

LATINO UNION NEWSLETTER



Winter 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Our **first Membership Orientation of the year** was held on February 26 at 1:30 PM at the Albany Park Library! Go to page 4 to register for our next membership orientation!
- **Armando Galvéz**, the Corner Hiring Sites Organizer, has left Latino Union. Thank you for all your years of commitment to the organization and its mission!

SUCCESS AT THE LU DECEMBER ASSEMBLY & BOARD ELECTIONS!

We had a fantastic turnout at our December Assembly/ Board of Directors Elections! During the festivities, we recognized several members. **Maria Salud Cambron** and **Beatriz Tlalolini** were recognized as Outstanding Members of the Year. **Miguel Angel Garcia** and **Rosa Maria Rivera** were recognized as Emergent Leaders.

We all shared very good food, raffled several gift baskets, played fun games like musical chairs (both the kids and adults), had a gift exchange, and even knocked out a pinata!

We also held our Board of Directors election and **Maria Salud Cambron** and **Alejandro Monzon** were both approved by the majority of members present at the vote! **Maria Salud** will be a membership representative in the Latino Union 2023 Board of Directors. Go to page 4 to learn more about her!



LU member **Yolanda Chavez Pineda** had this to say about the event, "[It was] a very nice experience in which we shared above all, the good work done with workers, information about the struggle, and good candidates for the vote."





Assemblies are one of the only times we are all able to get together in person to discuss and sometimes vote on important topics that guide the work that we do. We want everyone to share their feedback and have a say! We also want to keep everyone informed about what is happening at LU.



Our next membership assembly is scheduled for March 23, 2023 from 6-8 PM at Christ Church Cathedral. We will be discussing updating Latino Union’s mission, vision, and theory of change.

PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION? WHAT'S THAT?*

You may have been hearing a lot about prosecutorial discretion in the news lately, or different advice on how you can try to gain immigration status through a labor dispute, but what is it? How does it work? Is it the right option for you?



What is prosecutorial discretion (PD)?

According to ICE, "PD is the longstanding authority of a law enforcement agency that can be used to preserve limited government resources necessary to achieve just and fair outcomes in individual cases. [PD] allows [a]ttorneys to decide on which cases to focus their finite resources and how to proceed in individual cases in light of the facts and applicable law[.] PD is an inherent authority of a law enforcement agency and does not create a right or entitlement for any noncitizen." **Basically, it gives law enforcement agencies (like DHS) the authority to decide whether to enforce a law against a person on a case-by-case basis.**

What does this have to do with my workplace?

In July 2022, DOL released a FAQ sheet to provide workers experiencing a worksite labor dispute with guidance on how to seek support for their requests to DHS for immigration-related prosecutorial discretion. **"In order for the department to carry out the labor laws it enforces, workers need to feel safe to participate in its investigations without fear of retaliation or consequences related to their immigration status."**



This would allow DOL to provide the workers involved in the case with a letter to submit to DHS to request deferred action (**not permanent protection**) for up to 2 years, and can be terminated at any time. Workers may also be eligible for employment authorization, which require that they demonstrate an economic necessity for employment.

What kinds of labor disputes could be eligible?

- the right to be paid the minimum legal wage, a promised wage, and working more than 40 hours per week
- the right to have a safe workplace and to receive compensation for work-related injuries
- the right to be free from unlawful discrimination
- the right to be free from retaliation for seeking to enforce rights
- And more!

Should ALL immigrants without status request prosecutorial discretion?

According to the National Lawyers Guild, "**No. [O]nly people who are already in removal proceedings, have a final order of removal, or are detained by ICE should consider requesting that DHS exercise prosecutorial discretion in their case.** By asking for prosecutorial discretion, you are getting in contact with DHS, and this should be done with care and with the assistance of a competent lawyer. A request for prosecutorial discretion by a person who is not otherwise on the radar of DHS is risky and could result in that person's detention or deportation from the United States."

I think I am eligible to request prosecutorial discretion based on my labor case. What should I do?

First, you need to find an experienced immigration attorney to accept your case, and **see if they agree that filing a labor complaint and seeking prosecutorial discretion are the best path for you.** Unfortunately, everyone's case is different, just because it worked for someone you know, it doesn't necessarily mean it will work for you too.

Seeking immigration-related prosecutorial discretion for a labor dispute is not for everyone. While it is a good first step towards protecting immigrant workers fighting for their rights in the workplace, it is only temporary. **We must continue organizing and fighting for permanent protection for all undocumented immigrants! We will host a workshop discussing this topic on March 30 at 6 PM at the LU office.**

*This is not legal advice, this is a community resource.

TEAM CHANGES:

- **Briana Ureña-Ravelo** has left the Immigration Organizer position.
- **Armando Galvéz** will be leaving the Corner Hiring Sites Organizer position at the end of February. After many years in the community, he has decided to take a much-needed break!





UPCOMING EVENTS:

Community Resource Event

Unity Center

Saturday, March 11

10:30 AM-3 PM

Women's History Month Movie

Night: "A Crushing Love"

(2009)

Latino Union Office

Wednesday, March 15, 6-8 PM

March Assembly

Christ Lutheran Church

Thursday, March 23, 6-8 PM

What is Prosecutorial

Discretion? Workshop

Latino Union Office

Thursday, March 30, 6 PM

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

María Salud Cambrón



Q: At our December Assembly you were not only recognized as an outstanding member of the year but you were also elected to serve on the Board of Directors. How do you feel?

A: Grateful to be part of Union Latina and proud to have been chosen to collaborate with you.

Q: What advice would you give to someone interested in getting more involved in the Latino Union?

A: That they approach Latino Union so that they know its members, as well as the various areas in which support can be provided if they should need it, and in a reciprocal way they could support the community.

Q: What would you like to see happen in 2023?

A: That more benefits will be achieved for migrants.

Q: And if you could go see someone in concert, dead or alive, who would it be?

A: Andrea Bocelli, Raúl Di Blasio



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Hire a LU Member:
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SUPPORT OUR WORK

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



WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

LU will have its next **Membership Orientation** on Wednesday, **May 24 at 6 PM**. Space is limited, so **please register** through this QR Code:

