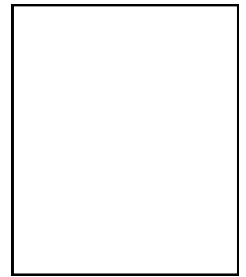


Illinois Labor History Society
430 South Michigan Ave.
Room AUD 1361
Chicago, IL 60605



ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

REPORTER

2014 Year in Review



Dear ILHS Members,

I am very pleased to present to you this edition of “The Reporter,” the Illinois Labor History Society newsletter. Longtime members of ILHS probably remember “The Reporter.” Hopefully you will be as pleased as we are at the renewal of our publication with this special 2014 Year in Review edition.

2014 was in many ways a year of transition for the ILHS. It was a year of loss, as we mourned the passing of Les Orear. Les was one of the founders of our organization, and his energy and commitment to the project of labor history was at the heart of everything we have accomplished for more than four decades. It was a year of change, as we moved our offices to Roosevelt University. Our relationship with Roosevelt will allow us to increase access to the ILHS archives. It was a year of new beginnings, as we hired our first full time Executive Director, Stephanie Seawell, who joins ILHS from finishing her PhD in history at the University of Illinois, in Champaign-Urbana.

In this ILHS 2014 Year in Review we have shared some of our programs, activities, and initiatives over the past year. Please know that all of what you read in these pages was only accomplished through the generous support of members like you.

Hopefully the stories and updates you read on these pages will inspire you to renew your membership with ILHS, if you have not already done so. You might even want to share this publication with someone else you know, to help spread the word about ILHS and the importance of labor history.

And keep an eye on your mailbox. We plan to start sending out quarterly editions of “The Reporter” in 2015.



ILHS President

2014 Board Members

Executive Committee

Larry Spivack, President
Mike Matejka, Vice President
Tom Suhrbur, Vice President
Debby Pope, Secretary
Nick Christen, Treasurer
Bucky Halker
Lisa Oppenheim
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Board

Caleen Carter-Patton
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Angela Harkless
Katie Jordan
Ken Munz
Liesl Orenic
Robert Reiter
Keith Richardson
Rich Rowe
Anthony Scorzo
Judy Simpson

Save the Date!



The Illinois Labor History Society Annual Meeting will take place on MAY DAY, May 1st.

Exact time and location will be forthcoming in future issues of The Reporter

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOKS!

Our new address and phone:

430 South Michigan Ave.

Room AUD 1361

Chicago, IL 60605

New Phone Number is 312.341.2247

Our email remains ilhs@prodigy.net



The Roosevelt University Library will now house and organize the archival materials of the ILHS, a partnership that will make our materials and collections more accessible to those studying the history of labor's struggles in Illinois. The Illinois Labor History Society, in turn, has a new office at Roosevelt where we will carry on organizing and expanding the programs, publications and tours that are the backbone of our Society's work. All in all, it is a partnership that will strengthen the ILHS and help ensure its continuing contribution to the preservation of labor's story in our state.

For updates and more information about Illinois Labor History visit our website:

www.illinoislaborhistory.org



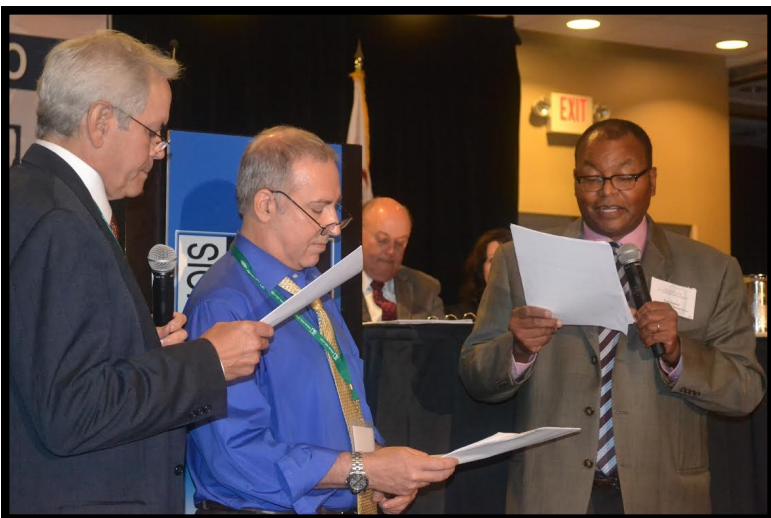
Follow the ILHS at www.facebook.com/ILLaborHistory

