

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 700

700 STRONG MEMBER BULLETIN

SUMMER/FALL 2023 | TEAMSTERSLOCAL700.COM



CITY OF CHICAGO MEMBERS WIN HISTORIC NEW CONTRACT

After months of bargaining, Teamsters Local 700 members at the City of Chicago have won a historic new contract after the Chicago City Council ratified the agreement on September 14 and Mayor Brandon Johnson signed it on September 18.

“This has been a long road, but the solidarity demonstrated by City of Chicago members has been inspiring,” said Teamsters Local 700 President Ramon Williams. “Thank you to our City of Chicago members for your patience and support as we have worked through this process, and congratulations on your new contract!”

The new contract includes **significant wage increases, sick days, more flexibility on bereavement and other time off, stronger protections for filling vacancies**, and more.

**INSIDE: COOK COUNTY MEMBERS
WIN MAJOR VICTORY! (PAGE 2)**

FROM THE

President

Brothers and Sisters,



As we enter into the fall season of 2023, I would like to take a moment to recap a few significant highlights of the summer. While you were hard at work serving the people of Illinois, your union was fighting every day to secure significant gains that you deserve for you, and your families.

Over the summer, we settled the "me too" grievances in Cook County, winning more than a years worth of back pay raises for thousands of our members across several bargaining units. We also ratified new contracts for members in University Park, Palos Heights, Woodridge, and Chicago Public Schools, to name a few. And after a long road, our members at the City of Chicago won a historic new contract, including significant wage increases and more flexibility on time off.

But of course, our work is not done. We are in active negotiations for several bargaining units including members at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois Tollway, and elsewhere.

The reason we are successful as a union isn't simply that we fight -- it's because we stick together in solidarity. Whether it's a dispute with an employer, an organizing drive, or a contract negotiation, **when we stand together, we win.**

Stay strong. Stay safe. Stay united.

Fraternally,

Ramon D. Williams

LOCAL 700 MEMBERS AT COOK COUNTY OVERWHELMINGLY RATIFY AGREEMENT TO SETTLE "ME TOO" GRIEVANCES

In June, Teamsters Local 700 members in Cook County ratified the Tentative Agreement resolving the "me too" grievances with Cook County. The County Board also approved that Agreement, putting it into effect. In addition to the wage increases and benefits in the current CBA, the Agreement adds the following:

- A wage increase of an additional 3.5% retroactive to December 1, 2021
- A wage increase of 5.0% effective June 1, 2025
- Paid parental leave of up to 12-weeks for the birth or adoption of a child (Clerk and Office of the Chief Judge will also adopt this policy in addition to Cook County)
- A one-year contract extension (CBA now expires on November 30, 2025)

"Congratulations on your historic victory," said Teamsters Local 700 President Ramon Williams. "It was a long road to this point, but I strongly believe that the financial gains in this agreement will change the lives of our members and their families."

"This is a great day for the members of Local 700, who are finally getting what they deserve," said Teamsters Local 700 Vice President Anthony McGee. "We fought hard, we stuck together, and now we are winning a historic increase in wages along with expanded parental leave. Congratulations, Teamsters!"

Local 700 will continue to work to ensure the Agreement, which effects all Cook County employees, is properly implemented. Please contact your business agent with any questions.

GREGORY ORTIZ ELECTED TRUSTEE BY LOCAL 700 MEMBERSHIP



Brother Ortiz was inaugurated as trustee on June 29, 2023.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE PAINT & SIP ATTRACTS BIG CROWD

On Saturday, July 29, the Teamsters Local 700 Women's Committee held a successful "Paint and Sip" event. The event was well attended by women across many bargaining units represented by Local 700 and the theme of empowerment was felt throughout the day. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21 and will feature Dr. Kisha Roberts-Tabb, who will lead an upclose and personal discussion on Mental Health and Stress Awareness.



