

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

700 STRONG MEMBER BULLETIN

SPRING/SUMMER 2024 | TEAMSTERSLOCAL700.COM



STATE OF ILLINOIS MEMBERS APPROVE NEW CONTRACT

On February 10, Teamsters Local 700 members at the State of Illinois ratified their new contract, which included significant pay increases and expanded benefits. The contract was signed after Teamsters locals from across the state rallied against the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"This historic new contract provides the significant wage increases and strong benefits our members deserve," said Teamsters Local 700 President Ramon Williams. "Thank you for sticking together in solidarity throughout this process. And a special thanks to all of the rank and file members that served on the negotiating committees. Your insight and historical knowledge aided in securing the best agreement possible."

Local 700 will continue to update state members as the contract is implemented.

FROM THE

President

Brothers and Sisters,



It is my pleasure to announce that the State of the Local has never been better! Recent overwhelming contract ratification margins are proof that our local has improved the financial wellbeing our members and their families. Membership participation and our influence in multiple arenas, including politically, has far outpaced previous years. I want to update you on some exciting wins we've celebrated across Illinois recently.

Last month, Local 700 members joined the We Are One Illinois coalition in a three-day event aimed at urging Illinois lawmakers to fix Illinois' Tier 2 public employee pensions. Our combined actions resulted in more than 25,000 people sending more than 60,000 emails and phone calls to legislators. This is only the beginning, there will be additional actions to follow.

I'm also proud to announce a new historic contract with the Illinois Tollway, approved by 84% of voting members. Plus, members in the Peotone Police Department, Oak Forest clerks office, and the Supervising Police Communications Operators all unanimously approved their new CBAs! These contracts provide increased wages, stronger protections, and better benefits for our members.

Local 700 members continue to lead the way for labor unions across Illinois. Your sense of service coupled with personal sacrifice is inspiring. You are the true heroes of our society, and Teamsters Local 700 celebrates you one and all!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramon D. Williams".

Ramon D. Williams

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700 MEMBER SAVES TWO MOTORISTS FROM BURNING CAR

On March 1, Steve Newcomb, a Teamsters Local 700 steward with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Emergency Traffic Patrol, pulled two women from a burning vehicle on I-94 near Addison St. in Chicago. Newcomb, a 22 year IDOT employee, said this is the first time he has had to pull someone from a burning vehicle.

"My job is to help keep people safe on our roadways, and that's why I knew I had to do something to help those motorists this morning," said Local 700 member Steve Newcomb. "I am so relieved I was there to take action to get those women to safety. Keeping people safe is what we do at Local 700, and I am just glad I was able to do my part."

"Steve Newcomb is a hero, full stop," said Local 700 President Ramon Williams. "Every day, the dedicated public servants of Local 700 work to keep our communities safe. This morning, Steve went above and beyond, and for that we all owe him a debt of gratitude. Thank you to Steve and all of the first responder union members who help keep us safe on the roadways!"

Local 700 encourages all motorists to stay safe and use caution around IDOT workers.



Local 700 member Steve Newcomb

A NOTE FROM VALERIE BERRY AFTER 25 YEARS WITH LOCAL 700

I have had the pleasure of working for Teamsters for 25 years in various positions. When I first started, I was hired under Local 714 and then 700.



Longtime Local 700 administrator Valerie Berry

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010. I continued to work in between the treatments I was having every week. I am a grandmother of eight lovely grandchildren and a mother of three beautiful daughters.

What made me want to become a Teamster was because my mom and dad were Teamsters until they retired and my mom was a chief steward, I also have brother and sisters that are in various unions. So I have to let you know my family is union strong!

Working for Teamsters you meet a lot of people, and you develop that special friendship that will last forever. Most of us have laughed and cried together, and I wouldn't trade my co-workers in for anyone. I want to thank the entire staff of Teamsters Local 700. You are all amazing and I just want to let you know I am only a phone call away.

LOCAL 700 ENDORSED CANDIDATES WIN BIG FOR COUNTY, STATE OFFICES DURING 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

On March 19, 2024, voters went to the polls to vote in 2024 primary election. Local 700 had a number of endorsed candidates running for office, including several successful candidates.