Programs

Labor History Throughout Illinois

In 2014 the ILHS kept busy, putting on labor history workshops and tours of labor history sites in Chicago and throughout Illinois. We held programs for retirees and young people, and many, many others in between. We hosted a dozen workers from Liberia for one labor history tour, and guests from Japan on another. Some of the highlights from a busy year included in May, when the ILHS supported a program honoring Studs Terkel, held at the University of Chicago. The well-attended program was organized by local historian Paul Durica and featured multiple workshops and plenary sessions. In May ILHS also supported the commemoration of the 1937 Republic Steel Memorial Day Massacre. In September we gathered at Roosevelt University to honor the memory of one of ILHS's original founders and President Emeritus, Les Orear. The moving presentation included photos and testimonials about Les's lifetime of dedication to the working people of Chicago and Illinois labor history. You will learn about other programs and initiatives on the following pages. Some of our additional activities included:

- AFSCME International Convention – Tour and Workshop
- American Postal Workers Union Convention – Book Table
- Illinois AFL-CIO Convention – Featured Presentation and Play
- Labor Notes – Book Table and Tour
- LiUNA Leadership Conference – Book Table
- National Lawyers Guild Chicago “Law for the People” Convention – Tour
- Quad Cities Central Labor Council – Workshop
- SEIU 73 Membership Convention – Book Table
- St. Xavier University – Tour
- Teamsters Women’s Conference – Workshop



Photos: (above) Actors perform play at Illinois AFL-CIO Convention; (right) Students from St. Xavier University on a labor history tour.

Photos courtesy of ILHS Vice-President, Mike Matejka and ILHS President Larry Spivack

ILHS Beyond Chicago

The Illinois Labor History Society carries its message throughout the state. In cooperation with DePaul University, young people in LaSalle County spent a summer week at a “labor school” A day tour took them to the Cherry Mine site, the Ottawa Radium Girls statue and the Illinois & Michigan Canal.

Three different “social justice walking tours” were led in Bloomington. In Marion, Laborers Local 773 celebrated their history with a mass meeting and celebrated the induction of their union's Connell Smith into the Union Hall of Honor. Labor history classes were conducted for a minority recruitment and training program with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

-update by Mike ILHS Vice President Mike Matejka



Photos: (above, left) Youth from LaSalle County attend a summer labor school; (above, right) a cake celebrating Connell Smith’s induction into the Union Hall of Honor.

Photos courtesy of ILHS Vice-President, Mike Matejka and Laborers Local 773

ILHS is on the radio! ILHS is partnering with the Rick Smith Radio Show to provide daily, two-minute “Today in Labor History” podcast. The updates are called “Labor In 2.” It’s a great way to get your daily dose of labor history.

Tune in online: <http://laborhistoryin2.podbean.com/>
Follow the program on Twitter: @laborhistoryin2



May Day

Solidarity in Action

May Day started out overcast, but a little rain could not dampen the spirits of the crowd of 2,500 people who gathered at the Haymarket site for a joint rally to celebrate labor and to demand immigrant rights. The Chicago Federation of Labor co-hosted the event along with the ILHS. The day featured special guests from the French General Confederation of Labor, one of the two major French labor federations. French General Confederation of Labor representative, Christian Pilichowski, addressed the crowd, who responded with enthusiasm to his message of international labor solidarity. Since the first dedication of the Haymarket Monument in 2005, labor organizers from across the globe have made the trip to Chicago to visit the historic labor site. A highlight of the day was the unveiling of the plaque honoring the French General Confederation of Labor. This plaque was added to the monument alongside others, celebrating multiple labor organizations. Here, international labor solidarity is inscribed on this little slice of the Chicago landscape.

