

LiUNA!

LOCAL
773



*Celebrating 75 Years
of Service
Since 1940*

Special Edition
Winter 2016



Laborers' Local 773 Executive Board

Matthew E. Smith-President
Kevin L. Starr-Business Manager
John E. Price-Secretary Treasurer
Kevin A. Fetters-Vice-President
William Orrill-Executive Board
Paul G. Prendergast-Executive Board
Connie George-Recording Secretary
Rodney Howell-Seargent-at-Arms
Willie Meredith-Auditor
Jerry Womick-Auditor
Charles Ferguson-Auditor

Website:

www.local773.com

Headquarters:

Marion, IL Location-
5102 Ed Smith Way,
Marion, IL 62959
618-993-5773

Missouri offices:

Columbia, MO Location
611 N Garth St
Columbia, MO 65203
573-449-5723

St. Louis, MO Location

301 S Ewing Ave
St. Louis MO 63101
314-531-4669



Business Manager Kevin L. Starr has been a Laborer since 1979. He served Business Manager of Local 227 in 1999 and became Business Manager of Local 773 in 2012. Kevin currently serves on the board of trustees for The Southern & Central IL LECET, The Southern IL Health and Welfare Fund, The Southern Illinois Masonry Board, Central Laborers Pension Fund and Secretary / Treasurer for the Southern & Central IL Laborers' District Council.

Brothers and Sisters we have seen the passing of the holiday season and we have embarked upon a new year.

This New Year brings with it some very difficult choices and Challenges for our families and our Union.

All working people are under attack from the billionaires that would take away our rights to collectively bargain for our work and our working lives. We must band together as never before, as our forefathers and mothers did when the company store existed. They stood toe to toe with the company and fought like hell and some of them died for what we have today. We have been the benefactors of their struggle and now it is our turn to step up against these robber barons that want you to live in squalor with low earnings and no benefits. They are on record telling people that children should have to do the custodial work in our schools so they don't have to use tax money to pay an adult a decent wage to do the work and support a family.

Do we go back to the days when our children worked ten or twelve hour days working in the mines and factories? Do we go back to the days of no safety laws to protect our brothers and sisters?

Do we go back to the days when we owed our soul to the company store?

This great country was founded on freedoms that were given to us and we have extended those freedoms to mean that we can band together and collectively bargain to keep these things from happening; don't let the snake oil salesman fool you about right to work and public employees are bad because they have a pension and health-care. We should all have these as rights and we should fight like hell to get and keep them and not begrudge those that do but strive to become one of those that have these benefits.

I implore you to look past the lies and the empty promises of those who would divide us by our religion race or sex. Take a closer look at their reasoning and the implications of electing them, lower wages, poison water such as in Flint Michigan and no concerns for working people.

Make sure you vote with your family and your paycheck that supports our family, voting is a right even though those people keep trying to deny us that right.

Please go to the polls and take your family.

Fraternally Yours

Kevin L. Starr, Business Manager

How To Become a Construction Craft Laborer of Local 773

Skilled, highly trained, safe and knowledgeable, Laborers are dedicated professionals. If you or someone you know has an interest in becoming a construction craft Laborer, below is the instructions on how to apply for the apprenticeship program:

Applications are taken at Laborers' Local 773 Union Hall on the first Tuesday of each month, during the hours of 10am to 12pm. After the application process, all applicants are then notified by mail of the location, date, and time that they should report for an aptitude testing. You must have a valid drivers license and GED to apply.

All individuals who successfully complete the aptitude testing are granted an oral interview approximately 1-2 weeks after testing. Upon completion of this interview applicants are assessed an overall score. This score is based on their individual aptitude test score

and an average of their interview scores. The applicants are then placed on an eligible listing of applicants for the local union to which they applied, in ranking order, highest to lowest. As the local union has a need for apprentices, individuals are taken off this eligible listing and contacted for enrolment in the program. Each individual is drug screened prior to entering the program.

As our program continues to accept applicants, tests, and interview each month, please remember that an individual's ranking may change each month, depending on the number of applicants completing these processes.

For more information on the application process & training please visit <http://www.illaborers.org/>

Laborers' Local 773 2016 Union Meeting Schedule

January-no meeting

Sunday February 7

Sunday March 6

Sunday April 3

Sunday May 1

Sunday June 5

July-No Meeting

Sunday August 7

September-No meeting

Sunday October 2

Sunday November 6

Sunday December 4

Stewards and Apprentices at 1:00
Regular Union Meeting at 2:00
F Building Room 119 John A Logan College

LIUNA Local 773

Laborers' Retiree
Breakfast & Quarterly
Meeting



When: April 7th 2016

Time: Registration 9:00am/
Breakfast 10:00am

Where: THE BLUE BOAR
RESTAURANT

920 KRATZINGER HOLLOW ROAD
COBDEN, IL 62920

RSVP by March 30 by calling 618.997.5773

ALL YOU CAN EAT - BREAKFAST BUFFET:
DENVER/SCRAMBLED EGG CASSAROLE
BACON
SAUSAGE
BISCUITS & GRAVY
ORANGE JUICE & Coffee

LIUNA Endorses Secretary Clinton for President

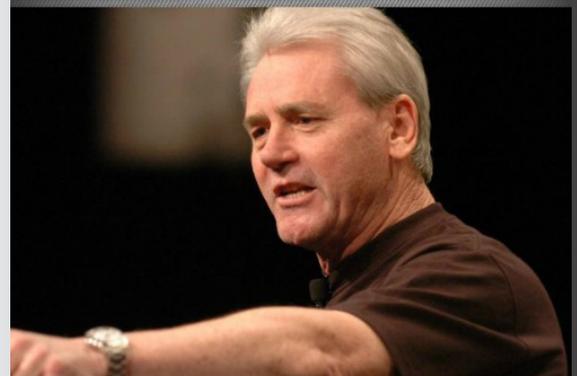
Washington, D.C. (November 24, 2015) – Following a deliberative and democratic process to thoroughly consider the opinions and the views of LiUNA members; including a membership poll and a vote of the General Executive Board, Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LiUNA, made the following statement today on the endorsement of Secretary Clinton:

LIUNA is proud to endorse Secretary Clinton for President of the United States. The strong, proud and united members of LIUNA will be on the frontlines of the 2016 elections; on the streets, knocking on doors, making calls and encouraging family, friends, and neighbors to elect Hillary Clinton as the 45th President of the United States.

LiUNA members and leadership believe that Secretary Clinton is the right leader to move our country forward and the most qualified candidate to address the many challenges facing the United States.

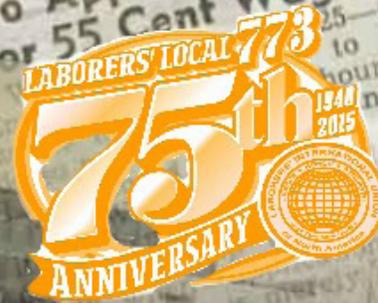
LiUNA members are deeply concerned about the direction of our country and are looking for a real leader who will create good jobs, rebuild our country, and grow our economy. Secretary Clinton's record proves that she is a tough and tested fighter for our nation and for working men and women.

LiUNA is eager to work with Secretary Clinton, as the next President of the United States, to help enact legislation and promote policies that provide long-term investment in America's roads and bridges, and encourage a real all-of-the-above approach to energy development. We also look forward to working with Secretary Clinton on repeal of the so-called Cadillac tax, fair postal reform, and policies that protect pensions and support public employees.



"LiUNA members are deeply concerned about the direction of our country and are looking for a real leader who will create good jobs, rebuild our country and grow our economy," Terry O'Sullivan
LiUNA General President

Celebrating 75 years of Service to the Members



It sprang from a place and time as distant as the working men and women who would come to embody its most cherished principles of strength, pride and justice. Born in the adolescence of the American century at the confluence of its two mightiest rivers, Laborers' Local 773 would rise from its most humble beginnings to one of the largest, most diverse and influential Locals in the Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA).

As the national demand for Southern Illinois coal began to rise throughout the early part of the 20th century, the need for improved infrastructure grew. Soon, what was once a remote and economically undeveloped region began to boom with the building of schools, churches, hospitals, University buildings and highways that would help connect the region to the rest of the "outside world"

As with the coal industry, construction workers increasingly faced unsafe working conditions and unfair wages.

The need for a Union was never greater. Laborers' Local 773 was chartered on March 11, 1940 in Cairo, Illinois. Business Manager Connell F. Smith immediately set about organizing construction workers throughout Alexander and Pulaski counties. Historical projects such as the Cache River Diversion Project, which diverted the low of the Cache River into the Mississippi River and the construction of the three atomic plants that employed more than 4,000 laborers from Local 773 would ensure the economic security of its members as well as the strength of the Local throughout the 1950's.

As the 1960's dawned, Smith recognized the importance of electing leaders who would fight for better wages, working conditions and the protection of workers' rights. Smith strove to inform and educate his members on the value of political action. With Local 773's increased political presence in the region, Connell Smith became a seminal figure in the development and building of I-57 and Rend Lake. Working with Congressman Ken Gray, Smith's early support and influence ensured funding for and the eventual building of these two important infrastructure projects that not only provided years of steady work for tens of thousands of laborers and other

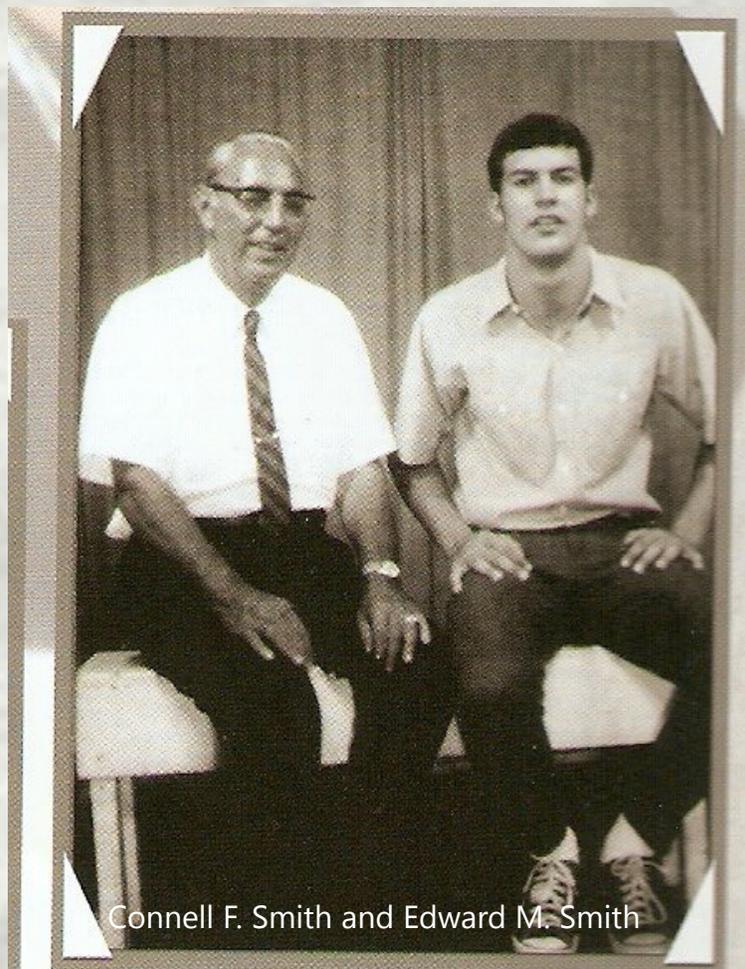
trades but opened the economically depressed region to new commerce and tourism opportunity.

