

FederationNews

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MAYOR JOHNSON ★ TAKES OFFICE



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On the Cover

Mayor Johnson takes the stage with labor leaders at the Labor Block Party on May 13.

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President's Report

Chicago is set to host its record-setting 26th Presidential convention in 2024. Chicago's last DNC Convention in 1996 revitalized the Near West Side, the traditionally recognized home of labor in the city. There were numerous reasons the Democratic National Committee chose Chicago, but one factor made Chicago the clear choice: our strong labor movement.

When compared to other frontrunners to host the 2024 DNC, Chicago naturally rose to the top. "The Midwest reflects America," DNC Chairman Jaime Harrison said. I know Chairman Harrison is referring to the people of our region, and the diversity that prevails as a major strength of both our city and our labor movement. He sees how Chicago faces the same problems as the rest of the country but serves as a beacon of hope for progress and prosperity.

Atlanta was originally thought to be the favorite, until the DNC received a gentle reminder from the labor movement that Atlanta only has two union hotels and is a so-called "right-to-work state". The fact that the DNC officials place that much value on supporting union workers tells me that embracing working people is their pathway to victory.

The CFL played a major role in promoting Chicago's labor movement as one of the city's strongest assets. Our convention industry is second to none because of our skilled union workers.

Not only is our workforce first-class, but they're also ready to take on all challenges, including protecting their fundamental rights as workers. The passage of the Workers' Rights Amendment in November shows how we mobilize around issues that support all working people.

Other factors certainly helped DNC officials settle on Chicago. Democrats hold the governorship, both U.S. Senate seats, and hold majorities in both houses of the General Assembly. We sit smack dab in the middle of the Midwest, influencing the entire region's economy and politics. Progress flows through Chicago.

Holding the convention in Chicago makes it clear the Democratic Party supports and honors the labor movement, a constituency it cannot afford to take for granted in 2024. Democrats must invest in winning the Midwest and winning working class voters, and holding the convention in Chicago will help us do just that.

There is no better city to host the 2024 Democratic National Convention than Chicago, the hometown of the American labor movement. From our many union hotels to our abundance of union convention workers, Chicago can guarantee a union strong DNC like no other city. I am excited for the eyes of the nation to gaze upon Chicago in August 2024, and see a world-class city and a beacon of prosperity.



Bob Reiter
President



AffiliateNews

UNITE HERE Local 1 Concessions Workers Win Historic Contract at the United Center

It took a historic 1-day strike just days before the Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament at the United Center, but UNITE HERE Local 1 members finally got what they had been fighting for since before the pandemic. In March, concessions workers who serve the food, drinks, and clean the arena, ratified a new contract with Compass/Levy, winning significant improvements in wages, benefits, health insurance, and a good pension plan.

"To have health insurance through my employer means that I will now be able to go to the doctor and get the medical care needed without having to spend \$400 a month out of pocket for private insurance," said Jamie O'Neill, a Stand Manager with 30 seasons at the United Center. "Having a pension plan also means that myself and the workers who come after me will be able to retire with dignity and respect."

The agreement sets a new standard for stadium and arena workers in Chicago and includes a new system of providing health insurance which will cover hundreds of additional workers all year round. The agreement also includes a contribution of \$0.50 per hour to the union's pension plan by Compass/Levy, immediate historic wage increases of up to \$4.50 per hour and up to \$6.60 per hour by January 1, 2025, paid parental leave, and the addition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Juneteenth as paid holidays.

"For the first time in a long time my family won't have to choose between staying housed, paying rent, or buying groceries. We are a proud example of what workers can accomplish when we come together and fight for what we deserve," said Darlita Enoch, a Sanitation Employee with eight seasons at the United Center.

"Our members, the fans, and the people of Chicago are celebrating with the Compass/Levy workers at the United Center. Their deep commitment to their principles, to one another, and to their union, inspires all of us. They have changed stadium jobs and the lives of stadium workers in the city forever. These workers will now earn wages where they can support a family, retire with dignity, and have good quality health insurance," said Karen Kent, President of UNITE HERE Local 1.

Report submitted by UNITE HERE Local 1.