Victorious candidates included Justice Eileen O'Neill Burke, who won the Democratic nomination for Cook County State's Attorney, Mariyana Spyropoulos, who won the Democratic nomination for Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and Graciela Guzman, who won the Democratic nomination for 20th District State Senate.

All of these candidates ran in fiercely contested races for their office, and Local 700's support helped lift them to victory.

"Political engagement is an important tool we have to help ensure our members are treated fairly by elected officials," said Local 700 Political Chair Anthony McGee. "Whether it's canvassing voters, providing resources to candidates, or simply getting the word out, every bit counts."

Political support from unions like Local 700 is critically important for any candidate running in Illinois, and can be especially impactful in Chicago and Cook County. Unions are broadly popular among voters, and union support can often be the deciding factor in close races.

For more information about Local 700 endorsements and upcoming political deadlines, be sure to visit www.TeamstersLocal700.com or sign up for the Local 700 email list.

These candidates must all be elected by voters during the November general election, though none is expected to face any significant challenge. Local 700 will continue to engage members about the political process through 2024 and beyond.

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.



Justice Eileen O'Neill Burke
Candidate, Cook County
State's Attorney



Mariyana Spyropoulos
Candidate, Cook County
Circuit Court Clerk



Graciela Guzman
Candidate, Illinois State
Senate 20th District

LOCAL 700 FUTURES COMMITTEE INVITES MEMBERS TO HELP BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

Local 700 recognizes that union membership is a privilege that many have fought to obtain. Unfortunately, it has been under attack throughout the Country and right here in Illinois with the introduction of Right to Work and other anti-worker, anti-union legislation.

The “Futures Committee” intent is to engage younger members and or new/newer members to get involved in and participate in various projects of the local like:

- Organizing
- Political Projects
- Team Building
- Training
- Recreational Activities
- Other projects specific to the local’s needs



Scan the QR Code to join the Futures Committee.

LOCAL 700 WINS BIG RETRO PAY GAINS FOR MEMBERS AT CITY OF CHICAGO, COOK COUNTY, FOREST PRESERVES

In the past six months, Teamsters Local 700 has won major retro payments for members at the City of Chicago, Cook County, and the Cook County Forest Preserves. These retro payments were the result of new collective bargaining agreements and lawsuits brought by the union to ensure fair pay for our members.

“We will always fight to make sure our members get every cent they are owed,” said Local 700 President Ramon Williams. “We know our

members deserve to be paid promptly and accurately, and we will never stop advocating until all retro payments are made to every effected member.”

Retro payments are often secured in contract negotiations but can be won through arbitrations. The union and management must then verify for accuracy before implementation. This can sometimes be lengthy, though the union has tools it can use to try and speed the process.

For example, Local 700 worked with Cook County management to ensure all retro payments were made accurately stemming from the “Me-Too” fair pay lawsuits decided last year. That calculation and implementation period also affected overtime pay and other benefits.

If you have questions about retro payments or other issues related to your pay, do not hesitate to contact your Local 700 business agent.

“WE WILL ALWAYS FIGHT TO MAKE SURE OUR MEMBERS GET EVERY SINGLE CENT THEY ARE OWED.” - PRESIDENT RAMON WILLIAMS

LOCAL 700

Quick Wins

MARENGO PUBLIC WORKS AND CLERICAL STAFF

Completed, ratified, and signed a successor three year contract.

OAK FOREST PUBLIC WORKS

Ratified a new contract including improved call-in procedures, more time off flexibility, and enhanced economic incentives.

COOK CO. HOSPITAL SEARGANTS

Successfully won a grievance because the employer stopped shift differential pay. All members were made full.

LAKE COUNTY COURTS

After a long fight, successfully ratified a new contract including a new pay scale with steps and annual wage growth.

SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS POLICE

Negotiated a new trial work schedule favored by the members beginning on May 10 through Dec. 31, 2024.

SUPERVISING POLICE

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

Unanimously approved a new contract including wage gains, expanded leave, pandemic pay, and more.

PEOTONE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Successfully negotiated a successor three-year contract currently awaiting final approval from village board.

NILES FIRE DEPARTMENT

In February, member Jon Hutchins operated a drone to successfully locate a missing elderly man suffering from dementia in Round Lake.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700 MOURNS TWO COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MEMBERS LOST TO SUICIDE

In January, two members of Teamsters Local 700, both employees at the Cook County Department of Corrections, took their own lives within 24 hours. Local 700 has been on the ground providing all possible support to its members.

