

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

NEWS UPDATE - 4/08/16

The Illinois House and Senate have completed their business this week, with Friday, April 8th being the deadline to pass bills out of committees in their originating chamber. The House alone released over 500 bills to be considered in committees this week. Labor lobbyists were successful in stopping two bills proposed by legislators closely aligned with Governor Rauner: State Representative Sandack proposed HB 6164 to make privatization easier in elementary schools. The vote in committee was 11-11, failing to make it out. State Representative Jeanne Ives proposed an ALEC model bill (HB 4583) to force employee contracts under the IPLRA and IELRA to have a waiting period of 14 days prior to ratification. The vote in committee was 3-14, failing to proceed to the House floor. The Associated Firefighters' of Illinois stopped HB 6095 in House Labor by a vote of 9-15-0, which would have removed their ability to bargain over staffing levels. Both chambers will return on Tuesday, April 12th at 12pm. They next two weeks will be devoted to voting bills out of their originating chamber for consideration in the other chamber.

Total Effort Wins Primary Races; Election Work Ramps Up For November

In the two highest profile races in the Illinois Primary, Labor's efforts paid off big.

Endorsed candidate for state representative Juliana Stratton defeated turncoat Democrat Ken Dunkin by a 2-to-1 margin and incumbent State Sen. Sam McCann defeated Gov. Bruce Rauner's hand-picked candidate despite an avalanche of Rauner-controlled money spent on negative campaigning against McCann.

Rauner dropped millions into these two races and came up empty-handed. In addition, the Labor 2016 effort swept to victory in every single race it ran a voter contact program in for the Primary thanks to the volunteer efforts of affiliated unions up and down the state.

"A big thank you is in order for all the unions, central labor councils and building trades councils that helped labor candidates win," said Illinois AFL-CIO Campaigns Manager Bill Looby. "It took a strong team effort from January to March and we got the job done. "Now we have to do it again in November."

Labor 2016 will be targeting races from U.S. Senate, Congressional and the State Legislature as the focus shifts to the General Election. The program will be conducting regional political trainings and have its field operation running by summer.

Rauner and the groups that he controls are expected to spend millions to win districts as he advances his anti-worker proposals such as right to work, workers' compensation cuts, and prevailing wage repeal.

"Just like we did in March, we have to outwork the money," Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan said. "It won't get done without some sacrifice from all of us."

Bakery Workers announce "Check the Label" Campaign

Illinois AFL-CIO Vice President and President of Local 1 of the Bakery, Confectioner, Tobacco and Grain Millers (BCTGM) Don Woods was joined by Donald Hynes and Edward Burpo at the Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board meeting to discuss the launch of the "Check the Label" campaign.



The BCTGM represents nearly 4,000 members at Mondelez International, maker of Nabisco snack products. Mondelez recently announced the lay-off of hundreds of workers at their bakery on Chicago's Southside and their decision to relocate these jobs in Salinas Victoria, Mexico.

To combat the Mondelez move, the BCTGM announced that it will send teams of laid off workers to communities throughout the United States to educate the American Consumer regarding the importance of only buying Nabisco products made in America. Representative Andre Thapedi has introduced **HR 1105** supporting the workers at Mondelez.

For more information: www.FightForAmericanJobs.org.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Illinois AFL-CIO Initiatives Move in the Senate

The Illinois AFL-CIO was successful in passing two economic development accountability bills out of Senate Commerce & Economic Development Committee. Both bills passed out of committee unanimously. Currently, in many regions around the state, large corporations form economic development groups, with other businesses and public bodies, and charge large sums of money to join. In some areas, the membership fee is as high as \$100,000. This makes it very difficult for labor and community groups to pay the fee and to have a voice in the discussions that occur at these meetings.

Both **SB 2531** (Lightford) and **SB 2600** (Delgado) seek to place two individuals representing labor organizations and two individuals representing minority groups, with no fee or compensation for membership and full voting rights, on any regional economic development corporation.