When ILHS Board Member Bucky Halker and Yahvi Pichardo took to the stage to lead the crowd in singing a few labor songs, the rain stopped and the clouds parted. Mother Nature just could not rain on the May Day Parade. Then the crowd marched from the square to bring attention to immigrants' rights and families separated as a result of deportation. Everyone who attended will long remember the day..



Photos:

(left) Christian Pilichowski Addresses the crowd.

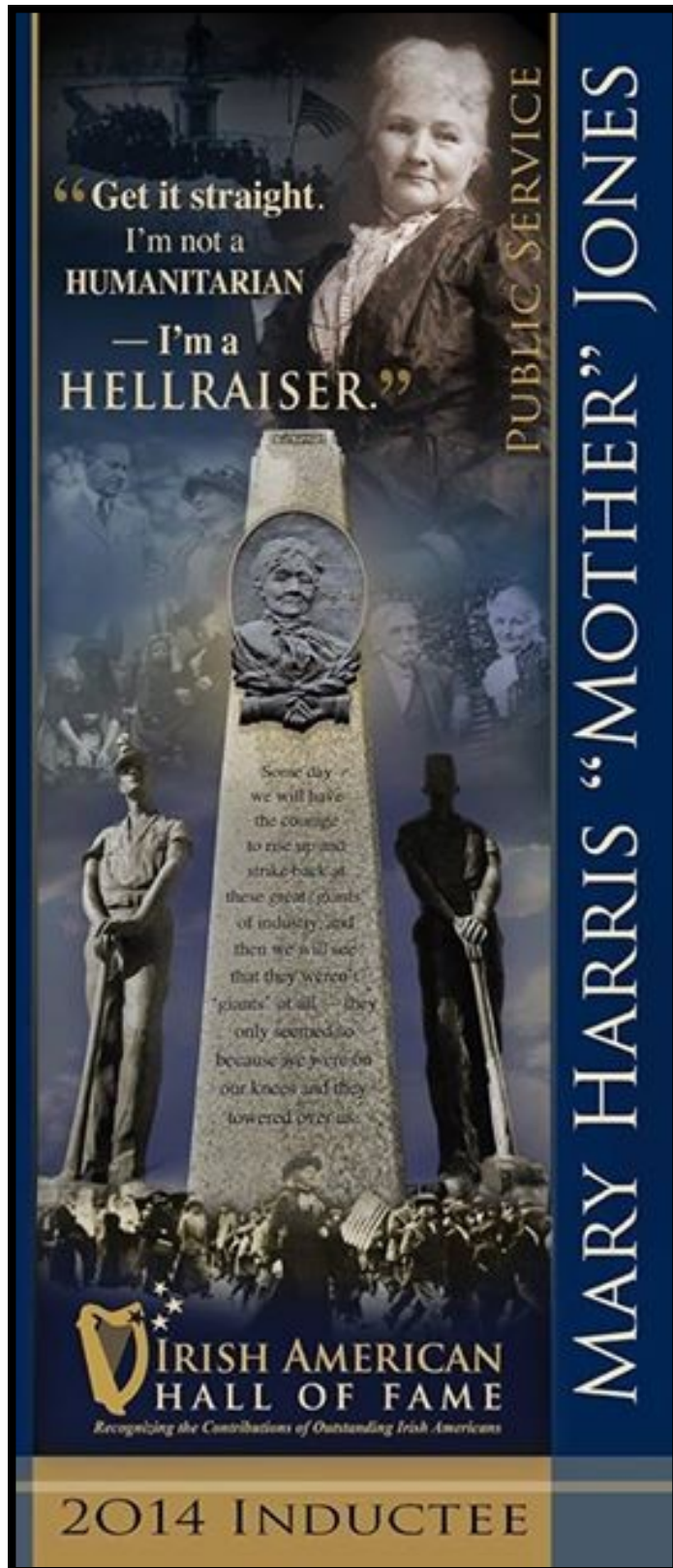
(opposite, clockwise): Marching for Immigration Rights; The newest plaque at the Haymarket Monument, honoring the French General Confederation of Labor; Bucky Halker and Yahvi Pichardo lead the crowd in singing labor songs; Honoring the legacy of Lucy Parsons; ILHS President, Larry Spivack shakes hands with Christian Pilichowski, International Representative of the French General Confederation of Labor.

