

HOTEL WORKERS: “WE’RE READY!”



Click on the image above to watch the “We Are Ready” video, featuring UNITE HERE Local 1 hotel workers.

On August 31, many of the Chicago hotel contracts are expiring. As we’re counting down the days to contract expiration, we are also gearing up our fight. In the past we have won a lot, but it’s still not enough. The physical, mental and financial stress from work is taking years off of the lives of hotel workers. Studies show that poor people, on average, live 14 years shorter than the wealthier classes. We are fighting for our lives.

The hotel companies have made more money in 2017 than ever before – over \$2 billion to be exact. This is why we are demanding more money and year-round health insurance, and there is no reason for them to not meet our demands. We want to better our communities. We care about Chicago, and better union contracts are a crucial way of improving the lives of our neighbors.



“ESTOY LISTA.”
FABIOLA, RECAMARERA

ESTAMOS LUCHANDO POR NUESTRAS VIDAS.



“I’M READY.”
VICTOR, BELLMAN

WE’RE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES.



LOCAL 1 LEADER SERVES ON EEOC PANEL IN DC

Ahead of the July 1 deadline that requires all Chicago hotels to provide their room attendants who work alone with panic buttons, Local 1 “Hands Off Pants On” leader and member of the Contract Enforcement Team Kasey Nalls spoke in Washington, DC about the HOPO campaign at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Select Task Force on the Study of Harassment in the Workplace.

“It is our priority to ensure that this ordinance is not just words on a page, but that it lives, breathes and helps change the culture of the hospitality industry for working women,” said Kasey.



The New York Times

Spurred by #MeToo, a Harassment Task Force Reconvenes

Ms. Nalls was one of several legal experts, entrepreneurs, nonprofit workers and labor advocates who spoke Monday at a meeting held in Washington by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In light of the #MeToo movement, which has shaken Hollywood, politics and other industries, the commission reconvened a task force it had created two years ago as part of a broad investigation into workplace harassment.

In its coverage of the hearing, the New York Times highlighted HOPO and quoted Kasey's testimony:

“The union audit that Ms. Nalls helped conduct concluded in 2016 that among nearly 500 female hotel and casino workers surveyed, 58 percent of hotel employees reported being sexually harassed by a guest, as did 77 percent of casino workers – results that would serve as the basis for a “Hands Off Pants On” ordinance in Chicago that involved, among other things, issuing panic buttons to housekeepers.”

Read the full article [here](#).



