City and County Pass Earned Sick Time

Workers will be able to stay home when they or a loved one is sick
Who is a Laborer?

Laborers perform the work people do not always see but cannot live without. Learn more about them on page 4.
Throughout the summer, I had the opportunity to speak at several national conventions that convened here in Chicago. I spoke to the Utility Workers of America, SMART, LIUNA, International Union of Elevator Constructors, and IAMAW. The theme throughout all these speeches was Labor brings us all together, with a core mission of protecting the working class. However, today in Chicago and across Illinois and the United States, our unity as a movement is being tested like never before.

In Illinois, over 30 percent of our union brothers and sisters voted for now-Governor Bruce Rauner. However, as we have seen since he took office in January 2015, Governor Rauner does not care about the destruction he leaves in his path as he tries to steamroll through his agenda. He wants workers to give back the gains they have made at the bargaining table, which include lowering the minimum wage back to the federal level of $7.25, weakening prevailing wage laws and implementing so-called Right-to-Work laws.

Going into the 2014 election, we knew what gubernatorial-candidate Rauner’s destructive agenda was all about. So why did so many union members vote for him? They saw him as the way out. They felt like their voices were not being heard, so they bought into the hype a new governor would bring.

As President of the CFL, I speak on behalf of the unions who represent teachers, firefighters, nurses and doctors, construction workers, tradesmen and women, factory and waste management workers, grocery store clerks, packinghouse workers, airline workers, hotel and casino workers, and healthcare workers, to name a few. So what are union members concerned about? It’s simple. They are concerned about the complete lack of respect for dignity in the workplace and workplace democracy.

Consider this quote, “Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor… those who would cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized… do a disservice to the cause of democracy.” Former President John F. Kennedy said these words in 1960 to defend working people across the country. He knew that injustices in the workplace led to weaker communities. A person’s inability to meaningfully provide for his or her family would cripple the nation. Or what about this one, “It’s the government’s job to assist workers in forming a union.” That language was taken directly from the National Labor Relations Act written in 1935. It is in there because the law recognized the imbalance of power that exists between employer and employee. These aren’t outdated concepts, and I believe these two concepts together are more important than ever in today’s culture.

Some people out there want to say unions are a relic of the Industrial Age and that unions are outdated. We must always remember that unions dedicate themselves to maintaining the middle class. We do this by fighting for a 40-hour work week and higher wages with comprehensive benefit plans. We do this by pushing for regulations that keep our workplaces safe. We do this by fighting to establish and maintain a strong social security system. Union membership creates a pathway to the middle class, a middle class that this country needs to survive.

We are in the fight of our lives, and we all need to work together to raise up our members. I hope you will all join me to ensure their dreams for a better future.

JORGE RAMIREZ
PRESIDENT
**IBEW Local 15 Wins United Way’s Labor Partnership Award**

In June, IBEW Local 15 won United Way of Metropolitan Chicago’s Labor Partnership Award for their leadership in the workplace campaign at Exelon/ComEd. The campaign was organized by three IBEW Local 15 members, with the support of over 100 union members serving in volunteer roles. IBEW Local 15 raised $717,349 in this great show of solidarity for the community. IBEW Local 15 President Dean Apple accepted the award at the United Way’s end-of-year All-Star Celebration in June.

**Flight Attendants Bring their Fight for a Fair Contract to Chicago**

On June 8, flight attendants from United Airlines, represented by the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, held a rally outside United’s annual shareholders meeting at Willis Tower in Chicago. They were pushing United to complete contract negotiations and finish the operational merger with United, Continental and Continental Micronesia. A tentative agreement was reached on June 24, with the assistance of the National Mediation Board, and flight attendants at United Airlines voted to ratify the agreement in August.

**Who or What is a Laborer?**

A common misconception about the construction industry is anyone working on a worksite is considered a laborer. However, the distinction of being a Laborer belongs to a select group of dedicated men and women who perform the work people do not always see, but cannot live without. The majority of their members work in the construction field; however, others work in a variety of industries outside construction.

