

534 S. Second Street, Suite 200  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1764  
217/544-4014 • Fax: 217/544-0225



999 McClintock Drive, Suite 100  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527-0844  
312/251-1414 • Fax: 312/251-1420

#### OFFICERS

**Michael T. Carrigan**, President  
**Timothy E. Drea**, Secretary Treasurer

[www.ilafli-cio.org](http://www.ilafli-cio.org)

September 17, 2009

# **LABOR PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Beth Spencer 217.544.4014, 217.725.7424

## **New Beginning for Labor as AFL-CIO Elects Officers, Executive Board**

Yesterday, AFL-CIO Convention delegates unanimously elected Richard Trumka as the new president of the national Labor Federation, along with Arlene Holt Baker, executive vice president, Liz Shuler, secretary-treasurer and 51 executive council members.

“For the first time in 14 years, the AFL-CIO has new leadership,” said Michael T. Carrigan from the floor of the Convention. “We owe much thanks to Mr. John Sweeney for his many years of service and his dedication to the fight for workers’ rights. He has served the country’s working families and our organization well. Now we look forward to a new beginning with Mr. Rich Trumka at the helm. He will bring his own brand of hard-hitting, no-holes-barred leadership to the presidency of the nation’s largest Labor organization. I look forward to working with him in Labor’s fight for good wages, safe job sites, workers’ rights and quality, affordable health care for all Americans.”

President Trumka (UMWA), 60, has held the number two post of secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO since 1995. Prior to that he was president of the United Mine Workers for 13 years. Trumka is the son and grandson of miners. He worked in the mines of Pennsylvania himself and was a member of Local 6290 before attending and graduating from Pennsylvania State University and Villanova University Law School. He grew up in Nemacolin, PA, a former mining town just 70 miles south of Pittsburgh where the AFL-CIO Convention is being held and where he was sworn in as the new president.

Liz Shuler (IBEW), 39, is a former lobbyist and communications director for IBEW Local 125 in Portland, OR. She joined Local 125 in 1993, handling political and legislative duties until 1998, when she was appointed international representative for IBEW and moved to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress. She most recently has been executive assistant to IBEW President Ed Hill. Shuler is a graduate of the University of Oregon. She is the highest-ranking woman ever elected to an AFL-CIO leadership post and the youngest.

*Continued on page 2*



Arlene Holt Baker (AFSCME), 58, was appointed executive vice president in 2007 by the AFL-CIO executive council to replace retiring executive vice president Linda Chavez-Thompson. Prior to her appointment she served as executive assistant to both Chavez-Thompson and President Sweeney. Holt Baker began her career as an organizer for AFSCME in the late 1980's in California. She is the daughter of a laborer and a domestic worker. She is the first African-American to serve as an officer for the AFL-CIO.

Executive Council members include: Gerald W. McEntee, AFSCME; Capt. John Prater, Air Line Pilots; Fred Redmond, USW; Laura Rico, AFT; Clyde Rivers, California School Employees Assoc.; Cecil Roberts, UMWA; Fredric Rolando, Letter Carriers; Alan Rosenberg, Screen Actors Guild; Michael Sacco, Seafarers; Robert A. Scardelletti, Transportation and Communications Union; Harold A. Schaitberger, Fire Fighters; Robbie Sparks, IBEW; Michael J. Sullivan, Sheet Metal Workers; Paul Thompson, United Transportation Union; Randi Weingarten, AFT; James Williams, Painters and Allied Trades; Nancy Wohlforth, OPEIU; John Gage, AFGE; Warren George, Amalgamated Transit Union; Leo W. Gerard, United Steelworkers; Ron Gettelfinger, UAW; Vincent Giblin, Operating Engineers; Michael Goodwin, Office and Professional Employees; Edwin D. Hill, IBEW; William Hite, Plumbers and Pipe Fitters; Richard Hughes, Longshoremen; Joseph J. Hunt, Iron Workers; Frank Hurt, Bakery Workers; Gregory Junemann, Professional and Technical Engineers; Jill Levy, School Administrators; James Little, Transport Workers; Matthew Loeb, Theatrical Stage Employees; William Lucy, AFSCME; Mark Ayers, Building and Construction Trades Department; R. Thomas Buffenbarger, Machinists; Elizabeth Bunn, UAW; William Burrus, Postal Workers; Larry Cohen, Communications Workers; Ann Converso, United American Nurses; Rose Ann DeMoro, California Nurses Association; Rogelio "Roy" Flores, AFGE; John J. Flynn, Bricklayers; Patricia Friend, CWA-Flight Attendants; and eight new additions to the Board: Patrick Finley, Plasterers and Cement Masons; Michael Futhey, United Transportation Union; D. Michael Langford, Utility Workers; Robert McEllrath, International Longshore and Warehouse Union; Roberta Reardon, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; John Ryan, Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Works; DeMaurice Smith, Professional Athletes; and Baldemar Velazquez, Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

Over 700 delegates from 50 states are attending the 26th AFL-CIO Convention being held in Pittsburg Sept. 13-17, including Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan and Secretary Treasurer Tim Drea.

Delegates were seated from 55 International and National unions, 48 State Federations and 301 Central Labor Councils and Area Labor Federations. Forty-three percent (43%) of the delegates seated from International or National unions are women or people of color.