TEAM HOPO GOES GLOBAL

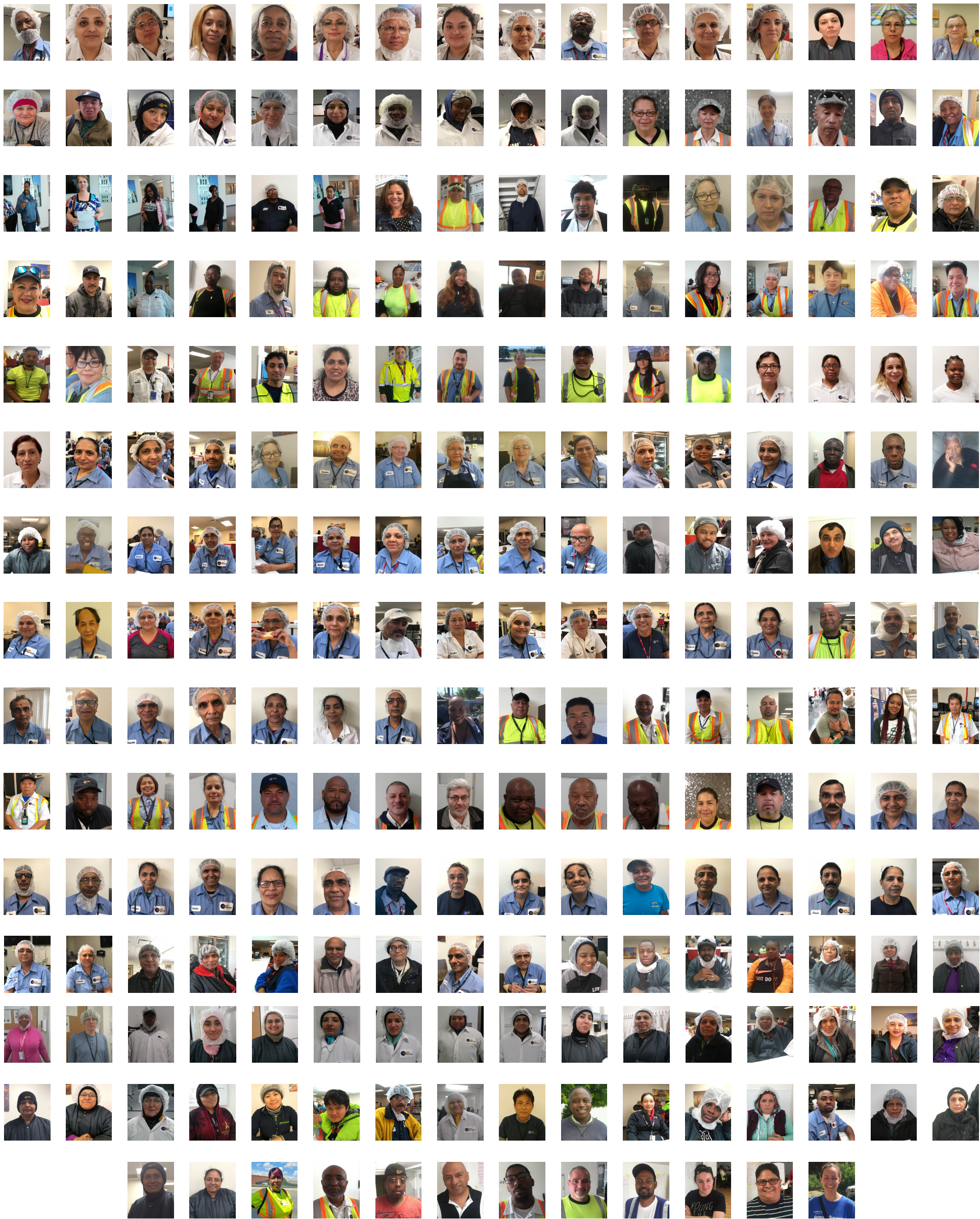


The "Hands Off Pants On" team travelled to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference. Local 1 researcher Sarah Lyons, along with leaders Roushaunda and Cecilia, campaigned for the International Labour Organization to end gender-based violence in the workplace. They were joined by our union brothers and sisters from across the world, and got to represent HOPO on the United Nations floor!

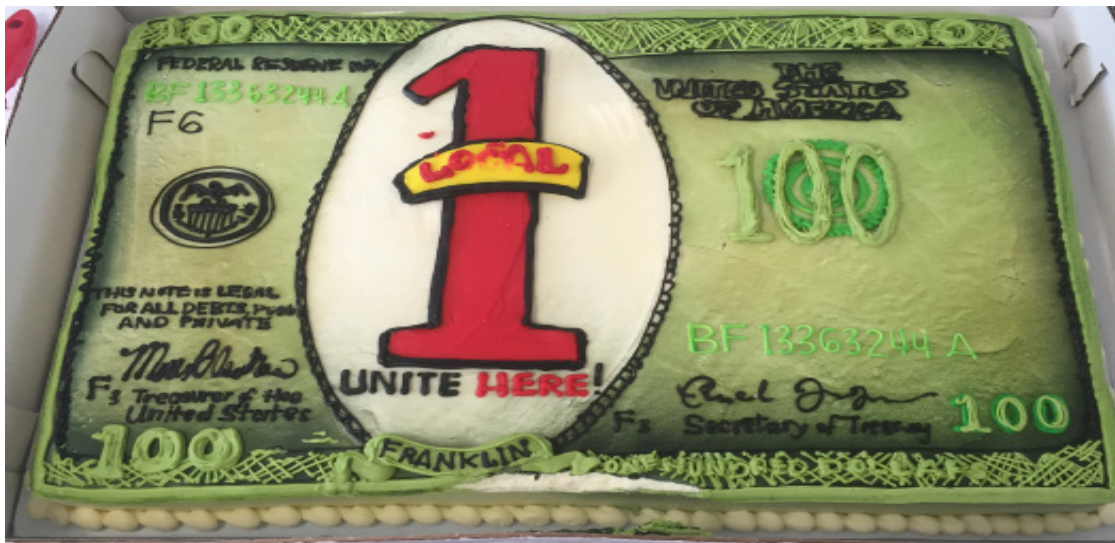
"I was overwhelmingly inspired to be a participant in the evolution of eliminating gender based violence and sexual harassment in the workplace." - Roushaunda