The 60's also saw far-reaching changes for the infrastructure of the Union. In 1965, the Central Laborers' Pension Fund was established to help provide financial security to Laborers during retirement. That same year the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' Union changed its name to the Laborers' International Union of North America. By the end of the decade, the International Union established the LiUNA training fund and by 1971, the Illinois Laborers and Contractors Training Program Complex opened its doors in Mt. Sterling, IL to provide training for members across the state. This training was a vital step for skilled laborers

producing more efficient work, better pay and benefits.

Construction workers were not the only workers in Southern Illinois to benefit from collective bargaining as Local 773 expanded its representation to public employees. Throughout the early 70's, Connell Smith headed up organizing drives to include employees of both the Pulaski and Alexander County Highway Departments.

Connell Smith retired in 1976 as the longest serving Business Manager in Local 773 history. Mr. Smith is best remembered for the deep, abiding respect he had not only for the hard working union members he represented but also, for all working people.



Connell F. Smith and Edward M. Smith

County Workers Picket Pulaski Highway Office



MEMBERS OF LABORERS' International Union Local No. 773 set up pickets this morning at the office of the Pulaski County Highway Department. The pickets are in protest over the county's refusal to recognize the union as representatives for the county highway employees. Connell Smith, business representatives with the union, is at far right with his hands in his pockets. (Citizen staff photo)

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Labor Day 1947 Cairo, Illinois. Business Manager Connell Smith far left



Connell F Smith 1914-1988

Upon the retirement of Connell, his son Edward M. Smith was named Business Manager and continued his father's tradition of service. Having "grown up" in the union, Ed obtained his union card at the age of 13 and worked his way through school as a construction laborer, going to work on the I-57 Bridge in Cairo.

Ed became the first local 773 member to graduate from the Harvard University Trade Union Program, and the first LiUNA member to graduate from the National Labor College in 1981.

As Ed expanded the Local's organizing efforts, he also started new programs to aid the membership, including an annuity fund and the Southern Illinois Laborers' Health and Welfare Fund.

Having been the first member of his family to graduate from college, Ed recognized the importance of education and in 1986 he established the Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship Fund to assist members with the financial support for their family's pursuit of higher education. Local 773 has since raised over \$450,000 and awarded

college students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to advance their education.

In 1994, Edward M. Smith became a LiUNA International Representative and later became Vice President of LiUNA and Midwest Regional Manager.

Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship Award



(cont.) In that role, he introduced health and welfare funds, labor/management funds, political action committees and organizing funds that benefit Laborers throughout the 10-state region to this day.

As the last century came to a close, Laborers' Local 773 leadership made moves to honor and activate its greatest resource... retirees. In 1999, the LiUNA Local 773 Retiree Council was created to harness their knowledge and skills in organizing, political action, and history of the local that could be shared by the men and women that helped build the Union and Southern Illinois.

As the new century dawned, the need for more uniform cooperation between the local unions emerged. Local 1274 in Springfield merged with Local 773, making it the only local union in LiUNA to represent members of railroad maintenance workers. Local 1274 also brought several public employee units including members in Columbia and Kirksville, Missouri as well as members in Northern and Central Illinois. By 2003, eight more LiUNA Locals across Southern Illinois joined including Locals 227 in Carbondale, Local 529 in Benton, 508 in Carterville, 577 in Marion, 738 in DuQuoin, 803 in Eddyville and 962 at Southern Illinois University.

The consolidation streamlined communication and contract negotiations between LiUNA and its signatory contractors, creating new opportunities for Laborers throughout Southern Illinois and beyond. It also created a need to bring it all under one roof in a central location.

The new LiUNA Local 773 soon built and dedicated a new home in Marion on campus that includes buildings housing the

Southern and Central Illinois Laborers' District Council and the Southern Illinois Training Center. Today, under the leadership of Business Manager Kevin L. Starr, Local 773 represents more than 4,500 members across 41 states, including nearly 1,000 members of railroad maintenance, 700 members in the state of Missouri, more than 2,500 members of the healthcare, industrial, service, government and law enforcement fields and more than 500 members of the construction

industry in the thirteen southern most counties in Illinois. Local 773 from our most humble beginnings 75 years ago to one of the largest, most diverse and influential Locals in the Laborers' International Union of North America...we are the legacy.

Special thanks to President Emeritus Edward M. Smith, and Tim Roseberry and Kurt Forness of the Midwest Regional Office



Congratulations to the membership and Laborers' Local 773 for its 75 years of success. I am looking forward to the continued success and prosperity for the members we serve.

*Kevin L. Starr
Business Manager*

Congratulations to Laborers' Local 773 for 75 years representing the working men and woman of Southern Illinois.

IBEW LOCAL 702

Thank you for providing 75 years of service for the betterment of Illinois Working families.

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO

To the hard working men and women of Laborers' Local 773.... Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary.
*L. State Representative
Brandon Phelps*

Best Wishes from your friend.
u.s congressman Ret.
Jerry F. Costello

JOHN A. LOGAN College is proud to support Local 773 for 75 years of excellence!