UNITE HERE Local 1 members picket on February 15 outside the United Center.



UAW Local 588 members held a 24/7 picket line at PTC Alliance in Bedford Park for nearly two months before the company gave in to their demands.

24/7 Picket Produces First Contract for UAW 588

After 65 days on the picket line, workers at PTC Alliance in Bedford Park have ratified their first union contract, winning equal pay for equal work and ending major pay disparities.

About 140 workers at the plant voted to join UAW Local 588 in June of 2021, while the facility was under different ownership, then known as Metal-Matic. UAW Local 588 members have been fighting for a first contract for nearly two years.

"These UAW members held a 24/7 picket line for two months through torrential rain, hurricane-force winds, and bitter cold," UAW Region 4 Director Brandon Campbell said. "They showed us all the power of solidarity."

UAW Local 588 members at PTC Alliance ratified the contract on April 28. After nearly two years, a change in ownership and repeated union busting tactics, members are relieved to reach an agreement that ends unfair pay disparities and keeps wages growing in the right direction.

"It took us two years to get here, but we got here. They threw everything they could at us. Eventually we had to strike them. Everybody at the plant came out and stayed out for eight weeks. We had the worst weather, but I think that brought us together even more," Local 588 member John Drury said.

The CFL and affiliates provided support for the strike, which braved through harsh conditions in an industrial area where it was hard to spread visibility and awareness for the strike.

"I would like to thank the unions and the CFL for their support that contributed to the success of Local 588 members. These workers were ready to give their lives for this fight and I am proud of how they held the picket line 24 hours a day for almost two months," Campbell said.

UAW Local 588 contributed to this report.

4/20 Cannabis Strike Hits GTI Where It Hurts

Teamsters Local 777 members at three Rise dispensaries in the Chicago area walked off the job April 19, at 4:20 p.m., one day before the 4/20 cannabis holiday. The strike was sparked days earlier, when management demanded workers take off their pro-union buttons, but that NLRA violation was just the straw that broke the camel's back.

"The company's demand that the workers remove their pins is part of a broader pattern of disrespect to their workforce," Local 777 President Jim Glimco said. "Green Thumb Industries is refusing to offer these men and women wages commensurate with the cost of living, or a retirement package that is acceptable for Teamsters. It's far past time this company recognize the people responsible for all of the success it has had."

Local 777 members are well aware of the enormous profits being made in the cannabis industry, and they want their fair share.

This strike was the first time in the history of Illinois—and one of the first times in American history—that three cannabis dispensaries under the same company umbrella have gone on strike at the same time.

Employees remained on strike for a total of 13 days, during which time Green Thumb Industries, Rise's parent company, increased wages by 50% during the strike. Local 777 members returned to work in early May and are demanding that the wage increases be made permanent. The two sides are still bargaining, and Local 777 is filing additional ULP charges against GTI that occurred during the strike, including unlawful surveillance and the promise of promotions for those who crossed the picket line.

Teamsters Local 777 contributed to this report.

AFSCME Cultural Workers Mobilize for Fair Contracts

Field Museum

After a months-long campaign, Field Museum workers voted to join AFSCME Council 31 and form Field Museum Workers United in March.

Field Museum workers filed to be unionized with the National Labor Relations Board last December after publicly announcing their campaign this past fall. Ballots were counted on March 9, with an overwhelming majority of workers voting to unionize.

"We're thrilled that our coworkers have decisively said yes to our union, Field Museum Workers United/AFSCME," the organizing committee wrote in announcing the news.

In the coming months, Field Museum Workers United will elect a bargaining committee and begin negotiating a first contract with the museum.

Museum of Science and Industry

Workers at the Museum of Science and Industry rallied on the museum's front steps in April to demand recognition and a better workplace. Museum workers are fighting to unionize to improve poor health and safety protocols, professional development opportunities, pay equity, and put an end to management's union busting.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined MSI workers to call out the museum's leadership for their poor treatment of workers. Most MSI workers are making between \$17-20 per-hour, resulting in a constant financial struggle every week.

