



Senior Power Celebration 2023

Honoring

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson

**Illinois Alliance for Retired
Americans Executive Vice President
Miller Rodgers**

IFT President Dan Montgomery



The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans is a statewide organization, founded in April 2002, with 145,000 members working together to make their voices heard in the laws, policies, politics and institutions that shape our lives. Over the past 20+ years, we have grown to over 257,000 members with a primary objective to enroll and mobilize retired union members and seniors in the community into a nationwide grassroots movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda that respects work and strengthens families.

The mission of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans is to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for everyone so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security. The Illinois Alliance believes that all older and retired persons have a responsibility to strive to create a society that incorporates these goals and rights and that retirement provides them with opportunities to pursue new and expanded activities with their unions, civic organizations and their communities.

Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans Board 2023-2025

Don Todd, President
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Stephanie Collins, Director, Community
Michael Malmstrom, Director, Community
Kay Pence, Director, Community

Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans

2023 Senior Power Celebration

**Friday, October 13, 2023
1 PM**

PROGRAM

Invocation

Opening

Don Todd, IARA President

Greeting & Message

Representative Nikki Budzinski (IL-13)

Presentation of the 2023 Retiree Champion Award

Mayor Of Chicago – Honorable Brandon Johnson
accepted by Deputy Mayor for Labor Relations Bridget Early

Presentation of Frank and Bea Lumpkin Award

IFT President – Dan Montgomery

Presentation of the 20223 Jerry Prete Award

IARA Vice President – Miller Rodgers

Call to Action

William McNary, Co-Director of Citizen Action Illinois

2023 Retiree Champion Award

We are pleased to honor Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson with the 2023 Retiree Champion Award.

This award was created to honor elected leaders who are dedicated champions of needs and rights of seniors and retirees across the state.

Brandon Johnson was sworn in as the 57th Mayor of the City of Chicago on May 15, 2023.

Mayor Johnson began his career as a public school teacher, first at Jenner Academy in Cabrini-Green and then at Westinghouse College Prep on the West Side, where he experienced firsthand how school closures, unemployment and gun violence impacted his students and their communities. He then went on to become an organizer with the Chicago Teachers Union, where he led multi-racial coalitions to defend neighborhood schools from privatization, reduce high-stakes standardized testing and expand access to state funding.

Mayor Johnson was elected Cook County Commissioner of the 1st District in 2018. During his five years on the Cook County Board, he led efforts to pass the Just Housing Ordinance which prohibited housing discrimination against formerly incarcerated people, legislation to secure legal representation for immigrants facing deportation, and coordinated COVID-19 resources for low-income seniors in nursing homes.

In 2018, Mayor Johnson was elected Commissioner of the 1st District of Cook County. here he led the effort to pass the Just Housing Ordinance, which prohibited housing discrimination against formerly incarcerated people. As commissioner, he also collaborated with colleagues to eliminate the gang database, secure legal representation for immigrants facing deportation and advance recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day. In the wake of civil uprisings in the summer of 2020, he organized the Cook County Board to commit to the "Budget for Black Lives," bringing new investments in health care, public transportation, internet access, and affordable housing.

Mayor Johnson and his wife Stacie live in the Austin community, where they are raising their children Owen, Ethan and Braedyn.

2023 Retiree Champion Award Winner Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson





CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2023

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

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MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON APPOINTS BRIDGET EARLY TO SERVE AS DEPUTY MAYOR FOR LABOR RELATIONS

CHICAGO — Today, Mayor Brandon Johnson announced that Bridget Early will serve as the City of Chicago's first-ever Deputy Mayor for Labor Relations.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Bridget as Chicago's new Deputy Mayor for Labor Relations and continue to build upon our city's rich history of uplifting working families and fighting for economic justice for all workers," **said Mayor Brandon Johnson**. "I look forward to her partnership in creating pathways to jobs, improving working conditions, and supporting the working people who make our city run."

Early brings to the role more than 15 years of experience in legislative engagement and project management. She most recently served as Director of Membership and Strategic Alliances for the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems. She has previously served as Executive Director of the National Public Pension Coalition and Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Chicago Federation of Labor.

"Growing up in a union household, I understand how good-paying jobs can uplift families and communities," **said Bridget Early**. "I look forward to working with Mayor Johnson and building upon our shared values of labor rights and dignity for all the working people of Chicago – the City that Works."

