

TE THE REPORTER

Illinois Labor History Society Winter Issue 430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605

February 2019 www.IllinoisLaborHistory.org

MOTHER JONES

The dedication of the new plaque at the Northbound Illinois Interstate 55 at the Coalfield Rest area

UHH 2018 DINNER

Celebrating Paul Booth and Katie Jordan

MAY DAY

Haymarket Square May 1, 2019

LABOR DAY 2019

Honoring the 125th anniversary of Labor Day being signed into law.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY **ILHS**

Celebrate our 50th all year long!



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear ILHS members and friends:

Welcome to 2019. I was going to start this letter by claiming we enter the new year with an inauspicious beginning on the political front, but I suddenly thought about the LA Teachers' strike, a few forward thinking Congresspersons who were elected in November and of course the incredible collective actions by teachers all around the country. Here at home, we had a successful strike at the Charter Schools, led by the Chicago Teacher's Union. Despite the insanity in Washington, we also have seen a rise in resistance actions and what I think is a growing consciousness in support of working people and challenges to wage and wealth inequality. Perhaps it is an auspicious beginning!

Your ILHS begins 2019 by reminding all of us that this is the 50th anniversary of our founding by Les Orear, Studs Terkel, Bill Adelman, Lillian Herstein and many others. Nineteen sixty-nine was the year the Haymarket Martyrs Memorial Workers' Committee was created. Two years later, it was renamed the Illinois Labor History Society, when Irving Abrams, the last surviving member of Lucy Parson's Pioneer Aid and Support Association, deeded us the Martyr's monument and cemetery plot in Forest Park. We are also the caretaker of the Emma Goldman

Monument.

We look forward to promoting events and activities in support of our 50th anniversary and hope you all will join in. We hope to install the gravestone to honor Nina Van Zandt, a book launch party to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Pullman strike, various teacher workshops with the University of Illinois Labor Education Program and much more. Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on events.

As we look back fifty years, I could list many activities and programs to engage our collective memory regarding why labor history is the story of Illinois, the story of race, gender, class, industry and work, and so much more. We will be sharing some of these as the year progresses. Keep watching our social media, newsletters and our website as we celebrate our anniversary throughout the year.

The most important question, though, is why do we want to tell the story of labor history? While it is obvious to our friends and members, it is not to the public or working people in general. We know very well, however, that workers who learn labor history are more prone to want to be involved in building their union and promoting activities that celebrate

working class history and culture.

As I think about the value of learning labor history, I recall being told by my parents that my paternal grandfather participated in a Workmen's Circle before and after WWII. This helped me understand better why achieving the New Deal was possible. Average working people were imbued in a culture of sharing stories about work and unions through union sponsored sports leagues, picnics and parties, political discussion groups and so much more. The regular news cycle featured matters about unions all the time. This was a day in the life most of us no longer experience. Most of us know how America changed for the better with the New Deal and groups like Workmen Circles and how thousands of other similar associations helped transform our society and reduce inequality.

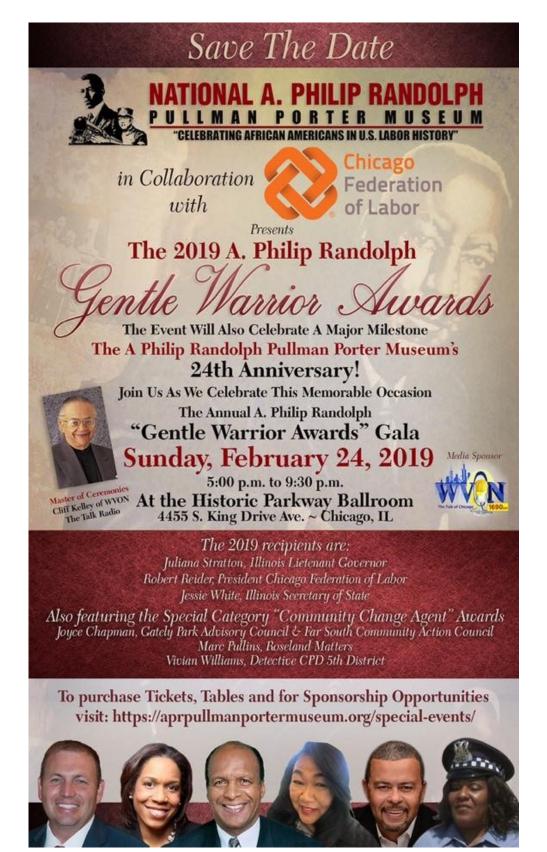
Similarly, the ILHS with your help, will keep telling the story of working people's contributions. A fifty year anniversary gives us pause to consider the next fifty years and how we might envision a nation free from poverty and racism and gender inequality. It is my belief that this kind of progress will more likely occur when we learn lessons from our history, that the ILHS is so proud to keep telling.