Photos courtesy of ILHS Vice-President, Mike Matejka



Mother Jones

Celebrating a Legacy



Mother Jones was inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame in April 2014. ILHS President, Larry Spivack and ILHS volunteer, Margaret Fulkerson were in attendance. (photo below) Later, past President of the Mother Jones Museum Committee, James Goltz, traveled to Cork for the Mother Jones Festival. He presented the Mother Jones banner from her induction into the Hall of Fame (pictured left) to Mary Shield, Lord Mayor of Cork City.

From the Irish American Hall of Fame website:

“Mary Harris “Mother” Jones was a labor activist, teacher and community organizer born in County Cork. Once called the “grandmother of all agitators” on the floor of the U.S. Senate, Mother Jones was a tireless advocate on behalf of children and is best known for her “Children’s Crusade” in which she led child workers on a march from Pennsylvania to President Theodore Roosevelt’s home in New York. The campaign slogan was “We want to go to school, not the mines.” Mother Jones revolutionized the way America treated its child workers.”



Investing in Labor History in Mt. Olive



Mike Katchmar and Wendell Baugh work on the gateway arch restoration.

2014 turned out to be a remarkable year for the Mother Jones Memorial and Union Miner's Cemetery at Mt. Olive. The Illinois AFL-CIO, along with partners including the Union Miner's Cemetery Perpetual Care Association, the United Mine Workers of America, Mother Jones Foundation, State Senator Andy Manar, and ILHS, led a very successful fundraising drive to improve and restore this historic labor site. In June, State Senator Andy Manar and Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael Carrigan and Secretary-Treasurer Tim Drea held a press conference to help raise awareness of the fundraising drive. Dozens of labor organizations and individuals from Illinois and beyond responded to the call. The campaign raised more than \$70,000. In addition, the project received a \$43,000 State Tourism Grant. The project, which is now well-underway, includes cleaning and restoring the monument, improving signage, installing a pavilion and seating for visitors, improving the driveway and restoring the entrance archway. The project is scheduled to be fully completed in June 2015. If you have not had the chance to visit the memorial and cemetery in Mt. Olive, it is well worth the trip.

On October 5, a commemoration took place at the cemetery. It was a day to celebrate the restoration of the monument. Later that evening, many made the trip to Springfield for the 29th Annual Mother Jones Dinner. The dinner attendees received a special recorded greeting from Cork Ireland, the birthplace of Mother Jones. The dinner also featured the screening of a new documentary about this incredible labor icon.

Soon there will be even more reason to visit Mt. Olive-The Mother Jones Museum. This small museum space will be located on Highway 55, along Route 66. For educational materials about Mother Jones, and to donate to this worthwhile effort, visit www.motherjonesmuseum.org.



State Senator, Andy Manar and Illinois AFL-CIO President, Michael Carrigan and Secretary-Treasurer, Tim Drea at press conference

Solidarity

Union Hall of Honor

The Union Hall of Honor took place on November 14. Nearly 400 union activists, family members, community supporters, and Illinois Labor History Society board members and volunteers joined together for a truly special evening. Our theme was “Public and Private: Organizing Together in Solidarity.” AFL-CIO President, Richard Trumka served as the key-note speaker. He gave a rousing talk on the true meaning and practice of union solidarity.

