

# LOCAL 1001 NEWSLETTER

COUNTY, MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES', SUPERVISORS AND FOREMEN'S UNION

WINTER 2008 ISSUE

## JUST ANOTHER LABORERS WINTER

As another Chicago winter comes to an end the Laborers of Local 1001 prepare to shift into summer mode.

This past winter will be one to remember for a long time to come. Anyone who lived in our great city this past winter will remember it for being one of the snowiest winters in the last three decades. And with all that snow came plenty of bone chilling cold days. But snow, cold, or sun, the Laborers were out there keeping our city clean and running without a hitch.

The Laborers of Local 1001 are responsible for a multitude of duties that keep our city running in the most adverse of conditions. Deservingly so, our brother Teamsters get the majority of the publicity during the winter storms but the Laborers play a pivotal role in keeping the program going. From shoveling crosswalks and fire hydrants, to working the salt stations to insure the safe loading and deliveries of road salt, to assisting in getting the plows to the appropriate locations so every piece of vital equipment will be ready to hit the streets when the snow falls, the Laborers' are always there.

In addition to keeping our neighborhoods clean what about the city's showpiece, the Loop. It's the hard work and dedication of the Loop Operation Laborers who make sure downtown is clean of not only snow but debris during the harsh winter months. All of this in order to preserve the reputation of being one of the cleanest cities in the country.

Let's not forget while all of this is going on that the refuse must continue to be picked up. Last year an estimated 1.1 million tons of garbage was collected by Local 1001 Laborers on



over 350 daily routes, plus the ever increasing number of recycling and compost routes across the city.

And how about our brothers and sisters over in the Bureau of Forestry. They came out during these winter storms



to make sure the icy trees and branches would not do further damage to property and to help prevent injuries to citizens.

With all that going on, it is important to also remember that without street lights to assist in the snow removal, our city would go dark and that's where are brothers and sisters in BOE come in. The Laborers at BOE are responsible for making sure the lights are on, even under the worst of snow conditions. With over 200,000 street lights, 67,000 alley lights and 2,700 signalized traffic intersections, our brothers and sisters have their work cut out for them.

Anyone who travels the streets of Chicago knows one thing for sure, with winter comes potholes. And this winter was no exception; in fact pothole season was one of the worst in the past decade. As everyone knows potholes are caused by road wear and the extreme change in temperatures and this winter we had over 30 freeze and thaw cycles. The task of maintaining almost 9,400 lane miles of streets is a huge undertaking for our brothers and sisters who fill the potholes for CDOT. During the peak winter season these crews, on average, have a total of around 500 service requests per day in the CSR system, but this winter the number of requests skyrocketed and the peak hit over 8,000 in a single day. ....(continued on page 2)

THE OFFICIAL LABORERS' LOCAL 1001 PUBLICATION



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## HISTORIC VISIT TO MEMPHIS

Beginning in 1926, Black History Week was established during the second week of February, which coincided with the birthday of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, the week was expanded to Black History Month. This past February of



2008, Secretary Treasurer Will Irving, Recording Secretary Nicole Hayes and Executive Board Member David Torres, along with James Ellis from the District Council had the privilege of attending the AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Conference held in Memphis Tennessee. This Holiday Observance was to commemorate 40 years of keeping the dream and movement alive. As we should be aware, this movement was two movements in one, the Civil Rights Movement and the Labor Movement.

Guest speakers from all around the country were invited to speak at this historic event. Speakers present were John J. Sweeney, President AFL-CIO, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., President Rainbow/PUSH, Bill Lucy, Secretary-Treasurer AFSCME, Rev. Al Sharpton, National Action Network, Cecil Roberts, President United Mine Workers of America, Steve Cohen, U.S. House of Representatives, Rev. James Lawson, Professor, Vanderbilt University, Dr. W.W. Henton, Mayor of Memphis, among many other prominent speakers. One of the unique privileges was the opportunity of meeting some of the original pioneers of the labor and civil rights movement that had been with Dr. Martin Luther King. A round table of participants at the event included Bill Lucy, Ezekiel Bell, Lewis Donelson, Jesse Epps, Hattie

Jackson, Adua Naantaanbuu, Joe Paisley, and Joe Warren.