CONGRATULATIONS LABORERS' LOCAL 773!
STATE REP *Jerry F. Costello*

Thank you for your continuous service. Wishing you all the best!
*Brandon Zanotti
Williamson Co States Atty.*

Congratulations and best wishes to the members of local 773. Thank you on behalf of the many children in Southern Illinois whose lives are easier, happier and more productive.
The Therapy Center

We want to congratulate all the members of Laborers' Local 773 on their 75th Anniversary and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the support you have given to abused children in Southern Illinois for so many years. May God continue to bless you
Gen and Jo Poshard

Thank you to the past and present leadership and members of Local 773 for 75 years of fighting for better wages and benefits, safe workplaces and opportunities for workers!

*Tom Leach
Goldenberg Heller Antognoli & Rowland, P.C. Attorneys at Law*

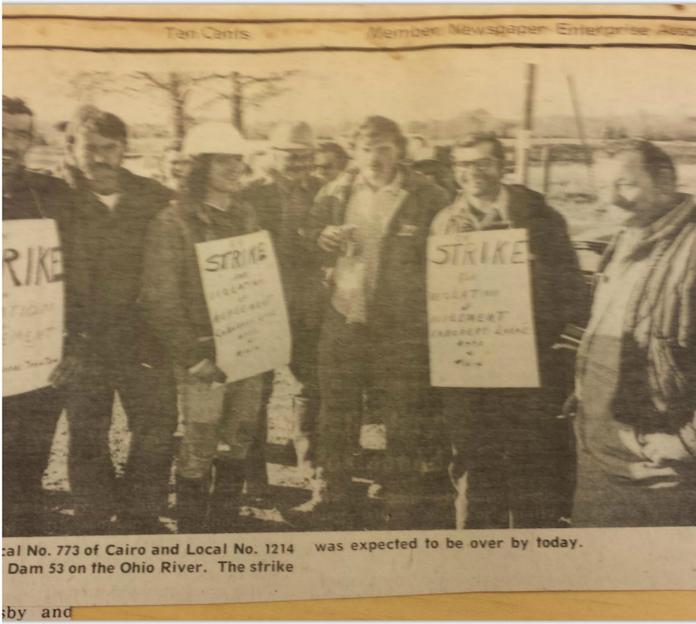
Congratulations Local 773 on 75 years. We have enjoyed spending 70 of them working together.
E.T. SIMONDS CONSTRUCTION CO.

I congratulate all the members. 75 years of hard work and dedication.

Union Co States Atty *Tyler Edmonds*

RAILWORKS
Salutes Laborers' Local 773 for 75 years of service to your members.

We Salute Laborers' Local 773 on your 75th Anniversary.
IAOE



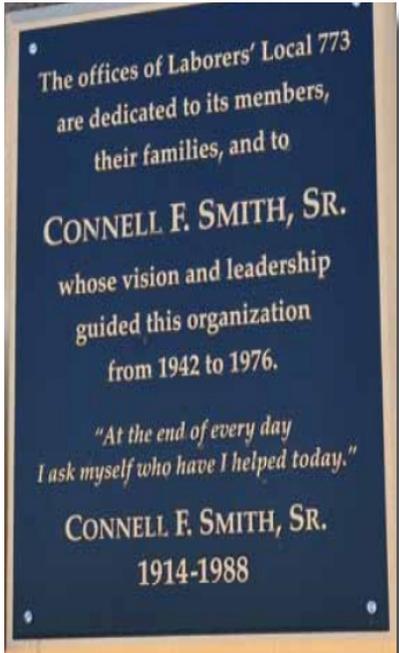
Local No. 773 of Cairo and Local No. 1214 was expected to be over by today. Dam 53 on the Ohio River. The strike by and

No Approval Needed For 55 Cent Wage
 WASHINGTON, May 25—(AP)—Employers who want to raise wages to 55 cents an hour may do so now without obtaining War Labor Board approval. The WLB explained today that it has been approving voluntary adjustments up to 55 cents an hour when applications were filed, so this is merely a change in procedure. The previous 50-cent limit was abandoned in effect with the establishment of a 55-cent minimum rate in textile mills.



in 2012, Business Manager Kevin L. Starr dedicated the Local 773 Office to the memory of Connell F. Smith

“I have a unique and special relationship with Local 773. My dad was Business Manager from the very beginning until 1976, and my mom worked at the Health & Welfare office until she was 87 years old. My wife, Betty, has been a member for 39 years, and my son Matt is the Local’s President today. When his son Trevor was born in January 2010, we brought him to the union meeting to introduce him to the members of Local 773. 773 has truly been our family history. We are so proud of it for so long. Local 773 is simply the greatest local union on Earth! My father’s legacy of ‘Who can I help today?’ is carried on by the current officers and staff staying true to our history. Congratulations on 75 years and I look forward to the next 75 years!”
 Edward M. Smith, 47 year member
 President and CEO, Ullico Inc.



Rauner's "Turnaround" is Driving Working People Down



Roberta Lynch, Executive director, AFSCME Council 31
 Posted: 01/04/2016 AFL-CIO

As a candidate, Bruce Rauner claimed his billion-dollar success in private equity qualified him to run state government. But in the words of former Governor Jim Edgar, Rauner's path to profit was, "You buy a business, you tear it apart and you sell it. ... I don't think you're going to tear apart the state and sell it. He might want to, but you can't do that." Unfortunately, Edgar's counsel hasn't dissuaded Rauner from unleashing on Illinois the same tactics that served him so well in the rapacious corporate world. His firm looked to take over troubled companies or those least able to fight back, like nursing homes for the frail elderly or group homes for the severely disabled. And they did it largely with money from public pension funds, hiding their high fees and questionable business practices behind an iron curtain of secrecy.

Rauner's first year as governor has been marked by the same brute tactics. State government has gone six months with no budget and millions of citizens are suffering as a result, all to leverage pressure for what he calls his "pro-business" Turnaround Agenda.