To help clear up the confusion, over the summer, the Laborers’ District Council of Chicago and Vicinity supported the efforts of the Great Lakes and the Midwest regions of the Laborers’ International Union of North America to produce a video that highlights the work of Laborers across the state of Illinois. The video debuted at the Illinois Delegation Breakfast at the Democratic National Convention in July 2016. There are approximately 40,000 Laborers working across Illinois. The Chicago Laborers’ District Council and their 20 affiliated locals represent workers from a wide variety of industries, including construction, demolition, environmental, security, waste management, municipal and office workers.

**Operating Engineers Local 150 Contributes $300,000 to Military Families through Charity Fundraiser**

In August, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 President-Business Manager James M. Sweeney presented a check for $300,000 to the Navy SEAL-Naval Special Warfare Family Foundation at Local 150’s charity golf fundraiser, the James M. Sweeney Classic. The event drew more than 500 golfers to four golf courses in Lemont.

“Both as Americans, and as an industry, supporting the needs of our military families is deeply personal,” said Sweeney. “Veterans who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan are increasingly turning to the construction trades for civilian employment, and the industry is welcoming them with open arms. Their sacrifice and battle-tested skills warrant not just the dignity of a viable middle class civilian career pathway, but a steadfast commitment to the support services that their families have earned and deserve. It was an honor to be able to join with so
many in our industry to support these families who have given our country so much.”

“We are honored to be the recipients of the generosity of Local 150’s Sweeney Golf Classic,” said retired Navy Captain William R. Fenick, the Executive Director of the Foundation. “It is precisely this level of local patriotic support and giving that enables the SEAL-NSW Family Foundation to design and run the right programs for the Navy SEAL families.”

**Gas Workers Local 18007 welcomes new members to the Local**

In August, Gas Workers Local 18007 ratified a first contract for the Call Center employees at Peoples Gas in Chicago by a 90 percent majority. After over five months of negotiations, the union welcomed 66 new members to the Local. The company is also in the process of hiring more employees into this department. In a statement posted to Local 18007’s website, Rick Passarelli, Local 18007 Business Manager and UWUA National Executive Board member, said, “It goes without saying I am extremely proud to bring back to Chicago UWUA jobs that belong here, and will remain here in a Union city. Our new call center reps were part of the process from the start, they listened to the great benefits and protections of becoming a union brother and sister, and never wavered from their vision to make it happen. They spoke with one resounding voice on [August 28] by becoming part of the UWUA family, and we welcome them.”

**Plumber Apprentice Shows He’s Got What it Takes**

Wade Blocker, an apprentice with Plumbers Local 130, proved that he is the best of the best after testing his skills and knowledge at the annual UA International Apprentice Competition. The competition was held in Ann Arbor, Mich., August 13-17, 2016. Wade beat out an impressive field of competitors from six districts across North America, as well as from Australia. Competitors complete a series of tests that demonstrate their theoretical and practical skills. To earn his spot at the international competition, Wade won Local 130’s in-house competition, the state of Illinois Apprentice Plumber Competition and the Regional Competition of District 4. Wade’s impressive win is a not only testament to his commitment to being a first-rate plumber, but it shows the outstanding training program offered by Plumbers Local 130. Since 2007, Plumbers Local 130 has placed five competitors in the International competition, and they have won four times, in 2008, 2010, 2015 and 2016.

**AT&T/DIRECTV Employees Vote to Approve Contract Agreements**

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers System Council T-3 (IBEW SCT-3), which includes IBEW Local 21, and AT&T reached a tentative agreement in August for over 3,000 employees recently organized who work at DIRECTV/AT&T. Those agreements covered DIRECTV premises technicians, customer service employees, clerical employers, and warehouse workers. The contracts were overwhelmingly ratified.
Across Illinois, it is estimated that 2 million workers do not have the ability to take a sick day from work. When an illness occurs, workers must choose to either go to work while sick and risk spreading the germs to other coworkers or patrons, or stay home, losing a day’s pay and possibly their job. However, that all changed for Chicago workers on June 22, 2016, when the Chicago Federation of Labor, several CFL-affiliated unions and various community allies on the Earned Sick Time Coalition campaigned for and won earned sick time leave for approximately 450,000 workers across the city of Chicago. Following the 48-0 vote by Chicago’s City Council on June 22, hundreds of thousands of workers across the city will have access to the time they need starting in July 2017.

