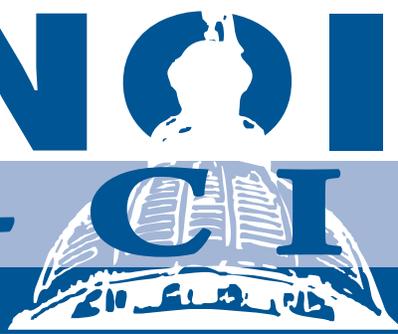


ILLINOIS AFL - CIO

NEWS UPDATE - 03/23/20



C O R O N A V I R U S R E S P O N S E

Gov. Pritzker Issues Stay-Home Order To Slow Virus Spread

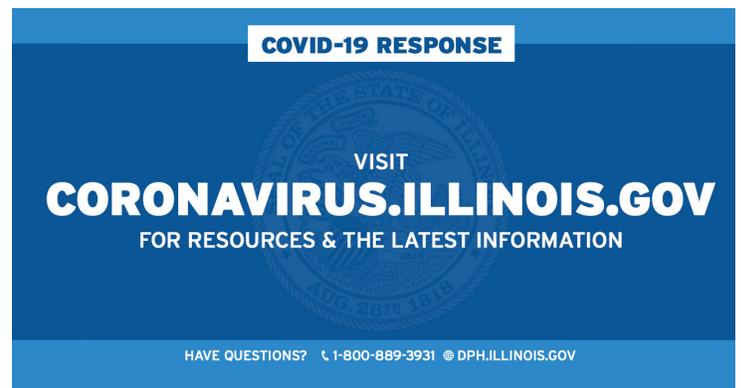
On Friday through an executive order, Gov. JB Pritzker issued a stay-home for Illinois residents in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. Also included in the order, was closing of non-essential businesses and requirements regarding social distancing.

The Illinois AFL-CIO worked closely with the Governor's Administration in the days leading up to the stay-home order to ensure we identified all of the essential workforce across our state. We were also able to ensure our affiliates could continue to access their membership and administer the payroll and benefit operations they depend on.

The order was effective 5 p.m. Saturday and runs through April 7.

The executive order allows for essential travel and activities such as supplies and services, as well as health and safety. The complete version of the Governor's executive order is here: <https://bit.ly/2QIx2WK>

In order to keep Illinoisans informed concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, Pritzker has been holding daily briefings at 2:30 p.m. (CST). Those briefings can be streamed at the Illinois Department of Public Health website, <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>. The site also contains important information and updates concerning COVID-19 and the state's response.



IDES Responding to Surge In UI Applications; Pro-Worker Rules Set

The Illinois AFL-CIO leadership held a conference call with Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Director Thomas Chan late last week to answer questions about response to layoffs related to the coronavirus outbreak.

Acting quickly as layoffs mount, Gov. JB Pritzker issued emergency rules to expedite unemployment benefits to those affected by the COVID-19 crisis. This includes ordering the waiting week (first week of unemployment status) waived, so that those getting unemployment will get compensated for the waiting week on the first unemployment check.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security filed an emergency rule on Friday, with input from labor, that

work search rules are expanded to ensure that workers who cannot seek work outside of the home due to contracting the virus or taking care of a loved one can qualify for unemployment benefits. Prior to this rule, a worker who could not leave home would not have qualified. This emergency rule would allow a worker laid off for any reason to look for online to work from home. This emergency rule and current work search rules do not change current requirements that a laid-off worker calling the union hall is considered an adequate work search or for workers who have a return date from the employer of less than 10 weeks.

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2UJjcVI>

Durbin, Duckworth Discuss Crisis Impact, Federal Response With State Fed Leadership

The Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board and officers discussed the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on working people via conference call on Friday with U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth.

“We appreciate the time Sen. Durbin and Sen. Duckworth spent on a productive discussion about the growing concerns of workers – both on the front lines and those losing jobs and hours by this crisis,” said Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea. “Keeping communication lines open is essential to getting through this.”

According to Durbin and Duckworth, they back direct cash payments to Americans, increased access to paid leave and expanded unemployment insurance.

