

# MUNI/SCHOOL REPORT

A voice for SEIU Local 73 members working  
in municipalities and school districts



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The SEIU Local 73 Municipal and Division represents 137 contracts in the Chicago suburbs. These contracts are for more than 4,500 public works employees, firefighters, and clerical workers in municipalities; custodians, maintenance staff, teachers aides, nurses and many other job titles in school districts. The division also represents more than 600 employees at the Illinois Tollway.



Members listen to FMCS Commissioner Joe Dula at the Elgin Leadership Training Conference

## Members learn to lead

Local 73 hosts first Muni/School Leadership Training Conference

More than 150 Local 73 members attended one of the three conferences held in Elgin, Berwyn, and Crestwood in April and May.

This was the first time the Muni/School division held a training session which combined all bargaining units in this division. With constant threats of cuts by municipalities and schools these days, the conference was a great way for division members to gain a better understanding of how similar their issues and battles are to one another.

Joe Dula, a commissioner for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) led members through each of the three conferences. The FMCS is the a federal governmental agency which handles arbitrator and mediation of labor disputes and contract negotiations.

The conference helped explain to members the role of a steward, rights both at the bargaining table and as a union member, how to handle grievances, how to try to have an effective relationship with management, and much more that will help them become even better leaders and members in our union.

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### 2011 Membership Convention Saturday, October 1, 2011 McCormick Place, Chicago Fighting to Win the Future!

- Stand Up! Chicago highlights
- Working together to protect interests of working families
- Strategies for building a stronger union through engagement
- Workshops and presentations on issues that affect your rights and benefits on the job

Call the Member Resource Center at 312.588.7630 and RSVP to the convention today!

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## Members learn to lead (continued from page 1)

The conferences were a huge success among the members who attended, and they are eager to learn more.

There will be a second part to the conferences, tentatively scheduled for next year. After the basic training learned this year, the second part of the conference will include extensive teaching on grievance writing and handling (from step one through arbitration), and rights as a union member and official capacity as a leader.

Dates for part two of the leadership training conference will be available later this year.

## Illinois Tollway contract signed

After two years of negotiations on the contract which expired in December 31, 2008, the Tollway contract has been ratified and signed by all parties last month. Retroactive pay will be sent no later than June 24, 2011.

Although the contract is signed, the Tollway is still in violation of the pilot program which reduces the number of toll collectors and job security for Tollway employees. Labor charges and grievances have been filed and the fight continues.

## SAVE THE DATES!

July 16

**Executive Board Meeting**  
Teamster City, Chicago

July 23

**Local 73 Chicago Picnic**  
Miller Meadow, Maywood

August 27

**General Membership Meeting**  
Teamster City, Chicago

# Newest Ratified Contracts

Contract negotiations are not like they used to be. With foreclosures still at a high rate and unemployment bringing less money in for Illinois residents to spend, state revenue projections have taken a hit the past few years, leading to less money for municipalities and schools.

Combined the lack of money with missed payments by the state to several municipalities and schools, many agencies have looked to cut jobs and wages as they receive less and less.

Below are the Municipal/School division contracts ratified in the past five months:

**Bloomington:** Clerical workers ratified a contract extension through 2014. The contract includes annual wage increases and an added step increase in 2014.

**Broadview Fire Department:** Firefighters in west suburban Broadview received wage increases and no concessions in their three-year contract.

**Carol Stream Public Works:** Members ratified a four-year agreement retroactive to May 1, 2010. The village came in with seven pages of concessions, but members secured wage increases and no concessions in the contract.

**Chicago Heights School District 170:** Cafeteria workers ratified a two-year agreement. The contract includes annual wage increases and parity with the Teachers Union in 2011-12.

Progressive discipline language was included in the contract, and there will no contracting out members' work during the life of the contract.

**Chicago Ridge Public Works:** Members ratified a three-year contract with wage increases over the three years.

**City of North Chicago:** Public works and clerical members ratified a three-year contract in May. The wage increases and a wage reopener in the third year as well in numerous language improvements.

**Crystal Lake School District 47:** Custodians and maintenance staff ratified a three-year contract in May. The contract includes no concessions and wage increases.

**Elgin Public Works Department:** A one-year contract extension was ratified earlier this year. The extension includes favorable snow plow language and three compensatory days.

**Glenbard District 87:** Building engineers ratified

a four-year contract in May. Members received an annual wage increase, language improvements, and will receive paid snow days.

**Lyons Public Works:** A contract was ratified after several bargaining sessions. The village began negotiations by proposing no wage increases, but members held firm and agreed to a four-year contract which included annual wage increases.

**Maywood School District 89:** Custodians received annual wage increases over the new four-year contract.

**Oak Park Housing Authority:** Members received a wage increase and two additional vacation days in their one-year contract.

**Oak Park River Forest District 200:** Clerical workers will receive an annual wage increase each year of their new four-year contract.

**Palos Hills Public Works:** This 16-month battle over a contract was settled in April. Initially, the village wanted members to agree to several concessions. The village gave members a last, best and final offer which was rejected by 100% of the membership in November.

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# Legislative Update

## Attention public employees: You are under attack from state legislators!

From union rights to pensions to workers compensation rights, both Democrats and Republicans are looking to cut anything and everything from public sector workers in Illinois.

*We cannot afford to have Illinois become the next Wisconsin, Ohio or Indiana. We must stand up and fight back!*

The following legislation are prime examples of attacks on your rights as a union member. All these topics and more will be covered in depth at the 2011 Local 73 Membership Convention on October 1, 2011.