“Across Illinois, it is estimated that 2 million workers do not have the ability to take a sick day from work. When an illness occurs, workers must choose to either go to work while sick and risk spreading the germs to other coworkers or patrons, or stay home, losing a day’s pay and possibly their job. However, that all changed for Chicago workers on June 22, 2016, when the Chicago Federation of Labor, several CFL-affiliated unions and various community allies on the Earned Sick Time Coalition campaigned for and won earned sick time leave for approximately 450,000 workers across the city of Chicago. Following the 48-0 vote by Chicago’s City Council on June 22, hundreds of thousands of workers across the city will have access to the time they need starting in July 2017.

“At the heart of every major milestone in Labor history is the ideal that all workers deserve dignity and respect in the workplace,” said CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter. “In this instance, allowing workers time off for themselves and their families when it is needed most shows them the value of their work.”

Access to sick days vary between occupations as well as across income levels. In Chicago, approximately 42 percent of private-sector workers currently do not have paid sick days when they or a loved one fall ill. Many of these workers are low-wage workers, with 75 percent of them earning less than $20,000. It leaves them struggling to balance their responsibilities as caregiver at home with their obligations at work. Additionally, between 70-80 percent of Chicago’s service-sector workers did not have access to paid sick leave, prior to the passage of this new ordinance.

“For the first time ever, every employee, whether hourly or salaried, full- or part-time, will have the right to earn some paid sick time,” said Anne Ladky, Executive Director of Women Employed. “This is a huge step forward for working families, gaining the right to sick time they can use to care for themselves and their families without missing a day’s pay or fear being fired.”

Passing the ordinance was not an easy road; the fight for earned sick time materialized over the last two years. The Earned Sick Time coalition, a partnership of Labor and community, public health, faith, and women’s advocacy organizations, initially raised the issue through an ordinance in 2014 and was followed up with a city ballot question during the fall election. Nearly 82 percent of Chicago voters supported providing paid sick leave for all workers across the city.1

In 2015, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel convened the Working Families Task Force, co-chaired by Ameya Pawar, Alderman of the 47th Ward, and Ladky, to identify ways to strengthen protections for city workers. The task force, which was comprised of Labor, business, academic, trade associations and community advocates, engaged in months of thoughtful consideration and debate that included input from workers and employers across the city of various sizes and industries. They held focus groups, reviewed research, and studied policies passed in other cities before they issued recommendations that became the basis for the ordinance.

“As a member of the Mayor’s Working Families Task Force, I was proud to see the City Council pass the paid sick leave ordinance,” said Reiter. “Our recommendations were the culmination of months of thoughtful discussion among a diverse group of advocacy groups. I am proud of the work we did together to help the workers who cannot help themselves.”

In October, Cook County voted to enact a similar ordinance, allowing employees to accrue up to 40 hours of paid sick leave during a 12-month period.

Both Chicago’s and Cook County’s ordinances are scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2017.

GET THE FACTS...

Workers will be able to earn sick time at a rate of 1 hour earned for every 40 hours worked.

Workers will be able to roll over up to 2.5 unused sick days to the following year.

Employers are not required to pay out unused sick days.

Workers will accrue and may use up to 5 sick days over the course of 1 year.

New employees may use sick leave after an initial 6-month probationary period.

This framework would lead to less than 0.7-1.5 percent increase in labor costs for most employers.

Stats courtesy of the Working Families Task Force.
SCOTUS Denies Cert Petition on Minimum Wage and Overtime for Home Healthcare Workers

On June 27, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a petition for writ of certiorari in the case Home Care Association of America, et al. v. Weil, that challenges the U.S. Department of Labor’s rule that requires employers pay home health care workers minimum wage and overtime.

