Friday, September 8, 2023
The Edison Ballroom, 240 West 47th Street
New York, NY 10036
A Grand Celebration of Labor’s Cause

By Ray O’Hanlon

The Irish Echo Labor Awards have reached teen status.

The 2023 Irish Echo Labor Awards are set for Friday evening, September 8, at their traditional venue, the Edison Ballroom in Manhattan.

All the award winners are friends and champions of America’s labor movement, and labor’s universal cause.

As in previous years the awards event will also be a celebration of the extraordinary story that is the Irish contribution to the cause of labor in America.

This year, there is an additional story to tell.

John “Chick” Donohue is the Irish Echo’s Irish American of the Year for 2023.

Ordinarily the Irish American of the Year has been lauded at another event on the Echo’s calendar.

Not so this year. Chick will be saluted, appropriately, at the Edison Ballroom gathering.

The story originates in Inwood during the Vietnam War and a plan, hatched in a bar named Doc Fiddler’s, to deliver beer to a number of U.S. soldiers from the neighborhood who are serving in Vietnam.

After hitching a ride on a merchant ship, Donohue landed in Qui Nho’n, the capital of Binh Dinh province to deliver beer to a number of U.S. soldiers from the neighborhood of Inwood in Upper Manhattan.

Donohue, who is widely known by the sobriquet "Chick" or "Chickie," has made headlines in recent years by way of his book, "The Greatest Beer Run Ever," which was first published in 2017 and again in 2021.

The book was a collaborative effort between Donohue and Joanna Molloy of the New York Daily News.

The book would become a bestseller and lead to a movie by the same title with Zac Efron starring as Donohue, and additional roles played by Russell Crowe and Bill Murray.

The story originates in Inwood during the Vietnam War and a plan, hatched in a bar named Doc Fiddler’s, to deliver beer to a number of U.S. soldiers from the neighborhood who are serving in Vietnam.

Donohue volunteered for the mission and what happened next was that he sailed to Vietnam on a cargo ship, the "Drake Victory," carrying a backpack full of beer - Pabst Blue Ribbon.

He duly landed in Qui Nho'n in early 1968. This was not good timing.

Unbeknownst to Chick, indeed unbeknownst to top American military brass, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese were planning a big action. It would go down in history as the Tet Offensive.

Volumes have been written about the Tet Offensive, but only one volume describes Chick Donohue’s one man counter offensive — with beer.

It was not the beer that he had lugged from the U.S. That stash, suffice it to say, did not survive the long ocean voyage. But Chick was able to restock once making landfall in Qui Nho’n.

Here’s where the tale is taken up in a story written for the website Task & Purpose.com and itself in part based on what Chick Donohue would tell the New York Times.

"Shortly after pulling in, Donohue noticed the unit insignia on a group of military police officers who were inspecting the Drake Victory.

“They were from the 127th Military Police Company, the same unit as one of the names on his list: Tom Collins.

“Donohue, known as a smooth and quick talker, pulled one of the MPs aside and spun a sob story about looking for his brother-in-law, gave the man Collins’ name, and then waited. Not long after that, Collins arrived.

“After sharing a few drinks with Collins, Donohue set off to find the other names on his list. Donohue went from Qui Nhon, to Khe Sahn, then to Saigon, striking off names and handing out beers, then restocking.

“Donohue talked his way onto convoys, military mail planes, and transport helicopters.”

And he talked his way all the way to the northern reaches of South Vietnam where his Inwood buddies were based. Mission accomplished, beer delivered and now it was time to sort out for home, via Saigon.

Then came Tet and Donohue found himself stranded in Saigon as the bullets flew and as his ship had left port without him.

Donohue did, of course, eventually make it back home to New York.

His mission would embed itself in local lore and reach far and wide with the book and movie.

So the Labor Awards will be an opportunity to laud Chick Donohue and his extraordinary life.

They will also be an opportunity to raise glasses — of beer and much else. And not just to Chick and our Labor Award winners.