From a press release by the senators: “We must put workers and families first in passing legislation to address the coronavirus pandemic. Members of the Illinois AFL-CIO are nervous about what the future holds, and Congress cannot rubber-stamp a historical stimulus bill without strong labor protections and support for workers who may be laid off because of this unprecedented crisis,” said Durbin.

“Working people throughout our country are being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and I appreciated the

opportunity to speak with Illinois AFL-CIO leaders and discuss efforts to support their nearly 900,000 members in every corner of our state,” said Duckworth. “I look forward to continuing to work together and I will do all I can from the federal level to provide necessary resources during this public health crisis.”

At press time, the U.S. Senate was working through differences on a stimulus bill – legislation that failed on a first vote Sunday and again midday Monday due to vast sums of taxpayer dollars dedicated to unaccountable corporate giveaways. At press time, the U.S. Senate was working through differences on a stimulus bill – legislation that failed on a first vote due to vast sums of taxpayer dollars dedicated to unaccountable corporate giveaways.

From the National AFL-CIO: “On Sunday, Senate Democratic leaders blocked the proposed Republican coronavirus stimulus bill from moving forward. The proposed bill would have put money in the hands of corporations instead of working people who have been left behind in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In exchange, the AFL-CIO is asking the Senate to bring forward a better deal that protects health care workers and assists employees who have been laid off.”

COVID-19 Guidelines for Officer Elections and Labor Management Reporting

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Department of Labor’s Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) issued an advisory regarding the labor union officer election requirements.

Officer Elections: Labor unions affected by the COVID-19 must still make a good faith effort to conduct officer elections within LMRDA timeframes. However, if the union’s failure to do so was attributable to COVID-19, OLMS will promptly seek a voluntary compliance agreement with the union. This agreement requires the union to hold the election when practicable on a specific date. OLMS will not seek a civil enforcement action provided the election is held in compliance with the agreement.

L-M Disclosure Reports: Labor unions, labor relations consultants and employers affected by COVID-19 must make a good faith effort to file required public disclosure reports by the March 30th deadline. The OLMS will not, however, pursue a civil enforcement action with regard to a delinquent or deficient report when these reporting violations are attributable to COVID-19. Those wishing to use this enforcement policy should contact OLMS before the report is due, describe the circumstances necessitating additional time, and provide a date certain by which the report can reasonably be submitted.

To see the full advisory or for more information you can visit the U. S. Department of Labor OLMS website by clicking on <https://www.dol.gov/olms/reg/compliance/coronavirus20.htm>.

Child Care Facilities Ordered Closed; Exemptions Allowed To Keep Essential Workforce Covered

The executive order also closed licensed child care centers and all childcare homes serving more than six children. Pritzker is working to expand the availability of free child care for essential workers, while protecting the health of the children and child care teachers and home providers. According to officials, a new Emergency Child Care Center license is being used with more flexibility but much smaller group sizes to ensure social distancing for children in care.

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (along with many agency partners) has developed a web page for communities with resources to help them address child care needs for essential workers. They will be updating it a great deal over the coming days as more resources become available: <https://bit.ly/33HMfN6>

Ron Powell: Working People Lose A Champion



Ronald E. Powell, former President of Local 881 and International Vice President of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, passed away yesterday of natural causes. Mr. Powell was the senior member of the Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board, serving since 1986.

"The labor movement in Illinois has suffered a deep loss with the passing of Ron," said Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea, a former staff member of UFCW Local 881. "Ron not only improved the lives of generations of families in the Food and Commercial Workers, but he lifted up the lives of working people across this state. His loss cannot be measured. He was a giant."

Ron retired on December 1, 2018, after 57 and a half years of faithful and dedicated service to the working families in the retail grocery industry and the American Labor Movement.

Throughout his life and career Ron vigilantly fought to strengthen the rights of union members throughout Illinois and Northwest Indiana in the workplace and in the halls of government. Ron mentored and helped countless workers find their voice on the job and steered Local 881 through periods of challenges and growth while providing guidance to the broader Labor Movement as the most senior UFCW International Vice President.

