

LU BULLETIN

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CHICAGO HONORS WORLD WORKERS' DAY

worker centers come together at Union Park to celebrate international workers' day

Saturday April 29 – The city of Chicago came together in Union Park to demonstrate the strength of the workers' struggle. Organizations across the city - workplaces, unions and immigrant organizations - decided to collectively pay tribute to this fundamental and essential part of our society - the worker.

The celebration has its roots here, in Chicago. At the end of the 1800s there were many Czech and German migrants who, because they wanted to earn a living, were forced to work 12 hours a day, 6 days

a week, for very little pay. Given this exploitation, immigrants organized and challenged what bosses and politicians claimed were “normal” conditions. During one of these strikes, the Chicago police injured and killed several workers. An ally group that supported the strike met on the streets of Des Plaines and Randolph, where that group clashed with police and called for better working conditions.

This unfair treatment of workers continues to be seen, Yolanda Sanchez, union member of SEIU Healthcare IL was

there, and shared the injustices she faced after working 22 years for Alivio Medical Center. After finding inconsistencies in social security numbers, Alivio laid off its workers with no opportunity to clarify matters. With their union, these workers filed complaints and managed to recover their lost wages.



The fight to improve working conditions does not end. But our struggles leave behind a legacy of change. It opens up a better reality for the person who comes after. The celebration of May Day does not let us forget the power found in our unity.

CHICAGO EMPOWERS DOMESTIC WORKERS

Throughout the US over 80% of domestic workers cannot take paid sick days, the city of Chicago is an exception, covering workers through the Bill of Rights. But how many workers know about this law?

We spoke with Leticia Tellez, a domestic work organizer at Unión Latina, who spoke about the Bill of Rights.

Starting in 2017, Illinois implemented what is known as the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. Passage of this law shook up labor standards in Illinois. This new law recovered protections which already applied to other work sectors such as: the right to 20-minute breaks and the right to overtime pay.

This victory resulted from the fight different organizations brought to the state's capital, Latino Union being one of them. This coalition worked to bring the voices of workers to the capitol, where they worked together with representatives to pass the law.

Evelyn Vargas: Who is covered by the “Bill of Rights”?

Leticia Tellez: Every domestic worker in the state of Illinois. Domestic work covers anyone who might be – caring for an older person, cleans someone



or takes care of children. Any job that includes working in a home. It also covers anyone regardless of immigration status.



E.V: My mother and several of her friends would benefit from learning more. Where can I direct them?

L.T: First it's getting the right information from a worker center which does advocacy for the domestic worker rights, such as Latino Union. For example, in our space we have workshops where we talk about how the bill of rights was won, the rights are inside the letter, and we provide a copy.

E.V: What impact has it had for the workers who actively use it?

L.T: After people come to one of our workshops, later they'll say "I didn't know that this bill of rights was a protection I had." Then they take this understanding of the value of domestic work and got back to work to enforce their rights. A worker told me, "since I started demanding sick days, I have more time for my family, and I also see that I have more time for myself."

E.V: What has this law meant?

L.T: These are very basic rights, many protections are needed for workers in IL. Eventually all of us reach a point where we cannot continue to work due to disability or age and workers are not eligible to receive social security. People work their whole life in this country as an immigrant without being able to benefit from unemployment or the ability to retire. Domestic work is paramount and essential so that other people can go to do their work; our work contributes to the economy of Illinois. We make it possible for other people to have someone there caring for their loved ones.

E.V: How can someone attend a workshop?

L.T: You can connect to our Facebook page! Or you can attend any of the events that we're announcing, and thus connect.

\$500 FOR CHICAGOANS

ARE YOU A DOMESTIC WORKER OR AN UNDOCUMENTED PERSON?

Chicago is offering \$500 in support for certain people who receive pay stubs or pay taxes. Follow the website or text the number for more information!

 CHICAGO RESILIENCY FUND
WORK LIFE SUPPORT

Are you eligible for a **\$500** relief payment?

Apply Online Now!

www.chicash.org

For More Information:
visit www.chicash.org

or call or text
312-585-5773

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Domestic Worker Meeting

Latino Union's Office>>>

Saturday, May 20, 1-2:30 PM

May Orientation

3248 W. Montrose>>>

Wednesday, May 24, 6-8 PM

Work Contracts Workshop

Latino Union's Office>>>

Thursday, May 25, 6-8 PM

The Return of the Annual BBQ

Humboldt Park>>>

Saturday, June 3, 3 -6 PM

First Aid & CPR Certification

TBD>>>

Friday, June 9, 9AM - 12 PM

Art Night!

Latino Union's Office>>>

Monday, June 12, 6-8 PM

June Asamblea

Horner Park>>>

Thursday, June 22, 6-8 PM

MEMBER Q & A



Rosi Rivera

Q: Best thing about summer in Chicago?

A: Outdoor activities—going to the woods, the beach, or hitting the botanical garden.

Q: What would you say to someone interested in learning about Latino Union?

A: That she'd have a good chance to learn her rights, and not feel alone or abused. What I've had here is a lot of practice helping lead, and this opens the way for me to help other people.

Q: Enchiladas or Tamales?

A: Enchiladas Guanajuato style!

Q: What would you like to see improve for the immigrant worker community?

A: Being able to have a retirement fund, to have something for our futures

Q: Something folks don't know about Rosi?

A: I was secretary of the police agency specializing in intentional homicides. Even now, when there's a crime, I am still interested in the investigation

SUPPORT THE WORK



Monthly support from allies like you helps us grow the collective power of the working class in Chicago. Support our community of leaders by donating today.



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Hire a worker:
773-588-2641