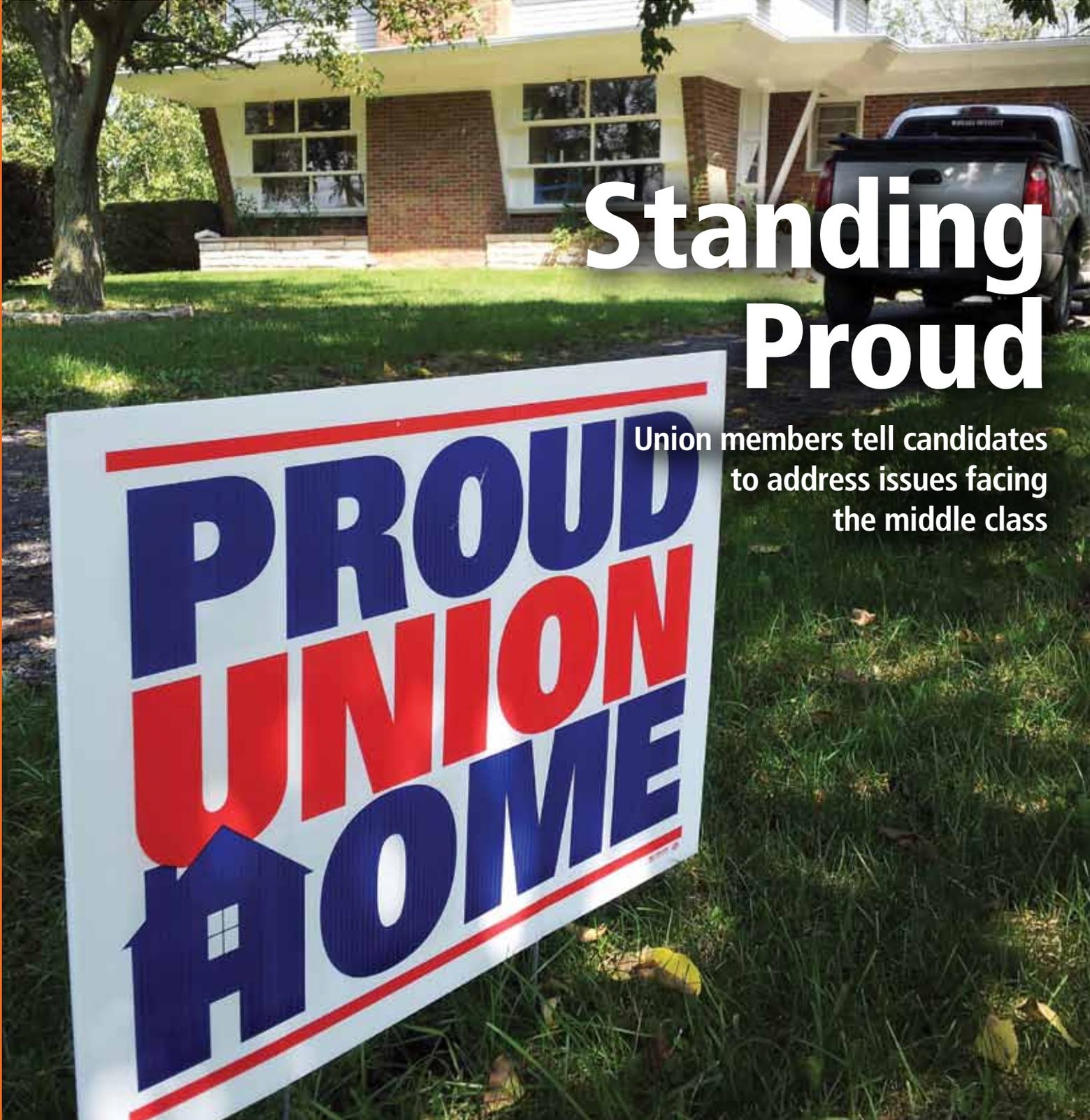




# FederationNews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR • FALL 2012



## Standing Proud

Union members tell candidates to address issues facing the middle class

**PROUD  
UNION  
HOME**

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COURTESY OF  
LUIS RIVERA



## Support for Teachers

Students, parents and labor unions stood behind the Chicago Teachers Union during the first strike in 25 years. The strike lasted seven days before teachers voted overwhelmingly to accept a new three-year contract.

