Drea Elected President, Devaney Secretary Treasurer By Executive Board

The Illinois AFL-CIO Executive Board elected Tim Drea as President of the 855,000 statewide member organization following the recent retirement of Michael T. Carrigan.

Drea previously served as Illinois AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer for 12 years and will fill the remaining term.

“I am honored and humbled to serve as President of the Illinois AFL-CIO, one of the leading labor organizations in the nation,” Drea said. “I thank Michael Carrigan for his years of service as president and I am excited to continue to represent union members in protecting their rights, working conditions, and safety on the job. The labor movement in Illinois is diverse and united in the common goal of making Illinois a better place for all working families.”

Born and raised in Taylorville, Drea started his career as a rank and file member of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). After being laid-off due to a depressed Illinois coal market, he joined the Illinois State Democratic Staff for five years, and then served as Legislative and Political Director of Local 881 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW). He was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO in 2007 and re-elected in 2008, 2012, and 2016. A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, he resides in Springfield with his wife Elizabeth. He has four children: Andrew, Bridget, Lillian, and Jack.

The Executive Board also elected Pat Devaney, President of the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois (AFFI), to fill the unexpired term of Drea as Secretary-Treasurer. He started his career as a City of Champaign fire fighter with the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1260 in 1995 and currently serves as a lieutenant for the department. He was elected President of the AFFI in 2008, representing over 15,000 fire fighters throughout the state; he also has served as a Vice President of the Illinois AFL-CIO for over 11 years.

“It is important to continue the mission and important work the Illinois AFL-CIO has been doing,” Devaney said. “The everyday challenges facing working families aren’t going away and labor’s enemies aren’t standing down. This organization is critical to advancing the cause of working families in our state.”

Carrigan Retires After 19 Years at IL AFL-CIO

Hundreds of friends, family, union leaders and members, and politicians celebrated with outgoing Illinois AFL-CIO President Michael T. Carrigan last week in Burr Ridge.

Carrigan recently retired after 19 years – 12 as president – at the Illinois AFL-CIO.

The celebration, which included remarks by AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson and Speaker Michael J. Madigan, served as a celebration and a retrospective on Carrigan’s achievements on moving the Labor Movement forward during calm and difficult times. The iconic Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band also performed during the event.

From Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky honoring Carrigan with a statement into the Congressional Record on Nov. 21: “Mike Carrigan is a fierce champion of the labor movement and a fighter for worker’s rights and his leadership will be remembered and missed. On a personal note, I have appreciated his advice and counsel, his friendship and support and his steady leadership on behalf of Illinois workers and their families. Congratulations to Mike on your retirement and thank you for your years of service!”
Governor Pritzker Signs SB 177

On Thursday, Governor Pritzker signed SB 177 (Sen. Napoleon Harris/Rep. Will Davis). Senate Bill 177 allows that emergency rules may be adopted to implement the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act rather than going through the lengthy rules implementing process. These emergency rules will assist in placing trades people on the job quicker. SB 177 also allows Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement emergency rules in the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative and the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship Program and tightens the waiver granting process for contractors in meeting minority contracting.

Retirement Celebration for Michael Carrigan held December 4

Michael Carrigan with National AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Liz Shuler

Michael Carrigan with International IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson

Michael Carrigan with Illinois AFL-CIO’s longest-tenured Vice President, Ron Powell (UFCW)

Illinois AFL-CIO officers and staff Terri Payne, Tim Drea, Michael Carrigan, Amy Rueff, Pam Waldeck and Bill Looby

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