Labor supporting NAFTA replacement

By Richard Trumka
President, AFL-CIO

Make no mistake, we demanded a trade deal that benefits workers and fought every single day to negotiate that deal; and now we have secured an agreement that working people can proudly support.

I am grateful to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her allies on the U.S.—Mexico—Canada Agreement (USMCA) working group, along with Senate champions like Sherrod Brown and Ron Wyden, for standing strong with us throughout this process as we demanded a truly enforceable agreement.

I also commend Ambassador Robert Lighthizer for being a straight shooter and an honest broker as we worked toward a resolution.

Working people are responsible for a deal that is a vast improvement over both the original North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the flawed proposal brought forward in 2017. For the first time, there truly will be enforceable labor standards—including a process that allows for the inspections of factories and facilities that are not living up to their obligations.

What Labor Gained

Unions have long vilified NAFTA for making it easier for manufacturers to locate production south of the border where a lax labor system, a cheap workforce and tariff-free trade under the agreement created the perfect conditions for taking jobs away from American workers and cutting wages in the U.S.

This time, Mexico has passed a new law to overhaul its own labor system and agreed to have a “rapid-response” enforcement process that will pinpoint violations down to the factory level. Mexico is also eliminating what was regarded as government control of unions.

The tweaks Democrats demanded will also make it easier to root out labor violations and take away trade benefits if goods and services are found to have been produced by workers toiling under poor labor conditions.

At least 75 percent of a car must be made in North America to qualify for no tariffs. That’s up from 62.5 percent under NAFTA. In a bid to raise wages in Mexico and to keep jobs in the United States, about 40-45 percent of a vehicle must be made by workers earning at least $16 per hour.

From Politico, December 12, 2019

The USMCA also eliminates special carve outs for corporations like the giveaway to Big Pharma in the administration’s initial proposal and loopholes designed to make it harder to prosecute labor violations.

The USMCA is far from perfect. It alone is not a solution for outsourcing, inequality or climate change. Successfully tackling these issues requires a full-court press of economic policies that empower workers, including the repeal of tax cuts which reward companies for shipping our jobs overseas.

But there is no denying that the trade rules in America will now be fairer because of our hard work and perseverance. Working people have created a new standard for future trade negotiations.

President Trump may have opened this deal. But working people closed it. And for that, we should be very proud.
Chicago — As the state embarks on a historic $45 billion capital program, Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation to strengthen a pillar of Rebuild Illinois and increase diversity in apprenticeships for construction and the building trades.

"Rebuild Illinois is the largest, most robust capital plan in state history. We're working with our partners to make sure every community in the state benefits from these good jobs - especially those who have been left out for far too long," said Governor JB Pritzker.

"We're putting Illinois' government back on the side of working families, designing a state that is economically prosperous not just for the few, but for every Illinoisan, no matter the color of their skin or their zip code."

The Illinois Works Jobs Program will help ensure that Illinois residents from all communities not only benefit from capital projects, but also have access to careers in the construction industry and building trades. The effort includes especially those who have been historically underrepresented in those trades.

The law makes a $25 million investment and works through community-based organizations to recruit new apprentices to work on the construction projects and sets strong apprentice participation goals of 10 percent on public works projects. Through this pre-apprenticeship program, bid credit program and review panel, the new law ensures the Illinois Works Jobs Program can deliver on its goal of building and maintaining a diverse workforce on Rebuild Illinois projects.

"In order to build a healthy and comprehensive economy, we must supply minority businesses with full and fair access to local and state construction opportunities," said Sen. Napoleon Harris III (D-Chicago). "I applaud Gov. Pritzker for seeing the significance of this measure and hope to see local governments taking advantage of the business enterprise program to decrease the inequality gap for minority, veterans and female-owned businesses."

"This legislation creates economic opportunity for working people that have typically been left out of the construction industry," said House Assistant Majority Leader Will Davis (D-Homewood). "The Rebuild Illinois capital program makes an unprecedented investment in our state, and we're making sure that benefits all of our communities."