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## President's Report



**"Lower American wages do not boost U.S. competitiveness."** That might not be what those of us in organized labor would expect to hear from a couple of Harvard Business

School professors. But as Michael E. Porter and Jan W. Rivkin write in their article, "The Looming Challenge to U.S. Competitiveness," America needs a long-term strategy that increases domestic manufacturing, strengthens the middle class, and invests in education and a modern infrastructure in order to remain competitive in the current global economy.

If this sounds like a pretty good argument, there's a reason: it's one that the labor movement has been making for years.

The Machinists on strike at Caterpillar were fighting for fair wages, health care benefits and retirement security that would help keep a community afloat and grow a strong middle class. (Caterpillar, by the way, earned \$1.67 billion in profits in the last quarter alone).



PHOTO COURTESY OF CFL

Teachers in Chicago, Evergreen Park and a handful of municipalities went on strike this fall to make sure that teachers have the tools and resources they need to give public school students the education they deserve.

Unions like the Laborers, Operating Engineers, Carpenters, Iron Workers and others have been fighting at the local, state and federal levels for funding to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.

This country needs to start investing in itself once again. We should reward companies that create jobs here at home, rather than abroad. We should commit to rebuilding not only our roads, bridges and schools, but also the next generation of infrastructure needs, from fiber optics and broadband capabilities

to renewable energy sources. We should fund our public schools so that our teachers can utilize their experience in the classroom to prepare students for higher education or skilled jobs that pay a living wage.

Some of these issues will be addressed in the upcoming election. Americans will decide between a candidate who took bold action to save the U.S. auto industry and 1 million related jobs, cut taxes for 94% of working Americans and fought to invest close to \$800 billion in our infrastructure; and another candidate who made a fortune as a hedge fund manager and job outsourcer, wants to cut taxes for the nation's top earners, would roll back health care coverage and even encouraged the President to "let Detroit go bankrupt."

This election is about more than the next four years. It's about choosing a course for our country for generations to come.

And the power is in your hands.  
In Unity,



**JORGE RAMIREZ**  
PRESIDENT

# Affiliate News

Read more on these topics at [www.chicagolabor.org/news](http://www.chicagolabor.org/news).

## Christensen Elected General President

Frank Christensen, Business Manager of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 2, was elected General President of the international union in September.

Christensen served as an officer of Local 2 for nearly 20 years, including five terms as Business Manager. In a letter to the membership on the local union's website, he thanked the members for giving him the opportunity to serve them for so many years.

"I wanted to write a letter to the Local 2 Membership not to say goodbye but to say how much I have appreciated all of you. I have been blessed to have the most educated and forthcoming Membership in the country," he wrote.

Under Christensen's leadership, the local union fought hard to get members back to work during the recent recession, led the purchase of a building that includes space for training classes, and was involved in programs such as Helmets to Hardhats to help returning veterans re-enter the workforce.

Dan Baumann is currently serving as Business Manager for Local 2.

## IBEW 21 Elects New Officers

Members of IBEW Local 21 elected a new slate of officers led by President Business Manager Paul Wright. He replaces Ron Kastner who retired earlier this year.

Wright has served in the union for many years, beginning in 1992 as a steward. In 2008 he was elected Business Representative and also serves as a delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor. He brings to the position a wealth of experience, education and commitment to protecting the future of IBEW Local 21 and its members.

"We congratulate Paul and his entire team on their election," said Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez. "Paul is a dedicated labor leader and we know he will have a positive impact not only on the members of his local, but also on the greater Chicago area labor movement."

Also elected to serve as officers were Bill Henne, Vice President, Jacquie Fields, Treasurer, and Bob Przybylinski, Recording Secretary.

## EPA Workers Speak Out for Environmental Protections

The American Federation of Government Employees' Local 704 announced that it is launching a "Save the Environment – Save the EPA" campaign to draw the public's attention to the potential impacts of the draconian budget cuts being proposed by Congress on the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the nation's human health and the environment.

AFGE Local 704, which represents employees at the U.S. EPA regional office in Chicago, including the Great Lakes National Program Office, launched a website, [www.savetheepa.org](http://www.savetheepa.org), which highlights environmental issues and congressional proposals targeting EPA programs.

"More than 70 percent of EPA's budget is in the form of pass-through funding for the states, tribal associations, municipalities and contractors," said Local 704 President John O'Grady. "Cutting EPA's budget not only will impact the Agency's ability to protect human health and the environment on the national level, but also on the local, municipal and tribal levels. Why does Congress want to put people out of work by cutting EPA's budget in this economy?"

"The Local believes the American public needs to be educated about how EPA's work is being undermined

and to motivate them to speak out in favor of clean air and water, and against destroying the beauty of this great country," said O'Grady.

For more information, visit [www.SavetheEPA.org](http://www.SavetheEPA.org) or [www.facebook.com/SaveTheEPA](http://www.facebook.com/SaveTheEPA).

## Chicago Symphony Musicians Resolve Contract

After a three-day strike that cancelled one performance, musicians at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra returned to work upon reaching a new contract for the members of the Chicago Federation of Musicians Local 10-208. The strike was the first in more than twenty years for the musicians.

Stephen Lester, chairman of the orchestra members committee negotiating the contract told the Chicago Tribune that the key issues during talks were compensation and skyrocketing health care contributions. "They have asked for drastic increases in health insurance payments that would not be offset by the increased salary," said Lester. "We countered and countered, but they would not accept our attempts at a compromise."

The two sides ultimately reached a fair deal that allowed the musicians to return to work performing as one of the world's most renowned symphony groups.

## Evergreen Park Teachers Strike

On October 2, 140 teachers and 70 support staff in Evergreen Park went on strike for two weeks before ultimately reaching a fair contract.

Negotiations began April and the teachers and paraprofessionals had been working during the current school year without a contract.

The union sought less than what is in the current contract and fought off additional cuts demanded by the school board. In addition, the district has a \$16 million surplus that has increased every year, an amount that is three times what is required by the state.

Union representative Denean Pajeau told WLS-TV that "there is no reason to put the budget deficit on the backs of the teachers and support staff." The teachers, represented by the South West Suburban Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 943, teach 1,800 students at four elementary schools and one junior high school.

## Iron Workers' Eric Dean Honored

Eric Dean, General Secretary of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental & Reinforcing Iron Workers Union, was honored with the 2012 Seminary Salutes "Rerum Novarum" award from the St. Joseph College Seminary. The award is given to leaders in labor, government and business who exemplify the spirit of "Rerum Novarum," the encyclical written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891 that defends the rights of labor and the dignity of workers.

Dean grew up in Chicago and is a fourth generation ironworker. He served as President of the Chicago District Council from 2005 to last year when he was elected General Secretary to the international.



## SEIU Backs Responsible Bidder Ordinance

Hundreds of Chicago workers and faith and community groups marched through City Hall calling on Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the City Council to hold a hearing on the Responsible Bidders Ordinance, a measure that would go a long way towards protecting working families from poverty and unemployment.

"Chicago is becoming a city where you stay poor if you're born poor, no matter how hard you work. Corporations and their millionaire CEOs are profiting at the expense of everyone else. That's not what prosperity looks like," said Ewa Miklewicz, a janitor in downtown Chicago.

The protestors delivered a letter signed by the Chicago Federation of Labor and dozens of community groups in support of the Responsible Bidders Ordinance, which would ensure that the City awards contracts to companies that provide good jobs and quality services.

"As leaders of labor, community and faith-based organizations across Chicago, we are deeply concerned about the well-being of those who work for our city," the letter states. "The work performed by dedicated service workers at our public institutions is critical. We believe that public contracting should not lead the race to the bottom.... Public work should set the standard for the kind of responsible employment practices that help build a robust economy rather than further deplete it."

## Carpenters' Green Building Featured On TV Show

Construction of a sophisticated, energy-friendly, single-family home in Lemont, Illinois by union tradesmen and women is the focus of the 13-episode television series "Built to Last" on public television.

"Our goal with building 'The Green Home' is to be the industry leader when it comes to construction of new homes that are built for energy efficiency and optimum performance," said Carpenters' President Frank Libby. "We maintain the most advanced training program, producing skilled tradesmen who are properly prepared to meet today's energy-efficiency needs. For people looking to address energy loss and associated high costs in their current homes, our certified energy analysts (CEAs) are properly trained and credentialed to help homeowners with those interests as well."

The home is listed for sale and all proceeds will benefit charity.

"Built to Last", a product of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters' Labor and Management Committee in production partnership with Lakeshore Public Television, is in its second season. Beginning in 2013, the show will hit the airwaves nationally, detailing step-by-step construction of Lemont's Green Home intended to highlight sustainable construction and environmentally friendly materials and innovations.

For more information about "Built to Last," visit [www.builttolasttv.com](http://www.builttolasttv.com).

## Downstate Labor Leader Honored With Statue

Ruben Soderstrom, former President of the Illinois AFL-CIO and state Representative, was honored with a statue dedicated to his legacy in Streator, Illinois on Labor Day. Soderstrom served as President of the state federation from 1930 until his death in 1970.

Soderstrom was born in 1888 in Waverly, Minnesota where he worked many jobs as a child laborer. At the age of nine, he was sent away to work in a blacksmith shop to help support his family before moving to Streator at the age of twelve. There, he worked as a trolley line water boy, bottle blower in a glass factory and linotype printer.

Determined to make a difference for others, he sought office as a state Representative. Serving as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 1916 to 1936, he fought to abolish workforce abuse and was instrumental in guiding into law much of the state's progressive labor legislation such as the abolishment of child labor, the right to assemble, the women's eight hour work day, and much more.

"The Chicago Federation of Labor pays tribute to the life and legacy of Reuben Soderstrom, a champion for

Illinois' working men and women and defender of the middle class," said Jorge Ramirez, President of the CFL.

For more information, visit [www.reubensoderstromfoundation.com](http://www.reubensoderstromfoundation.com).

## Unions Draw Trade Shows

Citing recent efforts by the unions at McCormick Place to lower costs for exhibitors, two major shows announced they will extend their commitments to Chicago. The two shows, the National Restaurant Association Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show and the International Manufacturing Technology Show, will take place in Chicago through at least 2021 and 2020, respectively. The estimated economic impact of the two shows alone is nearly \$1 billion in direct expenditures and 3,650 jobs each year.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Pat Quinn joined labor leaders in announcing the new business and lauded labor's efforts to keep Chicago a world-class destination for conventions and trade shows. Over the last two years, the unions at McCormick Place have reached new agreements to cut costs and increase flexibility for exhibitors that has helped bring in more than \$4 billion worth of renewed, extended or new commitments.



PAUL WRIGHT AND THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS OF IBEW LOCAL 21; EVERGREEN PARK TEACHERS ON STRIKE; A STATUE HONORING REUBEN SODERSTROM IN STREATOR, IL; UNIONS HELP ANNOUNCE \$1 BILLION IN NEW TRADE SHOW CONTRACTS; LABOR, COMMUNITY AND FAITH ACTIVISTS STAND UP FOR WORKERS AT A WALMART WAREHOUSE FACILITY

# President Obama's Record

“Having a voice on the job and a chance to organize and a chance to negotiate for a fair day’s pay after a hard day’s work, that is the right of every man and woman in America—not just the CEO in the corner office, but also the janitor who cleans that office after the CEO goes home. Everybody has got the same right.”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ON LABOR DAY

## Jobs

**3.6 million**

jobs created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
(SOURCE: CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE)

**1.14 million**

jobs saved by restructuring the auto industry  
(SOURCE: CENTER FOR AUTOMOTIVE RESEARCH)

**4.5 million**

private sector jobs created in the last 29 months  
(SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS)

## Health Care

**33 million**

more Americans will have health insurance under the Affordable Care Act

## Energy

**500,000**

new jobs will be created as a result of new fuel efficiency standards  
(SOURCE: BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE)

