

700 STRONG

MEMBER BULLETIN

FALL/WINTER 2025 | TEAMSTERSLOCAL700.COM



LOCAL 700 MOVES INTO NEW HEADQUARTERS

Teamsters Local 700 marked a major milestone this summer as it officially moved into its new headquarters at 1910 S.

Highland Ave. Suite 200 in Lombard, Illinois. The space is designed to meet the needs of a growing, active union and the members it serves.

“This new headquarters stands as a tangible investment in the future of Teamsters Local 700 and the thousands of working people who rely on the local every day,” said President Williams. “This marks a historic moment in the history of our union.”

More than just a change of address, the new headquarters represents renewed strength and stability. With expanded meeting rooms, improved accessibility, and modern facilities, the space will better support contract campaigns, grievance handling, trainings, and member engagement. It is a place built for organizing, solidarity, and collective action.

Brothers and Sisters,

FROM THE *President*

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well this holiday season. I am proud to share several important updates as we continue working together on behalf of you, the members.

First, we have officially moved into our new headquarters in Lombard. This new space is more than an office—it is an investment in our future and a home built to better serve the membership. The Lombard headquarters will strengthen our ability to organize, represent, and bring members together.

At the bargaining table, we have secured significant wins, including a Cook County contract extension that delivers meaningful economic gains for thousands of members and gives us a solid foundation moving forward.

We are also actively fighting to reverse recent changes to the Electronic Monitoring program. As essential workers and first responders, you hold the line between calm and chaos. These changes were implemented without meaningful input from our members and raise serious concerns around safety, fairness, and day-to-day operations.

Finally, the passage of the new Illinois transit bill marks a major victory for working people. This legislation strengthens public transit and helps protect union jobs across the state.

Thank you for your solidarity and trust. Together, we are moving forward to a great and successful 2026!

Fraternally,

Ramon P. Williams

Ramon Williams



PRESIDENT RAMON WILLIAMS MEETS POPE LEO XIV AT THE VATICAN

In October, Local 700 President Ramon Williams had the extraordinary opportunity to meet Pope Leo XIV during a pilgrimage with labor leaders from across Chicago. While an audience with the Pope was never guaranteed, the delegation, which included Teamsters Vice President At-Large and Local 705 President Juan Campos, spent most of the trip meeting with unions in Italy, discussing critical issues facing workers today including immigration, the rapid changes brought by AI, economic pressures, and the impact of U.S. tariffs on European markets.

On Thursday, October 9, the group was invited to the Vatican for a private meeting with Pope Leo XIV. “Pope Leo was the most personable person you could ever meet. He was engaging, attentive, and deeply understanding of the challenges workers face both in the U.S. and worldwide,”

prayed that their pilgrimage “may be fruitful for both your minds and your hearts.”

President Williams was then able to speak directly to Pope Leo, telling him about the amazing, dedicated members of Teamsters Local 700. President Williams described the conversation as “a great moment in our union’s history” and was honored to bring the stories of Local 700 members to the Vatican.



President Williams meets with Pope Leo

said President Williams. For 15 minutes, Pope Leo listened to the delegation, offered encouragement, and shared words of wisdom. He praised the union leaders for their efforts “to create a society where all can flourish,” commended their commitment to worker protection and inclusion, and recognized their work in supporting immigrants, refugees, and environmental initiatives. He encouraged them to continue advocating for the dignity of all, particularly the most vulnerable, and

The meeting concluded with individual photos of all participants, a rare and memorable keepsake. President Williams called the experience life-altering, noting how inspiring it was to hear directly from the Pope and witness the global labor movement’s shared values in action.

For Teamsters Local 700, this historic audience underscores the importance of solidarity, advocacy, and the continuing commitment to respect the dignity and rights of all workers.



TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700 HAILS PASSAGE OF ILLINOIS TRANSIT BILL AS VICTORY FOR WORKERS AND RIDERS

After months of organizing, advocacy, and long nights in Springfield, Teamsters Local 700 is celebrating the passage of Illinois' landmark \$1.5 billion transit funding bill. For the thousands of public sector workers who keep the state's buses, trains, and streets moving, including Local 700 members at the CTA and Illinois Tollway, the legislation represents a major victory for job security, reliable service, and respect for frontline workers. The bill was signed into law on December 19, 2025.

"This is a proud day for Teamsters Local 700 and for every worker who keeps Illinois running," said Local 700 President Ramon Williams. "We stood shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in labor to make sure lawmakers understood what was at stake. This bill is not just about funding buses and trains. It's about investing in the people who make public service possible."