Teamsters Local 700 President Ramon Williams issued the following statement regarding the tragedy:

We are all deeply shaken as we mourn this horrific tragedy. While suicide is complex, there is no doubt that the extremely stressful and dangerous job our members perform at the Department of Corrections adds a significant amount of pressure to their lives.

However, the willful negligence of the Sheriff's Office cannot be overlooked, as they have continuously failed to provide the necessary support our brave women and men at the Cook County Department of Corrections deserve.

Meanwhile, the ineptitude of the Sheriff's Office and its top staff only perpetuates and magnifies these issues. To put it simply, this administration does not value their employees unless it serves Tom Dart's political agenda.

“HOPEFULLY, THIS TRAGEDY CAN BE A WAKE UP CALL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MUST SEE OUR MEMBERS AS MORE THAN SIMPLY A NUMBER” - LOCAL 700 PRESIDENT RAMON WILLIAMS



On behalf of Local 700, we demand accountability from the administration.

Furthermore, Local 700 is absolutely furious at the lack of response from the Sheriff's Office surrounding these tragic events. This was a shocking tragedy that rocked every employee within the jail walls, yet the Sheriff's Office simply glossed over these events while failing to show these fallen officers the dignity they deserve.

This shameful lack of respect from the administration has turned grief into anger for many of our members, and rightfully so. “Instead of hiring qualified professionals, Sheriff Dart has relied on too many incompetent lackeys who are more interested in generating positive press than taking care of the people who do this job day in and day out.

Hopefully, this tragedy can be a wake up call that the administration must see our members as more than simply a number, but as human beings who deserve support in the very difficult job they do to keep our community safe.

“Local 700 stands with all of our members at the Department of Corrections as we demand the support every employee deserves to do this job. We hear you, we support you, and we will never stop fighting for you.



COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS UPDATE

- ★ Thanks to strong contract language and the “me-too” grievance victory, the officers/investigators will be receiving 7 percent raises within the year. Local 700 will continue to keep members up to date on the progress of these raises.
- ★ We have conducted three successful bids this year and are having weekly meetings with administration to make sure the transportation bid is done correctly and expeditiously.

TO DATE, WE HAVE FILED 891 DISCIPLINARY GRIEVANCES, 152 NON-DISCIPLINARY GRIEVANCES, AND 8 CLASS ACTION GRIEVANCES SO FAR THIS YEAR.

LOCAL 700 BEGINS CRITICAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AT THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Contract negotiations have begun for Local 700 members at the Chicago Park District. The group is comprised of Motor Truck Drivers and Riggers. Negotiations are in the early stages of a multi-phase process.

Negotiations begin with coalition bargaining, which are issues that affect all the trades. Then comes local bargaining, which are issues that only affect that respective

bargaining unit.

Thus far we’ve had one coalition session, and one local session. This will be an important round of bargaining, as the union is attempting to significantly change the pay structure for these members. Between the City of Chicago, Tollway, IDOT, and others who all perform similar work, our members with the Park District have fallen behind.

We’re also focused on securing our current level of jobs by requiring the employer to fill vacancies within 90 days.

“Our park district members deserve much better,” said Local 700 Vice President Anthony McGee. “We are determined to secure a fair contract that makes significant, lasting gains.”

UPCOMING LOCAL 700 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

May 14, 2024

All meetings held at 6:00 p.m.
Teamsters Meeting Hall
1300 W. Higgins Rd.
1st Floor
Park Ridge, IL 60068



Scan to join
the Local 700
email list!

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SOCIAL MEDIA
@TEAMSTERS700



TIER 2 PENSION IMPROVEMENT WEEK OF ACTION

Local 700 is a member of the We Are One Illinois coalition of unions fighting for better retirement benefits for public workers. From April 15 - 18, Local 700 members joined workers from across the state in a week of action to demand state lawmakers address the issues with Tier 2 pensions.

Thanks to your efforts, Springfield legislators received more than 50,000 letters and 5,000 phone calls demanding they fix Tier 2! Local 700 will keep members up-to-date as the We Are One Illinois campaign ramps up through the summer and fall.