Gentle Warrior Awards

Get Ready for a Chicago Labor community Black History month event!

Join the National A.
Philip Randolph Pullman
Porter Museum, a Black
Labor History Museum,
the only one of its kind
worldwide, in
collaboration with
The Chicago Federation
of Labor as they present
the 2019 A. Philip
Randolph "Gentle
Warrior Awards," and
celebrate the museum's
24th Anniversary.

The Black Tie Gala
Event is also the
Museum's Annual
Primary Fundraiser.
With Cliff Kelley as
Master Of Ceremonies,
this is an Event you do
not want to miss! The
event honors labor,
history and some of
Chicago's finest!



For tickets: https://

www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-gentle-warrior-awards-black-tie-gala-tickets-54200905367? aff=ebdssbdestsearch&utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-source=cp&utm-term=destsearch

<u>Union Hall of Honor</u>









November 30, 2018











Mother Jones Marker at "Coalfields" Rest Stop

Bringing labor history to a unique but much visited public setting, the second Mother Jones Illinois Department of Transportation rest stop commemoration was unveiled on December 11.



about the democratic processes within the union. Within the Progressive movement, women took on unprecedented leadership roles and were outspoken about the male workers' conditions.

The "Coalfields"

rest stops – located south of Springfield on Interstate 55 – now have Mother Jones and local labor history stories at both locations. On December 11, 2018, the northbound rest stop memorial was dedicated. The southbound rest stop was completed in December 2017.

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) President Cecil Roberts unveiled the outdoor monument, followed by fiery remarks inside the rest stop. The outdoor plaques at both locations commemorate Mother Jones. The narrative signage inside the northbound rest stop marks the January 26, 1933 women's march on Springfield. The Women's Auxiliary associated with the Progressive Mine Workers, an Illinois break-away from the United Mine Workers, held a mass march on the state capitol to highlight miners' situation.

The women marched to demand unemployment insurance and the right to freely assemble and speak in the coal fields.

The Progressive Miners organized in 1932 after the UMWA negotiated a Depression-era contract that reduced miners' wages. The miners were also angry





The southbound rest stop narrative materials share stories about child labor in Illinois mines.

Illinois Labor History Society (ILHS) board member Judy Simpson also spoke at the dedication ceremony. Rosemary Feurer of Northern Illinois University, who coordinated much of the project, commended the volunteers and participating organizations. "We wish to thank the ILHS for partnering on this project, but also especially appreciate the volunteer efforts of Kate Klimut, Sophia Varcardos, Shane Austin, without whom this would not have happened."

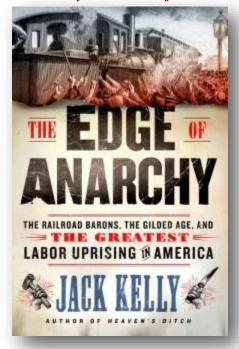
Mother Jones Heritage Project board members and volunteers took the lead to mark and install both locations; assistance and financial support was given from the Illinois Labor History Society, Mother Jones Foundation, Northern Illinois University, Illinois State Historical Society, Government of Ireland, Illinois Humanities Council, Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Assembly, AFSCME employees' staff union and the Southwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council.





The Edge of Anarchy: The Railroad Barons, the Gilded Age and the Greatest Labor Uprising in America

Reviewed by Michael Matejka



BY JACK KELLY, ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, JANUARY 2019 \$28.99 HARDCOVER

In 1894, the U.S. came to a standstill as millionaire George Pullman (1831-1897) faced off against railroad workers, led by Eugene Debs (1855-1926) and the American Railway Union. Commerce halted, blood was spilt and street battles raged. The Edge of Anarchy brings this epic struggle to vivid life in a readable, accessible fashion.

Pullman was a classic success story; aiding his father to elevate and move buildings along the Erie Canal. In Chicago, he gained his fortune lifting the city from the swamps. He completed his first railroad sleeping car in Bloomington for the Chicago & Alton in 1859, followed by a stint in the Colorado gold rush. Pullman didn't waste his time picking at rocks – instead he opened a high-priced supply store and crushing mills.