### Senate Bill 512

#### State tries to puts pension payments on your back

After three decades of unfunded pension payments, the state turned to the public employee to increase their own contribution to their pension. In this bill, public employees would increase their contribution to their pension to a minimum of 12.75% of their current salary, which would triple some employees current contribution to their pension. The bill would also eliminate the automatic yearly pension increase for current retirees.

This pension bill is designed to push people out of their current defined benefit plan they are currently in and into a defined contribution system (401K).

**STATUS:** Due to thousands of emails and calls from Illinois residents to legislators, we fended off this legislation for now. However, House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) and House Minority Leader Tom Cross (R-Oswego) issued a joint statement saying they would focus on summer hearings with the hope of passing this bill in the fall veto session.

### House Bill 1698

This bill includes drastic cuts in the level of benefits you can receive as well as cuts to payments to doctors, hospitals, tightening reviews of injuries and limiting awards for carpal tunnel syndrome as well as other changes to the current laws.

Workers compensation attorneys will hold discussions at the convention on how this new legislation impacts you.

**STATUS:** After legislation attempted to completely abolish current workers compensation rights in Illinois failed, the House and Senate passed workers compensation reform in HB 1698, and now awaits Governor Quinn's signature.

### Senate Bill 1556, House Amendment 2

In the last hours of the Spring legislative session, we defeated major legislation which would have stripped bargaining rights of thousands of public employees.

Governor Pat Quinn and Speaker Madigan took a page straight from Wisconsin's playbook with this legislation. This bill would impact hundreds of current Local 73 members as well as the fate of future union members across the state.

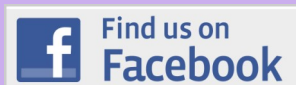
**STATUS:** After an intense lobbying effort, the bill was not called for a vote in the Senate. But, this legislation is expected to pick steam in the special session this month



Muni/School division members outside the Illinois Capitol on Lobby Day

## Check out the Local 73 website: SEIU73.org

- **Calendar of events:** A calendar full of membership meetings, rallies, and other Union-related events is on the right side of the page.
- **Muni/School map:** View a map of every bargaining unit in the Local 73 Municipal and Schools Division. Click on the Muni/Schools Division page to access the map.



## Ratified contracts (continued from page 2)

**Palos Hills (continued):** We went back to the table in February and was presented with another last, best and final offer, which was rejected again by the membership. The village revised their third last, best and final offer in April. This proposal included annual wage increases and was ratified by members.

**Village of Brookfield:** Public works and clerical members unanimously ratified a two-year contract in June. The contract includes wage increases, unfrozen step increases, and no layoffs in either unit.

**Worth Park District:** Members will an annual wage increase and made no concessions in their new three-year contract. The contract, ratified last month, also reduces the years to reach the maximum step increase.

## Stand Up! Chicago

Local 73 kicked off the Fight For a Fair Economy Campaign under the banner "Stand Up Chicago" in May.

Part of a nation-wide thrust, the campaign is run by Union member leaders who are organizing in six Chicago neighborhoods. The goal is to get people involved in challenging the outrageous and growing inequalities of income, the lack of investment in jobs, affordable housing and health care, and the attacks on working people.

This is a reflection of the anger among the people at rich investment bankers who have gambled with our homes and jobs and gotten rich while unemployment grew, and at the politicians who have protected them.

Visit [SEIU73.org](http://SEIU73.org) for more information on Stand Up Chicago and how

# Know your E-Board member

Executive Board member Ben Soderberg, Sr. wrote the following after he spent a day with Muni/School Division Field Organizer Nick Carone in early April. Ben is a longtime employee of Crystal Lake School District 47.

At the last E-Board meeting, members were asked to ride with a Rep. I made arrangements with Nick Carone to do just that.

I left my home in Crystal Lake at 7:00 a.m. to meet up with Nick at Winnetka District 36 by 9 a.m. I sat in on a brief meeting with the school staff and Nick. After the meeting, we spoke with the Chief Steward.

The next stop for the day was Evanston District 202 where Nick had some paperwork to drop off and sign for. While there, we also spoke with the Chief Steward of Maintenance and Food Services at District 202.

Arlington Heights was the next stop. Nick spoke with Fred, the Chief Steward at the school district and also an E-Board member. It would seem from the conversation that some of the part-timers are pulling some slick stuff to avoid paying dues. Nick will be speaking with Vice President Tim McDonald on how to handle this issue.

After lunch, it was on the road again to see the Chief Steward for the Carpentersville Fire Department's part-timers. Nick had some paper work to pick up. It seems the full-timers are giving the part timers some grief about being in a union; however, the Chief Steward is handling the situation very well.

It was almost 3 p.m. when a stop in Lake Forest was next. But, after a long drive home after an E-Board meeting Friday, and the General Membership Meeting and We Are One Rally Saturday, I decided to take the 20-minute drive home from where we were. I did speak with Nick and the Chief Steward via speakerphone around 6:30 p.m. for a while, and I have to make time to meet these people in person.

My purpose of riding around today with Nick was not to see what he does all day. I know the reps have their hands full. I wanted to speak with the Stewards about making meetings, hear their concerns, and explain what's been going on. Union dues a big concern, and I did explain about the committee that is going to be formed to look each of the units in Local 73 and come up with a fair rate for all union members in each bargaining unit, which still will have to be voted on by every unit separately.

I also expressed the importance of the Stewards and members should attend meetings! Everyone needs to show up at the meetings to listen to what is going on and voice their opinions!

*So there it is folks, who's next?*



E-Board member Ben Soderberg, Sr. rode with Nick Carone (not the camel) in April