"MSI employees make their museum great, and we're pleased they're joining our AFSCME Cultural Workers United family. Together in their union, MSI workers will have a strong voice for fair treatment,

better pay and a say in all the decisions that affect them," AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director Roberta Lynch said.

Art Institute of Chicago

Members of the Art Institute of Chicago Workers United and School at the Art Institute of Chicago Workers United picketed outside the institute on March 30, demanding management come to the bargaining table.

AICWU and SAICWU members have been fighting for a fair contract for over a year, ever since both groups voted to establish their union in December 2021. Yet, museum and school management continue dragging their feet, unreasonably delaying the bargaining process.

AFSCME Council 31 contributed to this report.

Chicago State Faculty & Staff Win Respect in New Contract

After a 10-day strike in April, University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100 members at Chicago State University reached a new four-year tentative agreement with the university. The new deal increases wages for CSU faculty and staff, who were among some of the lowest paid college educators in the state.

While the university tried to maintain they were too financially strapped to afford a pay increase, UPI Local 4100 members didn't buy that narrative. Data has shown CSU professors and lecturers make the lowest and second-lowest average salaries, respectively, of any University staff in Illinois. They also pointed to the fact that in January, the school formed a committee to explore adding a Division I football program.

"If they can afford to put the money into a football program, why can't they afford to pay faculty?" sociology professor Sister Judith Birgin told reporters. "It's a lack of priorities."

More than 97% of UPI Local 4100 members authorized the strike at Chicago State, which began on April 3. Shortly after, UPI members at Eastern Illinois University and Governors State University also went on strike, citing similar working conditions and a lack of progress in bargaining.

On April 16, UPI Local 4100 reached a tentative agreement with the CSU. The new deal addresses wages, workload, and parental leave.

"Our team has worked diligently to secure an agreement that provides pay increases for our world-class faculty and staff, while recognizing the university's financial constraints," UPI Local 4100 President Valerie Goss said in a statement. "Our members never wanted to strike, but being forced to do so has made us more unified and stronger than ever. I thank all of our amazing members, students, and supporters who stood up and spoke out with us every step of the way."

UPI members at EIU and GSU ended their strikes on April 17 and April 19, respectively.

UPI Local 4100 contributed to this report.

Illinois Federation of Teachers President Dan Montgomery speaks to reporters on April 4 at Chicago State University during the 12-day UPI Local 4100 strike.





CHICAGO'S UNION MAN ON THE 5TH FLOOR

In a declaration that was met with thunderous applause, Mayor Brandon Johnson expressed how he views his place as a labor activist who just ascended to the most powerful office in Chicago.

"The CFL is on the fifth floor y'all!" Mayor Johnson told a roomful of union members and supporters on April 21.

Two weeks earlier, he defeated Paul Vallas in the April 4 General Election and became the first union member and CFL activist to be elected mayor of Chicago. Mayor Johnson made it clear in his inauguration speech on May 15 he will not forget his roots when he takes over at City Hall.

After detailing his vision to build a stronger city for all Chicagoans, Mayor Johnson paid homage to the labor movement that raised him, crediting, "the same labor movement that raised wages, established the 40-hr workweek and built the middle class in this city," as one of his guiding forces.

Mayor Johnson began his career as a public school teacher in 2007, first at Jenner Academy in Cabrini-Green and then at Westinghouse College Prep on the West Side, where he experienced firsthand how school closures, unemployment, and gun violence impacted his students and their communities.

On the campaign trail, Mayor Johnson told the story of one particular day at Jenner that left an indelible mark on him. He and his students were having a bad day and he was struggling to keep his cool when one of his students raised her hand.

"Mr. Johnson, you know what the problem is?" he recalled her saying. "The problem is, you should be teaching at a good school."

Mayor Johnson said that comment deeply disturbed him, but he understood where it came from. His students could look out their front windows and see cranes and bulldozers destroying their Cabrini Green community — paving the way for one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the city, a neighborhood they would soon be excluded from.

Mayor Johnson went on to become an organizer with the Chicago Teachers Union, beginning in 2013. CFL President Bob Reiter watched Johnson's rise, first within the labor movement and now within Chicago's political landscape.

