

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

# 700 STRONG MEMBER BULLETIN

SPRING/SUMMER 2025 | TEAMSTERSLOCAL700.COM



## LOCAL 700 CONTINUES TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST TROUBLING ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM CHANGES

Local 700 has reiterated its position that Sheriff Tom Dart's abrupt decision to abandon Cook County's electronic monitoring program is reckless, irresponsible, and a clear abdication of leadership.

For decades, the sheriff's office has managed electronic monitoring, utilizing trained Local 700 law enforcement officers to monitor compliance, execute warrants, and handle violations swiftly. Now, the responsibility is being shifted to the Chief Judge's Adult Probation Department—an agency that lacks sworn law enforcement officers and the ability to make arrests. This transition not only weakens enforcement but also raises serious concerns about how violations will be handled.

***Read More on Page 7***

## FROM THE

*President*

**Brothers and Sisters,**



I hope this message finds you and your families well. I want to start by sincerely thanking you for reelecting myself and our full slate of executive officers via white ballot and entrusting us to continue to serve the proud membership of Teamsters Local 700.

One key area where we are actively pushing back is against the recent changes made by the Cook County Sheriff's Office to the Electronic Monitoring program. We are challenging these changes, which were made without proper input from our members and have serious implications for safety and operational effectiveness.

We're also continuing the fight to fix the broken Tier 2 pension system. Our members deserve retirement benefits that reflect their dedication and sacrifice, and we're working in coalition with other unions and stakeholders to bring long-overdue reform to Tier 2.

In recent months, we've successfully ratified several collective bargaining agreements. These new contracts deliver real gains for our members—improved wages and protections along with contract language that reflects your needs on the job. These wins are a testament to what we can achieve when we stand united.

Finally, I am proud to report that demolition is being completed at the new Local 700 Union Hall and the construction phase is scheduled to begin this month. This is a historic project for us all.

Thank you again for your trust, solidarity, and ongoing support.

Fraternally,

Ramon D. Williams

## PRESIDENT WILLIAMS RECOGNIZED AT CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT'S 26TH ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County and the African American Employees Committee honored Local 700 President Ramon Williams and others at the 26th Annual Black History Month Celebration. President Williams received the Community Treasure Award for his dedication and service to communities across Cook County.

This prestigious event acknowledged and appreciated the achievements and contributions of African American community leaders who have dedicated their lives to uplifting others.

President Williams has been a pillar of the community, advocating for economic advancement, justice, and community development. His tireless efforts fighting for workers' rights have transformed countless lives, and his leadership has strengthened Local 700 and the services its members provide for all Illinoisans.

Upon receiving the award, President Williams said, "I am deeply humbled and honored to receive the Community Treasure Award. It is a privilege to serve my union and my community, and I am

inspired every day by the strength and resilience of those around me. Together, we can continue to build a better future."



### *President Williams During the Clerk's Black History Month Celebration*

Black History Month is a time for reflection, education, and celebration. Local 700 sends its heartfelt congratulations to President Williams and all recipients of this award. Let us come together to commemorate the rich history, culture, and contributions of African Americans, ensuring that their impact continues to be recognized for generations to come.

## LOCAL 700 OFFICERS REELECTED FOR UPCOMING TERM

At the General Membership Meeting on Nov. 12, nominations were accepted for Local 700 officers. Only one slate of officers was nominated, and therefore, per the bylaws of our union, these officers were elected by white ballot and took office on Jan. 1, 2025, with a term concluding on Dec. 31, 2029.

### **The elected leadership team includes:**

Ramon D. Williams - President  
Robert V. Santana, Jr. - Secretary-Treasurer  
Anthony L. McGee - Vice President  
Edward W. Kern - Recording Secretary  
Gregory Ortiz - Trustee  
Melissa Molina - Trustee  
Anthony Falzone - Trustee







Happy Spring! On the heels of a very busy winter, your legal department has been working nonstop to meet the expectations of all of our members.

We have succeeded in bringing nearly 100% of all grievance arbitrations in-house. This is a huge accomplishment by the legal department as it allows us to foster and grow our legal team in ways that ensure transparency, consistency, diligence, and loyalty to the membership.

We have spent hundreds of hours taking advantage of our bargained-for right to arbitrate discipline matters (as opposed to being forced to take them before the Human Resources Board), at the City of Chicago. As a result, we have negotiated numerous meaningful settlements as well as taken several matters to arbitration. The legal department as a whole maintains a winning record and continues to exceed all expectations.

