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Local 700 Stops Fourth of July Emergency Travel Order from Costing Wages

Last Fourth of July weekend, Mayor Lightfoot initiated an emergency travel order for the city of Chicago, requiring a 14-day self-quarantine for anyone entering the city from certain Covid hot spots. The states considered high risk are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah (Iowa and Oklahoma have since been added).

Because of the suddenness of the announcement by the mayor's office, workers who had been out of town on approved vacation days for the holiday weekend were caught off-guard, not realizing that there would be a required quarantine.

Many workers from Streets and Sanitation were told by their managers not to return to work during the self-quarantine and would have to use their own PTO for this duration. Local 700 representatives went to the Director of Labor Relations to get members' time cleared by the city, so now, members who were already out of town prior to July 6th will not have to use their own PTO for the quarantine order. Another win for Local 700.

Foreman Transfer

Fellow Traffic Services MTD Foremen Alex Rosario, Marvin Browder, and Lisa Senese bid a fond farewell this week to their co-worker, John Rizzo (center), who transferred into a Foreman position in the Chicago Public Library Department.



Assignment Picks Return

On July 5, the new pick went into effect for CTA chauffeurs. Originally done each May, drivers with seniority are allowed to select their assignments. However, under the new management, these drivers' picks were suspended, which caused jobs to be eliminated. Local 700 filed a grievance, won, and the original pick from May went back into effect. Chauffeurs have now begun their originally-picked assignments.



MTD Vacancies Filled

The Department of Water Management and the Department of Aviation have begun calling drivers from the eligibility list to fill Motor Truck Driver (MTD) vacancies from the departments' respective Spring bid postings. Please contact your business agent for more information, to check if you are on the list, or if your seniority date is valid.



Historic Gains for IDOT Contracts

Contract negotiations are close to being finalized for the snowbirds working with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This contract is greatly improved, with the following proposed gains:

- The established rate of pay for Snowbirds will continue to increase at the rate of the full-timers.
- As long as they meet the criteria from the state, Snowbirds will be given preference for hire to Full-time Highway Maintainer positions.
- In the event that a Snowbird has an issue with their driver's license, they get a waiver for that season in order to maintain recall rights.

Even though State of Illinois has not fully reopened their administrative offices, Local 700 is continually able to secure new hires in the Highway Maintainer positions for the Illinois Department of Transportation.



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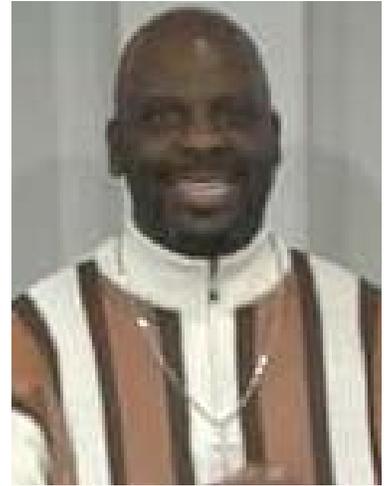
Local 700 Member Wins Big

Correy Wright, a parking booter, was improperly terminated by the City of Chicago. Because the city did not follow the proper time-lines for Mr. Wright's termination, Local 700 filed a grievance. They worked with outside counsel, filed an airtight case, and the city settled before arbitration. Mr. Wright received a five-figure settlement. Next season, he'll go back permanently, as per the agreement, as a pool motor truck driver, rather than as a booter. Wright is appreciative of Local 700's help and perseverance.

"The union stayed in contact with me the whole time," said Wright. "Not only did they get me out of a dangerous job, they got me a better job."

Wright had previously been a member of other unions, but feels that Local 700 goes above and beyond.

"Local 700 fought for me. This is why union protection is so important; people need their jobs." He adds, "Local 700 fights for their members."



School Closure Help from Drivers

Our drivers at the Chicago Public Schools have been working with a private food vendor to deliver thousands of meals for children. Many kids rely on school meals for daily sustenance. When the schools had closed due to Covid on March 16th, a vital source of nutrition was about to be lost. But our drivers continued to deliver meals to schools for children to collect. Putting their own safety at risk, our drivers also delivered meals to individual homes for those children who weren't able to pick up their meals from the schools. Our Local 700 drivers were also responsible for transporting over 100,000 computers and iPads to schools so kids without computers were able to continue their education from home.



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