"Mayor Johnson always knew how to contextualize the classroom as the shop room floor for other union activists. It's that relatability that he will bring to the job now. Not just how to get other people to relate to him and his work, but his incredible ability to relate to others," President Reiter said.

Under the leadership of then Chicago Teachers Union President Karen GJ Lewis—whose spirit still guides Mayor Johnson today—he became a CTU organizer and began working directly with other educators, parents, faith leaders, community organizations, and elected officials to deliver on the Union's vision of the schools Chicago students deserve. As an organizer, Mayor Johnson worked to defend neighborhood schools from privatization and expand access to state funding. During his inauguration speech, Mayor Johnson reflected on his journey to become Mayor, and how Lewis showed him the potential of what coalition-building can accomplish.

"I think about the labor movement, which produced luminaries like my mentor and dear sister Karen Lewis, who modeled true social justice unionism and helped lead the multi-racial, multi-cultural working class movement that organized it's way to this moment," Mayor Johnson said.

In 2015, Mayor Johnson joined the Dyett hunger strike, which succeeded in reopening Dyett High School as an open enrollment school for the Bronzeville neighborhood. In coalition with parents and community organizers, Mayor Johnson helped win the historic fight for an elected representative school board for Chicago.

In 2018, Mayor Johnson won a seat on the Cook County Board, where he tackled groundbreaking, transformative legislation, and earned the reputation for building coalitions. Among his accomplishments, he was lead sponsor of the Just Housing Ordinance and worked to secure legal representation for immigrant refugees facing deportation.

CTU President Stacy Davis Gates has known Mayor Johnson for a long time, and was instrumental in rallying support around Mayor Johnson's campaign.

"Mayor Johnson is truly in touch with the needs of working people in Chicago and he is not afraid of hard work. A middle school teacher is going to teach us how to become a more unified and organized city. He's a brilliant example of a father, a husband

CFL President Bob Reiter and then-Chicago Teachers Union Organizer and Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson at a CTU rally in 2019.



and exactly what we need on the fifth floor of City Hall,” Davis Gates said.

As a father, educator, organizer, and public servant, Mayor Johnson understands firsthand how deeply investments in Chicago’s neighborhoods are needed. He and his family love their Austin neighborhood, but recognize its challenges.

“It’s one of the most dynamic neighborhoods in the city, but also one of the most violent,” Mayor Johnson said. “But we see the strength and generosity of Austin and of all the neighborhoods across the city of Chicago.”

This is what gives Mayor Johnson hope and the motivation to lead and work toward a Chicago where all communities are safe and vibrant places for families to live, work, and raise their children.

“My mother taught me that your words are not as loud as your actions. That’s why I became a public school teacher, a union organizer, and a county commissioner,” he said. “I’ve been speaking for and on behalf of working families for a long time and those are the voices I will take with me to city hall.”

Family serves as a guiding light in Mayor Johnson’s life. As one of 10 sisters and brothers, he was raised on a foundation of hard work, faith, and service—values he now teaches his children Owen, Ethan and Braedyn, whom he and his wife Stacie are raising in the Austin community on the West Side of Chicago.

A native of Elgin, Illinois, and a graduate of Aurora University (B.S. in Human Services, Youth Development Programming and Management, 2004, and M.A. in Teaching, 2007), Mayor Johnson worked as chief of staff for Illinois State Representative Deborah L. Graham and as a constituent service director for Illinois State Senator Don Harmon before transitioning to education in 2007.

Chicago Teachers Union contributed to this story.



„The CFL is on the fifth floor y’all...”

Mayor Johnson told a roomful of union members and supporters on April 21.

Mayor Brandon Johnson at the Labor Block Party on May 13 at the Chicago Teachers Union.

Featured News

AFSCME & INA Win Yearslong Battle, Pass HSWA Ordinance

After three years of persistent advocacy by AFSCME Council 31 and the Illinois Nurses Association, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance to guarantee workers in the nonprofit sector the right to organize without fear of retaliation. The CFL was proud to support this ordinance and assist in notching a historic win for non-profit workers throughout the city of Chicago.