But what exactly is that agenda? A moving target, it has changed repeatedly since his inauguration. Most recently it appears to include freezing property taxes by eliminating 'prevailing rate' policies in public construction projects, taking collective bargaining rights away from local government employees, cutting workers' compensation benefits for people injured on the job, instituting term limits and changing the way legislative districts are drawn.

Rauner claims his "reforms" will grow the economy and create more jobs, but the facts tell a different story.

Columnist Rich Miller did the math to show that eliminating the prevailing wage would likely cut property taxes by only 0.74%. Yes, there's a decimal before that 74--a reduction of less than 1%.

Meanwhile, workers' compensation costs are already on their way down, without any help from Rauner. A new report shows that Illinois medical claim costs dropped 15% over the past year, the biggest decline of the 17 states surveyed and a much steeper drop than Indiana or Wisconsin.

Nor does the slightest evidence suggest that stripping public employees of their collective bargaining rights would aid economic growth. Even a glance at states where public workers aren't free to form unions shows that Illinois has higher employment and family incomes than just about every one of them.

In sum, driving down wages and limiting workers' rights won't make our state more prosperous for anyone but corporations and the wealthy who are already doing just fine. To the contrary, middle-class workers would have less money in their pockets, less spending power in their communities, and less say on the job.

None of this is good for business. Companies want stability, not the chaos Rauner is courting. They want sound infrastructure--the kind that well paid, union-represented construction workers produce--as well as high-quality schools and a well-educated workforce. And they want customers with money to spend. That's why companies like Oscar Mayer and SC Johnson are moving from Rauner's model state, Scott Walker's Wisconsin, to our own Illinois.

Yet Rauner continues to hold the budget hostage to his demands. As a result, seniors faced massive cuts in home health care and other life-sustaining programs. Tens of thousands of families have been denied childcare assistance. Programs for kids with autism and epilepsy are starved of resources. Domestic violence shelters are forced to cut services or even close their doors. Early intervention programs for children with disabilities are disappearing. Supports for victims of rape and other crimes are in jeopardy.

And Rauner appears to be deliberately targeting certain programs and regions, cutting off funding for local government 911 emergency services, shuttering the Illinois State Museum sites, closing the Sparta shooting complex and the Hardin County Work Camp, and eliminating the jobs of conservation police officers who protect our state parks and the people who use them.

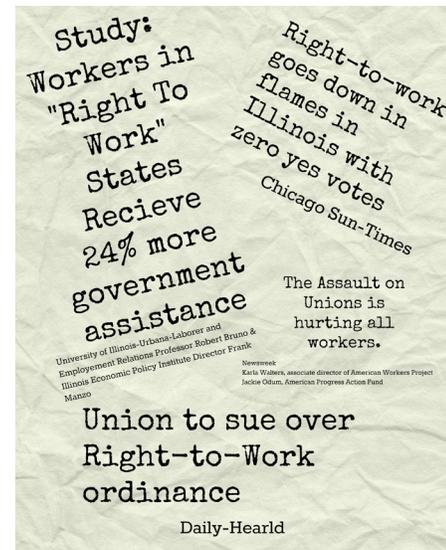
State universities face an ever-deepening crisis. More than 130,000 students who rely on the MAP grant program are in limbo, not knowing whether they'll have the assistance they need. Universities themselves are struggling to meet payroll, with many considering massive tuition increases or hundreds of layoffs. The Wall Street agency Moody's downgraded their bond ratings, making it harder to borrow the money needed to keep operating.

And then there's Rauner's effort to bring the hammer down on state employees, in effect forcing them to make the biggest contribution to Illinois' budget fix via huge hikes in their health care costs. State contract negotiations have become a pitched battle, with workers defending the vital public services they provide and the economic security they've fought hard to achieve.

Where will it all end? Will our state continue in its death spiral, driven down by Governor Rauner's bizarre patchwork of non-reforming reforms? Or will common sense and basic decency reassert themselves and set us all on a better course?

All working people have an important part to play in helping to shape the answer. By coming together in a broad coalition of all those who want to forge a positive and productive future for our state, we can help turn the tide against the Turnaround.

Huffington Post, Chicago



Message from the General President:

LET'S MAKE HISTORY

HILARY CLINTON 2016



Brothers and sisters, Laborers have always looked forward. From our founding convention in 1903, to our upcoming 25th International Convention this September, we have always believed that our best days are ahead of us. That's why I wasn't surprised that recent

independent polling of LIUNA members found a clear preference for Hillary Clinton as the next President of the United States. And that's why our union's General Executive Board voted unanimously to endorse her. Like us, Hillary Clinton looks forward; she knows that investing in infrastructure strengthens our great nation and creates good jobs. She understands that our challenge over the next few years is not to make America great again - it is already great and good - but to make it even better.

As Laborers, we also have always been men and women whose actions speak far louder than our words. We are working class warriors who put our money, our time, our feet, and our very bodies where our mouths are. Whether organizing workers, fighting anti-union legislation, standing up for pipelines and other jobs, or turning out votes, when we decide to get behind something or someone, we go all in. When we show up in our orange shirts, it's never in ones and twos, but in a massive orange crush, so that everyone can see, hear, and feel the power of LIUNA.

Over the next ten months, let's mobilize that orange crush as never before. Anyone and any organization can issue endorsements; our endorsements mean action on the ground that can, and does, make history. Just look north, to our brothers and sisters in Canada, to see what Laborers can do. They helped Justin Trudeau beat the odds, defy the experts, and become the next Prime Minister of Canada. Now it's our turn. Let's make 2016 the year LIUNA helped elect President Hillary Clinton.