Returning to Chicago and sleeping cars, he completed his Pioneer sleeping car in 1865, timely for westward railroad expansion. Pullman self-publicized and built a vertically integrated enterprise, constructing and leasing his cars. South of Chicago he built his own town, including workshops, housing, schools and a library, all controlled by Pullman.

Kelly characterizes young Pullman as "never frivolous, never timid, never soft, never uncertain. ... As he gained success, he acquired a hauteur that made some roll their eyes, but he was no buffoon. He never cut corners or dealt in shoddy merchandise."

While Pullman was making his fortune, Alsatian immigrants in Terre Haute, Indiana welcomed their first son. Eugene Victor Debs thrived in the small city, working as a railroad shop painter and then a locomotive fireman. His mother, fearing railroad dangers, convinced her son to become a clerk. The railroad was irresistible, so Debs joined the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, soon rising to national secretary-treasurer.

The 19th century railroad union brotherhoods often betrayed each other for individual craft gain. Frustrated with the brotherhoods' internal battles, Debs formed a new, industrial union – the American Railway Union (ARU), welcoming all rail employees.

In 1893 Debs scored a surprising victory for track workers over the Great Northern Railroad, attracting thousands to the ARU, including Pullman Shops workers. The nation was sinking into economic stagnation. In Pullman's model town hours and wages were cut, but not rents.

After ineffective meetings with management, the new ARU members at Pullman struck. Despite appeals for arbitration, Pullman retreated to his New Jersey summer home. The ARU gathered for its first national convention in Chicago. Debs knew the new organization was weak, but the delegates rallied to the Pullman workers' cause, refusing to move any train carrying a Pullman car.

Chicago's railroad General Managers Association (GMA) seized this opportunity to throttle the young union. Pullman cars were added to mail trains, a pretext for ex-railroad lawyer, now U.S. Attorney General Richard Olney, to gain anti-strike injunctions and convince Democratic President Grover Cleveland to mobilize U.S. Marshals, and finally federal troops.

Bloody chaos resulted. Railroad yards were easy targets for seething anger. Across the nation's western two-thirds, the boycott became a comprehensive railroad strike, shutting down the nation's economy.

With federal troops and armed confrontations, the strike collapsed. Perhaps 30 were killed in street battles. Railroad labor activists were black-listed. Pullman re-opened his works non-union. Debs was convicted and sentenced to a six-month term.

The railroads had won yet suffered politically. To avoid future chaos, Olney helped pass the Erdman Act, establishing a rail labor arbitration system to settle disputes, under which the Brotherhoods flourished. Debs' dream of industrial unionism faltered for 40 years, until Franklin Roosevelt's Presidency and the new Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) brought millions into organized labor, including Pullman workers.

George Pullman died three years after the strike; his social standing besmirched, buried in a fortified grave. Eugene Debs emerged as the ultimate working-class hero, thronged by thousands as he roamed the country, running for President on the Socialist ticket.

The Pullman boycott was a cataclysmic event well covered in academic volumes, yet little popular history captures the tensions between Pullman's capitalism and workers' struggle.

Kelly does a masterful job; his portrayal not only of Debs and Pullman, but other players – from Grover Cleveland to emerging lawyer Clarence Darrow, are well written. He contextualizes the times – this was not only the Pullman confrontation, but also Coxey's March of the Unemployed and coal field outbreaks.

Kelly deserves great credit for reliably sourcing his story, as Pullman fostered many myths about himself and his railroad sleeping cars.

The Edge of Anarchy is masterfully written and should attract a wide audience, whether the interest is general American, railroad or labor history.



Monday September 2, 2019

LABOR DAY IN PULLMAN

1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM





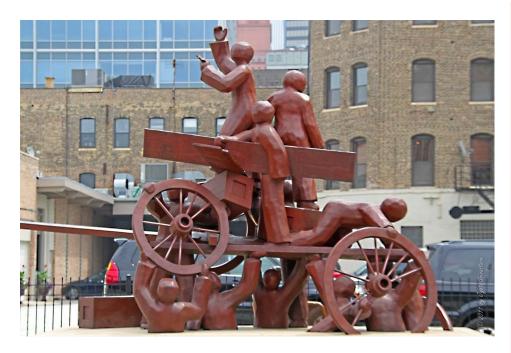












Save the Date!

May Day
Celebration
Wednesday
May 1, 2019
at Haymarket
Square, Chicago
Follow us on
Facebook for all
of your updates!





Join the Historical Society of Forest Park for an hour-long tour of Haymarket Martyrs Monument & Radical Row Tour. Learn the story of the Haymarket Affair, the monument and those who choose to be buried near this monument to the 8 hour day and those who died for it. \$10 donation is requested

For more information on Forest Home Cemetery please visit: www.foresthomecemeteryoverview.com

Tickets available at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/may-day-haymarket-martyrs-monument-radical-row-tour-tickets-55304411985?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

^{*}please park at the office at the Desplaines entrance



LABOR AND WORK STREET FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019 BLOOMINGTON, IL

In conjunction with its newest exhibit, Working for a Living, the McLean County Museum of History, 200 N. Main Street, downtown Bloomington, Illinois, is sponsoring a Saturday April 27 "Labor and Work Street Fair." From 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., various union trades, industries and craft workers will display their skills with hands-on activities. Working for a Living opened on September 8, 2018. The exhibit portrays over 80 local workers, from early settlement until today, and shares their work life challenges and efforts. The museum exhibits will be open during the street fair. For more information, visit www.mchistory.org or call 309-827-0428.

Challenges, Choices, & Change:

for a Living





Old St. Patrick's Church presents:

CELTIC CELEBRATION
SIAMSA NA NGAEL

A Celtic Celebration of the Arts, Song, Dance, and Stories



Tuesday March 12, 2019 | 7:30pm Symphony Center, Chicago For tickets call 312.294.3000 or visit www.cso.org

"My address is wherever there is a fight against oppression."

For more infomation, please go to: oldstpats.org/siamsa





DuSable Museum of African American History 740 E. 56th Place, Chicago, IL 60637 CHICAGO 1919: CONFRONTING THE RACE RIOTS OPENING EVENT

Saturday, February 23, 2019 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m

Register at: https://1466.blackbaudhosting.com/1466/Chicago-1919-Confronting-the-Race-Riots-Opening-Event

Wed., March 13, 2019

The Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee

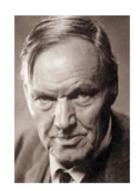
invites you to participate in its annual wreath-tossing & symposium commemorating Darrow on the 81st anniversary of his death

NOTE: Events are now in different locations and timelines

10 am: Please join us just EAST of the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park (the bridge is under construction) for the traditional tossing of flowers and brief speeches. Special reading of excerpts from Darrow pleading in the Leopold & Loeb case.

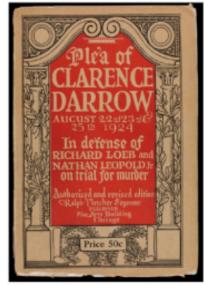
The Darrow Bridge is behind the Museum of Science and Industry: Driving south on Lake Shore Drive, pass the light at 57th Drive and turn right at the next light [Science Drive]. You will come almost immediately to Columbia Drive. If you turn left and follow Columbia Drive there is parking near the bridge. Free. No RSVP needed.

The symposium is no longer inside the museum; it will be in the evening downtown, to allow for more people interested in the event to attend.



Symposium Topic:

The Leopold and Loeb Files: An Intimate Look at One of America's Most Infamous Crimes Wed., March 13, 2019, 6-7:15 p.m. Newberry Library, 60 West Walton St., Chicago



The Piez of Clarence Darrow, 1923

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

https://www.newberry.org/03132019-leopoid-loeb-and-darrow-story-murder-and-mercy.

The 1924 murder of fourteen-year-old Bobby Franks by Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, and their defense by Clarence Darrow, raised profound and disturbing questions about social class, criminal psychology, morality, justice, and mercy.

Join Nina Barrett, author of The Leopold and Loeb Files: An Intimate Look at One of America's Most Infamous Crimes, for a talk about why, ninety-five years later, these issues continue to haunt us—and remain relevant—today.

Nina Barrett is owner of Bookends & Beginnings.

This program is cosponsored with the Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee and the Newberry Program in Chicago Studies.

Doors open half an hour before the program begins, with first-come, first-served seating for registered attendees. If space permits, walk-ins will be admitted 10 minutes before the event starts.

People with disabilities and other accessibility concerns can request to be seated first. To reserve an access-friendly space in the room, first register using the link above, then email publicprograms@newberry.org at least 48 hours before the event. Seats arranged in this way will be held until 10 minutes before the event starts.



