



# NC STATE AFL★CIO

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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## *Dear Labor Leaders and Union Members,*

Thank you for all you did this year to support our state federation and help working families. In 2019, we continued to advance our goal of winning better policies for working people. In February, we held our biennial legislative conference, which had record attendance from both union members and legislators. In addition, we held six local legislative meetings and two town halls around the state to gain support for our policy agenda and the AFL-CIO Workers' Bill of Rights. And thanks to our efforts, for the first time in years a bill was introduced in our legislature to repeal our state's ban on public employee collective bargaining.

Sisters and brothers, change is in the air. Across North Carolina and the country, working people are rising up and taking brave workplace actions. Half a million people walked a picket line in the past year—including CWA members who work for AT&T and UAW 2404 members who work for General Motors. That's more strikes and workplace actions than we've seen in a generation. And public approval of unions is at a 50-year high.

Now is the time to grow our movement. That's why our state federation is hiring an organizer to help affiliated unions organize new members.

We are also focused on building political power for working people by electing labor champions—including our own members—to federal, state, and local office. Thanks to your help this year, we elected or re-elected six union members to local office, including state fed executive board and CWA member, Yvonne Kinston, who won a seat on the Fayetteville city council.

We have an opportunity in 2020 to elect more labor champions and make our state and our country better places for working people. Together we win, so I hope you will say "Count Me In!" to mobilize your members, elect union-endorsed candidates, and work to build a bigger, more engaged, more powerful labor movement.

*In Solidarity,*

**MaryBe McMillan**  
President





FLOC Boycott Vuse Action



Legislative Conference



Pots & Spoons Protest

## NC STATE AFL-CIO

# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

### LABOR 2019

- ★ Coordinated canvassing, phone banking, and worksite leafleting in two special congressional elections.
- ★ Worked with Central Labor Councils to endorse candidates for local office in every major city in North Carolina.
- ★ Produced a NC Labor 2019 Voter Guide and educational material about labor-endorsed candidates.
- ★ Elected Yvonne Kinston (CWA) to the Fayetteville City Council and Brian Leonard (AFGE) to River Bend Town Council.
- ★ Re-elected four union members to local office including Braxton Winston (IATSE) to the Charlotte City Council.
- ★ Elected or reelected labor-endorsed mayors in Burlington, Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh.
- ★ Convened the NC AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education to screen and endorse candidates for statewide election in 2020.



Yvonne Kinston, CWA

### POLICY PROGRESS

- ★ Published a comprehensive legislative policy agenda framed around the Workers' Bill of Rights.
- ★ Held a successful NC Labor Legislative Conference with record attendance from lawmakers and union members.
- ★ Held local legislative meetings between lawmakers and union members in Asheville, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Havelock, and Raleigh.
- ★ Facilitated state legislative lobbying visits by union members, monitored legislation, and met with lawmakers on various bills.
- ★ Had introduced a bill to repeal North Carolina's Jim Crow-era ban on public sector union contracts for the first time in over a decade and held a press conference to draw attention to the issue.
- ★ Had introduced bills to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, end subminimum wages for disabled and tipped workers, and cover farm and domestic workers for the first time ever.
- ★ Mailed over one-thousand postcards written in support of raising the minimum wage and requiring paid work breaks to state lawmakers.
- ★ Worked closely with the Governor's office, IBEW, and UAW around Gov. Cooper's Clean Energy Plan, Executive Order 80.
- ★ Helped establish the City of Durham's ground-breaking Workers' Rights Commission.
- ★ Coordinated meetings between labor leaders and

### Raising the Minimum Wage Day of Action

CWA AT







62nd Annual Convention



Durham Workers' Rights Commission

Democratic municipal officials from around the state to discuss policies to help grow the labor movement.

- ★ Won paid parental leave for state executive branch employees.



