



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Published for Labor Activists*

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**Call The Illinois AFL-CIO at (217) 544-4014 For More Information  
On These and Other Legislative Issues Important To Working People**

**The Illinois General Assembly will return from spring break next week.  
The House is in session on Tuesday, April 17 and the Senate resumes on the 18th.**

## **Drea Elected Secretary-Treasurer of Illinois AFL-CIO**

The executive board of the Illinois AFL-CIO voted yesterday to elect Tim Drea as secretary-treasurer of the state federation.

Drea will serve out the remaining 18 months of former secretary-treasurer Michael Carrigan's unexpired term. Carrigan was elected president of the federation in February following Margaret Blackshere's retirement.

Drea is currently the legislative and political director for the 36,000-member UFCW Local 881 in Chicago. He has been with Local 881 for 10 years. Prior to that he worked on the Illinois Senate Democratic staff and as a coal miner in Central Illinois. He is still a member of the United Mine Workers.

"I'm honored to represent Illinois' working families in the legislative and political process," said Drea. "The Labor movement in Illinois was built by courageous, forward-thinking pioneers and I'm proud and humbled to help carry on that tradition."

Drea has a degree in Political Studies from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Jane Russell, president of the West Suburban Teachers' Union Local 571 in Chicago was also vying for the position.

"It was a democratic process that gave all of our affiliated unions the opportunity to nominate a candidate for secretary-treasurer," said Michael Carrigan. "Board members then voted to elect the person they felt was most qualified to help lead this state-wide organization. I'm pleased to have Tim on board. We have a busy few months ahead with the final weeks of the legislative session upon us and a state budget hanging in the balance that is critical to working families. We will be calling on his legislative experience."

Drea's appointment is effective Wednesday, April 18th. Both Carrigan and Drea will be up for re-election in the fall of 2008.

## **Gaming Legislation is Rolled Out**

Rep. Lou Lang (D - Skokie) unveiled his gambling plan the last week of March. The bill number is HB 480. The proposed legislation would increase the number of gambling licenses by four. The locations of the new gambling sites would be in downtown Chicago, in Rosemont (O'Hare), south of Chicago along the Indiana border, and in Waukegan. The other aspect of the legislation is upgrading Illinois' horse racing industry so that it may compete with other states in the country. It is estimated that in its first year the horse racing and expansion of gambling revenues would bring in \$2-3 billion. In the subsequent years it will bring in \$1.5-2 billion.

The Illinois AFL-CIO is supporting the legislation, however, we are continuing to work with affiliates to ensure that their goals are met in this process. There is much discussion as to where the additional money would be spent.

A hearing concerning the bill was held at the Thompson Center in Chicago on April 12th. No vote was taken on the legislation, however, testimony was taken from horse racing industry representatives, gaming experts, and groups opposed to the expansion.

## **Labor in Waukegan and North Chicago Help Celebrate *the Launch of the Leroy P. Jones Greenhouse Project***

The State Federation was proud to stand with Rep. Eddie Washington on April 12th at the groundbreaking of two greenhouse projects; one at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Waukegan and another at Neil Math & Science Academy in North Chicago. For nearly two years Labor has been working with a broad coalition of organizations to provide funding and labor for the two greenhouses. The Northeast Illinois Federation of Labor and Lake County Building Trades have greatly supported the project.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE**

**Tuesday, April 17**  
***in your municipal election.***