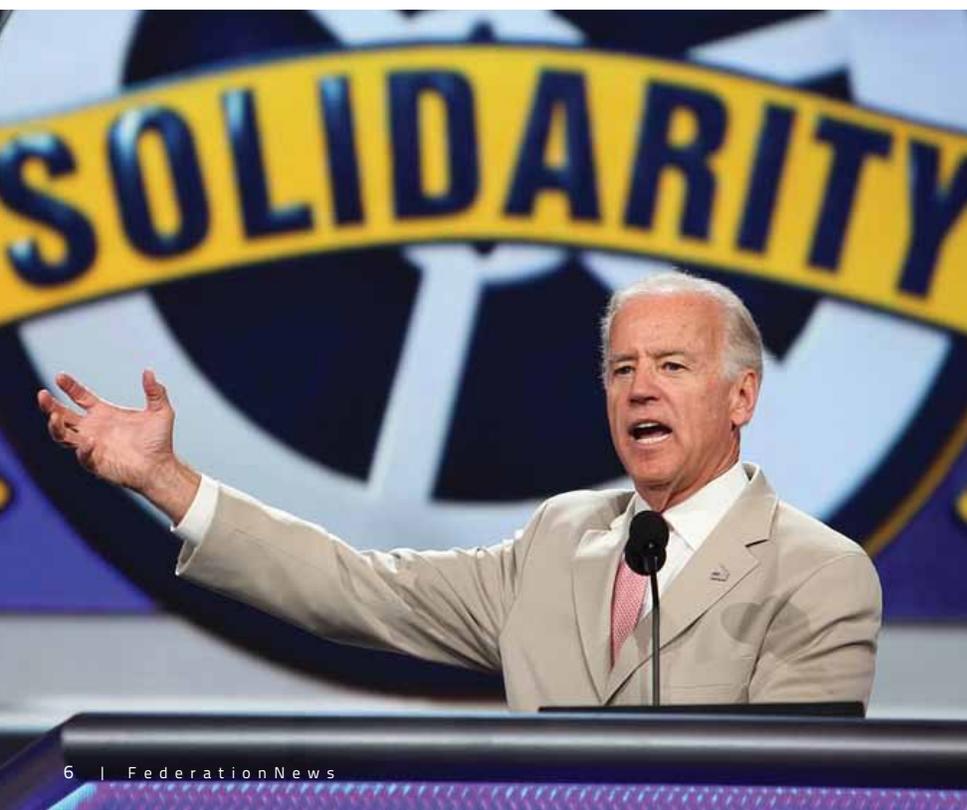
## Taxes

**94%**

of Americans received payroll tax cut

**\$717**

average tax cut for working Americans  
(SOURCE: CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE)



# Workers Stand Up

Candidates are accustomed to seeing plastic signs in their neighbor's front yards bearing the names of people running for office. It can offer a not-so-subtle clue as to the household's political leanings.

But this year, candidates in the Chicago area and northwest Indiana are facing a different message when they go door-to-door in their districts. Signs that read "Proud Union Home" have popped up in front yards and windows all across the area. And the message to candidates is simple: If you want our vote, you'd better be able to answer our questions.

"Working men and women want to know where candidates stand on job creation, on collective bargaining, on pensions" said Jorge Ramirez, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor. "These are the issues we care most deeply about. These are the issues we want candidates to address."

As campaigns race toward Election Day on November 6, candidates are fighting tooth-and-nail for as many votes as they can get, especially among key demographic groups. In Illinois, House Democrats are fighting to retain control of the chamber they won in 2010 by just 5,300 votes. State Senate Democrats are looking to solidify their margins over Republicans. And in Congress, five targeted Illinois districts could hold the key to Democrats wresting control of the chamber away from Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Eric Cantor (R-VA) who have blocked key initiatives of President Barack Obama, including the American Jobs Act.

Perhaps more than ever before, the difference in the two parties for union members could not be more distinct. The Republican Party platform, approved at the Republican National Convention in August, contains a number of provisions that would limit workers rights, weaken unions, jeopardize job safety, and more.

For the first time ever, the Republican platform calls for a national "right to work" for less law. It calls on overturning a recent ruling by the National Labor Board and National Mediation Board on fair union election rules.

The platform marks a clear departure from the party's past positions toward organized labor and more closely reflects the right-wing anti-labor stances of Republican leaders like Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. Even Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower

said, "Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of their right to join the union of their choice."

The actions by right-wing governors and legislatures in nearby states such as Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio have left union members questioning candidates' commitment to those very principles.

On Labor Day, Ramirez spoke to the Democratic National Convention delegates from Illinois made up of elected officials, prominent leaders and labor officials. In his address, he cautioned the Democratic Party not to take the support from organized labor for granted at a time when unions and union members are under attack.