Wage Theft Lien Bill Passes House Labor

Arise Chicago and Raise the Floor Alliance were successful in passing **HB 1290**, HA #1 out of House Labor Committee this week. It was sponsored by Representative Barbara Flynn Currie (D – Chicago). Currently, workers who have not been paid their wages have no right to their wages until a court or an administrative agency determines workers are in fact owed wages. This can take up to 3 years. Employers can abuse the lengthiness of the legal process to close their business, or transfer assets to family members.

HB 1290 will prevent employers, including individual employers, from transferring or selling their assets while a court or administrative agency determines whether the worker is owed wage, making workers a secured creditor and priority in the case of bankruptcy.

The Illinois AFL-CIO, Leader Currie and Representative Hernandez, along with the Chicago groups held a joint press conference on Wednesday in the capitol to promote passage of this legislation in the House.

Employee Leave Bills Pass Committees in House and Senate

Senator Hutchinson passed **SB 2147** out of Senate Executive Committee by a vote of 11-4-0. It would provide workers with a maximum of 7 paid sick days to use for care of a child, spouse, parent, or the child or parent of a spouse.

Senator Bertino-Tarrant passed **SB 2613** out of Senate Labor Committee by a vote of 11-1-0. It creates the Child Bereavement Leave Act. It would allow an employee of the state, local government or school district, or an employee at a company with at least 50 employees to take a maximum of 20 days of unpaid bereavement leave for the death of their child.

Representative Lilly passed **HB 4036** out of House Labor Committee 16-7-0. It would expand the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act to apply to all employers, not just those with more than 49 employees. This act was originally passed by State Senator Barack Obama. It allows victims of domestic violence up to 12 workweeks of unpaid leave.

Representative Christian Mitchell passed **HB 3297** out of House Labor Committee 15-1-0. Modeled after San Francisco's paid leave ordinance, the legislation creates the Employee Paid Health Care Time Act. It provides that employees shall accrue paid health care time at a rate of not less than one hour for every 22 hours worked for an employer with 50 or more employees and at a rate of one hour for every 40 hours worked for an employer with fewer than 50 employees. Prohibits retaliation by employers.

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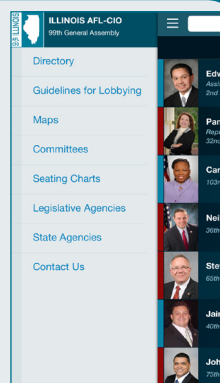
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Guzzardi Seeks to Assist Undocumented Workers Receive Pay

Representative Guzzardi (D – Chicago) passed **HB 3554**, HA #2 out of House Labor Committee this week by a vote of 26-0. The underlying bill and HA #1 had passed out of committee last year. Under HA #1, an employee may apply to their employer to request a change in terms and conditions of employment as they relate to: number of hours worked; times the employee is required to work; location of work; amount of notice for work assignments; fluctuations in number of hours worked. In return, the employer must make ‘a good faith interactive process’ with that employee.

HA #2 seeks to assist undocumented workers who do not receive their pay. Currently, workers will file a wage complaint with IDOL. The Department sends a letter to employer for the violation, tells employer to pay worker or IDOL. Often times the IDOL receives money from the employer, and then cannot locate the aggrieved employee. In these cases, the money is placed into the Department of Labor Special State Trust Fund. Currently, to get your money out of this trust fund, you must have your social security number.

HA #2 would require IDOL to maintain contact information for workers. If the employer mails IDOL the money due to the worker, IDOL must make an effort to contact workers. If IDOL is unable to contact the worker, they may deposit the funds into a state account. This legislation authorizes workers to claim their money with an Illinois Taxpayer Identification Number OR social security number.

NALC State President passes away



Ken Christy, President of the Illinois State National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), passed away suddenly on March 26, 2016. Although Ken was from Aurora, his presence was felt in every Congressional District and Legislative District throughout the State of Illinois. Politically he was a diligent advocate for all workers, and both Democrats and Republicans sought his counsel on issues affecting the United States Postal Service.

“Ken Christy was a true trade unionist,” said Tim Drea, Illinois AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer.

“Always putting union members first, he was a tireless advocate for all working women and men. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Bonnie, his children-Kristen, Kathleen and Karrie, his grandchildren, and his brothers and sisters in the NALC.”