The new legislation directs much-needed resources toward the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace, while also ensuring downstate systems receive long-overdue support. It addresses the looming fiscal cliff that threatened service cuts and layoffs in 2026, securing a more stable future for transit employees across Illinois.

Williams credited the victory to the collective work of labor unions statewide, including members who took time off to testify, rally, and contact legislators. "Union members showed up in force," he said. "They made phone calls, they packed hearing rooms, they told their stories. Lawmakers listened because they saw the people behind the uniforms and the wheel. That's how we win — by showing the human side of public service."

For Local 700 members employed at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and the thousands of municipal and county workers including many in transportation and public works, the bill's passage offers hope after years of uncertainty. With long-term funding now in place, agencies can plan for the future, expand training, and keep experienced workers on the job.

"Stable funding means safer service, better planning, and fewer disruptions for riders," Williams said. "But it also means our members can go home knowing their jobs are secure. They can keep putting food on the table without worrying if next year's budget will pull the rug out from under them."

The Teamsters were part of a broad labor coalition that worked behind the scenes to shape the bill and protect worker priorities. While not every detail is perfect, Williams called the final outcome "a clear signal that when labor stands united, working people win."

"This is what solidarity looks like," he said. "We built something lasting, not just for our members, but for every Illinoisan who depends on public transit. This is a win for workers, riders, and communities alike."



TEAMSTER PARENTS: CHECK OUT THESE SCHOLARSHIPS!



TEAMSTERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATIONS 2026 ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT TEAMSTER.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS. APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH APRIL 1, 2026.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR WILLIAM A. LEE SCHOLARSHIP ARE NOW OPEN THROUGH FEBRUARY 20, 2026!



William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship

Each year the Chicago Federation of Labor awards 10 college scholarships, valued at \$2,000 each, to high school seniors through the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship.

How to Apply

All applicants must submit the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship Application and all required materials, including academic information and Union CEO & HS Principal certification. Learn more and download the full application at:

chicagolabor.org/scholarships

Eligibility

1. Must be a senior in high school and graduating in the spring of 2026.
2. Applicant or applicant's parent must be a member in good standing of a CFL-affiliated union.
3. The applicant must choose to enter either the Academic Competition or Random Drawing for the William A. Lee Memorial Scholarship.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT CHICAGOLABOR.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS TO LEARN MORE AND DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION.

The scholarship was created in October 1957 to demonstrate Labor's commitment to stand in solidarity with students as they continue their educational pursuits.

In 1985, the scholarship program's name was changed to honor William A. Lee, President of the CFL from 1946 until his death in 1984.



 CHICAGO FEDERATION OF LABOR

JUVENILE TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER

A member was reinstated following a wrongful termination

COOK COUNTY POLICE SERGEANTS

A member was reinstated at the Step 3 grievance hearing after a wrongful termination.

VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE PUBLIC WORKS

The unit ratified its first-ever union contract and is now officially represented by Teamsters Local 700!

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Ratified their new contract, which includes wage increases and a signing bonus, with 97% approval

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Won a grievance regarding non-union workers performing our duties. The employer has committed to filling two vacant union positions.

COOK COUNTY

All affected units ratified a two-year extension of their collective bargaining agreements, which includes raises and a signing bonus

IDOT

Successfully argued more than a dozen grievances on issues ranging from missed overtime to aggressive suspensions

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Defeated changes to the overtime distribution process, forcing management back to the table



COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS UPDATE

LOCAL 700 WINS ONE MINUTE PAST THE HOUR ARBITRATION, ACADEMY GRIEVANCE

Local 700 has won its arbitration in the “one minute past the hour” case. The employer must pay overtime if you are kept even one minute past the end of your shift.

We recently had our first remedial mediation to work through the remedy. Part of this win is also moving forward. They have adjusted workforce to allow for a one minute past the hour OT submission, take advantage of it and don’t give them anything for free.

We successfully argued and won the grievances related to the academy involving recruits not receiving a full hour lunch, and not being paid for all hours worked. We all know this had been happening before, including when we were all in the academy. It didn’t make sense and something finally had to be done.

The academy schedule has already been corrected moving forward, full 1-hour lunches and regular 8-hour days. We also secured an arbitration award for retroactive pay going back to class 23-08. This award is going to be a big one, it was about 70 hours of pay per recruit. We will update when we get more info on when the payout will come.

PENDING CLASS ACTIONS & ISSUES

FTO Program

We filed a class action after the employer dismantled the FTO program without properly posting or training replacements. We now have a meeting scheduled with administration specifically addressing the FTO program. With the size of CCDOC and the complexity of responsibilities, not having a functioning FTO program is unacceptable — and this meeting is long overdue.