“Working people won a long overdue victory when the Supreme Court decided to let stand a new federal rule that prevents homecare employers from denying their workers minimum wage or overtime pay,” Keith Kelleher, President of SEIU Healthcare, wrote in a July 8, 2016, op-ed for Progress Illinois.

In September 2013, the DOL extended the minimum wage and overtime protections provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act to the almost 2 million home care workers across the country who provide home care assistance for the elderly and people with disabilities, illness or injuries. Prior to the ruling, workers could be paid as little as $1 an hour.

In 2014, home care associations filed a federal lawsuit that challenged the USDOL’s Final Rule, which determines overtime regulations for white collar workers. Following months of litigation, the case Home Care Association of America, et al. v. Weil made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the cert petition was ultimately declined.

Kelleher added “The decision will help bring to an end a nearly 80-year policy of discrimination against more than 2 million workers who take care of our nation’s elderly and people with disabilities. It should also serve as a wake-up-call for Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, who is trying to bully thousands of working women of color who care for our state’s elderly and people with disabilities into a deal that would deny them the ability to care for their own families.”

According to Kelleher, Governor Rauner is using a loophole to cut the number of overtime hours that home health care workers are able to provide for those in their care. “Any homecare worker can tell you that caring for a child, a senior, or someone with disabilities isn’t a 9 to 5 job. Homecare workers regularly work ‘off the clock’ to provide critical hours of care…it would deprive thousands of families the critical care they need to make basic needs. It could even force many seniors and people with disabilities into more expensive institutionalized care.”

TO READ KELLEHER’S FULL POST, VISIT CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/FINALRULE.

Pension Dollars Put Union Members to Work

More than 50 local Labor leaders, politicians, and real estate developers joined representatives of the AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust at the recently completed Wolf Point West development. While tenants have already moved into the high-rise, a formal ribbon cutting was held in June at Chicago’s newest luxury apartment.

“When I walk through this building I feel an incredible sense of pride. It’s absolutely incredible that there are hundreds of men and women who were able to demonstrate what it means to be a professional craftsman while providing for their families,” said Mike Stotz, AFL-CIO Investment Trust Corporation President and Managing Director.

Wolf Point West is a 46-story multifamily project built in Chicago and is the first of three proposed skyscrapers on the Wolf Point site. Wolf Point West’s total development costs are an estimated $162 million, and it features 509 luxury rental units, market leading amenities, over 400 feet of publicly accessible river walk, and extensive green space. Initial occupancy began late last year, but the finishing touches were completed just in time to enjoy a spring view of the Chicago River.

“We are very proud that union job creation is advanced by the labor policies of the BIT. This Wolf Point development created hundreds of new jobs in Chicago,” said Jorge Ramirez, Chicago Federation of Labor President.

Around Chicago, over the life of the BIT, the fund has committed over $490 million for the development and acquisition of 19 projects, a total of more than 3,200 housing units and 3 million square feet of commercial real estate. BIT development projects in the greater Chicago area have totaled close to $1 billion in development costs and have created over 4,100 union construction jobs.

“It is very encouraging to see union pension dollars put to work through investment in the BIT. Wolf Point is a development that workers in Chicago can be proud of,” said Ralph Affrunti, Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council President.

“From its Chicago location to its master plan to its design to its construction and to its final finishes, there is, in every aspect of Wolf Point, a sense of pride and a declaration that the building is like no other in any place in our city or in our country,” said Chris Kennedy, Joseph P. Kennedy Enterprises CEO. “Wolf Point West shows us that, by working together and sharing the economic benefits, with everyone who works on the job, we can create something vital—not just a building, not just a city, not just a state, but a way of life for a nation as well.”
Local Unions Double Down on Efforts to Educate the Workforce as City and County Introduce Industrial Growth Zones

There is an unprecedented effort across the City of Chicago and Cook County to generate new industrial investment in Chicagoland neighborhoods through an innovative Industrial Growth Zones program. Jointly introduced by the city and the county in July 2016, this program will accelerate neighborhood development in seven designated areas over the next three years by removing longstanding hurdles to development and providing a broad set of services to support property owners and industrial businesses.