Let's also make 2016 the year we help the candidates we endorse in House, Senate, state, and local races win, and win big. Let's make this election cycle one in which we begin to build a political foundation that allows us to play offense, not just defense. Let's make 2016 the year we begin to turn the corner on prevailing wages, so-called "right-to-work" laws, attacks on collective bargaining, the so-called "Cadillac Tax," and other issues that directly affect our jobs, our livelihoods, and our lives.

Over the next few months, each and every one of us will have an opportunity to play a significant role in moving our nation forward. We'll be called upon to phone bank, canvass neighborhoods, and talk to our brothers and sisters. Your Local Union may call, text, or email you, asking for your time, and your help, in turning out the vote for Hillary Clinton and the other candidates we endorse. It's a request we don't make lightly, because we know how hard you already work, how valuable your time is, and how much of it you want to, and should, spend with family, friends, and loved ones. But when that call, text, or email comes, I hope you'll step up to the plate and help make history. I hope you'll join me, and your LIUNA brothers and sisters, as we work together, stand together, fight together, and win together to change the course, the destiny, and the future, of this great nation.

BUSTING THE MYTHS RIGHT TO WORK

Middle class and the working poor in Right to Work states wind up worse off. Which affects us all.

MYTH #1
ILLINOIS WILL BE MORE COMPETITIVE.

REALITY:
OUR ECONOMY WILL SHRINK BY \$1.5 BILLION

MYTH #2
MORE COMPETITION MEANS HIGHER WAGES FOR ALL.

REALITY:
Non-union workers' wages have dropped 2.3% in Right to Work states.

While owner income has increased by 1.9%. Sounds like a swap!

MYTH #3 WE SHOULD BE MORE LIKE INDIANA.

ILLINOIS HOURLY WAGE	INDIANA HOURLY WAGE	ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT GROWTH 2013 TO 2014	INDIANA EMPLOYMENT GROWTH 2013 TO 2014
\$25.60	\$22.70	+103K	+89K

Facts Distributed by Citizens for Truth in Employment. Sources: "The Impact of Local 'Right-to-Work' Zones" (April 2015) "Raising America's Pay" (April 2015) U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015)

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Illinois AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidates 2016 Primary Election Endorsements

<u>US Senate</u> Tammy Duckworth-D	<u>IL. Senate</u> 58th Sheila Simon-D 59th Gary Forby-D
<u>US Congress</u> 12th C.J. Baricevic-D 17th Cheri Bustos-D	<u>IL. House</u> 113th Jay Hoffman-D 114th Latoya Greenwood-D 115th Marsha Griffin-D 116th Jerry Costello II-D 117th John Bradley-D 118th Brandon Phelps-D
<u>Comptroller</u> Susana Mendoza-D	
<u>Judicial</u> 5th App Ct.-Brad Bleyer-D 5th App Ct.-Jo Beth Webber	



Honoring Our Veterans of Foreign Wars

We had the honor of recognizing our members who served in all branches of the military in front of nearly 1,200 members and family members at the Local 773 Christmas party with a Vietnam Veteran Hat as a token of our appreciation. Thank you for your dedication and sacrifice. For more information about the Laborers' Veterans Committee and how we can serve you, please visit www.midwestlaborers.org/our-members/veterans



Pictured above: President Emeritus Edward M. Smith, Retired 227 Business Manager Larry Burnett (Army 1966-1968) Business Manager Kevin L. Starr. Pictured L-R Robert (Bob) Bandy (Army 1969-1971), James Bledsoe Sr (Army 1967-1970), Elius Reed (Army 1974-1976) Mike Vick (Army 1966-1968), Lucian Beal (Marines) David Humm (Army 1966-1967) Jack Childers (Army)



Illinois Laborers Work Day and Night Fighting Back Flood Waters

More than twenty Laborers spent their New Year's holiday filling hundreds of sandbags near AT&T building in Olive Branch in preparation for historic water levels in Southern Illinois. The Len Small levee in Alexander County was overrun by Mississippi flood waters causing Alexander County officials to order evacuations of residence. The Alexander County sheriff's department, who are also members of Local 773, knocked on every making sure to get residence out of harm's way and get the names and phone numbers of anyone who stayed.

Crews of laborers from local 773, workers from the IDOC and many volunteers worked day and night hauling in gravel by the truck full, shoveling sand from flatbeds & dump trucks, heaving bags, and stacking them along the wall — a backbreaking repetitive task to protect buildings and towns from the threat of the treacherous Mississippi flood waters.

While volunteers and laborers worked to fight back the flood waters, members Eric Micklos & Lisa Sharp delivered food to nearby city of Grand Tower to aid flood victims and sandbagging volunteers.



Statement of LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan on Oral Arguments in Friedrichs' Case

On January 11, the Supreme Court heard the oral argument on Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, a complete attack on public-sector unions. The Friedrichs plaintiffs are a group of aggressively anti-union California public-school teachers whom are backed by a variety of businesses and anti-union advocacy groups who are seeking to reverse *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* (1977) The whole of American public employment, at all levels of government, will become a "right to work" (i.e., right not to pay for service) killing field for unions.



"This suit is a direct assault on the collective bargaining rights that have enabled generations of workers to organize for better wages, benefits, and working conditions."
General President Terry O'Sullivan

Washington, DC (January 12, 2015) – Terry O'Sullivan, General President of LIUNA (the Laborers' International Union of North America) today made the following statement regarding the oral arguments in the Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association case: Yesterday, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Friedrichs case, which will affect not only workers in the public sector, but the entire labor movement. The anti-union, anti-worker billionaires backing this suit are trying to destroy unions and make it impossible for working people to come together, speak up for each other, and bargain collectively. An anti-union decision in the Friedrichs case would do far more than upend 40 years of legal precedent; it would put prosperity and the American dream further out of reach for millions of hard working men and women. Make no mistake: this suit is a direct assault on the collective bargaining rights that have enabled generations of workers to organize for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

As the proud representative of tens of thousands of dedicated, hard-working public employees, LIUNA stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the public sector as they face the Friedrichs case's assault on their fundamental rights.