On stage at the convention, working people, elected officials, and even union leaders reminded the country about President Obama's record creating jobs, saving the auto industry, expanding health care coverage to millions of uninsured Americans, and passing historic reforms on Wall Street to prevent another meltdown like the recent recession he inherited.

In his speech from the convention floor, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka called for an economy that works for everyone, not just a select few.

"In the 21st century global economy, prosperity requires leaders committed to creating good jobs by investing in our future—in our ports and roads and bridges and airports, in energy and telecommunications, and in our public schools," he said. "Leaders who are serious about rebuilding our manufacturing economy. Leaders like Barack Obama and Joe Biden."

Across Chicago, working men and women have been helping inform voters about the massive divide between President Obama and Mitt Romney, calling union members in battleground states and even traveling to Wisconsin and Iowa on the weekends to canvass neighborhoods.

"With the recent shift in politics, with the Republican Party moving so far to the right and gridlock in Washington D.C. holding up progress, working people need to exercise their voice this election," said Ramirez. "This election, from top of the ballot to the bottom, is incredibly important. As always, organized labor can make a huge difference for the direction of this country."

FOR A LIST OF LABOR'S ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN THE 2012 ELECTION, VISIT [WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/POLITICS](http://WWW.CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/POLITICS).



# Feature Stories

## Teachers strike rocks Chicago, world

SUPPORT FROM PARENTS, COMMUNITY AND LABOR HELPS TEACHERS REACH FAIR CONTRACT

For the first time in 25 years, 30,000 teachers and educational support professionals of the Chicago Teachers Union went on strike for seven days before finally reaching a fair contract with Chicago Public Schools.

The teachers announced the strike on Sunday, September 9 after negotiations stretched well into the night and left the sides too far apart on issues such as salary, health care, teacher evaluation criteria, merit pay, school conditions, class size and other issues important to the quality of education. Starting that Monday, teachers marched outside of Chicago's public schools and were joined by parents, community members and union members who stood in solidarity with the teachers in their fight for justice.

Chicago Federation of Labor President Jorge Ramirez and other local labor leaders were joined by American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten at a press conference during the strike to demonstrate the full support of the labor movement for the teachers.

"For Chicago's public school teachers, their work is more than an occupation—it's a calling," said Ramirez. "They care deeply and passionately about our schools, the quality of education they provide and the future of the children they teach. Chicagoans stand with our teachers because we respect them and the work they do every day in our communities to support our children."

As negotiations between CTU and CPS continued during the strike, teachers remained active holding picket lines at schools, marching in front of the Board of Education's downtown office, marching down Michigan Avenue and rallying at Union Park in the West Loop.

On Tuesday, September 18, CTU delegates voted to end the strike after negotiations reached a tentative deal which members later ratified by an overwhelming majority. The three year contract, with an option for a fourth, includes a salary increase for teachers, institutes a wellness program to help freeze health care premiums and copays, calls for hiring additional teachers for art, music and PE, maintains limits on class size, and makes the evaluation process fairer and less reliant on standardized testing, among other positive provisions for teachers and students.

"We feel very positive about moving forward," Lewis said after delegates voted to end the strike. "We feel grateful that we have a united union, and that when a union moves together, amazing things happen."

One of those amazing things was pushing back on the narrative from so-called "reformers" seeking to limit the influence of teachers on the educational system and increase the use of charter schools at the expense of neighborhood schools. Midway through the strike, the Chicago Tribune reported that CPS was planning to close as many as 120 neighborhood schools in the coming years while it was simultaneously increasing funding to charter school operators.

Lewis and Weingarten wrote in a joint op-ed in the Wall Street Journal that the strike not only helped Chicago's teachers get a contract that allows them to better educate students, but that it also raised important issues in the national education reform dialogue.

"In a period when many officials have sought to strip workers of any contractual rights or even a collective voice, the Chicago teachers strike showed that collective action is a powerful force for change and that collective bargaining is an effective tool to strengthen public schools," they wrote. "Chicago's public-school teachers—backed by countless educators across the country—changed the conversation from the blaming and shaming of teachers to the promotion of strategies that parents and teachers believe are necessary to help children succeed."



PHOTOS: CFL, ORLANDO J. VELEZ

"We feel grateful that we have a united union, and that when a union moves together, amazing things happen."