Nina Darvet

For more on our speakers, see

https://www.facebook.com/DarrowBridgeorg-207085072651434/
or www.darrowbridge.org

For Darrow committee, call 773-387-2394.

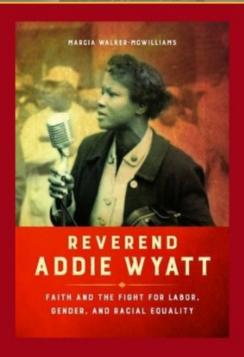
Illinois Labor History Society and Purdue University Northwest Department of History present

THE DAY WILL COME: HONORING OUR WORKING CLASS HEROS

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019
4:00 PM
ROOM WITH A VIEW
STUDENT UNION LIBRARY
BUILDING
PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST
2200 169TH ST,
HAMMOND, IN 46323

Join us for an afternoon of discussion about the origins of international labor day, the Haymarket Affair and how we still feel the effects today.





Sunday,
March 3, 2019
Harold Washington
Library
6th Fl. North
400 S State St, Chicago,
IL 60605
2:00 to 4:00 pm

Join the ILHS Book Club on Sunday, March 3 for a rich discussion of Marcia Walker-McWilliams' recently published biography of Chicago packinghouse labor leader, Addie Wyatt. As the first African American woman to hold a senior union office in one of the nation's most progressive unions, she was active in the civil rights movement and a founding member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Throughout the discussion, we will touch on themes of race, gender and labor, the struggle for integrated, industrial unions, the contributions of working class women and women of color to the labor movement, and the role Labor can play in addressing broader social problems. Reverend Addie Wyatt: Faith and the Fight for Labor, Gender and Racial Equality is available for purchase in our online bookstore. We look forward to seeing you!

http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/shop/reverend-addie-wyatt-faith-and-the-fight-for-labor-gender-and-racial-equality



Do you have an event or conference? ILHS is always looking for opportunities to set up our traveling bookstore. Let us know when your next event is!



Email your event details today! ilaborhistorys@gmail.com









CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF KEEPING LABOR HISTORY ALIVE!

Top Right: Studs Terkel speaking at the first memorial service for Haymarket Square, May 4, 1969. Top Left: SAG-AFTRA actors bring to life Eugene Debs, Jennie Curtis, A Philip Randolph, and Lucy Parsons at an Illinois Labor History Labor Day event. Bottom Right: Les Orear at the Mother Jones Monument, Union Miners Cemetery, Mt. Olive, Illinois. Bottom Left: UNION HALL OF HONOR 2014, Signing Solidarity Forever



Top Right: President Larry Spivack and Kilusang Mayo Uno at Haymarket Martyrs' Monument. Middle: The "Bound for Glory Singers" at the 1983 Union Hall of Honor: Mike Matejka, Kari Sandhaas, Catherine Inserra & Peter Butitta Bottom: William Neebe, grandson of pardoned Haymarket martyr Oscar Neebe; Bill Garvey, founder of the Haymarket Square Memorial Committee which evolved into the Illinois Labor History Society; Lillian Herstein, retired leader of the Chicago Teachers Union; and others, including William Adelman parading with a wreath for the first memorial service for the Haymarket Martyrs.













DO YOU KNOW YOUR LABOR HISTORY?

HTTPS://LABORHISTORYIN2.PODBEAN.COM/

January 2, 1905

23 industrial unionists held a secret meeting in Chicago. The meeting lasted the next three days, as the unionists discussed their ideas for strengthening and broadening the power of working people. The meeting became known as the January Conference. Over the three days the unionists drafted a manifesto that outlined their ideas. They signed and sent out the document to unions across America as well as industrial unions in Europe. The signers included such important labor figures as Big "Bill" Haywood, Eugene Debs, and Mother Jones. The document critiqued the narrowness of the trade union system, which predominantly represented only skilled-workers in particular crafts. It called for a more inclusive industrial union congress to be held in Chicago that June. The document declared "All power should rest in a collective membership." That June the "Continental Congress of the Working Class" met and formed Industrial Workers of the World, more popularly known as the Wobblies. At its peak in 1923, the IWW consisted of approximately 40,000 members. Yet the impact of the IWW reached far beyond its members. The IWW pushed for a more inclusive union movement. It organized across ethnicity, race and gender, challenging the status quo of the often exclusive labor unions. Eventually, the organization began to decline due to repression from the U.S. government, which viewed the Wobblies as a dangerously radical group. Throughout its history, Chicago was an important site for the IWW, and the organization's headquarters remain in the city today.