The very fact that an adverse decision in a single Supreme Court case could have such a devastating impact on millions of working men and women highlights the importance of the 2016 Presidential election. Supreme Court appointees are a President's longest lasting legacy, making critical decisions in cases that affect millions of people for decades after a President has left office. With several spots on the Supreme Court expected to open up in next few years, working men and women need someone in the White House who will appoint Justices ready to defend the right to organize. That is why LIUNA has endorsed Hillary Clinton for President, and why we will work hard to help her win in November.

Local 773's Staff Attorneys Paul G. Prendergast & Jim Shovlin Attend the 31st Annual Illinois Public Sector Labor Relations Law Conference

Recent swift and significant changes have been implemented into Illinois public sector laws. Staff attorneys Paul Prendergast and Jim Shovlin joined over 600 Illinois public sector labor lawyers and labor relations specialist at the Illinois Public Sector Labor Relations Law Conference at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law on December 4th, 2015. The conference was presented in cooperation with the Illinois Labor Relations Board and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board. A wide range of attendees were part of the event including state and local government officials, public education officials, union officials and arbitrators



and mediators. Issues such as union security, health care, strikes and strike related issues, and nuts and bolts of mediations were discussed. Local 773 staff attorney Paul G. Prendergast was part of the faculty at the event and was asked to speak on behalf of unions in a session related to "Ethics: the Ins & Outs of Privileges."

Supreme Court Should Back "We the People"

I believe in America. I believe in Mom, apple pie, and above all, the idea that "We the People" should have the power to come together and work to make our lives better.

Today this big idea is facing a huge threat as the Supreme Court of the United States considers what is known as the Friedrichs Case. This case focuses on the American workplace. Not just



any workplace, the workplaces of public employees like teachers, firemen, policemen, and others who spend their lives serving us. While the details are complicated, at its heart it comes down to one question. Do "We the people" including the teachers and firemen, have the right to come together to effect change in our own lives?

Just like you and me, these everyday people must go to work to support the important thing in life: our families. A full half of our waking lives is dictated by corporate CEOs and wealthy special interest who manipulate the economic rules to serve their own self-interest.

Right now, we do have some choices when we come together and speak one voice. We the People have done this in the past and with great success, with victories like the eight-hour work day, safety measures that increase the odds we will actually make it back home to our family each night.

But as you read this nine judges are deciding whether all of "We the People" will still have this basic right. This case is so important to every American. If there is no right for working families to have a say in their own lives, who will there be to protect us?

At a time when folks are discussing the right to protect themselves with guns the corporate CEO's in this country are trying to disarm working people of their legal rights to protect themselves on the job.

While we still can, let us join our voices and tell the Supreme Court of the United States to rule in favor of "We the People" and our right to stand together.

Judy Simpson, Local 773 Field Representative

Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship



Scholarships will be awarded to college students whose parents, grandparents, spouse, or who themselves are a member in good standing with Laborers' Local 773

Applicants must enroll as a full time student for both semesters at a University, College, or Vocational School and must maintain at least a 2.6 cumulative GPA during the entire year to be considered for award

The amount of the award ranges from \$500 to \$1,500 depending on the University or College the applicant will attend

\$500 per year for two year Junior College
 \$1,000 per year for a four year University or College
 \$1,500 per year for students who attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, University of Missouri-Columbia, or University of Missouri Kansas City

Applicants must have all forms, documentation, and essay postmarked no later than May 30th 2016 in order to be considered for the award

Applicants must reapply each year and supply all documentation by the said date

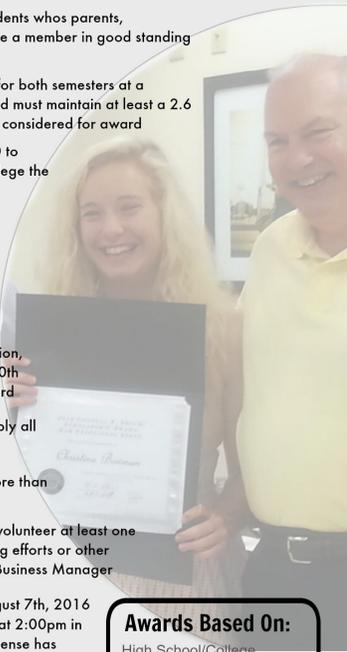
Applicants can not receive an award for more than 4 years (consecutive or non-consecutive)

Applicants who receive a scholarship must volunteer at least one day each year and participate in fundraising efforts or other Union business require by the Local Union Business Manager

Applicants must be in attendance at the August 7th, 2016 Award Ceremony at John A Logan College at 2:00pm in order to receive their award unless their absense has been approved prior by the CFS-HB Scholarship Fund Board

Awards Based On:

- High School/College Transcripts
- Proof of Admission
- Proof of Full-Time Schedule
- Financial Need
- Essay



Congratulations! LiUNA Local 773

2015 STEWARD of the YEAR AWARD

Jason Jaimet, Sherry Harris and Brian Heuer

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!
Feel the Power!

Save the Date
June 24, 2016

The Annual Edward M. Smith Golf Tournament
 Hickory Ridge, Carbondale, IL
 To benefit the Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship Fund



Laborers' Host the Local 773 Bocceball Tournament and Silent Auction to Raise money for Children at the Therapy Center

What could be better than raising for a good cause? Laborers' and friends raised over \$14,000 for the Children of the Therapy Center as part of our on going efforts to support children with special needs.