The Industrial Growth Zones program builds on the city’s work to grow and support existing manufacturers, while bringing in new ones, and the county’s strategic focus on revitalizing manufacturing and industrial areas to advance economic growth both within Cook County and the broader region. Industrial Growth Zones will support projects like those advanced by Cook County’s BUILT in Cook Program, which assisted the Cullerton Avenue Industrial Area in Franklin Park, one of the largest manufacturing corridors in the Chicago metro area, which is home to 10 companies employing more than 1,300 people.

“While a program like this is important to help businesses grow and expand, skills development in advanced manufacturing is critical to our nation’s competitiveness as well as creating a career pathway for our manufacturing workforce,” said CFL Secretary-Treasurer Bob Reiter. “As the city and the county introduce the Industrial Growth Zone Program, it is important that the workforce required to run these factories has the skills and training needed to successfully fill these new jobs. Organized labor believes strongly in training and retraining workers so that they can remain competitive in the workforce.”

The CFL has a long history of partnering with responsible employers to supply highly skilled workers across a variety of industries and trades. Earlier this year, the CFL’s Workforce and Community Initiative teamed up with the national AFL-CIO and their state labor councils across eight states to create the Next Generation Industrial Manufacturing Technician Apprenticeship, a targeted effort to grow a highly qualified and diverse pipeline of workers for the rapidly evolving advanced manufacturing workplace.

The CFL also partnered with Manufacturing Renaissance to develop Manufacturing Connect, an intensive vocational program, like an apprenticeship, for high school students. Manufacturing Connect is housed at Austin College and Career Academy, formerly Austin Polytechnical Academy, on Chicago’s West Side and is made possible through partnerships with Chicago Teachers Union, Chicago Public Schools, local manufacturers and various leaders within the Austin community. The program prepares students for college and career success in manufacturing, engineering, and related fields. Students are earning nationally-recognized industry credentials, college credits and high school diplomas, and are gaining extensive exposure to the world of manufacturing. Over 90 local manufacturers provide work-based learning experiences and paid internships for young people through the Manufacturing Connect program. Once they graduate, a growing number of Manufacturing Connect students are seeking careers in manufacturing. The U.S. Department of Labor supports this program as a model for other schools to follow; and with the success of this program at Austin Multiplex, CPS is looking to expand this program to other schools across Chicago.

Another vital partnership comes from the Chicago Building Trades who collaborated with the city to expand the Building Trades training program to create a pipeline to the middle class for hundreds of CPS students who would not have been exposed to these exceptional careers otherwise. The program was introduced at Dunbar High School in April. Individuals who complete this program at Dunbar will gain life-changing skills that will lead to greater opportunities after graduation, including access to stable, middle class jobs.

Illinois Passes Stopgap Budget, Not the Answer for Working Families

Hours before the clock ran out on Illinois’ 2016 fiscal year on June 31, the leaders in Springfield cut a deal for a stopgap budget that would keep the government running for six more months, which includes funding to guarantee schools open in the fall. Illinois has not had a budget since July 2015, making this the longest budget impasse in Illinois history.

“A stopgap budget is a good start to restoring Illinois’ economic stability, but it is not the solution,” said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. “Illinois is in a crisis that was needlessly manufactured months ago by the governor and critical decisions need to be made now to prevent any further deterioration of our social services programs across the state.”

Governor Rauner’s job is to present a balanced budget for the state, and he has failed to do so since taking over as governor in January 2015. Governor Rauner has tied non-budgetary items, such as workers’ compensation reform, term limits and limiting collective bargaining for public employees, to the budget, which would ultimately hurt working families.

Workers across the state have repeatedly called on Governor Rauner to set aside his personal agenda for good and work with the Illinois House and Senate to develop a budget that works in the best interest of all residents of Illinois.

The stopgap budget is funded through December 31, 2016.
Labor Day Takes on Special Meaning at Pullman National Monument

As the National Park Service kicked off their centennial celebration, it is fitting that they elevated Pullman National Monument into the spotlight for this year’s Labor Day celebration. One of the country’s newest and Chicago’s only national park, Pullman National Monument tells the stories of working people who shaped our history. Pullman was the site of the 1894 national railroad strike that resulted in Labor Day becoming a national holiday.