For the City of Chicago this winter, we have settled matters resulting in many thousands of dollars in back pay to our members, recouped hundreds of hours of lost time, and returned members back to work. This includes a return-to-work for one of our members with almost three years of back-pay! We have multiple settlements in the works across multiple bargaining units. In the Clerk's office, we were successful in finalizing all of the Covid pay cases, returning multiple sick days to our Clerk members.

We negotiated the return of over 1700 hours in benefit and unpaid time for our JTDC members and over 3000 hours for our members at CCDOC, as well as two recommendations to return members to work from the CCDOC Merit Board.

In addition to our work within these larger units, we have been working tirelessly with other

municipalities represented by Local 700 as well. We completed arbitrations, settlements and/or labor board hearings for UIC, Country Club Hills, Niles Fire Department, Prospect Heights Fire Department, Monee Police Department, IDOT, and the CTA to name a few and have pending matters with Midlothian Police Department, Hazel Crest Department and Cook County Hospital, as well. We are consistently achieving success after success in our representation of the membership, meeting and exceeding our goals of advocating for you.

## **LOCAL 700 SPEARHEADS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE QUALIFIED SHERIFF CANDIDATES**

Teamsters Local 700, in conjunction with State Rep. Justin Slaughter (D-Chicago), has introduced new state legislation that would require candidates for Cook County Sheriff to complete the County Correctional Training Course before running for office.

For our members who dedicate themselves to keeping everyone safe at the Cook County Jail, this legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that the sheriff's office will be led by someone who truly understands the complex challenges of managing one of the largest county jails in the United States. By ensuring future sheriffs had the necessary qualifications, this legislation can help shift the focus from political allegiances to real skills. The result will be a safer, more accountable Cook County Jail—and a step forward for both officers and the public we serve.

The legislation, House Bill 1655, is a top priority for Local 700 this legislation session.

## LOCAL 700 MEMBERS SAVE MOTORISTS FROM PICKUP FIRE

On the morning of Feb. 25, a crew of Local 700 members at the Illinois Department of Transportation including Heavy Construction Equipment Operator Kevin Keevil, Highway Maintainer Jan Jarog, and Highway Maintainer Michael Ferrarini, were on duty heading south on Interstate 355 near the Chicago suburb of Lombard, when they encountered a crisis.

Driving ahead in a separate vehicle, Keevil was flagged down by a man who pointed to a truck that was smoking. “He asked if I had a fire extinguisher,” Keevil said. “I got the extinguisher out of the truck and went to help the others. The smoke started to turn into flames. At first, we did not see anyone in the cab of the truck but then saw a person on the floor under the dash. We used the extinguisher to get the fire down and pulled the person out of the truck.”

Following closely behind, Ferrarini and Jarog spotted the burning truck on the shoulder and immediately pulled over to offer their assistance.

“Jan went over to where there was a motorist being pulled out of the burning vehicle,” said Ferrarini. “I went to the other side. There was a second motorist wandering around confused, with his jacket on fire. I patted the flames down and extinguished the fire. It was a chaotic event, but we got people away from the flaming vehicle with everybody’s help. Then, we waited for the fire department and police to arrive.”

Keevil sustained a burn on his hand while working to extinguish the flames.

“You think that it would be a normal day at work going to the jobsite. How quickly it changes,” Keevil said. “I never thought that I would be helping out in an accident saving someone’s life. It was a great feeling.”

Ferrarini and Jarog echoed his sentiments.

“I wasn’t really thinking, but geared more toward assisting the motorists to safety,” Ferrarini said. “It was a group effort to provide aid with the others on the scene.”

“Seeing that someone needed help, I just reacted to the situation in helping the victim, not giving it any thought,” Jarog said.

Thank you to these amazing Local 700 members for demonstrating the heroism of Local 700 members across our state!

***Story and photos courtesy of the Illinois Department of Transportation.***





# LOCAL 700

## *Quick Wins*

### DWIGHT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Voted unanimously to ratify a new 3-year contract with wage and benefit increases.

### COUNTRY CLUB HILLS PUBLIC WORKS

Received retro pay owed since 2021 as well as the increase in the uniform allowance according to the CBA.

### COOK COUNTY CLERKS

Members surveys regarding the upcoming negotiation will be sent to members soon to gauge contract priorities.

### HANOVER PARK PUBLIC WORKS

Successfully reached sustained grievances regarding suspension time and working overtime/12 hour schedule.

### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

Successfully negotiated and ratified a new four-year contract despite increased federal financial pressure.

### CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Secured a historic four-year agreement that includes substantial wage increases and a range of other benefits.

### SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS PD

At the request of Local 700, a new MOU regarding scheduling has been implemented.

### VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD

Successfully bargained a brand new position, now included in the collective bargaining agreement.



## COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS UPDATE

### GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION UPDATES

We are actively pursuing 17 class action grievances, including:

- Transportation Unit – “1 Hour for Reassignment” (arbitrated, pending ruling)
- “1 Minute Past the Hour” Overtime (applies to all members – this case has massive implications; arbitrated, awaiting ruling)
- Closure of the 63-day calendar
- Employer-created shifts without proper procedure
- Policy changes made without notifying the union
- Training Academy issues—hours worked and pay not being handled correctly

Grievances not addressed within contractual timeframes are being automatically advanced under the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

The 2025 Compound Bid was completed in late February for over 1,500 members, giving members the opportunity to select division, shift, and detail by seniority. Bids for Case Review and Electronic Monitoring were successfully conducted in the first week of April.

#### SINCE NOV. 2024, WE'VE SECURED MAJOR WINS:

- ✓ **600+ SUSPENSION DAYS SAVED**
- ✓ **DISMISSALS OF PROPOSED 60- AND 120-DAY SUSPENSIONS**
- ✓ **A 180-DAY SUSPENSION REDUCED TO 5 DAYS**
- ✓ **SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL ARBITRATION VICTORY (PAID OUT FEB. 2025)**
- ✓ **ERT PAY RESTORED TO MEMBERS DOING ERT WORK**
- ✓ **GRIEVANCE WIN: MEMBERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS**

### LOCAL 700 FIGHTS ELECTRONIC MONITORING CHANGES (CONT.)

Under this new structure, probation officers will be required to call local police or the sheriff's office to make an arrest when a violation occurs. This creates a dangerous delay in response times, increasing risks to public safety and diminishing accountability for offenders.

Moreover, the funding and staffing for this transition

remain uncertain. The Adult Probation Department has stated it needs at least 150 new hires, additional office space, and expanded training—yet as of now, only a fraction of the necessary funding has been secured. Without the proper resources, this plan is doomed to fail.

Teamsters Local 700 stands firm in our position that the

sheriff's office should not abandon its role in electronic monitoring. We will be closely monitoring this transition for any violations of our collective bargaining agreement, and we will continue advocating for a system that puts safety first.



## VICTORY FOR LARHONDA FLEMING: A STAND FOR FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE

LaRhonda Fleming, a motor truck driver for the Streets and Sanitation Department, has successfully contested an unjust disciplinary action. After receiving a 29-day suspension in December 2023 for an accident that occurred in July 2022, the union highlighted a critical flaw in the department's approach: an alarming 17-month delay before any disciplinary measures were enacted.

The attorney from Local 700 presented a robust case during the arbitration process, leading to Ms. Fleming's exoneration and the reinstatement of her full suspension period.

This victory not only represents a personal achievement for Ms. Fleming but also stands as a significant challenge to uniform disciplinary actions that fail to consider the nuances of individual cases



*LaRhonda Fleming*

## SHIFT SUPERVISOR SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND AIRPORT OPERATIONS CENTER COORDINATORS APPROVE NEW CONTRACT

Congratulations to the SSSCC/AOCCs on their recent ratification victory, with more than 93% support for the new deal.

This agreement includes significant wins for our members, including

- Paid parental leave
- New Employee Orientation
- Deferred compensation
- Layoff and recall rights
- COVID pay

The new contract also includes significant wage increases and shortening of length of service requirement between steps. The deal now goes to the City Council for ratification. Please contact your Business Agent for additional information.

## NEW BARGAINING UNIT ORGANIZED

Teamsters with the Clerk of the Circuit Court MIS Infrastructure Services Department were formally certified as the newest bargaining unit with Local 700!

We are now preparing for the first round of negotiations with this bargaining unit, where we will establish the wages, benefits and rights that this group deserves. Welcome to our Local!

## UPCOMING LOCAL 700 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

May 13, 2025

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!

### 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.*



**NEW LOCAL 700 UNION HALL  
DEMOLITION AND  
CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN!**

## LOCAL 700 CONTINUES THE FIGHT TO FIX TIER 2

Local 700 was proud to join thousands of union members and public employees from the We Are One Illinois coalition in Springfield during the fall veto session as we rallied at the State Capitol to #FixTier2!

The We Are One Coalition continues to fight to fix Tier 2 pensions, which are unfair and inadequate. Legislation is currently pending in the Illinois General Assembly to fix Tier 2 once and for all. Visit [www.fixtier2.com](http://www.fixtier2.com) to learn more and get the latest updates on the campaign!



*Local 700 members at the Illinois State Capitol fighting to fix Tier 2!*