The Human Service Workforce Advancement Ordinance protects the workers who support Chicago's communities every day by requiring covered nonprofits to enter into a "labor peace agreement" if their employees seek to organize. AFSCME Council 31 and the Illinois Nurses Association led the push for the ordinance to protect non-profit workers throughout the city of Chicago.

Human services workers are on the front lines helping people find housing, mental health resources, access to quality care, and much more. They have been integral to keeping our neighbors safe and supported throughout the difficult years of the pandemic.

The campaign to pass the ordinance was powered by stories from human service workers like Trevious Butler, a former employee of Thresholds—a Chicago human service provider agency—who tried to form a union with her co-workers because of their treatment in the workplace.

"I was paid only \$17.40 an hour, and they were able to afford big-time lawyers to bust up the union from being organized," Butler said. "I took part in a union video, and a week later, I was fired."

"Winning this ordinance was a long, tough fight, but it will make a big difference for workers who provide essential services in every city neighborhood and deserve higher wages, better benefits, fair treatment, and a voice on the job," AFSCME Council 31 Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Adrienne Alexander said. "We're grateful to the alders, the CFL and other unions, and especially the workers who stood up, told their stories and supported the passage of this important legislation."

In 2019, AFSCME Council 31 and the Illinois Nurses Association worked with alderpersons to file the HSWA Ordinance. From the start, the ordinance's goal was to ensure that employees of nonprofits funded by the City of Chicago have a path to organize free from employer retaliation and interference. They continued the fight for three more years and the ordinance passed with a veto-proof majority of 42-2 on March 15.

CFL OI Training Delivers Game-Changing DEI Training

On February 7-10, the Chicago Federation of Labor presented its first ever Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training as part of the CFL Organizing Institute Training. The DEI training was the first time any AFL-CIO Organizing Institute Cohort ever included a DEI component. The training was led by CFL Director of Organizing Marcus Shepherd and teaching fellows from affiliate organizations.

The objective of DEI training is for organizers to understand the concept of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and how it relates to organizing strategies. It is important for unions to embrace DEI because of the changing workplace demographics across the country.



CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar speaking to attendees of the CFL's four-day Organizing Institute training in February.

It is important to have a grasp on how DEI can be utilized from an organizational standpoint because many businesses, organizations, and institutions are incorporating DEI into their leadership and workplace growth. Employers, as well as potential targets of an organizing campaign, are either using DEI effectively, failing to follow it, or not considering it at all.

Through DEI training, organizers are equipped for the challenges in today's changing workplaces. Integrating organizing with DEI training is a proven method to achieve organizing success.

"The training taught me a lot of different aspects on how to organize, and how to engage workers both internally and externally. The DEI component to the training was outstanding," ATU Local 241 member Angelique Williams said.

DEI training also showed participants how the labor movement has brought workers together to combat workplace inequality, disparity, and injustice. Throughout labor's history, unions have taken on economic injustice and fought for worker dignity in the face of corporate greed. Today, unions must take a stand against hate, racism, bigotry, and prejudice. Understanding labor's history through the lens of DEI helps the next generation lead the call for a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace.

"I have to thank CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar, Lauren Welke from United Way of Metro Chicago, and CFL Communications Director Jake Berent for helping out with the DEI training presentation as well as a handbook for the first DEI-OI cohort. I'm excited for our organizers to go out and help more workers with the new tools they've learned in our training," Shepherd said.

Labor Paves the Way in 2023 Elections

Labor endorsements helped carry an overwhelming majority of pro-worker candidates to victory in the 2023 municipal elections. Supported by a strategic ground game powered by union members, CFL-endorsed candidates won nearly 90% of elections on February 28 and April 4.

The CFL and unions across Chicagoland knocked on doors, hosted phone banks, and sent mail to union members throughout the election cycle. Labor was active every weekend from January-April and launched over 48 canvasses in that time. Unions across the movement joined and led in the fight to support pro-union candidates in the city and suburbs.

This work could not be done without the help of so many passionate volunteers, who braved wind, rain, and snow this election cycle. This coalition was made up of 545 union volunteers who knocked on more than 26,000 doors.