As stewards of our union and community, we are reminded how important it is to keep the torch lit, pass it on and keep it burning. The Labor Movement now is multi-cultural and multi-racial as there is power in diversity. It is vital that the gap between labor and the community be brought together. We need to dream the dream, fight for the dream and realize the dream. We need to create change and be the voice of that change. If we offer change, we must show the vision of change. Organized working class people stand up for what is right. Many of us have become complacent and have stopped fighting. In today's new generation, we need to develop a new strategy. The strategy needs to fulfill who we are and define our accountability. These strategies should include building support, providing leadership, reaching out, mobilizing, lobbying and organizing. We will be remembered by what we have done for others, not just ourselves. A Local who forgets its members, is itself forgotten.



“If you will judge anything here in this struggle, you’re commanding that this city will respect the dignity of labor. So often we overlook the worth and significance of those who are not in professional jobs, or those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight, that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity, and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity and it has worth. One day our society must come to see this. One day our society will come to respect the sanitation worker if it is to survive. For the person who picks up our garbage, in the final analysis, is as significant as the physician. All labor has worth.” (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – March 18, 1968)

## COVER STORY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



*Asphalt Foreman John Smelser (right) with his crew, have filled over 12,000 potholes during the 2008 winter season.*

Even with such an overwhelming task at hand, the Laborers stepped up and waged battle on the potholes. With the early recall of 26 seasonal laborers, six weeks ahead of their regular recall date, the Laborers in CDOT are winning the war on potholes. Contrary to some peoples belief, there is no miracle machine or secret formula to filling potholes, except the hard work of the men and women who manually fill the hundreds of potholes every day, in order to insure the safety of the public way for the citizens of the City of Chicago.

We would like to say “Great job this winter”, to everyone of the Laborers who are out there day in and day out making sure that Chicago remains the City that Works!

OFFICERS AND STAFF

President

**OSCAR HALL**

Vice President

**MIKE LOMBARDI**

Recording Secretary

**NICOLE HAYES**

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Business Manager

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Auditors

**STEVE MARCUCCI**

**MIKE SENESE**

**SHERMAN WILLIAMS**

District Council Delegates

**JAMES ELLIS**

**RICH REHDER**

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

**Benefits Information Insurance Carriers/ Deferred Compensation**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield (PPO and Blue Edge HCA)	1-800-772-6895
Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Claims)	1-312-938-0133
Blue Advantage HMO	1-800-792-8504
Caremark Prescription Drugs	1-866-748-0028
Department of Finance - Benefits Management Office	1-312-747-8660
Dental - BlueCare Dental HMO Plan	1-800-323-7201
Dental - CompBenefits Dental PPO Dental Plan Provider Finder	1-800-837-2341
Encompass (PPO Medical Advisor)	1-800-373-3727
Metropolitan Life (Universal Life Insurance)	1-800-634-5007
Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Deferred Compensation)	1-312-443-1975
Prudential Insurance Company of America	1-800-778-3827
Unicare Performance HMO	1-312-234-8855

**City of Chicago - Pension Funds**

Laborers and Retirement Board Employee Annuity Benefit Fund	1-312-236-2065
Municipal Employees and Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago M.E.A. / B.F.C.	1-312-236-4700

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**YOUR RIGHTS DURING INVESTIGATION**

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A UNION REPRESENTATIVE TO BE WITH YOU BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS THAT COULD LEAD TO DISCIPLINE.

**\*NO MATTER WHO IS ASKING THE QUESTIONS.**

**\*NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE BEING QUESTIONED.**

YOUR RIGHT TO A REPRESENTATIVE APPLIES DURING ANY QUESTIONING BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

**EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN ARRESTED!**

NO ONE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE CAN INTERVIEW YOU IN A POLICE STATION OR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY UNLESS YOU WORK THERE OR UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED FOR MORE THAN 72 HOURS.

NEVER ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR SIGN ANY STATEMENT UNLESS

YOU HAVE A UNION REPRESENTATIVE WITH YOU.