“My father taught me, and he was right, that we depend on each other, we matter to each other. It’s true in the mine, and it’s true in life. In a grocery store. In a public school. In a hospital. In a factory. We depend on each other. We’re connected to each other, through the work we do and in our society and through our democracy...Because I promise you this, solidarity works. All you’ve got to do is see it once, feel it once, and you’ll know for the rest of your days. Solidarity works, brothers and sisters, and it’s our job to show the world.” *Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO President, 2014 UHH Speech*

We inducted Regina V. Polk, Connell F. Smith and Bob Gibson into the Union Hall of Honor.

Regina V. Polk was an organizer for Teamster’s Local 743. She organized the clerical workers at the University of Chicago, and she helped build a retraining program for laid-off 743 members. In recognition of her activities in the labor movement, she was appointed by Governor Thompson as a member of the Illinois Employment and Training Council. On a trip to attend a meeting of the Council, she was killed in a plane crash on October 11, 1983. The Regina Polk Scholarship Fund for Labor Leadership was established in 1983 in her memory. The fund sponsors an annual conference for women in the labor movement, and supports a program that teaches high school students about the labor movement.

Connell F. Smith served as Business Manager and Secretary Treasurer of Laborers’ Local 773 from 1942 to 1976. It was his vision that guides Local 773 to this day in organizing, political action and service to the membership. He provided a strong foundation for one of the most respected Local Unions in the entire International Union. His philosophy of “Who can I help today” guided him as the longest serving business manager in Local 773 history.

Bob Gibson was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO in 1963 and served for 15 years. He then served as President for a decade until 1989. Bob Gibson was instrumental in winning the long battle for public sector union rights in Illinois. In June 1981, he led 20,000 union workers in a rally for recognition of these rights. It was the largest ever rally at the Illinois State Capitol. Gibson worked with Republican Governor James Thompson and Democratic Mayor of Chicago Harold Washington to overcome three decades of opposition to public sector unionism. Governor Thompson signed the Illinois Public Employee collective bargaining bill on September 23, 1983 with Gibson at his side.

Michelle Gunderson, a Champaign Teachers Union musician, educator and activist, opened and closed the evening, leading the attendees in singing union songs. Three members of SAG-AFTRA performed a short play, written by ILHS vice president, Mike Matejka, on the battle for public sector unionism in Illinois.



Photos: Bob Gibson accepts plaque from Steve Culen and Larry Spivack; AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and UHH inductee Bob Gibson; AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and a full house sing Solidarity Forever;; Dolores Simpson, Judy Simpson, Matt Smith, Ed Smith and Betty Smith, with Connell F. Smith plaque; and Thomas Heagy, accepts Regina V. Polk plaque from Debby Pope, Larry Spivack.

Photos courtesy of ILHS Vice-President, Mike Matejka

Haymarket

Preserving the Past

In the early 1980's, the floral decoration from the front of the Haymarket Martyrs Monument was stolen. The job of recreating the bronze object from old photographs was given to conservator, Andrzej Dajnowski of the firm Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio. Before it was installed on the monument in 2011, a mold was made to insure that if damage was done in the future that it could be recreated for far less money.

The ILHS launched an online fundraising to create a rubber mold of the Governor Altgeld bronze plaque on the back side of the monument. The mold took 6 days to complete and was finished on the 25th of October. Below the Altgeld plaque is a small missing plaque that had the names of Martyrs, Samuel Fielden, Oscar Neebe and Michael Schwab. They were granted an absolute pardon by Gov. Altgeld and the date of their natural death followed their names. We hope to have the bronze plaque and mold created and installed in the near future. Also, the precise location of the burial site of Nina Van Zandt Spies has been determined. Soon a gravestone will be made and placed at the site of the widow of Martyr August Spies.

-Update by Mark Rogovin



Photos (above) the conservation team setting up the scaffolding;(below) Andrzej Dajnowski preparing the plaque to make the mold; (left) the Altgeld plaque during the mold-making process.