Newly-elected Chicago City Council members meet with union representatives from across the labor movement to begin building strong working relationships on May 12.

Labor’s mobilization and endorsement undoubtedly pushed candidates over the finish line. The CFL and affiliates worked hard to deliver on the endorsements made by the broad coalition of unions.

“It’s clear that when working people band together, our wins are limitless. We look forward to working with the Mayor, City Council, and other municipal leaders to continue advocating for working families,” CFL President Bob Reiter said.

Wasting no time building relationships, the CFL hosted a meet & greet for all newly elected Chicago City Council alders on May 15 at HIRE360’s future training center. New city council members met with union leaders and staff who represent the hard-working people of Chicago’s workforce. Jay Rowell, Executive Director of HIRE360, also led a tour of the future training center. The event was a great opportunity for new alders to get to know the work of unions and foster strong working relationships. The CFL looks forward to working with each alder and continuing to fight for working people.



The CFL launched 48 canvasses during the 2023 elections in support of pro-worker candidates.

Stamp Out Hunger Collects Over 200,000 Pounds of Food

The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 11 held the 31st annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 13. As in years past, the NALC encouraged US Postal Service customers to leave donations of non-perishable foods next to their mailbox on the second Saturday in May. Letter carriers across the country then collected the items along their postal routes and distributed the donations to local pantries and food banks.

With the high cost of food and housing along with the challenge of food scarcity across our region, food drives like Stamp Out Hunger are an important way for the community to help meet the high demand. The timing of Stamp Out Hunger remains critically important. Many food banks and pantries run low on donations from the winter holidays by May as demand increases during the summer months. In addition, the Chicago area has seen a sharp increase in the number of migrant families this year as southern border states continue to bus asylum seekers to our area. Shelters and food pantries are working diligently to meet the needs of these families as well as their ongoing clients, and the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive helps ease this ongoing crisis.

This year, the Chicago Federation of Labor and the United Way of Metro Chicago provided collection bins for participating unions to serve as a central collection location for union members. Sheet

Metal Workers Local 73, the IAMAW Mechanics Union Local 701, and the CFL offices collected member donations during the months of April and May. Union members were instrumental in the success of this year’s collection of more than 210,000 pounds of food collected by letter carriers.

The history and legacy of Stamp Out Hunger was celebrated locally at a kick-off event hosted by NALC Branch 11 on May 8. The first NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive took place in Chicago thirty-one years ago, before expanding across the United States and creating the largest single-day food drive in the nation. During the kick-off, NALC Branch 11 President Elise Foster detailed the history of the drive, while other speakers including CFL Director of Community Engagement Gus Fuguitt attested to the positive impact the food drive has on local pantries.

Special thanks to local Stamp Out Hunger partners including United Way of Metro Chicago, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, American Postal Workers Union, Sheet Metal Workers Local 73, IAMAW Mechanics Union Local 701, and all the labor unions that encouraged their members to participate. The CFL looks forward to supporting Stamp Out Hunger the second Saturday of May 2024 and many years beyond.

CFLNews



(From left-to-right) CFL Chief of Staff Nora Cay Ryan, CFL President Bob Reiter, 2023 Rosetta Daylie Woman of the Year Kathy Hanshew, and CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar at the CFL Delegates Meeting on March 7.

Women Take Center Stage for Women's History Month

The CFL celebrated Women's History Month holding events to honor women for their contributions to the labor movement and inspire the next generation of women to persevere and achieve.

On March 7, the CFL named Kathy Hanshew, Manager of CMRJB Workers United, the 2023 Rosetta Daylie Woman of the Year before a crowd of hundreds of CFL delegates.

Hanshew is leading the charge for Workers United in the Midwest to organize Starbucks and has organized more than 100 stores in the region so far, despite the company's egregious and illegal union busting.

"Starbucks is a multimillion dollar corporation that tries to pride itself on working in partnership with its employees, all while silencing the workers and denying them their right to union representation and a collective voice," Hanshew said.