It should be remembered that most, if not all, the men and women who worked on "The Greatest Beer Run Ever" movie have been on the picket lines over the past few months.

Glasses, too, will be raised to their ultimate defense of their cause.

Chick Donohue and Zac Efron.
TWU Congratulates The IrishEcho for their 2023 Labor Awards, and a hearty applause to all the honorees!
William Doyle

City and State of Address: York, Pennsylvania.
Current Company and Position: Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Dredging Contractors of America.
First Job: My first jobs as a kid was a grounds keeper at a cemetery, clam digger on the mudflats of Boston Harbor and Quincy Bay, and lobster boat diver boat tender. My first real industrial job was a shipyard worker (19 years old) while a cadet at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. This was during the first gulf war in the early 1990's. The shipyard was the old General Dynamics - Beth Steel yard in Quincy, Massachusetts. This led to me becoming an Officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine with the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (AFL-CIO). I am still a card carrying and dues paying member.
What it taught me: Nobody gets anything for nothing, work hard, and if you are not at least 15 minutes early then you late.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: Listen. Ask questions. Don't be afraid to make a decision.
What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today's economy? I think the labor movement is on an upswing. Keep educating and recruiting.

William P. Doyle was born in Boston, Massachusetts and raised in Weymouth. Mr. Doyle currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Dredging Contractors of America. Mr. Doyle served as the Chief Executive of the Port of Baltimore for three years (July 2020 - June 2023) leading the port through the worst crisis in modern maritime and supply chain history resulting from COVID-19 and the microchip shortage. In steering Baltimore through the storm, the port rebounded by June 2023 with more ocean carrier services, a maximized position as the United States' largest importer and exporter of automobile, light truck and farm machinery.
On January 1, 2013, the United States Senate confirmed President Barack Obama's nomination of William P. Doyle as a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission. He was nominated to another term by President Obama on January 29, 2015, and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 23, 2015. He served in this role until February 2018. Prior to being sworn in as Commissioner, Commissioner Doyle was Chief-of-Staff of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (AFL-CIO). Previous to this role, he served in an executive management role as the Director of Permits, Scheduling, and Compliance with the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects. There, he acted as lead negotiator for the U.S. Government in securing cost recovery agreements with private sector national and multinational companies.
He is a 1992 graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering. As a cadet, he worked in the Quincy, Massachusetts shipyard breaking out vessels for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon graduation from Mass Maritime, he began sailing as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. As a U.S. Merchant Marine Officer from 1992 to 2002, Commissioner Doyle's shipboard experience included serving aboard ammunition ships in and around Diego Garcia, car carriers servicing Europe and the Pacific Rim, tanker vessels, and in the U.S. Maritime Administration's U.S. Ready Reserve Force Fleet. While still serving in the U.S. Merchant Marine, Commissioner Doyle entered law school at Widener Commonwealth University School of Law in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Throughout law school, Commissioner Doyle worked his summer and winter breaks serving aboard Pre-positioning ships in South Carolina, delivering jet fuel to Hafa, Israel, and transporting liquid-sulfur between ports along the Gulf Coast of the United States.

Tim Driscoll

City and State of Address: Washington, D.C.
Current Company and Position: President of the International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, President.
First Job: Newspaper delivery.
What it taught me: On-time is late. 
Best advice you could give someone starting out: There is no single path to advancing through life, but if you apply yourself to the best of your ability, you take hold of the opportunities that present themselves, and you give your best effort in whatever capacity you are working in, then you will have seeded the ground for success.
What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today's economy? The establishment, growth, and continued success of labor unions has always relied upon our ability to attract and integrate successive generations of immigrant workers. The exploitation of immigrant workers by unscrupulous employers remains a scourge on our society. Labor needs to redouble its efforts to reach those workers that seek the protections and benefits that collective bargaining represents.