Photos courtesy of Mark Rogovin



Pullman

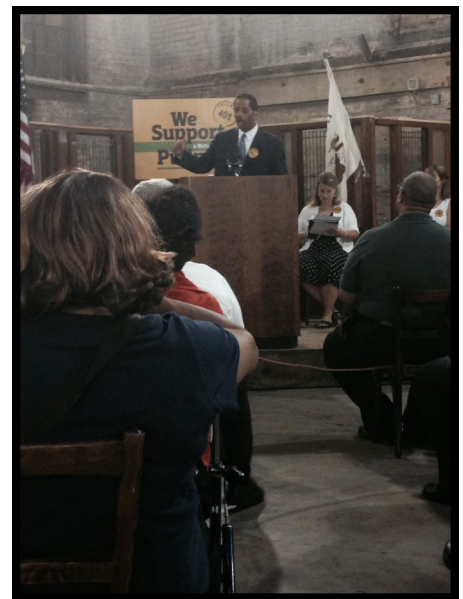
Bringing History to Life



National Park Director Jarvis addresses the crowd of more than 300

quarter of a million workers supported the strike, before being brutally put down resulting in 30 deaths and more than 50 wounded. Each year this is the site of an annual Labor Day ceremony and celebration. This year actors from Equity Actors and the Screen Actor Guild portrayed historic labor figures Eugene Debs, Lucy Parsons and A. Philip Randolph.

This year there was even more excitement than usual at the Labor Day ceremonies. That is because Pullman is under consideration to become the nation's 402nd National Park. In August, more than 300 people crowded into a room at the site to learn about the effort to grant National Park designation to Pullman. They heard from National Parks Director Jonathan Jarvis, U.S. Representative Robin Kelly, Chicago Mayor, Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Alderman Anthony Beale, Illinois Historic Preservation Director Amy Martin, and Chicago Department of Planning and Development Commissioner Andrew Mooney. National Park designation would allow for preservation investment at the site as well as more educational interpretation and programming. The ILHS is actively supporting this effort. Keep an eye on future editions of "The Reporter" for future updates!



Alderman Anthony Beale talks about the significance of a National Park designation for Pullman.

Unionism

Past, Present and Future

Unions are generally depicted in a negative light in the press. The labor movement receives very little coverage except for reports of strikes, scandals and alleged mob influences. We seldom get coverage of the positive contributions that unions have made in lives of workers. Schools do very little to teach students about the labor movement. History texts sometimes cover major strikes but little else. No wonder when asked to identify labor leaders, many union members often cannot identify Mother Jones, A. Phillip Randolph, Lucy Parsons, George Meany, Samuel Gompers Cesar Chavez or Richard Trumka. If the labor movement does not educate its members about its story, who will?

In the trades, the apprentices are the future of their unions. With this in mind, we have developed a training program. For years, ILHS has presented this training program to union apprentices and journeymen. The program takes 2-4 hours depending on the time available. We use movie clips, a power point presentation and discussion to develop a greater appreciation of the contributions that the labor movement has made in the lives of working people. We also do similar presentations for journeymen. The following topics are covered in the program:

- ★ The core values upon which the labor movement was founded
- ★ The historic struggles to organize unions
- ★ Contributions of the labor movement to American democracy and social justice
- ★ Legal rights under labor laws:
- ★ The conservative political assaults facing unions today
- ★ The challenges that unions facing in a changing global economy
- ★ Labor economics: Organizing the building trades labor market as a key to the future

-update by ILHS, Vice President, Tom Suhrbur

Congratulations

to ILHS President Larry Spivack

The 2014 Recipient of the Eugene V. Debs, Norman Thomas, and
Michael Harrington Dinner Award

for his lifetime commitment to labor history education and union
organizing.