As Deputy Mayor for Labor Relations, Early will be responsible for working with all City agencies and departments to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of Chicago; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights, including working with relevant authorities to help enforce workers' statutory rights.

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2023 Frank and Beatrice Lumpkin Award

We are pleased to present the Frank and Beatrice Lumpkin Award to Illinois Federation of Teachers President, Dan Montgomery

This award was created to recognize dedicated dedicated movement leaders who not only help to power our organization, but who have dedicated their lives building the labor movement, and continue to push on for a better life for everyone.

Daniel J. Montgomery has worked on behalf of public education and the rights of working men and women for more than two decades. He was elected to a three-year term as president of the 103,000-member Illinois Federation of Teachers at the union's convention in October 2010 and unanimously reelected in 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022.

He received his B.A. in English, summa cum laude, from the University of Michigan and holds an M.S.Ed. from Northwestern University. A dedicated and experienced educator, Montgomery taught English for 18 years at Niles North High School in Skokie, Ill. He has also taught in the City Colleges of Chicago and at Northwestern University.

Montgomery is a proud union activist. He has been an IFT member since his first day of teaching in 1993. He served as head of the 1,800-member North Suburban Teachers Union, AFT Local 1274, for nearly 10 years and was a vice president on the IFT Executive Board from 2002 until his election to the IFT presidency. Montgomery also serves as a vice

president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), where he sits on the Executive Committee with AFT President Randi Weingarten.

Montgomery is also a vice president of the Illinois AFL-CIO and serves on the Boards of Directors of the Albert Shanker Institute, the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, and Chicago's Theater Oobleck. In 2011, Governor Pat Quinn appointed him a trustee of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. He served seven years as a director of the prestigious National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Dan has three children and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

**2023 Frank and Beatrice Lumpkin
Award Winner
IFT President, Dan Montgomery**



2023 Jerry Prete Award

We are pleased to present the 2023 Jerry Prete Award to United Auto Workers Local 6 President and Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans Executive Vice President, Miller Rodgers.

The Jerry Prete Award honors movement leaders who have held a steadfast commitment to seniors, retirees, and workers throughout the state of Illinois; as well as sharing in the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans values and mission of Retirement with dignity and respect.

Miller Rodgers worked as an assembler, repairman, and in maintenance at the International Harvester Company diesel engine plant in Melrose Park, where he was a proud member of United Auto Workers Local 6. For more than 15 years he served as a trustee on the UAW Local 6 Executive Board, and in retiring after 31 of service, Miller joined the UAW Local 6 Retiree Chapter where he has served on the Executive Committee for the past 24 years, and in the role of Chairman for the past decade.

Miller offers his seasoned leadership to the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans as our Executive Vice President with the belief that Seniors, when organized, have the power to bring solutions to the challenges they face. He is committed to the IARA mission of retirement with dignity and economic security for every worker and to bringing the next generation of seniors into our movement.

**2023 Jerry Prete Award Winner
UAW Local 6 President & Illinois Alliance for
Retired Americans Executive Vice President
Miller Rodgers**





**Retiree Champion
Award Recipient**
Chicago Mayor
Brandon Johnson



**Frank & Beatrice
Lumpkin Award Recipient**
IFT President
Dan Montgomery

The Illinois Federation of Teachers is proud to be a part the **Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans Power Luncheon.**

We are especially moved to join you in honoring our union brothers, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and IFT President Dan Montgomery.



Illinois Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

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President

Daniel J. Montgomery

Executive Vice President

Stacy Davis Gates

Secretary-Treasurer

Cyndi Oberle-Dahm



Congratulations

Thank you for all you've done for the labor movement and fighting for the rights of retirees.



Learn more at ieanea.org/retired



SEIU Healthcare United for Quality Care

Members of SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana send congratulations and best wishes to the IARA on a successful Senior Power Lunch.



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RETIREES NEVER QUIT





Subchapter 86

**We are pleased to sponsor the
Illinois Alliance for Retired
Americans
2023 Senior Power Celebration**



The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans needs your support to continue towards our mission to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy dignity, personal fulfillment and family security as senior citizens.

Please consider making a donation online at

<https://tinyurl.com/DonateIARA>

or send a check to:

Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
2229 S. Halsted St, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60608