KAREN LEWIS  
CTU PRESIDENT



**PROUD  
UNION  
HOME**

See more at  
[www.chicagolabor.org/photos](http://www.chicagolabor.org/photos)





UNION MEMBERS STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS AT A RALLY EARLIER THIS YEAR

## The Real Meaning of Labor Day

*THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR PRESIDENT JORGE RAMIREZ WAS PUBLISHED IN BOTH THE CHICAGO SUN-TIMES AND CHICAGO TRIBUNE ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND.*

Labor Day is many things: The unofficial end of summer. The unofficial start of the school year. The last day to wear white.

We like to remember it for its original meaning. Labor Day was born out of the Pullman Strike, which took place right here in Chicago more than 100 years ago.

After the federal government intervened and several innocent workers and family members were killed, Labor Day was established as a day to honor the strength and spirit of the labor movement and working people.

Would today's government be so bold as to grant a national holiday out of respect to workers and the labor movement?

America's middle class is suffering.

Meanwhile, Wall Street CEOs are back on top, riding high and enjoying the security that came in the form of taxpayer bailouts.

Working people didn't create the mess we're in. But there's no doubt they're paying the price through layoffs, foreclosures and austerity measures that threaten vital services and public safety nets.

America's labor movement helped established the middle class. It did so by helping workers come together to bargain collectively for a living wage, health insurance, retirement security and safety in the workplace.

Working families have paid their share. It's not fair to extend tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans while our communities suffer. It's not right to ask working-class taxpayers to subsidize corporations for offshoring American jobs through tax breaks.

It's time that we build an economy that works for everyone. That's why it's important to remember the real meaning of Labor Day. Millions of Americans are hoping elected officials will stop playing politics with our progress and recovery.

## Resolutions Back Locked-out Sugar Workers, Hotel Workers

In two separate resolutions adopted by the Chicago Federation of Labor at the October Executive Board and delegate meeting, the labor federation made clear the broad support for two groups of workers fighting with their employers over basic workplace rights.

The first resolution endorses a nationwide consumer boycott of American Crystal Sugar Co. products beginning October 15. The boycott is in response to the company's 14-month lockout of 1,300 workers at its processing facilities in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa. If the company returns to the bargaining table in good faith and reaches an agreement, the boycott will be called off.

The locked-out workers are members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM) and took part in a regional tour earlier this year, including a stop in Chicago, to raise attention to their struggle.

The lockout, which started August 1, 2011, came in the midst of bargaining over a successor contract between the company and five locals representing workers. BCTGM workers overwhelmingly rejected the company's

final offer last year, which included significant increases to workers' health care costs and major changes to job security, including the right to outsource work and seniority language.

Delegates and Executive Board members at the Chicago Federation of Labor's meetings in October voted unanimously to support the members of BCTGM and a boycott of American Crystal Sugar products available at area grocery stores.

The second resolution endorses the global boycott of Hyatt hotels during the ongoing contract dispute between UNITE HERE and the company.

For three years, housekeepers and hotel workers have been fighting for a fair contract. During that time, they've suffered mistreatment and abuse from the company. Hyatt has taken to subcontracting housekeeping work, replacing workers who have worked for decades. In July 2011, workers protesting outside of the Park Hyatt hotel in Chicago had heat lamps turned on in the midst of a record-setting heat wave.

Hyatt housekeepers also suffer the highest rate of injury of all housekeepers according to an American Journal of Industrial Medicine study of 50 hotel properties from 5 different hotel companies.

Hyatt has also refused to remain neutral as non-union hotel workers have organized to bargain collectively in a union. In Indianapolis, San Antonio, Scottsdale, Santa Clara, San Francisco and Long Beach, workers have called on Hyatt to accept a fair process to enable them to choose whether or not to join a union without employer intimidation. Yet Hyatt has refused.

Delegates and Executive Board members at the Chicago Federation of Labor's October meetings similarly voted unanimously to endorse the resolution to respect the global boycott of Hyatt hotels.



LOCKED OUT WORKERS CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR A FAIR CONTRACT

## Immigrant Epitomized a Generation Of Patriots, Union Members

For 31 long months, Pat Quinn fought off starvation, disease and the brutal cold in a North Chinese POW camp during the Korean War. During that time, he prayed the rosary and helped his fellow soldiers survive, but never second-guessed his decision to leave his home of Killeel in Ireland's County Down for America in 1947.