Ken was honored this past week when the Illinois Senate passed Senate Resolution 1699 (Link) and House Resolution 1130 (Chapa-LaVia).

Penalties for Non-compliant Building Trades Apprentices Programs Pass

HB 6262 (Jesiel) passed House Labor Committee this week by a vote of 26-0. It would create a penalty for a failure to submit required apprenticeship reports under the State Construction and Female Building Trades Act. Under that act, each labor organization and other entity in Illinois with one or more apprenticeship program for construction trades must report to the Illinois Department of Labor the information required to be submitted to the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training that lists the race, gender, ethnicity, and national origin of apprentices in that labor organization.

The penalty would be \$1,000 for each violation found in the first audit by IDOL, and \$2,000 for each repeat violation found by the Department within a five year period.

Senator Althoff also passed identical language in **SB 3104** out of Senate Labor this week, by a vote of 10-0.

BLET Passes Crew Staffing Legislation

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen Illinois State Legislative Board held a work shop in Springfield this week. While here, they lobbied for the passage of HB 3755 (Hoffman), which stipulates that no rail carrier shall operate a freight train or light engine unless it has an operating crew consisting of at least 2 individuals. It grants the Illinois Commerce Commission the power to conduct evidentiary hearings, make findings, and issue and enforce orders, with respect to freight train crew member size. The bill passed House Transportation: Road, Bridges and Regulations Committee 12-8, and is now on third reading.

As Rauner Attacks Escalate, Illinois Caregivers and Those They Serve Pass Legislation to Protect Most Vulnerable

As Gov. Bruce Rauner's attack on Illinois home healthcare and child care workforces and programs continue, caregivers and those they serve are pushing legislative remedies to protect health insurance and training for workers, to raise wages and reduce turnover, and to expand access to the Child Care Assistance Program for working families. Three bills passed Senate Human Services Committee this week:

- The Workforce Security Bill for Home Healthcare Providers Serving People with Disabilities (**SB 2931 - Hastings**) would protect existing training and health insurance programs that Governor Rauner is demanding to eliminate at the bargaining table, and would raise wages to \$15 an hour for one of the lowest-paid state workforces. Protecting benefits and raising pay will lead to higher retention, less turnover, and ultimate savings for taxpayers. *Passed 6-1-0. Second Reading.*
- The Workforce Security Bill for Home Healthcare Providers Serving Seniors (**SB 2781 - Raoul**) would protect existing health insurance and would provide a rate increase, phased in steadily over four years, to raise industry standards and wages to \$15 an hour. Codifying health insurance and increasing stagnant wages will reduce turnover among the workforce and ensure continuity in quality care for seniors. *Passed 6-3-0. Second Reading.*
- The Child Care Worker Protection Bill (**SB 2536 - Martinez**) would protect health care and training benefits for the child care workforce. Governor Rauner is attempting to end health care coverage for home child care providers, who are disproportionately low-income women of color suffering from higher rates of diabetes, heart disease, and breast cancer. *Passed 5-1-0. Second Reading.*

Northeast IL Federation of Labor endorses boycott of non-union businesses in Lincolnshire

On March 21st, the Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor, endorsed a boycott of all non-union businesses in the Village of Lincolnshire in response to a "Right-to-Work" (RTW) Ordinance recently passed by the Village Board. The Federation calls for the boycott as a showing of public opposition to this dangerous and illegal ordinance.

"Lincolnshire officials have continuously supported Governor Bruce Rauner and aligned themselves with his anti-worker agenda; while at the same time attacking Unions and working people," said Patrick Statter, President of the Northeastern Illinois Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. "The labor movement stands in solidarity against the ordinance and we strongly encourage the public to use their purchasing power to send a message to the Village."

The Mayor of Lincolnshire requested that the Village Board consider a RTW Ordinance that was drafted by the Illinois Policy Institute. On December 14, 2015, despite overwhelming public opposition and significant doubt cast upon the legality of the ordinance, the Village Board chose to pass this anti-Union partisan policy that lowers wages and living standards for all workers.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, the National Labor Relations Board, Governor Rauner's General Counsel, State and Federal Court Judges, and numerous commentators have argued, ruled, opined, or suggested that RTW ordinances are illegal.

