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PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois AFL-CIO President Congratulates Newly Elected National Labor President Trumka, Officers and Board

“Today, the national Labor movement is stronger and more unified. This afternoon, delegates to the 26th AFL-CIO Convention unanimously elected new officers and 43 executive board members to lead our organization. Richard Trumka (UMWA) was elected president of the national Labor Federation. As a one-million member state Labor federation we look forward to this new beginning and to Mr. Trumka’s strong, progressive leadership on policies and issues critical to working families. As a member of IBEW, I am also particularly proud to welcome Liz Shuler (IBEW) as secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO and I congratulate Arlene Holt Baker (AFSCME) on her election as executive vice president.

With that said, we can not move forward without recognizing and thanking Mr. John Sweeney for his 14-year commitment to the AFL-CIO and to his lifetime of work on behalf of America’s working men and women. He has served this country’s workers and this organization well.

Today, we move to a bright future for America’s working men and women and our nation’s Labor movement. Reports show we are slowly but surely coming out of the recession. We have a U.S. President who is fighting for working-class families. And we have new leadership and strength at the AFL-CIO.

We will continue our fight for fair wages and working condition, for all workers to have the right to join a union and for quality, affordable health care for all Americans.”

The Illinois AFL-CIO is the umbrella organization for one million union members from over 1,500 affiliated unions state-wide.