In addition to his work in labor, Ron committed himself to many educational, philanthropic, and community endeavors,

including: the Better Boys Foundation, Little City Foundation, United Way, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, and the UFCW Local 881 Charitable Foundation. He served the Village of Mundelein as a Trustee for many years, the Illinois State Board of Investments, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Illinois Workers' Compensation Advisory Board, Amalgamated Bank of Chicago, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority Board, and was elected as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1996, 2000, and 2008.

Ron's unwavering commitment to his career only matched his dedication to his family. His beloved wife, Lois, preceded him in death on November 15, 2018. Ron is survived by children Kelly (Mark) Morrissey, Brad (Joanne) Powell, Steven Powell, and Kerry Fisher, grandchildren: Nicholas (fiancé Patricia Kutrumanes), Mark (Amanda), Michelle, Matthew, Ronald, Camille, Michael, Tyler (Koni), Trevor (Jasmine), Sean and Rachel, great-grandchildren: Braylon, Jaylen, Rylee and Jax, and Ron and Lois' dear friend Penney Wyman. He was preceded in death by his grandson Ryan Fisher.

Due to current circumstances, a private family graveside service will be held and a celebration of Ron's life will be held at a later date. Memorials in Ron's memory may be made to the Local 881 UFCW Charitable Foundation, 1350 E. Touhy Ave, Suite 300 E, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

(UFCW Local 881 press release used in part)

IL AFL-CIO Leadership, Congressional Delegation Discuss Federal Response To Pandemic Monday

Members of the Illinois congressional delegation met with the leadership of the Illinois AFL-CIO Monday by phone for an important sharing of information concerning the needs of workers as the federal government hammered out details of an economic stimulus package.

The state federation executive board and officers shared information to address the needs of workers – including safety concerns and supplies for front-line workers and economic concerns for all in the workforce.

“First and foremost we need to make sure the working families of Illinois and the nation are addressed,” said Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, who was instrumental in putting the call together.

Bustos and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky hosted the call.

Among the topics covered were: Continuation of health care benefits and COBRA subsidy; adequate paid sick leave for all; unemployment insurance benefits for workers affected – including those classified as independent contractors; sufficient funding for state and local governments; and boosts for pensions hit by the crisis’ economic fallout.

Members of Congress (or representatives of) participating were: Rep. Bobby Rush (D-1st), Rep. Robin Kelly (D-2nd), Rep. Chuy Garcia (D-4th), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-5th), Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-8th), Schakowsky (D-9th), Rep. Brad Schneider (D-10th), Rep. Bill Foster (D-11th), Rep. Mike Bost (R-12th), Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-14th), Rep. John Shimkus (R-15th), Bustos (D-17th) and Rep. Darrin LaHood (R-18th).

Illinois AFL-CIO Statement: Workers Holding Country Together

In this time of great anxiety, fear, and unrest, the working people of this state and nation are busily taking their places on the front lines making sure that we everyone is kept safe and we get through the crisis.

Whether it be public safety workers, public sector workers carrying out essential services, custodians, grocery store workers or the multitude of people seeing that society keeps moving, there is a tremendous debt owed to the tens of thousands of people putting their lives on the line every day.

Once this crisis has passed, and it will pass, we must remember what was done for the common good and who provided it when we needed it most.

Heat and Frost Local 17 Donates Masks To New Lenox Hospital; IDPH Coordinating Donations

Among the multitude of contributions of time, energy and goods being carried out by locals and members every day during the crisis, Heath and Frost Insulators Local 17 responded quickly to a request by Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox.

As a national shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) has created a call for donations, Local 17 donated 120 respirator masks to front line workers at Silver Cross last week. The local donated 100 masks in Northwest Indiana last week as well.

“They sent an email and we responded within an hour,” said Local 17 President and Business Manager Jim McManus said. “We’re doing whatever we can to help. We’re all in

this together and we all have to pull each other through. We appreciate everything those front-line medical workers are doing to keep us safe.”

There has been an appeal to the construction industry to evaluate its current inventory of respirators and masks to determine if surplus inventory can be donated to emergency workers to help bolster their rapidly depleting stock. The most urgent current need is for N95 respirators and surgical masks.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is coordinating potential donations of PPE - if you can help please e-mail PPE.donations@illinois.gov.