A special thanks to Mark & Denise Prince of the Prince Law Firm for putting together this event. Very special guest included Senator Gary Forby and State Representatives John Bradley and Brandon Phelps.

Local 773 will be having our annual Roadblock Collections in May to collect donations for TLC. Please contact the Local if you would like to volunteer for the TLC RoadBlocks or other charitable events.



PICTURES FROM OUR CHRISTMAS PARTIES



We would like to thank all of our Union Brothers and Sisters and their families who came out to our Local Union 773 Christmas parties last month to celebrate the Christmas Season. Parties were held at the Marion Pavilion, St Louis Local and the Columbia Local.

Over 1,600 members and family members showed up for the festivities which included special giveaways, gifts and food. We would like to thank Ullico, Inc for sponsoring the food for the event, as well as our Clowns who do a great job each year, Music in Motion and the Wyman Critter Show for the entertainment.

We would also like to thank “Bears for Humanity” for donating 20 American made Teddy bears to the Poshard Foundation for abused & neglected children. A very special thank you to Charlie the Santa for joining us each year to us spread Christmas cheer. and making our Christmas party complete.



University of Missouri-Kansas Laborers Hold Demonstrations “We Want Say About Our Pay”

In response to recent changes to merit pay for the service and maintenance workers of University of Missouri-Kansas City and MU Health Care, Business Manager Kevin Starr, along with members from the University and Representatives from Local 773 met outside the University Hall last October, wearing orange shirts and holding signs that said “We want a say about our pay” and “MU Respect your workers”. The changes took place in October after 4 months of negotiations with the University. The UM system introduced two compensation structures: one for MU Health Care workers, which took effect immediately, and one for the workers at MU and Kansas City campuses which will be phased in over the next three years, according to UM proposal. The main difference in the change is the performance evaluation, which affected 163 union workers at the 422 workers at the University Hospital and 781 workers at MU’s campus. The proposal focused on merit pay for eligible employees and leaves workers with years of experience and fair performance evaluations with a loss. After union demonstrations held at the University Hall and at Memorial Stadium to raise awareness, the University’s President, Tim Wolfe, resigned from his position amid a con-



The newly appointed interim president Michael Middleton has recently agreed to open negotiations with the union through mediation to resolve the merit pay issue for the members.

Photo credit to Jaime Kedrowski the Columbiainmissourian.com





65 year members



60 year members



55 year members



50 year members



45 year members



40 year members



35 year members



30 year members



25 year members



20 year members



15 year members



10 year members



LiUNA Vice President & Midwest Regional Manager
John F. Penn

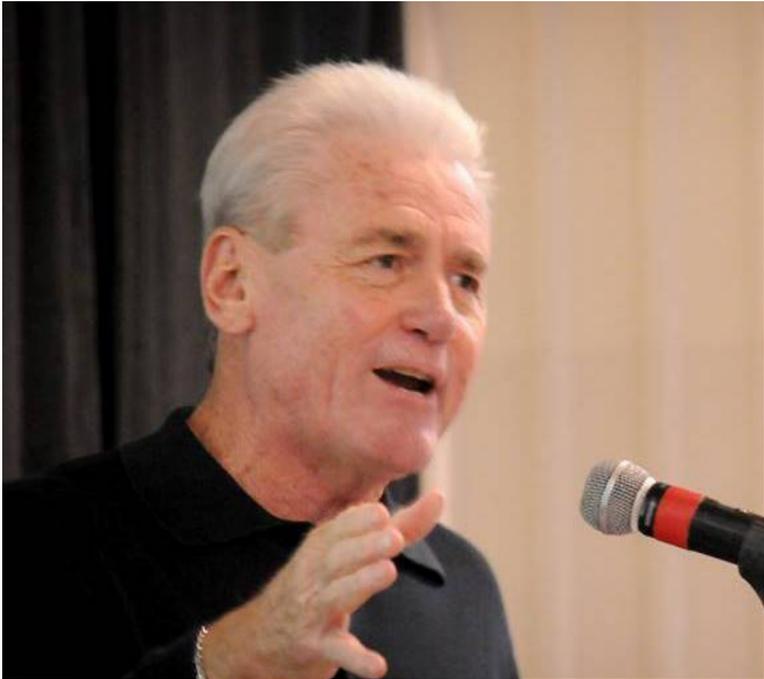


Retired Vice President & Midwest Regional Manager
Local 773 President Emeritus & Currently the CEO of
ULLICO, Inc., Edward M. Smith

LiUNA *75th Anniversary & Pinning Ceremony*

Local 773

LiUNA General President Terry O’Sullivan paid a visit to Local 773 Oct 3rd, 2015 at the Marion Training Facility to award service pins to the members of 10+ years of service at the Local 773 75th Anniversary Celebration and Pinning Ceremony. Over 400 members and guest packed the house to greet the General President along with Local 773 President Emeritus, ULLICO CEO and former LiUNA Vice President Edward M. Smith, LiUNA Midwest Regional Manager John F. Penn, and Local 773 Business Manager Kevin L. Starr. Three very special guests were in attendance that day as well. 66 year member Vincent Sidler, 67 year member Orvill Woodside and 68 year member Marty Silbe received their 65 year service pins. All three were recognized for having the most years of service to LiUNA.



LiUNA General President Terry O’Sullivan



Above: 68 year member Marty Silbe and 67 year member Orvill Woodside
 Left: 66 year member Vincent Sidler
 Right- Local 773 Business Manager Kevin Starr along with President Emeritus Edward M. Smith and General President Terry O’Sullivan.



Laborers' Local 773
5102 Ed Smith Way
Marion, Illinois 62959

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**LABORERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
NORTH AMERICA LOCAL UNION 773**

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