Timothy J. Driscoll, President of the International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers (BAC), is a 38-year member of BAC, a bricklayer by trade, and resides in the Washington DC area with his wife Elizabeth and daughter Mairead. Prior to his election to the Office of President in 2020 Driscoll served as Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice President, Director of Trade Jurisdiction, and Assistant to the President for Government Relations. Throughout his career Driscoll has established himself as a leader committed to advancing workers’ rights and improving the lives of BAC members.
In addition to his duties with BAC, Driscoll also serves as; a Vice President of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, a member of the Governing Board of Presidents of North America’s Building Trades Unions, serves on the Board of Directors for the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust, the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, the Blue-Green Alliance, and Helmets to Hard Hats.
Driscoll, a second-generation bricklayer, was born and raised in Boston, MA in 1963, one of five children. His father Nicholas Driscoll emigrated to the United States from Cork, Ireland in 1949 and his mother Jane (Mullins) Driscoll is a native of Boston, MA.
"COMHGHAIRDEAS"

The Brothers and Sisters of IBEW Local 104 say...

...to Tiler Eaton

on being named a 2023 Irish Labor Ambassador

by The Irish Echo

Good times, good friends, good health to you, and the luck of the Irish in all that you do.

Comprised of more than 1,000 outside electrical workers in the New England area, IBEW Local 104 has a proud history of providing a well-trained, efficient and highly productive workforce. Local 104 is proud of the history and prosperity of our region and actively promotes New England as an ideal place to live, work and do business, as our members have done for over 100 years.

We are IBEW Local 104 Lineworkers. We keep the power on!
Lawrence Ayers

City and State of Address: Pearl River, New York.
Current Company and Position: Rockland County Patrolmen Benevolent Association, President.
Family: Married to Alece; children; Madyson, Thomas, Brian and Brenden.
First Job: New York Police Department.
What it taught me: Working for the NYPD taught me many things. It taught me the importance of boundaries as a professional in Law Enforcement. It taught me that the skill of communication goes hand and hand with being an active listener. It taught me that being a critical thinker was crucial to the safety of those around me. Most importantly it taught me the responsibility of upholding my moral and ethical standards.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: The best advice I can give to someone starting out is to begin your career by getting involved in your labor union. For those starting out in Law Enforcement I would highly recommend getting involved in your PBA, Union or whatever organization represents you as an employee. Being involved gives you the means to protect your rights as an employee.

You gain knowledge by being involved and knowledge is power. In addition building comradely and friendships is important. Getting involved in the PBA, union or employee group helps support this. Being in a labor union brings certain stress factors. Having this support is crucial to a long healthy career.

What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? Politics have always played a part in labor. Today we see political correctness, viewpoints, and ideology changing frequently. It is important for labor organizations to find Political affiliates that support the viewpoints and ideology of their members. These affiliates should be true partners to your labor organization regardless of their political party affiliation. The labor movement needs to emphasize the importance of increasing its members. The more members the better chance the affiliation is successful.

Gary Walker

City and State of Address: Boston, MA
Current Company and Position: Business Agent, Local 103 IBEW
Family: Heather Walker, wife; Dierdre Cummings, daughter, Matt Cummings, son-in-Law; Erin Connelly, daughter, Aidan Connelly son; Matthew Cummings, grandson; Mairead Cummings, granddaughter.
First Job: Paper Boy.
What it taught me: That I wanted a Better One!

What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? Doing a Better Job supporting each other.

Scott Cowan

City and State of Address: Baltimore MD
Current Company and Position: President, ILA Local 333; Vice President, International Longshoremen’s Association.
Family: Spouse - Meghan Cowan; Children- Kamryn Cowan, Kerrington Cowan, Conner Hartlove, Dylan Hartlove, Grace Hartlove, Joseph Walker.
First Job: Longshoremen, Port of Baltimore.
What it taught me: Everyone plays a role in keeping the country moving. Longshoremen, especially do this by moving the worlds cargo. We take the things we use every day for granted sometimes.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Learn as many skills possible. The more skill you have the more marketable you are to employment.