For more information about the IWW history and their work today, visit their website: http://www.iww.org/

February 23, 1940

In a hotel in New York City, Woody Guthrie penned the original lyrics of his song "This Land is Your Land." The song was not recorded at Folkway Records until four years later. Born in Oklahoma, Guthrie crisscrossed the United States, writing songs about the working people and the poverty he observed. He became one of the most important social commentators of his day. He wrote "This Land is Your Land" as a response or retort to Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." That popular tune crowded the radio airwaves in the 1930s. Guthrie felt that Berlin's song did not adequately capture the experience of the common man. He felt it ignored the discrepancies in wealth and opportunity he observed in his travels. Guthrie sarcastically called his new song "God Bless America For Me" before renaming it "This Land is Your Land." Guthrie's original recording included the lyrics "There was a big high wall there that tried to stop me. The sign was painted, said 'Private Property.' But on the backside, it didn't say nothing. This land was made for you and me." But the studio did not release this verse of the song. During the late 1940s and 1950s artists were often censored for anything that could be labeled as having "communist" undertones. The song, including its more radical verses, became a staple for folk singers, especially Pete Seeger. It remains a favorite song for labor rallies to the present day.

March 24, 1974

It was the final day of a ground-breaking gathering of more than 3,000 women union members in Chicago to found the Coalition of Labor Union Women, or CLUW. The union women had come together with the purpose of increasing their voices in the labor movement. Women from 58 unions and 41 states joined the conference. Nearly

2.000 of the attendees were rank-and-file members. For many of them, the Chicago gathering was their first major labor conference. They heard a keynote address by Addie Wyatt. Addie Wyatt was the first African-American woman to hold a top office in an American labor union, when she was elected vice-president of her meatpacking local in 1953. Addie's speech inspired the women. They chose her to serve as the first CLUW vice president. They selected Olga Madar as president. Olga had entered the United Autoworker's Union at the Ford Willow Run bomber plant during World War II. She became the first women to serve on the UAW executive board. With these two seasoned labor activists at the helm, CLUW became an important force in US labor. The women attending the founding convention agreed on four key goals. The first was to promote affirmative action in the workplace. The second was to strengthen the role of women in unions. The third was to organize the unorganized women. The final aim was to increase the involvement of women in the political and legislative process. Since its founding CLUW has supported efforts for pay equity, parental leave and childcare. Today CLUW continues to encourage and mentor future women labor leaders, and works to involve more women in the political process.









Illinois Labor History Society



Membership Form

Renew your membership in the Illinois Labor History Society. The **Standard ILHS membership** (\$30 annually) includes: *The Reporter* newsletter, invitations to special events throughout the year and email updates about ILHS activities and programs. Your **Silver ILHS membership** includes: standard membership, an exclusive ILHS Magnet and an exclusive ILHS car decal. Your **Gold ILHS membership** includes: standard and silver membership packages plus a 50th anniversary commemorative t-shirt.

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.

To suppor	t ILHS, I want to:				
-	Renew my membership	andard Silver	☐ Gold (ple	ase check one)	
Become an individual standard member (\$30 annually)					
	Become an individual silver member (\$60 annually)				
Become an individual gold member (\$100 annually)					
Tshirt Size (2XL, XL, Large or Medium available)					
Affiliate my union (\$250 annually)					
50th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet (\$1,000.00) Includes Full Page Color Ad in our booklet.					
Your Nan	ne Name o	f Union Local			
Address:	City	T	State	_ Zip	
Phone	Email				
Payment (please check one):					
 □ Check is enclosed □ Will make payment online at illinoislaborhistory.org □ Email full page ad to ilaborhistorys@gmail.com (size is 5.5 inches wide, 8.5 inches tall) 					

Return this Form To:
430 South Michigan Ave. Room WB 1806, Chicago, IL 60605
Also available for purchase at our bookstore online at www.illinoislaborhistory.org

Since 1969



www.IllinoisLaborHistory.org

430 S. Michigan Ave. WB 1806, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 341-2247

ILaborHistoryS@gmail.com #ILHLives Our Mission Statement

It shall be the Purpose of the Illinois Labor History Society to encourage the preservation and study of labor history materials of the Illinois Region, and to arouse public interest in the profound significance of the past to the present.



Printing by **Baxter Printing**, 3837 Ridge Road, Highland IN 46322.

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Or Current Resident