Labor History

From “Why Study Labor History?” By ILHS Founder, Les Orear

“For more than a hundred years, American labor history was the story of the struggle of the labor unions to be recognized by the employers and legitimate organizations. Workers, in an effort to pressure the employers to sit down at the bargaining table and reach an agreement over the terms and conditions of employment, went on strike and lost their jobs and even their lives in defense of their unions. Sometimes the union won. But when times were hard, the employers struck back and imposed wage cuts and even destroyed the unions.

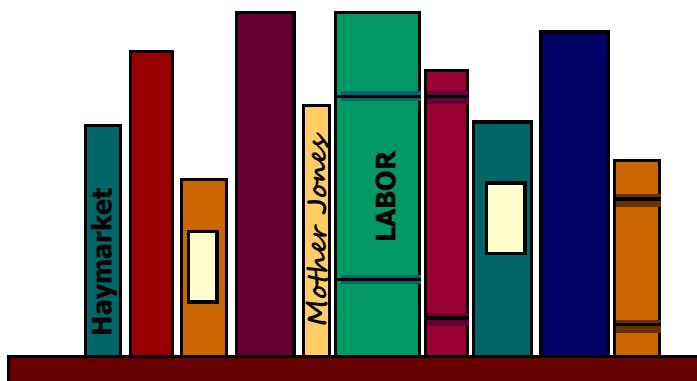
Both sides appealed to government to join the battle—on their side, of course. Most often governmental agencies sided with the owners in the long and costly struggle. During the time of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, Congress passed a law known as the Wagner Act which declared it to be the policy of the United States to require any employer to deal fairly with a union whenever the majority of employees might vote to have a union represent them.

A struggle between labor and management still goes on. It is over whether or not the employees will choose a union, over wage cuts or wage increases, over plant closing and changes in work rules, and many other things. But the argument is no longer the basic right to have a union with a written labor contract between the worker and the employer.

Labor history is being written, and it is an interesting and exciting subject. It is about people, about the lives of our parents and grandparents as they struggle to make a living for their families. It is full of dramatic conflicts with heroes and villains, crooks and good guys. Studying labor history will teach you much about government and the uses of political power. It will teach you about the society in which you live, and one day, we hope, find a good job. It will help you to an understanding of the real world. We need much understanding in order to become good at being citizens of our country and of the world.”

-Illinois History, Volume 39, No. 8, May 1986

Help Share Labor History Become a “Top Shelf” ILHS sponsor



For a **sponsorship of \$500** ILHS will donate 10 labor history books that you select from our catalogue to a library of your choosing. You can create a shelf of labor history books for your union local or donate a shelf of books to your community public or school library. We will work with you to select the books and place them at the library or location you pick. Inside each book cover will be a stamp acknowledging your donation. You will also be recognized on our website.

Email ilhs@prodigy.net, or call 312-341-2247 to talk about becoming a “Top Shelf” sponsor



Illinois Labor History Society

Membership Form

Renew your membership in the Illinois Labor History Society. Membership dues are \$30 per year for individuals and \$200 for unions (\$100 for those with less than 200 members). To join as an individual or to affiliate your local union, complete this form and send it with a check to our office, or renew online at www.illinoislaborhistory.org.

For the first time, **you can also become a recurring member**. **To become a recurring member you MUST sign and return this form.** Once you become a recurring member, we will automatically renew your membership each year by charging the credit card provided. This means we will not have to ask you to update your membership.

To support ILHS, I want to:

- _____ Become a member (\$30 annually)
- _____ Affiliate my union (\$200 annually, or \$100 for locals under 200 members)
- _____ Become a recurring member. (\$30, billed annually. Cancel any time)

Your Name _____ Name of Union Local _____

Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment (please check one):

- Check is enclosed
- Credit Card (we will call you for credit card information)

Yes! I want to become a recurring member of ILHS

Signature: _____

Please contact me with more information about

- Scheduling a Labor History program for my union/organization
- Scheduling a Labor History Tour
- Volunteering with ILHS
- Becoming a "Top Shelf" ILHS Sponsor

Return this Form To:

430 South Michigan Ave. Room AUD 1361, Chicago, IL 60605