LSG SKY CHEFS WORKERS AT O'HARE FIGHT FOR A FAIR RAISE



Workers at Sky Chefs have been fighting for a raise for over a year. Sky Chefs now gave raises to all the workers; some people got a \$2.00 per hour raise! Soon we will have a decision from an arbitrator establishing the new wage scale. Congratulations, LSG Sky Chefs workers.



We celebrated the raises with a cake!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jovan Dawson



Jovan Dawson works at Hudson News at Midway Airport. He joined the union three years ago and eventually became a key leader. Currently, he is on LOA working to organize hotel workers. He hopes that in upcoming contract negotiations, hotel workers have year-round health care so that they can be healthy and feel secure.

Jovan has a one year old son, Coby. When he's not working, he likes spending time with his family and friends. He lives in the South Shore neighborhood of Chicago, and is an active member in his church, First Paradise.

Why did you become involved with the union?

I got involved in the union because of the unfair treatment at Hudson News from management, my check being short, and being overwhelmed with work and not having enough employees on staff. I did not make enough money and did not have health insurance.

I became a leader because I got fed up with how things were going and it was time for me to fight for myself and for my coworkers. I led three delegations to H.R. and managers.

How has your job improved in the years that you've worked there?

We won a lot in a short amount of time! We won raises that brought us from \$10.50 to \$13.80. We also won the free health care and we get a CTA voucher. We also receive \$100 if we're on time every two weeks that we're scheduled to work. Martin Luther King Day is now a paid holiday with time and a half.

As a leader, what are you most proud of?

Leading people to City Hall last year because we weren't getting a response from the company about a raise. We also delegated one of the Chicago Department of Aviation representatives. I was proud to see my coworkers fight beside me and knowing that I was helping change their lives for the better.

You went on the Memphis trip. Is there anything you'd like to share from that experience?

It was a humbling experience. I learned about what it took for the sanitation workers to get a contract in 1968. The struggle they faced teaches us about the history of the union and why unions are important.

What are you looking forward to learning while on LOA?

I look forward to learning how to become an even better leader among my coworkers and how to organize.

GRIEVANCE VICTORIES

Asha Brown. Signature Room. Promoted from a Cook 6 to Cook 5. \$331
Pascual Bustamante. Savor McCormick. Bartender. Scheduling Error. \$128.87
Ramon Tapia. W Lakeshore. Banquet server. Backpay. \$1687.00
Felip Bernal. Palomar. Backpay \$466.00
Catering Department, Loyola University. Scheduling Error. 65 hours.
Aryal Eden. Hilton. 3 day suspension, back pay. \$479.68
Tamicah Covington. Hilton. 3 day suspension, back pay. \$352.80
Teric Roberts. Aries, O'hare. \$5,907.83
Ashley E. Fairmont. Termination reinstatement.
Regina Gaitley. Fairmont. Backpay. \$625.04
Laura Arzola. Monaco. Scheduling error. Backpay. \$156.88
Paula Gonzalez. Monaco. Scheduling error. Backpay. \$156.88
Irene Angeletti. CSS, Navy Pier. Back pay. \$500.

CALENDAR



AUGUST 11
BUD BILLIKEN
PARADE

RSVP ON
FACEBOOK

SEPTEMBER 1
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

LOCAL 1 STANDS WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES



On June 30, UNITE HERE Local 1 members marched in solidarity with thousands of other Chicagoans to protest the separation of families in the United States.

CHECK OUT OUR BEAUTIFUL MEMBERS AT THE PRIDE PARADE ON JUNE 24!



WANT TO BE FEATURED? TALK TO US.
WE'RE ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER
@UNITEHERELOCAL1