What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? The labor movement needs to focus on keeping up with wages in relation to inflation. In addition the balance of work and family needs to be protected.

Larry Ayers is the President of the RCPBA, a position he has held for five years. Larry is a graduate of St. Anthony’s High School and Manhattan College. While at Manhattan Larry was a member of both the Golf and Lacrosse team.

Larry started his career in Law Enforcement in 2002 when he joined the New York Police Department. During his years there he was a member of the NYPD Hockey Team. He transferred to the Orangetown Police Department in 2007 where he currently works. Larry resides in Pearl River with his wife Alece and their four children Madyson, Thomas, Brian and Brenden. Over the years he has coached his children in various sports including softball, soccer, lacrosse and hockey. He is the Head Coach for St. Thomas Aquinas Lacrosse Team, a Division II Program. His leadership in the PBA began early on in his career. He held positions which included Vice President of Orangetown PBA, 2nd Vice President of the RCPBA, 1st Vice President of the RCPBA and currently President of the RCPBA.

Gary Walker began his apprenticeship in 1985 and was sworn into IBEW Local 103 in 1986. Elected to the Examining Board in 1996 and the Executive Board in 1999. He has served as a Business Agent since 2002 under Four Business Managers.
Congratulations to all the Honorees, especially to our Business Manager, Paul O’Connor your hard work and dedication is appreciated by Plumbers Local Union No. 1 and all of the Labor Movement

Paul O’Connor
Business Manager

Freddy Delligatti
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Richard Gilligan
Business Agent-At-Large

Business Agents

Richard Garner
John Hickey
Carl Johnson

Tommy Kinirons
George Malandrakis
Bob Murray

Louie J. Pasquale
Ray Rondino
John Totino

Paul Cotto
Executive Board/Organizer

Andrew Friscia
Examining Board/Organizer
James Slevin

City and State of Address: Washington, DC
Current Company and Position: National President of the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
Family: Spouse: Maureen; Son: Robert; Daughters: Keri-Anne & Colleen.
First Job: Worked in a newspaper and soda fountain store.
What it taught me: This was my first job while in High School and it taught me about my commitment and reliability to the community that this shop served and to the shop owner.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: The best advice that I can give to someone starting out in the labor market is to stick with your core values.
While I was growing up, my parents instilled in me to DIGINITY and RESPECT as a core value. This is something that I share with everyone I meet, no matter what is their job or what job title they hold. This is also what I expect in return from them no matter what they do or who they are.
What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? These are exciting times in the labor movement, workers voices are rising in non-traditional jobs. It is our job to make sure that these voices are heard so that these workers can go to work in a safe environment, so they can give a fair wage to provide for their families and their communities.

Adam Harkin

City and State of Address: Massapequa, NY
Current Company and Position: Regional Manager; New York City District Council of Carpenters.
Family: Wife - Dana Harkin, Sons - Aidan and Nathaniel Harkin, daughter Peyton Harkin.
First Job: Dock Builder apprentice.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Be a sponge, absorb all the information that you come across. Filter out the things that you do not need and hold onto the things that will help you.
What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? The labor movement needs to continue to grow its membership through recruitment. The current sentiment in the country in regards to organized labor is growing more and more favorable and it is incumbent upon the labor movement to capitalize on this sentiment. We need to be engaging with communities, schools, and our elected officials. We need to get the message out that we are a very inclusive organization with members from all walks of life and that we are a truly sustainable path to the middle class.

James T. Slevin, President UWUA, AFL-CIO. James T. Slevin, president the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, represents around 50,000 active members employed in the energy, electric, gas, steam, water, and related professional, technical and service industries. Slevin was born and raised in a union household in The Bronx. The son of Irish immigrants and a UWUA shop steward, Slevin graduated from Mt. Saint Michael’s High School in The Bronx. From there he began his union career as a carpenter. In 1987 Slevin signed on as a utility worker at Consolidated Edison. Working his way up from helper to cable splicer, Slevin became a Local 1-2 shop steward in 1989.