**INSIST UPON YOUR RIGHTS!**

**IMMEDIATELY CALL THE UNION AT 312-226-1001**

## 2007 RETIREES

Congratulations to all of our recent Retirees.  
Their years of dedication have made this Local what it is today!

Anthony	Blackmon	Streets & Sanitation
Joseph	Bozzi Jr	Streets & Sanitation
Dominic	Brancato	Streets & Sanitation
Robert	Carroll	Streets & Sanitation
Eduardo	Condes	Streets & Sanitation
Carmen	Cruz-Martinez	Streets & Sanitation
Horatio	D'Oronzo	Streets & Sanitation
Bilbo	Davidson Jr	Streets & Sanitation
Brian	Dillon	Streets & Sanitation
William	Donofrio	Streets & Sanitation
Thomas	Grisaffi	Streets & Sanitation
Charles	Guarino	Streets & Sanitation
Kenneth	Guge	Aviation
John	Hooks	Streets & Sanitation
Walter	Howard	Streets & Sanitation
Franklin	Kace	Streets & Sanitation
Joseph	Lee	Streets & Sanitation
Aileen	Matthews	Streets & Sanitation
Nathaniel	McClarín	Streets & Sanitation
Peter	McPhillips	Streets & Sanitation
James	Paladino	Streets & Sanitation
Ronald	Paulas	Transportation
William	Pearson Sr	Streets & Sanitation
Gennaro	Piccolo	Fleet Management
Rocco	Piersanti	Fleet Management
Michael	Prine	Fleet Management
James	Prisco	Streets & Sanitation
C	Rankin	Streets & Sanitation
Eugene	Robinson Jr	Streets & Sanitation
Lutrell	Robinson Jr	Streets & Sanitation
Keith	Scott	Streets & Sanitation
Charles	Shervino	Streets & Sanitation
John	Spacucello	Streets & Sanitation
Gloria	Spencer	Streets & Sanitation
Samuel	Tidwell	Streets & Sanitation
Michael	Zdebski	Streets & Sanitation

## **50 YEAR GOLD CARD MEMBERS**

Sam Caccavali  
Sam Caifa  
Rich Ferro  
Vince LoPresti  
Jim Marciano  
Mike Napoleon  
Anthony Parilli  
John Ricordati

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT BENEFITS AND UNION DUES

When you are off of work for any reason it is very important that YOU make sure to make all contributions required to maintain your benefits.

It is also very important that when you return to work that YOU check your pay stubs to make sure that the proper benefits deductions are being made. You must also remember to notify the benefits office at once of any changes regarding any of your dependents, i.e. birth, marriage, divorce, death, etc.

If you do not take the proper steps, in a timely manner, you can lose your benefits.

There is no automatic union dues deductions taken from any type of disability checks.

When you are not working or working in a job title not represented by this local union, YOU are responsible to pay your monthly union dues directly to the Union office. If you are laid off, you are responsible for payment of your membership portion of your union dues.

Failure to maintain your membership dues will cause you to be suspended from LIUNA and you will incur additional fees upon your return to work.

## **IN MEMORY**

*Local 1001 Members who recently passed away:*

**David Ahern - CDOT**  
**Sharon Allen - Streets and Sanitation**  
**Sheila McCain - Fleet Management**

*Family members of Local 1001 members who recently passed away:*

**StepFather of James Annoreno - CDOT**  
**Ex-wife of Carlos Bracero - Streets and Sanitation**  
**Grandfather of Jesse Canchola - CDOT**  
**Sister of Latrise Collier - General Services**  
**Sister of Anna Malave - Streets and Sanitation**  
**Uncle of Lou Phillips - Business Manager**  
**Father of Paul Reed - CDOT**  
**Grandmother of Dennis Taylor - CDOT**

*Our condolences go out to the families of all those listed above  
and all those who may have recently lost a loved one.*

## UNION STEWARD TRAINING

*Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a Union Steward?  
Interested in learning more about your union and how you can help your fellow members every day?  
Want to know how you can get involved and work to support your local union?  
It's easy and it's only one phone call away!  
Call our office at: 312-226-1001 to sign up for one of our Union Steward Training Classes.*

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