Hanshew is as committed as anyone to fighting Starbucks' onslaught of attacks. Her tenacity and commitment is evident every time she steps up to the mic. Last December, she stood in the freezing rain with dozens of Starbucks workers and their supporters at a rally to call out the company for their constant union busting.

"Starbucks response to these workers exercising their right to form a union, guaranteed by law, has been brutal. There has been store closures, firings, denial of benefits, and retaliatory scheduling. There have been over 900 unfair labor practices charged against this company. Even under these conditions, workers continue to organize," Hanshew said at the rally. "More than 7,000 Starbucks workers have joined Workers United since December 2021."

In addition to her role as Manager of CMRJB Workers United, she currently serves as an International Vice President of Workers United. A tireless advocate for workers, she began her career as a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers in Northeast Ohio in 1989. She's held the positions of Steward, Chief Steward, Business Representative, Local Union President, Area Director, Chief of Staff and CMRJB Vice President, in addition to her current roles.

During the Delegates Meeting preceding the award ceremony, CFL Delegates unanimously approved a motion to rename the CFL's Woman of the Year Award after Rosetta Daylie, to honor longtime CFL Delegate and current CFL First Vice President Rosetta Daylie for her seven decades of work in the Chicago labor movement.

On March 21, the CFL hosted its Annual Women's Luncheon. The event brought together women from across the labor movement to

celebrate their success, support one another, and inspire the next generation of women in the labor movement.

This year's theme, "Speaking Truth to Power," featured a panel of speakers sharing their stories about what it is like to be a leader in male-dominated spaces and take on big corporations like Starbucks. The panel included Hanshew, CISCO Education-to-Careers Director Jamillah Muhammad, CFL Finance Committee Member and TWU Local 556 2nd Vice President Corliss King, and 33rd Ward Alderwoman Rossana Rodriguez.

The CFL would like to thank 2023 Women's Luncheon sponsors: APWU Local 0001, CBTU Chicago Chapter, Chicago Building Trades, CMRJB Workers United, Heat & Frost Insulators Local 17, IATSE Local 476, IBEW Local 9, IBEW Local 134, IUOE Local 399, Ironworkers Local 63, Ironworkers District Council of Chicago and Vicinity, Laborers Local 1, Laborers Local 2, Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council, Plumbers Local 10 UA, Roofers & Water Proofers Local 11, SAG-AFTRA Chicago, Seafarers Entertainment and Allied Trades Union, Sheet Metal Workers Local 73, and UFCW Local 1546.

Congratulations 2023 William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship Winners

Each year, the Chicago Federation of Labor awards the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship to 10 high school seniors. The scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, are awarded to five winners via an academic competition and five winners selected at random.

"It is critical to support the next generation of young people, and give them the tools they need to succeed in today's world and beyond," CFL President Bob Reiter said. "The William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship winners all come from union families and demonstrate a deep appreciation for the labor movement. We are proud to support them as they continue their educational journey."

The scholarship is named after William A. Lee, the longest-serving President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, from 1946 to 1984. President Lee dedicated his life to fighting for working people. The scholarship funds may be used at any accredited college or university in the United States.

Congratulations to the 2023 William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship winners James Lee Bettenhausen (Plumbers Local 130), Nicholas Curley (IUOE Local 150), Abigail Diemer (IUOE Local 150), Kevin Edward Griffin (UFCW Local 881), Ciara Hosty (Laborers Local 4), Colleen Elizabeth McElligott (IBEW Local 134), Keegan Mullins (AFGE Local 648), Kevin Sean Nolan Jr. (IUOE Local 399), Ryan J. Novak (Carpenters Local 13), Ryan Pazmino (Chicago Fire Fighters Union Local 2). The recipients were honored at a reception at the CFL on Thursday, April 27th.

CFL President Bob Reiter and Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar alongside William Lee Memorial Scholarship winners.



Chavez, Huerta, & UFW Honored at Haymarket Memorial on May Day

The CFL, Illinois Labor History Society, and Labor Council for the Advancement of Latin Americans celebrated the legacy of Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and the United Farm Workers on May Day 2023 by dedicating a plaque in their honor at the Haymarket Memorial in Chicago.