Grievance Procedure

Two class actions remain active regarding the employer failing to hear grievances in proper timeframes. We are finally starting to see some movement. In the meantime, continue to push your Supts. to conduct timely Step 1 hearings and document when they don’t.

Courts DQ

We continue to challenge improper disqualifications for Courts assignments based on tardies that do not exceed contractual thresholds. The legal team is working to expedite this to arbitration.

FMLA Late Call Process

We filed a class action over the employer’s handling of late call-ins on FMLA days. We are still investigating and collecting examples. If it’s happened to you or someone in your division, reach out.

RU Tier Staffing (2-Officer Minimum)

We filed this class action at the end of June after repeated violations of the requirement to staff RU tiers with two officers. This has become even more relevant following the RTU incident — staffing is a safety issue, not a preference. This issue is on the agenda to be discussed in the same meeting addressing the FTO program, so both topics will be handled together. In the meantime:

- If you’re the only officer assigned to an RU tier — document it.
- If a member reports it — document it.
- Then file the grievance.

We can only enforce what gets recorded.

LOCAL 700'S THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE HELPS FEED FAMILIES, STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

The Teamsters Local 700 Women's Committee wrapped up its annual Thanksgiving food drive with tables overflowing with canned goods, boxed meals, and fresh staples—all destined for families facing hardship during the holiday season.

What began as a simple call to action quickly grew into a union-wide effort, with members from worksites across Local 700 stopping by to contribute. Some brought grocery bags filled with their family's favorites while others volunteered their time, promoting the event and helping sort donations.

“This drive shows what solidarity looks like in action,” said Local 700 President Ramon Williams as he watched volunteers unload another car filled with donations. “Our members always step up for the community, and they do it with heart. This is who we are.”

Local 700 Women's Committee Chair Cecelia Crenshaw echoed that sentiment. “When we lead with compassion, we make a real difference,” she said. “Women in this local have always been a driving force for service, and this year’s turnout proves how powerful that commitment is. It’s inspiring to see so many members come together for something bigger than themselves.”

Once sorted, the donations were packed and sent to local food pantries. For Local 700, the drive represented far more than a seasonal charitable effort—it was a testament to union solidarity, a reminder that collective action rooted in shared values has the power to transform communities.

LOCAL 700 PREVAILS IN WHITE CARD TRANSFER GRIEVANCE - ALL AFFECTED CITY MEMBERS (2FM / DEPARTMENT OF FLEET)

The Union has prevailed in the “all affected” grievance regarding white card transfers for senior employees that Fleet had previously refused to honor.

As a result, the Department has agreed to grant those transfers and implement a clear, trackable submission process across all Fuel and Garage locations.

This victory underscores the power of collective action, the importance of seniority, and the necessity of strong contract enforcement to ensure fairness and equal access to transfer opportunities for all members.

CHIEF JUDGE'S OFFICE TERMINATION CASES RESOLVED FAVORABLY

Local 700 secured a strong settlement for two members who were facing termination at the Chief Judge's Office. One member has been returned to their original worksite and recovered 16 of the 21 suspension days served.

The second member was permitted to retire with a full pension, a neutral reference, and successfully recovered all 33 suspension days served.

UPCOMING LOCAL 700 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

January 13, 2026

All meetings held at 6:00 p.m.
Teamsters Meeting Hall
1910 Highland Ave.
Lombard, IL

*More information about the
February and March meetings
will be released shortly.*

TIER 2 LEGISLATION PASSES HOUSE COMMITTEE

In October, state lawmakers took the first step toward beginning to address public sector unions' concerns with Tier 2 pensions by passing SB1937 out of the House Executive Committee. This is a critically important bill to help ensure state and local governments can recruit and retain the public employees necessary to provide high quality services to Illinoisans statewide.

This legislation is the result of years of study, discussion, and negotiation with state lawmakers, the governor's office, and interested parties. It makes important improvements to benefits for Tier 2 public employees who provide the same vital services as their Tier 1 colleagues while receiving a diminished pension that does not provide an adequate retirement.



*Scan to join
the Local 700
email list!*

NOTICE

Teamsters Local 700 allocates .50 cents from the dues of each member per month to the Teamsters Local 700 Political Action and Legislation Committee Fund.

SB1937 makes a number of improvements to the Tier 2 system, most notably:

- Improves the final average salary calculation to the average of the highest 6 of an employee's final 10 years on the job.
- Lowers the retirement age to age 62 if the employee has maxed out their pension, 65 with 20 years of service, or 67 with 10 years of service.
- Improves the cost of living adjustment to 3% simple interest per year.

Local 700 is a member of the We Are One Illinois coalition fighting to fix Tier 2, and will continue to advocate on this important issue in the upcoming Spring legislative session.