As an immigrant to this country on a permanent visa, he was subject to the draft. In 1949 he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was called up in 1950 to fight in the war. He ended up spending close to three years in captivity under brutal conditions from which more than two-thirds of his fellow soldiers would not survive. They suffered frostbite from the sub-zero Siberian temperatures, dehydration, fever, and disease. They had no medical care and very little to eat.

The former Army sergeant was one of the fortunate few to make it out of the POW camp. Upon returning to the U.S., he resumed his work as a carpenter, married Ann, his wife of forty years, and raised his family on Chicago's southwest side.

Last summer, Pat Quinn passed away at age 87, leaving behind a legacy that touched the lives of many.

"I was proud to serve under the American flag even though I was not an American citizen," Quinn told an audience in a speech marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War on September 19, 2003. "I knew of 27, who like myself came from Ireland, and were not U.S. citizens but died in Korea serving under the American flag."

Upon returning to the U.S., his new home for which he fought, he tried to resume his life before the war. Before he was shipped out, he worked construction for Henry Brothers, building schools and churches. But after losing feeling in his fingers and toes from the brutal cold in Korea, he was unable to work in residential construction and went to work as

a carpenter at the Water Reclamation District. He spent the rest of his career as a proud union carpenter with Carpenters Local 13, retaining his membership after he retired in 1990.

"Pat Quinn was a loyal union member," said Tom Ryan, President of Carpenters Local 13. "He came to this country with nothing, yet was able to buy a home, raise a family and send his children to college. He was proud of the fact that he was part of a union."

After retiring, he continued to help fellow veterans who served the country by volunteering weekly at the Hines VA Hospital. Pat would visit the VA hospital once or twice a week for more than twenty years to visit with veterans who were receiving medical care. He would spend time talking with his fellow veterans and help transport them around the hospital for tests or procedures. Administrators at Hines VA recognized him for volunteering more than 4,500 hours of service.

He also stayed connected to his native home of Ireland and so many Irish Americans living in

Chicago by volunteering at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest and serving as executive director for many years.

"Pat was such a great person and always willing to help someone if he could," added Ryan. "He volunteered with his church, in his neighborhood, with veterans and with other Irish immigrants."

A few years ago, Pat set out to document his life story on paper. With the help of his daughter, Maureen, he wrote and published a book, P.O.W. Korea: A Memoir. He writes about the trying experience of enduring a P.O.W. prison camp and the feeling of being one of the lucky few to escape. It's a story of the brutal reality of war that shows just how much people are willing to sacrifice. Not only did Pat Quinn come to this country to find a better life, but he served honorably at war, enduring and sacrificing so much in order to achieve his version of the American Dream.

## Union Political Directors Talk Strategy

Leaders and political directors from the Chicago Federation of Labor's affiliated unions came together this fall to discuss strategies for the upcoming November election. Representatives from nearly thirty labor organizations gathered at the CFL headquarters to talk about strategies to reach union members and get them to the polls for labor's endorsed candidates.

Special guests Jim Messina, campaign manager of the Obama/Biden campaign, presented a special update for the group on the current state of the race for President. In addition to recapping the President's record on job creation and workers' rights, he gave an insightful analysis of the current political landscape including Republican efforts to pass voter identification laws in a number of states and the impact super PACs have on raising money to outspend a sitting U.S. President for the first time in history.

Other guests included Julie Green, Deputy Political Director from the AFL-CIO, Bill Looby, Political Director from the Illinois AFL-CIO, and representatives from targeted Congressional campaigns in northern Illinois.



SPECIAL GUEST JIM MESSINA, OBAMA/BIDEN CAMPAIGN MANAGER, DELIVERED AN UPDATE TO UNION POLITICAL DIRECTORS



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# CFL Delegates Meetings

Tuesday, November 6 • Tuesday, December 4 • Tuesday, February 5

**START TIME:** 6:00pm

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



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

Robert G. Reiter, Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer

# Take Action!

Want the latest election news or information on how you can get involved? Text **VOTER** to **235246**.

Get information online at [www.chicagolabor.org/politics](http://www.chicagolabor.org/politics)