Slevin was elected as an officer of Local 1-2 in 2005 and was appointed as president of the local in December of 2013. He was later elected to that position in March 2014 and re-elected in March 2017. During his years as president, Slevin successfully negotiated dozens of new labor agreements, including a contract with Con Edison that notably avoided a labor disruption.

He was elected as UWUA president July 2019. He currently serves on the AFL-CIO Executive Council, Cornell University Workers Institute Advisory Board and on The Gamaliel National Network’s board of directors. He has studied at the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations and is a graduate of the National Labor Leadership Initiative sponsored by the AFL-CIO. He is a married father of three children, with his wife Maureen, a registered nurse.

Lynn O’Donnell

City and State of Address: Brewer, NY
Current Company and Position: Yonkers Federation of Teachers - Co-Chair of the Retiree Committee, Women’s Committee and Human and Civil Rights Committee.
New York State United Teachers - Consultant for Retiree Council’s 14, 15, and 16.
Family: Children: James McKenna, Andrew McKenna, wife Jennifer, children Kaylee Taylor and Liam, Rita Leoni.
First Job: I started babysitting when I was 13 and have been working ever since.
What it taught me: All the jobs I have worked taught me to forge good relationships with colleagues, families and bosses. It makes everyone’s job a lot easier.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: I would suggest a new teacher become affiliated with their union right away! They offer mentors, comradery, and host many events for new teachers.
What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? I think the labor movement could improve if they joined high school college fairs. I think they should offer apprenticeship programs for high school students.

Lynn O’Donnell has taught for over 30 years in Yonkers, NY. She was born in the Bronx, NY. Her grandparents all emigrated from Ireland. Lynn’s paternal grandfather was in the longshoreman’s union and her maternal grandfather was in the operating engineers union. Both her parents were also union workers. Her father was an operating engineer and her mother a nurse. This gave her a great respect for unions as she was able to see firsthand how they supported her family over the years.

Although she has retired from teaching, she still works very closely with her union. She co-chairs several committees including the Retiree, Human and Civil Rights, and the Women’s Committees. She is also the Consultant for the Retiree Council’s 14, 15 and 16 for NYSUT.
is proud to join the Irish Echo in honoring its 2023 Labor Ambassadors:

**Lynn O’Donnell**  
Yonkers Federation of Teachers, NYSUT

**Scott Cowan**  
President, ILA Local 333; VP, ILA

**Tiler Eaton**  
Business Manager, IBEW Local 104

**Don Foley**  
Vice President, Carpenters Local 157

**Paul O’Connor**  
Business Manager, Plumbers Local 1

**Adam Harkin**  
Regional Manager, NYC & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters

**Larry Ayers**  
President, Rockland County PBA

**James Slevin**  
National President, UWUA, AFL-CIO

**Timothy Driscoll**  
President, International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers (BAC)

**Charles Lavery**  
District Rep., IUOE Local 3

**William Doyle**  
CEO, Dredging Contractors of America

**Diane Savino**  
Senior Advisor to the Office of the Mayor

**Gary Walker**  
Business Agent at Local 103 IBEW
Diane Savino

City and State of Address: Staten Island, NY.

Current Company and Position: NYC Office of the Mayor - Senior Advisor

First Job: When I was 15 I got a job as a waitress.

What it taught me: The Restaurant Industry taught me that if you worked hard you could make a lot of money. It also showed me the dark side of how easy it is to exploit workers and that the best way to improve your conditions was to join the Union.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Seek mentors, be intellectually curious and remember admitting you don’t know everything is actually an asset.

What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? The single biggest challenge that the Labor Movement faces now is how technology is changing the world of work. The use of AI and Robotics, the expansion of the so-called Gig Economy, the limits of Labor Law and the desire of workers to have a more flexible work life are on a collision course and will challenge Labor Leaders in ways they have not even contemplated.