SAVE THE DATE



9th Annual
Illinois AFL-CIO COPE Golf Outing

The Rail Golf Course - 1400 S. Club House Drive, Springfield, IL

Monday, June 6, 2016

1 PM Shotgun Start / 6 PM Dinner

Details coming soon

2016 Illinois Workers Memorial Day Events



As we approach Worker's Memorial Day on April 28th, Illinois Workers were reminded once again the dangers workers face everyday on the job. On Tuesday morning, LIUNA Local 225 member Vicente Santoyo was killed on the job when a beam fell on the Jane Addams Tollway Rebuilding and Widening project. On April 28th, we encourage you to attend a Worker's Memorial Day near you to honor those who "didn't make it home after their shift".

Alton – Thursday, April 28, the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO will hold their annual Workers' Memorial Day services at the Workers Memorial Statue located in the Gordon F. Moore Community Park, Highway 140 and Park Rd, Alton. Services will begin at 7:00 PM. Contact Mike Fultz (618) 409-4314 or Dean Webb at 618-259-8558.

Bloomington - Thursday, April 28, Bloomington-Normal Trades and Labor Assembly Workers' Memorial Day Service at the Law & Justice Center, 104 W Front Street in Bloomington. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 AM. Contact Ron Morehead at 309-828-8813.

Champaign – Thursday, April 28, Champaign County AFL-CIO and the East Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades will host a memorial event at the Champaign County Worker Memorial site in Dodds Park, 1501 N. Mattis Avenue in Champaign, IL. The ceremony will begin at 5:30 PM and will feature a keynote address and a memorial wreath presentation.

Decatur – Thursday, April 28, Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly Workers' Memorial Day Service, 5:30 PM on the northwest corner of the Macon County Courthouse lawn, located at 253 West Wood Street in downtown Decatur. Contact Lloyd Holman, 217-620-4923 or Bill Francisco, 217-428-3013.

Galesburg – Thursday, April 28, Galesburg Trades & Labor will have a ceremony at 5:30 PM at the back of 1640 N Henderson St. in Galesburg IL. Contact galesburgtradesandlabor@yahoo.com with questions.

Joliet – Friday, April 29, Will and Grundy Counties Trades and Labor Council annual Workers' Memorial Day Dinner at the IBEW 176 Banquet Hall in Joliet. Tickets are \$90. Contact Charlie Hanus at 815-744-2886.

Peoria – Thursday, April 28, Labor Council of West Central Illinois Workers' Memorial Service. They are gathering at the Peoria Labor Temple, 400 NE Jefferson in Peoria at 5:00 PM and walking to the Workers' Memorial Monument at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria. Contact Mike Everett at 309-673-3691.

Quad Cities – Thursday, April 28, Quad Cities Federation of Labor Workers' Memorial Day Service at 11:30 AM at the USW Local 105 Hall, 880 Devils Glen Rd, Bettendorf, IA. The union hall will open at 11:00 AM. All working families are invited to this service sponsored by Alcoa Davenport Works – Joint Safety and Health Committee. For more information, contact 563-355-1181.

Rockford – Thursday, April 28, the Rockford United Labor Workers' Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Workers' Memorial Tablets located behind the E.J. 'Zeke' Giorgi Building, 200 South Wyman Street in Rockford. The event will be at 5:00 PM. For more information, contact Bill Corey, 815-968-1411.

Springfield – Thursday, April 28, Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council will host a Workers' Memorial Day Service at 5:30 PM at the Illinois State Library Atrium, 300 S. Second Street in Springfield. For more information contact Shannon Garrett at 217-789-6495.

Ottawa – Friday, June 10, PAC Golf Outing at Pine Hill Golf Course in Ottawa, IL. Registration will be at 8 AM with tee off at 9 AM. A portion of the proceeds will be awarded in \$2000 Workers' Memorial Scholarships to eligible dependents of members of Illinois Valley Federation of Labor affiliated locals who have been either killed or permanently injured on the job. For more information, contact ivfl.aflcio@gmail.com.

A complete list is available at the Illinois AFL-CIO website www.ilaf-cio.org.