**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE? EMAIL
WOMENOF700@TEAMSTERSLOCAL700.COM**

AFTER A LIFETIME OF TEAMSTERS SERVICE, JOHN MARCATANTE SR. STEPS DOWN AS LOCAL 700 RETIREES CLUB PRESIDENT

John Marcatante Sr., President of the Teamsters Local 700 Retirees Club, announced he was stepping down from the role during the July 20 meeting of the club. Marcatante led the club for more than a decade, helping to bring retired Local 700 members together and keeping them engaged with the local.

After nearly 40 years of service with several Chicagoland Teamsters locals including Local 700, Marcatante retired from his position as a

road supervisor at O'Hare International Airport. During his career, Marcatante was responsible for leading Teamsters members in maintaining roadways in and around the airport.

After he retired, Marcatante missed the camaraderie of his local.

"Just to get the guys together was a big thing for me. After I retired, I really didn't miss the job, I missed the people," said Marcatante, who originally joined the Teamsters Local 726 Retirees Club, then became its president in 2008.

He continued as president when Local 726 was dissolved and Teamsters Local 700 was formed in 2010.

"We had a lot of fun talking to each other and reminiscing about old times. For me, it was fun...I really enjoyed the people," said Marcatante.



LOCAL 700 MEMBERS AT UNIVERSITY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT WIN NEW CONTRACT, THOUSANDS IN BACK PAY

Teamsters Local 700 members at the University Park Police Department overwhelmingly approved a new four-year contract over the summer, but not before finally securing a long-delayed retroactive pay increase that will mean thousands of dollars for each member.

As the bargaining unit headed into contract negotiations, Business Agent Rosalind Tennent demanded an independent audit of the pay increases the unit was supposed to receive based on its previous contract.

"We have been arguing for years that these members were not getting paid what they were due," said Tennent. "We were not going to move forward with a new contract until every single member was made whole, and that's exactly what we did."

An independent audit of the previous contract and each member's pay showed a significant pay gap, totaling several thousand dollars of retroactive pay owed to each member. That pay

will now be delivered to the Local 700 members as the new contract takes effect.

"Not only are these members getting thousands of dollars in back pay, they are also getting significant new wage increases in their new contract," said Tennent. "This is a great reminder that your union will never stop fighting for its members, no matter how long it has been."

The new contract, overwhelmingly approved by the University Park Police Department membership, is a four year agreement that includes wage increases every year. It is due to go into effect immediately.



LOCAL 700 HOLDS SUCCESSFUL STEWARD TRAINING EVENT

On Saturday June 24, 2023, Teamsters Local 700 hosted a Union Stewards Training Event at the union hall of Teamsters Local 731 in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

The training featured Commissioner Jason P. Bajor of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, who gave an insightful and informative discussion on the Fundamentals of Union Stewardship covering a host of categories including, collective bargaining, contract administration, grievance

handling and conflict resolution.

President Ramon Williams and Assistant General Counsel Laura Leahy gave a detailed presentation on grievance writing and grievance investigations. "Today's training is another example of Local 700 arming our stewards with the tools needed to be effective in defending our members," said President Williams. "Everyone in attendance left the training feeling motivated and energized."



LOCAL 700 HELPS PASS STATE LEGISLATION TO BOLSTER BENEFITS, FUNDING OF COOK COUNTY PENSION SYSTEM

In May, Teamsters Local 700 worked with Cook County leadership and state legislators to pass House Bill 2352, a bill that will upgrade pension benefits for Local 700 Tier 2 members working at Cook County while strengthening the entire county pension system.

“A pension is a promise, and that means ensuring the stability of the entire pension system,” said Local 700 President Ramon Williams. “House Bill 2352 makes important improvements to shore up the Cook County pension system while also boosting benefits for Tier 2 participants. Teamsters Local 700 helped lead the charge along with other labor allies and County officials, and I applaud state legislators and Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle for getting this bill passed.”

The three main components of the bill include raising the current Tier 2 salary cap from \$123,489 to \$160,200, allowing all employees to purchase up to two years of military service that was performed prior to County employment, and beginning actuarial based pension contributions that will bring the system to 100% funded by 2047.