Diane J. Savino (Democrat, Independent, Staten Island-Brooklyn) was born and raised in Astoria, Queens and was educated at Most Precious Blood Elementary School and Dominican Commercial High School. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology from St. John’s University and has a degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University.

Diane Savino has dedicated her entire professional career towards improving the lives of working families. She began her career in public service as a caseworker for New York City’s Child Welfare Administration, providing direct assistance to abused and neglected children. An active member of her local labor union, the Social Service Employees Union, Local 371, DC 37 of AFSCME, she quickly rose through the ranks to become the Vice President for Political Action & Legislative Affairs, where she became one of the most respected labor leaders in New York State. In 2004, she was elected to represent the 23rd Senatorial District, which encompasses the North and East Shores of Staten Island and portions of Southern Brooklyn, including Bensonhurst, Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Dyker Heights, Gravesend and Sunset Park.

In their endorsement of Senator Savino, the New York Times described her as “scrappy and effective.” Her dedication to her constituents earned her the Staten Island Advance’s “strongest endorsement for a third term,” saying, “no lawmaker works harder and no lawmaker commits herself to the fight for her constituents more than Ms. Savino.” City and State Newspaper has rated her as one of the 100 Most Influential People in New York State (2013 and 2014) and one of the 100 Most Influential People in New York City (2014).

She retired from the NYS Senate with the end of her term in 2022 and joined the Adams Administration where she currently works as a Senior Advisor to the Office of the Mayor.

Senator Savino’s hard work and influence was evidenced as she championed the Compassionate Care Act through the legislative process despite opposition and a campaign of misinformation. The Act will allow New Yorkers with serious medical conditions limited access to medical marijuana under the supervision of health care professionals and under strict state regulations.

She has authored numerous laws protecting hard-working New Yorkers. Among the laws she has helped enact is the first in the nation Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights, expanding basic worker protection rights to domestic workers; the New York Secure Choice Act which will provide private-sector employees with an automatic, portable vehicle for retirement savings that will help ensure income security in retirement; the Prompt Pay Bill, which ensures prompt payment to construction contractors and their employees; Wage Theft Prevention Act, assessing preventative and punitive measures on employers who steal income from their employees; and another national first, The New York State Commercial Goods Transportation Industry Fair Play Act, establishing new standards for determining whether a commercial truck driver is an employee or an independent contractor, helping to further protect workers’ rights statewide. In 2020, she worked with SAG-AFTRA to pass the NYS Right to Publicity Law NYS Right to that protects workers in TV Film and all forms of entertainment from the abuses of AI and Deep Fakes and Post-Humous use of their images.

During her tenure in the Senate she has served as Chair of newly formed Senate Standing Committee on Internet and Technology and has previously served as chair of the Banks Committee, Labor Committee, the Civil Service and Pensions Committee and the Children and Families Committee.

Charley Lavery

City and State of Address: Pacifica CA.

Current Company and Position: International Union of Operating Engineers Local 3, District Representative & Trustee

Family: Spouse; Dahlia Lavery; Daughters; Rosaleen Lavery, Charlotte Lavery.

First Job: Working with my dad who was a steel erector, packing a bag, traveling and staying in digs Monday through Friday. We worked on the construction of a large steel mill in the north east of England. It was dangerous work and a paintball was killed in a fall during my first week on the job, there was a mass walk-off to demand improved safety and working conditions.

What it taught me: It taught me that workers are willing to endure multiple hardships and dangers to have an opportunity to provide for themselves and their families. I saw how Employers can exploit that willingness, to maximize profitability by pitting workers against one another through piece-work, and through tokenism when it came to safety and working conditions.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Join a union if you can, or connect with your fellow workers and talk collectively about pay and conditions, don’t apologistize and organize. Work under a labor contract with work rules and a dispute resolution process. Be familiar with the contract and basic labor law. Know your rights about safety, breaks, and overtime. Do a fair days work for a fair day’s pay. Chances are you’ll be in a craft or job for a long time. Be prepared for the long haul and work toward a situation that is sustainable for you and your fellow workers, including a retirement and health care plan. Look out for ways that employers co-opt workers, through loans, favoritism, enthousiasm.