Ace in the Hole
Spray patching & crack sealing Willa Warnkes
Washburn, IL 61570
309-231-4559
309-248-7878 (home)

Carmody- Flynn
Funeral Home
Guiding You Toward The Path To Healing
Bloomington/Normal's Oldest Continuing Funeral Service
STEVEN E. HALL
ERIC J. WILLIAMS JODELL A. JARMAN
1800 Eastland Drive Phone: (309) 663-1968
Bloomington, IL 61704 Fax: (309) 663-2923
On Site Crematory

Estate Sales
We’ll handle your estate sale
large or small,
Household, moving sale or one item.
We buy and sell.
Ronn Morehead
309-452-2656
Dreams are Possible

Women’s trades training opens

Dreams are possible is located at 1311 W. Olive St., Bloomington, to prepare women for economically sustainable employment by creating first class, skill-based workers; helping them transition from jobs to careers, and preparing them to expect and advocate for a living wage, benefits, and dignity in the workplace.

The potential areas of opportunities presented throughout the 10 week (5 hours a week) course primarily emphasize a career in the trades. The curriculum was provided by the Carpenters Union and the Western Resources Center for Women in Apprenticeships.

January 8-Women in the Trades

The first meeting to organize a local Women in the Trades group is Wednesday, January 8, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Peoria Labor Temple, 400 NE Jefferson, Suite 304, Peoria, Illinois 61603.

Please contact Sharon Williams at sharon@westcentralbte.org or 309-674-9243 if you are interested.

Dreams are Possible recently removed this building at 1311 W. Olive in Bloomington as a training center for women interested in trades apprenticeship.

Classes began December 7, 2019 in a newly renovated building, designed specifically to be a combination of classroom instruction and hands on learning.

DAP is a 501c3 under the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and the training and services are free. Two members of the Bricklayers Union provided many hours repairing the brick structure.

The founders/co-directors have met with the representatives of most of the local trade organizations and have a member from the Laborers Union and the Painters Union on the board.

The curriculum presents areas to consider for a future apprenticeship or one of the Ready To Work offerings at Heartland Community College. The classes cover topics such as safety, familiarity with tools, financial literacy, an overview of all the trades, issues specific to being female in a primarily male field, math and goal setting.

The facility includes a computer area where women get support with math skills and pursue on-line certifications to increase potential employability.

The DAP case manager works to recruit the women from throughout the community, with special emphasis on partnering with other local social service agencies. She works with the women to address the barriers which are likely to exist that could keep them from being successful.

To learn more contact Mary Campbell, mcampb@ilstu.edu 309-531-2425.
37th annual
Christmas for Kids brightens holidays

For the 37th year, local unions and the McLean County Chamber of Commerce sponsored “Christmas for Kids,” on December 14, serving low-income families, with almost 300 participating children. Local unions donated funds, time and labor.

Upper Left: Rumors has it that Santa carries at IBEW 197 card; Upper right: Laborers 362’s apprentice Ryan Manuel helps pass out candy bags; Left: Laborers 362’s Richard Kellerhals, a.k.a. “Hopper the Mopper” and his apprentice, local labor attorney Robert Williams; Below: Overseeing smooth operation of the Lionel Trains are Ed Carroll, American Federation of Teachers Local 6038 and Machinists 1000’s Osmel Toledo. In the background, 6038’s Jane Camp leads her Heartland students in taking photos.

Other local volunteering included AFSCME 2608, Steel Workers 787 and Plumbers 99.

accessible from anywhere...

MID-ILLINI CREDIT UNION
WHERE DIFFERENT | IS BETTER

Visit us online or in person:
1811 Eastland Drive or 601 W. Market, Bloomington
309.661.1166 | www.midillinicu.com

Grady’s
PIZZA
ICE COLD BEER

662-3333  662-3335

Garlic Bread
Fried Cheese
Onion Rings
Salads
Steak
Chicken
Seafood
Sandwiches
Soft Drinks

Quality Food and Service since 1959
1501 Morrissey Dr., Bloomington, IL
WE DELIVER
Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 362 members, retirees and apprentices assisted the Bloomington Salvation Army with their annual food and toy distribution the week of December 16.

On Monday and Tuesday they helped gather and sort toys donated by Toys for Tots. As the week continued, they assisted with the food basket and toy distribution at the Salvation Army headquarters.

*Upper Left:* Apprentice Jacob Graff brings a stuffed toy to its proper bin; *Upper right:* All the toys are sorted according to potential age group and gender; *Center:* Nathan Penn assists with the sorting; *Below:* Local 362 Secretary-Treasurer Ron Paul and member Nathan “Chiko” Russo help sort the toys.