Paul Chavez, son of Cesar Chavez, attended the dedication and spoke about his father's life and legacy.

"It really is fitting that we are here on International Workers' Day at this place that means so much to the American labor movement. On behalf of my family, we are grateful for recognition of my father and the farm workers movement," Chavez said.

Chavez went on to detail how his father was uncomfortable receiving any kind of praise because he believed there were thousands of other workers just like himself who fought the same fight for justice, but their names are lost to history. He recalled a eulogy his father delivered decades ago in the border town of Calexico for a worker who was killed on the picket line.

"He declared that true wealth is not measured by money, status, or prestige, but rather the legacy we leave behind for those we love and those we inspire," Chavez said. "On behalf of the entire farm workers movement, I want to thank you for not just honoring my father, but for honoring all of the truly wealthy men and women of the labor movement."



(From left-to-right) CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar, President Bob Reiter, Paul Chavez, LCLAA Chicago Metro President Jose Alcalá, and ILHS President Larry Spivack with this year's plaque honoring Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and the United Farm Workers.

The plaque details how Chavez, Huerta, and the United Farm Workers improved the lives of millions of immigrant workers in the United States, coining the iconic rallying cry, "¡Si Se Puede!" along the way.

Following the plaque dedication, CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar recognized current labor disputes in Chicago, and invited members from UAW Local 588, AFPA, and CMRJB Workers United to address the overflowing crowd in attendance.

Since the memorial's dedication in 2004, the CFL and ILHS have dedicated a plaque to be affixed to the monuments' base every year on May Day.

May Day 5K a Runaway Success

The Chicago Federation of Labor held the inaugural in-person May Day 5K Run and Walk on Sunday, April 30 alongside Chicago's lakefront. Sunny skies greeted the crowd of more than 150 runners and walkers, ready to take on the challenge.

The course, primarily located on the Chicago Lakefront Trail, included several connections to the labor movement. A segment of the course followed Solidarity Drive, which recognizes the Polish Solidarity Movement led by Lech Walesa, before turning around the Adler Planetarium. Another section touched McFetridge Drive, named after William McFetridge, the longtime president of the Building Services Employee Union (now known as SEIU). The race started and finished just north of the Chicago Firefighter and Paramedic Memorial that commemorates the International Association of Fire Fighters members who lost their lives in the line of duty in Chicago since 1857. Lastly, the course included beautiful sightlines of downtown Chicago—featuring the buildings and infrastructure constructed by union members.

Runners take off from the starting line at the CFL May Day 5k on April 30.



Top finishers pose with their awards at the May Day 5k after party on April 30.

CFL President Bob Reiter kicked off the race with an important reminder about the meaning of May Day, shaped by the Haymarket Affair in 1886. Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton also addressed the crowd of runners and spectators, highlighting recent victories of the labor movement in Illinois such as the passage of the Workers' Rights Amendment in 2022.

The CFL May Day 5K launched virtually in 2021 as a new opportunity to observe May Day while adhering to social distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Runners and walkers participated anywhere in the country and runners uploaded their times and pictures for race awards. This year marked the first time Chicago union members and supporters came together to run and walk in person.

Following the run, the CFL hosted an awards ceremony and after party to recognize the performances of top runners. The CFL would like to congratulate the top overall finishers Jack McGann and Traci Ethridge for their impressive efforts.

The 2023 May Day 5k Run and Walk was successful thanks to our generous sponsors. Thank you to SAG-AFTRA, Jewel-Osco, UFCW 1546, Aetna, IBEW Local 134, Laborers Local 1, Painters District Council 14, SEIU Illinois State Council, and Sheet Metal Workers Local 73 for sponsoring the event, and all the volunteers who helped make the event a huge success. The CFL is already looking forward to the 2024 May Day 5k Run and Walk!



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UPCOMING CFL DELEGATES MEETINGS

Tuesday, **October 3, 2023**
Tuesday, **November 7, 2023**
Tuesday, **December 5, 2023**

5 p#m#

IBEW Local 134
2722 S. Martin Luther King Dr, Chicago

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

Don V. Villar
Secretary-Treasurer



Proud Union Home Store

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