“This is a financially prudent step toward confronting our pension challenges,” said Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle in a news release. “I am very proud of our work over the last several years to increase funding by billions of dollars and this legislation will build on this progress. This all speaks to a stronger, more stable Cook County. I appreciate the hard work of our finance team, Senator Martwick and Representatives Evans and Burke.”

The increase in the Tier 2 cap ensures Cook County is consistent with Federal Safe Harbor guidance which says pension benefits provided

to an employee instead of Social Security must be comparable to the value of Social Security benefits to make sure employees are not receiving less than what they would under Social Security.

Current law only allows employees hired before 1993 to apply for creditable retirement service of up to two years of military service. This new legislation expands eligibility to military/veteran employees hired after 1993.

When adjusted for inflation, Cook County expects this Tier 2 fix to cost approximately \$3 million each year over the next 30 years for a present value cost of \$98.8 million. The cost of the legislation will be covered exclusively by Cook County with no cost to the state, and allows the County to use any funding source for pension fund contributions, not just property tax revenues to provide flexibility.

Cook County has been making larger pension fund contributions than state law requires over the last seven years through an intergovernmental agreement, which this legislation now codifies into state law.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Marcus Evans and Sen. Robert Martwick, was signed into law on August 15, 2023 and will be effective on January 1, 2024.



LOCAL 700

Quick Wins

LAKE COUNTY CORRECTIONS

In August, all Local 700 members at Lake County received a COVID premium pay of \$1,250 each

VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS PUBLIC WORKS

Ratified a three-year contract which included the wage scale proposed by the Local 700 bargaining committee.

REAVIS HIGH SCHOOL

In June, all Local 700 members received a COVID premium payment of \$1,200 each

SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS POLICE

Successful on a grievance that would have otherwise implemented a schedule change

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES PUBLIC WORKS

Ratified a 4% across the board wage increase, health insurance premiums cap.

VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK PUBLIC WORKS

Ratified a three-year contract including 2.5% annual wage increases and an on-call pay stipend increase.

VILLAGE OF MAYWOOD PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS

Ratified a four-year contract including 10% market adjustment to base pay across all three tiers.

VILLAGE OF MONEE POLICE SERGEANTS

Ratified a five-year contract including a 4% annual wage increase, stipend pay increases, and supplement health insurance provision.



COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS UPDATE

- ★ Since 2021, we have seen dozens of documented fires at the Cook County Department of Corrections. Finally, the CCDOC is rolling out new fire safety equipment. This rollout comes after months of Local 700 filing grievances, complaints to the EEOC, and several labor management meetings.
- ★ After several labor management meetings, the Electronic Monitoring Unit is now implementing additional training for the investigators.
- ★ Non-disciplinary hearings have now started to be scheduled for upcoming hearings.

**THIS SUMMER,
LOCAL 700 HAS
FOUGHT AND SAVED
CCDOC MEMBERS
FROM RECEIVING
MORE THAN 2,000
SUSPENSION DAYS.**



Local 700 holds a rally to support CCDOC members and demand Sheriff Dart protect officer safety in May 2023.

UPCOMING LOCAL 700 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

November 14, 2023

December 12, 2023

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

Stay in Touch!



Scan to join
the Local 700
email list!

Follow Local 700
on social media
@Teamsters700



Congratulations

to the James R. Hoffa College Scholarship WINNERS!

\$1,000 JAMES R. HOFFA MEMORIAL (BOOTSTRAP) COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

BROOKE KLINT - RELATIVE OF JERAD A. KLINT (ILLINOIS STATE POLICE MASTER SERGEANTS)

KYLEY SWANSON - RELATIVE OF WILLIAM VANDERVEEN (COOK COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER)

VERONICA SARAT - RELATIVE OF PAWEL SARAT (ILLINOIS STATE POLICE MASTER SERGEANTS)

\$10,000 JAMES R. HOFFA MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

ANTONIO AGNEW - RELATIVE OF ANTONIO AGNEW (CITY OF CHICAGO)