## AFFILIATE SUPPORT

- ★ Walked picket lines and rallied solidarity support for striking CWA members at AT&T and UAW members at General Motors.
- ★ Publicized and participated in solidarity actions with AFGE, FLOC, IAMAW, and UNITE HERE.
- ★ Honored members of Machinists Victory Lodge 1725 with our 2019 P.R. Latta Rank-and-File Award.
- ★ Collected over \$100,000 in dues for Central Labor Councils and assisted CLCs with governance and leadership development.
- ★ Supported the Southern Piedmont CLC May Day Week of Action.
- ★ Worked with the Greater Sandhills CLC to hold a Workers' Rights Cookout in Fayetteville.
- ★ Collaborated with UAW Local 3520 and the Triad and Southern Piedmont CLCs to hold a Workers' Bill of Rights Town Hall in Salisbury.
- ★ Conducted a Common Sense Economics training for UFCW Local 1208 members.
- ★ Welcomed 18 new affiliates representing over 7300 members.
- ★ Mobilized support for May 1st Education Rally.



## BUILDING POWER

- ★ Published our first comic book, "The Workers' Bill of Rights: A Comic Exploration," designed to educate people about our rights and freedoms as workers. [Text COMIC to 235246 to get your digital copy!](#)
- ★ Launched the "North Carolina Union Jobs Board" to connect job-seekers with unionized employers.
- ★ Displayed "North Carolina Labor History Revealed," our labor history exhibit, in Charlotte, Fayetteville, Salisbury, and Wilmington.
- ★ Organized a successful 62nd Annual Convention in Charlotte featuring AFA-CWA President Sara Nelson, UNITE HERE President D. Taylor, and IAMAW Legislative Director Hasan Solomon.
- ★ Promoted Charlotte Workers Assembly's Workers' Empowerment Week of Action.
- ★ Participated in coalition meetings with the Climate & Jobs Roundtable, NC Families Care, Raising Wages NC, and America Votes.
- ★ Led a successful Carolina Labor School.
- ★ Created the "Sponsor the House of Labor" program to raise additional funding to support our work.
- ★ Held a Workers' Memorial Day observance in Raleigh.
- ★ Continued our paid internship program and hired an Organizing & Mobilization Coordinator and Policy Apprentice to help move our work.
- ★ Co-chaired State Fed/CLC Advisory Committee meetings of the national AFL-CIO.

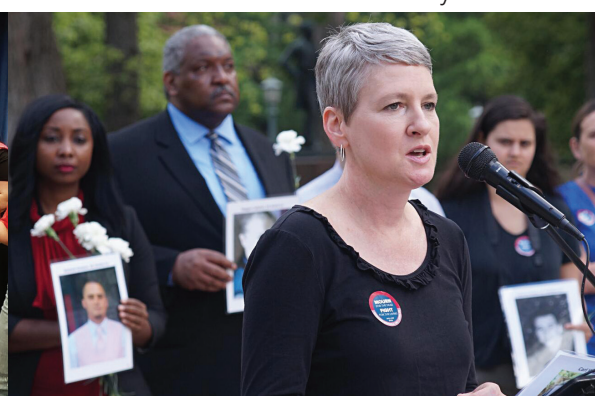
F&T Strike Line



Bargaining Ban Repeal Presser



Workers Memorial Day







# 2020 DATES TO WATCH

<b>February 8:</b>	<b>Historic Thousands on Jones St (HKonJ)</b>
<b>March 3:</b>	<b>Primary Election Day</b>
<b>March 17-20:</b>	<b><u>Advanced</u> Labor School</b>
<b>April 28:</b>	<b>Workers' Memorial Day</b>
<b>May 1:</b>	<b>May Day</b>
<b>July 19-24:</b>	<b>Carolina Labor School</b>
<b>Sept. 7:</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
<b>Sept. 24-25:</b>	<b><u>63rd</u> Annual Convention (Raleigh)</b>
<b>November 3:</b>	<b>Election Day</b>