Over 250 union and community members gathered at Pullman for this annual Labor Day celebration. Throughout the afternoon, four special programs were presented to tell the story of Pullman. SAG-AFTRA actors performed a skit about labor and the Great Migration, and Mark Dvorak sang labor tunes. An additional program was presented about the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum. AFGE and IUOE Local 150 brought a fire truck and tractor trailer to the event, so families could “touch a truck” and talk to real workers about their jobs. A free trolley circulated families throughout the monument, allowing visitors to experience the various sites and explore labor history. ILHS provided free snacks for participants.

The Labor Day program was a partnership with the Pullman National Monument, Chicago Federation of Labor, Illinois Labor History Society, Historic Pullman Foundation, National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, and Pullman State Historic Site.

CFL Awards the 2016 William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship

In May 2016, the Chicago Federation of Labor awarded 10 scholarships, valued at $2,000 each, to five winners of the academic competition and five winners of the random drawing for the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship.

“This is always one of the highlights of the year for the CFL,” said CFL President Jorge Ramirez. “All of our winners come from union families where they experience first-hand the benefits of belonging to a union: better wages, health insurance and retirement security. As they leave here today, we want these students to know that they have the strength of this movement behind them.”

William A. Lee was the longest-serving President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, serving in this capacity from 1946 to 1984. He dedicated his life to improving the lives of working people by strengthening the Labor Movement, and promoting other like-minded civic and community service issues.
CFL’s Community Engagement Gains New Member

The Chicago Federation of Labor is pleased to welcome the newest member to the CFL’s Community Engagement team, Mike Hartge. Mike is a Chicago native, a member of IATSE Local 2 and a fourth-generation member of a proud union home. Previously, Mike worked as a Program Coordinator for the CFL’s Workforce and Community Initiative, where he managed the Utility Workers Military Assistance Program in concert with UWUA Local 18007. His work helped place over 100 veterans in union jobs with People’s Gas.

Mike holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and he is a lifelong supporter of the Labor Movement, working families, and the Chicago Blackhawks.

Mike joins Andrea Kluger as a Labor Liaison to United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, where they work to fortify Labor’s community partnerships and support human services programs that support our most vulnerable community members.

MIKE HARTGE CONTACT INFORMATION:
MICHAE.L.HARTGE@UW-MC.ORG
312.906.2432

Unions Help United Way Raise over $55 Million for Chicago Communities

From July 2015 through June 2016, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago raised over $55 million to improve financial stability, education and health for Chicago’s most underserved families. Much of this funding came through the employee giving campaigns, a program union members have generously donated to for decades. To help enhance this year’s efforts, the CFL Community Engagement team through the United Way launched the Union Treasury Gift program, which raised over $12,000 for UWMC through donations from 25 participating labor organizations. The CFL and UWMC would like to give a special thanks to those who participated.

Thank you to the donors to the Union Treasury Gift program

Platinum Level
IUOE Local 399

Gold Level
IBEW Local 15
Painters District Council #14

Silver Level
AFGE District 7
Automobile Mechanics Local 701
Bricklayers Administrative District Council #1
Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council
Cook County Coalition of Tradesmen
Gas Workers Local 18007
IBEW Local 9
IBEW Local 134
Iron Workers District Council
Iron Workers Local 1
Pipefitters Local 597
Sheet Metal Workers’ Local 73

Bronze Level
AFGE Local 704
Boilermakers Local 1
Cement Masons Local 502
IL Nurses Association
NALC Brach 11
Painters Local 275
UNITE HERE Local 1
Stay Informed!

Join the CFL in standing up for working people and building a strong middle class.

Follow us:
- www.facebook.com/chicagofederationoflabor
- www.twitter.com/chicagoaflcio
- www.youtube.com/user/WeAreOneChicago

Together!

New video from the Chicago Federation of Labor celebrates the Labor Movement, because we are stronger when we are in it together.

To view, visit chicagolabor.org/video