**Toys for Tots**

**Laborer 362 volunteers aid Salvation Army**
New Trades & Labor officers

Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor (AFL-CIO) officers were sworn in for 2020 service by Mike Raikes, Livingston & McLean Counties Building & Trades President, on December 4. Left to right, Tom and Gary Leake plus Ronn Morehead, Laborers 362; Osmel Toledo, Machinists 1000, Shawn Fagen, Steelworkers 787, Renee Nestler, AFSCME Council 31, Don Armstrong, IBEW 197 and Ed Carroll, Teachers 6038. The Trades & Labor is the umbrella organization for all local unions.

Union blood drive Jan. 18

Local unions are returning to a tradition of a January Union blood drive, working with Central Illinois Blood Services, the non-profit agency that provides blood to the OSF Hospital system.

The drive is Saturday, January 18, 7—11:30 a.m., at Laborers Local 362 Hall, 2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington.

Central Illinois Community Blood Center is a division of Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. There is a free St. Patrick’s Day t-shirt for all donors.

To sign up to donate, you can do so electronically at https://www.bloodcenterimpact.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/87429 or call Mike Matejka at 309-208-1120.
Workers’ Compensation
Social Security ♦ Personal Injury

*No charge to discuss your case*

Jean A. Swee
Dirk May ♦ Jennifer Eldridge
William D. Trimble

2011 Fox Creek Road ♦ Bloomington, IL
309-827-4371

www.williamsswee.com

*Standing with labor since 1976*
The “Made For Me Boutique” in Manteno, Illinois helped the KFL Charity by ordering hats, gloves, scarfs and underwear at cost.

The KFL helped 800 children this year with our Labor Charity’s ‘Glove me Tender’ Program, double last year’s outreach.

Pictured from left to right: Michael W. Smith, President of the Kankakee Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Steven Pfingsten, Business Manager Laborers’ Local 751; Theresa Colagrossi, Valerie Kobylarczyk and Angela Meister all of Made For Me Boutique.

Start St. Patrick’s Day early!
Free T-Shirt for donors at the January 18 Union Blood Drive, 7-11:30 a.m., Laborers 362, 2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington.

Register at https://www.bloodcenterimpact.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/87429

Keeping Kankakee kids warm
We Fight For You
Anesi, Ozmon, Rodin, Novak & Kohen, Ltd.
was founded in 1955 with certain core principles: that every client deserves the utmost respect; that every case should be aggressively litigated to obtain the maximum result for each client; that each lawyer should reflect professionalism, integrity, and adhere to the highest ethical standards; and finally- that your word is always your bond.

For more than 60 years, Anesi Ozmon has protected the rights of injured union workers and their families throughout Illinois. In doing so, our firm has won countless significant and record-breaking verdicts and settlements for our clients.

✔ PERSONAL INJURY
✔ WRONGFUL DEATH
✔ WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
✔ CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS
✔ AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS
✔ MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
✔ PREMISES LIABILITY
✔ PRODUCT LIABILITY
✔ NURSING HOME NEGLECT
✔ SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION
OVER 60 YEARS OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE

161 N. CLARK ST., 21ST FLOOR | CHICAGO, IL 60601
312.372.3822 | 800.458.3822 TOLL FREE | ANESILAW.COM
Patronize those who use union labor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Union Contractors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associated Contractors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103 Caroline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-827-8522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-827-0099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felmley-Dickerson Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>803 E. Lafayette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-828-4317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBC Heating &amp; Air Conditioning Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>416 Olympia Dr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suite 4 Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-661-HEAT (4328)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLean County Asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100 W. Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-827-4811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowe Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1523 N. Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-827-0091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stark Excavating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1805 W. Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-828-5034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Sign Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>621 W. Olive St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-828-9241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weber Electric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 E. Lafayette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Bloomington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-827-7337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofers 69 contractors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-673-8033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockway &amp; Co., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1104 Gnahm St., Burling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ton IA 319-754-7541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kreiling Roofing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2335 W Altorfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peoria 309-673-3649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Specialty Contrac-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309 N.E. Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Island, Peoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309-676-2374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Roofing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 &amp; Division Sts.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenoa 309-828-2741 / 815-945-7066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyman Roofing &amp; Sheet Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1325 Moneta St., Peoria Heights 309-679-0094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Be active & informed - attend your union meeting

Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor Assembly, 6:30 p.m., First Wednesday, Laborers 362, 2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington.

