Every vote must be counted, and we must see this election through to Inauguration Day."

Every vote mattered to this election — and in defending democracy. Every vote must be counted.

## Election 2020: How Unions Mobilized During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The labor movement continued to stay active throughout the 2020 election cycle. Despite restrictions on social gatherings and in person events, organizers stepped up to meet the moment, encouraging their members to be politically active and involved in the election process.

“The union vote is critical,” said Bob Reiter, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor. “On a national level, there has been a lack of leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The inability to meet this challenge head on and provide solutions for working families across the country means that every city and state has to figure it out without federal support. That has left countless workers and their families struggling to protect their lives and livelihoods.”

“Workers today are losing their jobs, their health insurance, and their workplace protections,” said Reiter. “That is why so many union members are taking action to volunteer this election season. They are the ones that are on the front lines in their daily jobs, and they are on the frontlines in election organizing.”

Traditionally, unions have gotten their communities excited about upcoming elections primarily through face-to-face interactions: hosting rallies, union meetings, jobsite canvassing, and door-to-door conversations. But since the onset of the pandemic, these types of activities have been kept to a minimum as Chicagoans do their best to mitigate the spread of the virus.

SEIU Local 1 led many virtual phone banking events leading up to the election in the Chicago area, stressing unity at the polls and how working people could make positive change in the community. On Election Day, Local 1 janitors made hundreds of phone calls to get out the vote for Joe Biden and the



UNITE HERE LOCAL 1 MEMBERS FANNED OUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO TALK TO VOTERS.

Illinois Fair Tax Amendment.

Craig Carlson, Vice President of IATSE and Business Manager of IATSE Local 2, outlined some of the various ways union organizers were actively mobilizing the electorate, while limiting face-to-face interactions.

“We had a lot of calls with our district, calls in between calls, and that was just to coordinate and to make sure that everyone had the talking points,” said Carlson. “People were mobilizing with phone banks. We actually had people — even in a pandemic — that went door to door and left flyers. There were virtual phone banking, texts to the battleground states, phone banking for the AFL-CIO, for the CFL and Biden phone banks.”

IATSE Local 2 union members engaged in weekly district meetings, monthly union meetings, participated in virtual phone banks for 9 states: Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas.

“Local 2 is not that big, but we hit much harder than our weight class.”

Social media has also been a critical tool that union organizers have used to launch their campaigns and reach states all across the country.

UNITE HERE’s Take Back 2020 campaign pulled in laid off workers from their

local here in Chicago, with many of these union members traveling to key states to knock on doors. They braved the 110 degree heat to talk to voters and help elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, all while observing strict COVID-safety protocols that were developed by notable epidemiologists.

“So many people lost faith in voting and fair elections. I wanted to be in the eye of the storm to help restore that faith. This election win is the epitome of why I fight and why it is necessary,” said UNITE HERE Local 1 member Roushaunda Williams, a laid off bartender at the Palmer House Hilton, who canvassed in Miami.

“When I came to America 30 years ago, it was a breath of fresh air. I love that here everyone has a right to speak, to participate in your religion freely, and marry who you choose. This election, everything I love about this country and our democracy was at stake. I had to do something,” said Sam Yolo, a laid off bellperson at the Hotel Audrey who canvassed in Arizona. “Helping win this election, the feeling doesn’t get any better than that. I don’t know when I’ll go back to work, but I do feel like things will be ok. It is powerful to know that together, we can make a difference.”

Through these volunteer efforts, hardworking union members in Chicago and Cook County saw their time and their commitment paid off when Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were announced the winner of the 2020 general election.

Not even a pandemic can stop the labor movement from playing a pivotal role in the electoral process.



IATSE LOCAL 2 MEMBERS AT A RALLY FOR ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY WORKERS.

## 2021 William A. Lee Scholarship Application Now Open

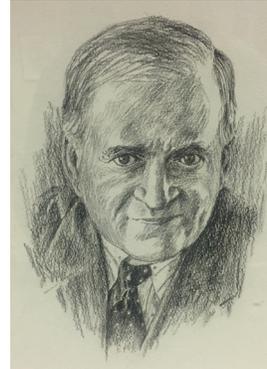
Each year the Chicago Federation of Labor awards 10 college scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, to high school seniors through the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship.

Created in October 1957, this scholarship demonstrates Labor's commitment to stand in solidarity with students as they pursue their educational goals.

In a letter to affiliates, then President Lee, wrote, "The Chicago Federation of Labor and its affiliated members have always been dedicated to the cause of higher education and are therefore pleased to provide assistance to the children of union members who wish to avail themselves of an opportunity to attend college."

The scholarship was originally named in honor of the CFL President John Fitzpatrick, who was president from 1906 until his death in 1946. At the time, four scholarships were awarded to two men and two women who were outstanding students among their peers.

In January 1985, the CFL approved a new scholarship program that would provide 10 scholarships, each at \$2,000, and they continue to be awarded today. The name was changed to honor William A. Lee, President of the CFL from 1946 until his death in 1984.



JOHN FITZPATRICK



WILLIAM A. LEE

## HOW TO APPLY FOR THE WILLIAM A. LEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

### Applicants

- The applicant must be a senior in high school and graduating in the spring of 2021.
- Either the applicant or the applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of a CFL-affiliated union.
- To confirm a union's affiliation status, please call 312.222.1000.

### Deadline to Apply

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, applications will only be accepted via email. Physical applications will not be accepted.
- Applications and relevant materials should be emailed to [scholarship@chicagolabor.org](mailto:scholarship@chicagolabor.org).
- Completed applications must be received by the CFL by Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION, VISIT [WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP](http://WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP)**

## Unions, United Way Team Up to Provide Holiday Toys for Families in Need

Each year the Chicago Federation of Labor and its affiliates partner with the Toy Box Connection in Orland Park to provide toys for the annual Uniting for the Holidays event. The annual event invites pre-selected families active with the United Way of Metro Chicago's Neighborhood Networks to receive winter clothes, a warm meal, and enjoy holiday cheer with their loved ones.

This year, Uniting for the Holidays expanded to multiple locations and was run as a drive through due to COVID-19 restrictions. Toy Box Connection donated 500 toys to support families in West Chicago this year, and on Nov. 23, volunteers from SMART Transportation Division 577, Pipefitters Local 597, and Automobile Mechanics' Local 701 assisted in helping transport all of the



**VOLUNTEERS PREPARE TO DELIVER TOYS FOR THE UNITING FOR THE HOLIDAYS EVENT.**

toys from Orland Park to West Chicago's Uniting for the Holidays site.

The CFL would like to thank Toy Box Connection, the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 2, SMART Transportation Division 577, Pipe Fitters Local 597 and Automobile Mechanics' Local 701 for all their help in bringing cheer to families in this challenging year. The CFL would also like to thank Teamsters Joint Council 25 for utilizing their Disaster Relief Truck to transport donated backpacks and other supplies for other Uniting for the Holidays events.

This event brings holiday cheer to hundreds of families in need, and is another important example of the great work unions do in the community.

## CFL Fights to Protect Workers, Services in City of Chicago Budget

Despite a \$1.2 billion deficit, the City of Chicago passed its 2021 budget without any layoffs or furloughs of unionized public service workers. The Chicago Federation of Labor led the effort to protect public worker jobs through its Protect Our Services campaign.

“[The budget passage] vote marks an important step forward for the City of Chicago as we deal with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” said CFL President Bob Reiter in a press statement. “Working people, especially public workers, have sacrificed so much during the past year. While some Chicagoans had the ability of working from home, many City of Chicago employees risked their own health and safety to ensure this city kept running. These workers are heroes, and through their sacrifice they have earned our respect, support, and gratitude.”

Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s initial budget proposal in late October included 350 layoffs to union public service workers. In response,

the CFL used its Protect Our Services campaign with both political and communications strategies, lobbying key City Council members while also setting up a full scale digital campaign complete with social media ads on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

health insurance next year.”

While budget lobbying continued through October and November, the campaign took a significant step forward on Nov. 14 when Mayor Lightfoot announced all layoffs had been removed from the budget plan. In a joint press

during these unprecedented times. We are committed to continue working together to identify places where we can partner on savings.”

Once the layoffs were removed from the proposal, Chicago’s unions got to work lobbying City Council members to support the proposal.

“We knew the budget vote would be tight, but the Chicago labor movement carries a lot of influence with the City Council,” said Andrea Kluger, CFL Director of Legislation and Politics. “Once we were able to explain the importance of supporting these heroic public workers, aldermen began to join our side.”

As the final vote approached, it became clear that labor’s support was what pushed the budget across the finish line. Ultimately, 28 aldermen supported the proposal, just two more than was needed for passage.

“This is a difficult budget, but we are living in difficult times,” said President Reiter. “The people of this city expect solutions, and I believe that we have delivered.”



“This was a full team effort from all of the unions with members at the city,” said Reiter. “We made a convincing case to protect these critical jobs, and because of that work, 350 workers will keep their salaries and their

statement, Lightfoot and President Reiter said the move “will ensure Chicago’s public workers, the backbone of our neighborhoods, maintain their jobs and health insurance while also protecting the critical services Chicagoans rely on

# 2021 CFL DELEGATES MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

**No Meeting in July, August and September**

All meetings are scheduled to be held at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Location is subject to change based on public health orders. Please remember to bring your 2021 Delegate card for entry. Dates and times are subject to change. Please check for updates at [www.chicagolabor.org](http://www.chicagolabor.org).



Chicago  
Federation  
of Labor

## CFL Delegates Meetings

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Tuesday, April 6, 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**

## SAVE THE DATE

The Chicago Federation of Labor and  
CFL Workforce and Community Initiative

**LABOR DAY VIRTUAL LUNCHEON  
AND 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2021**