Kankakee Federation of Labor, 7 p.m., third Tuesday, 1609 Newtown Drive, Bourbonnais.

Livingston & McLean Counties Building & Construction Trades Council, 10:30 a.m., Mondays, IBEW 197, Bloomington.

Amalgamated Transit Union 752, first Tuesday, 7 p.m., UA 99, 406 Eldorado Road, Bloomington.

Bricklayers 6, 7 p.m., third Tuesday.

Carpenters 237, 7 p.m., first Thursday, Carpenters Hall, 2412 N. Main St., E. Peoria.

IBEW 197, 6 p.m., fourth Wednesday, IBEW Hall, 2407 Beich Road, Bloomington.

Stage Employees 193, 7 p.m., first Monday, Peoria Labor Temple.

Grainmills 303, 7:30 p.m., second Wednesday, KofC Hall, Bloomington.

Sheet Metal Workers Local 1, 7 p.m., third Tuesday, 840 W. Birchwood, Morton.

Painters 209, 6 p.m., first Thursday, 840 W. Birchwood, Morton.

Laborers 362, 6:30 p.m., first Tuesday, 2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington.

Laborers 751, 7 p.m., last Thursday, 1390 Stanford Dr., Kankakee.

Laborers 996, 6:30 p.m., first Tuesday, 107 E. Broad St., Roanoke.

Cement Masons 18, 6 p.m., third Wednesday, IBEW 197 Hall, 2407 Beich Road, Bloomington.

Operating Engineers 649, 8 p.m., third Friday, Operators’ Hall, Champaign.

Plumbers & Pipefitters 99, 6 p.m., second Wednesday, 406 Eldorado Road, Bloomington.

Roofers 69, 7 p.m., first Monday, 3917 S.W. Adams, Peoria.

Ironworkers 112, 7 p.m., third Wednesday, 3003 N. Main, E. Peoria.

Millwrights 1693, 6:30 p.m., third Thursday, 602 Keokuk St., Lincoln.

Your voice, your job—it’s your union
Attend your meeting

Don’t buy—unfair
The Livingston & McLean Counties Building & Construction Trades Council urges members to boycott these businesses, because of their unfair practices.

Ross Dress for Less  Tony’s Diner  Red Robin Burger  Crowne Realty  Sylvester Dental Sonic Drive-In
Thorton-Rave Steel Fabrication  
Kemp’s Upper Tap (Lexington)  Rainstorm Car Wash  Vitamin Shoppe  Jimmy John’s
Wal-Mart  State Farm Agent Rick McLean Backyard Pool & Patio  Chuck E’ Cheese
Gold Gym Express  Dollar General Store  FedEx Kinko’s
Prairie Golf Carts  Liberty Glass  Sam’s Club  
Ramada Inn (west)  Family Video  Henrich Building System
January events

Union blood drive– community discussion-women in the trades

January 8-Women in the Trades: The first meeting to organize a local Women in the Trades group is Wednesday, January 8, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Peoria Labor Temple, 400 NE Jefferson, Suite 304, Peoria, Illinois 61603.

Please contact Sharon Williams at sharon@westcentralbtc.org or 309-674-9243 if you are interested.

Union Blood Drive January 18: Local unions are reviving our union blood drives, working with the Central Illinois Community Blood Center - A division of Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. This is the non-profit blood center that the OSF hospitals use. Our first drive is Saturday, January 18, 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Laborers Local 362 Hall, 2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington, with a free St. Patrick’s Day t-shirt for all donors. To sign up to donate, you can do so electronically at https://www.bloodcenterimpact.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/87429 or call Mike Matejka at 309-208-1120.

January 28 -Community Forum-Who Has the Power to Choose Their Work?
McLean County has a wider wage gap than surrounding communities like Springfield, Peoria or Decatur. In conjunction with the new A Community in Conflict exhibit at the McLean County Museum of History, a public discussion on the gap between high and low wages locally is Tuesday, January 28, 6:45 p.m., at the Museum, 200 N. Main Street, downtown Bloomington. Each program will provide a brief introduction to local stories featured in the A Community in Conflict exhibit, then expand into facilitated small group discussions exploring the modern relevance of the topic. Participants of all ages are strongly encouraged to attend this free public program. Snacks will be provided. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Registration for the first program will open mid-January. The event is co-sponsored by the Museum, Not In Our Town, the Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO), Illinois Partners for Human Service and Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 362.