What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today’s economy? Focusing on the issues that unite all workers, the right to organize and collectively bargain, workplace safety, fair wages and work conditions, comprehensive health care for workers and their families and a retirement that allows workers a life with dignity at the end of their careers. When we shine a light on that commonality we create a opportunity to educate workers about the size and power of the labor movement. Educating employers about the benefits for them of working with a unionized work force, predictability of costs, work rules, dispute resolution, and having a motivated workforce that feels recognized and heard. As workers, and sometimes with responsible employers, we can counter the effects of corporatism that often has a soulless mission to maximize profit with no regard to the impacts on workers and their families.

Born in England to Donegal parents, we moved back to Donegal when I was a teenager. I had so many different jobs. I worked with my dad who was a steel erector and I learned to operate cranes, I marked the board in a bookie’s shop for a while, I worked as trainee psychiatric nurse in Derry, a truck driver in Buncrana, I worked as a roadie for a punk rock band for two years, I went from Donegal to London where I worked as a crane operator, and for a short while as bus conductor, then to New York and worked in the underground economy as a roofer, and lastly to San Francisco in 1993 where I worked construction, I took a break in 1995 to make a documentary on The Troubles called “Uncensored Voices, War or peace in Ireland” to educate Irish America about the situation in the north and build support for the Irish nationalist movement and momentum toward peace and a united Ireland.

I joined the Operating Engineers Union in 1998, it was a game and a life changer, my wages doubled and I had health care for myself and my two young daughters. I was very grateful for the opportunity that had been offered to me and I volunteered to help whenever the Union asked. I have now been on staff for 16 years and I am still passionate about recruiting new union members from underserved communities, women and minorities, many of whom are unaware that this career opportunity and collective voice is available to them.
BAC proudly supports the 2023 Irish Echo Labor Awards Honorees with a special note of congratulations to our own

BAC President Tim Driscoll

Jeremiah Sullivan
Secretary-Treasurer

Keith Hocevar
Executive Vice-President
Donald Foley

Family: Married to my wife Kelly, one son named Don as well.
First Job: First job in the union was on 36st & 1st Ave in Manhattan in 1984.
What it taught me: Taught me a great work ethic of showing up every day work hard watch, listen and learn everything the older carpenters were doing.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: Best advice is to be involved in your union. Go to your meetings and get all the correct information, go to all the functions, go to the parades, family picnics, take as many classes as you can at the training center you guys and girls are the future we need you to keep this going another 100 years. What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today's economy? Promote the benefits of being in a labor Union and how it affects a person's life. More Recruiting.

Paul O'Connor

City and State of Address: Maspeth NY.
Current Company and Position: Plumbers Local 1 Business Manager covering the 5 Boroughs.
Family: Married to Alison Father of 3 daughters. My oldest Riley, then Leah, then Meghan.
First Job: Deli Worker in Supermarket.
What it taught me: To be on time and be reliable. Customer service calls for navigation of all scenarios and personalities.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: Never look down your nose at anyone. And give 1,000% to whatever you do.
What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today's economy? To promote the great things that the movement does for all walks of life. Becoming a Union Member is the road to the Middle Class.

Tiler Eaton

Current Company and Position: Director of Membership Development outside Construction for the IBEW.
Family: Married to wife Colleen, children; Meghan, Tiler, Brendan and Maggie.
First Job: My first job coming out of the USMC was an apprentice lineman out of IBEW 104 Boston.
What it taught me: Learned that you must focus on multiple requirements to complete the apprenticeship, it's much more than just work in the field.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: Ask questions and participate at work and within your local union.
What changes do you think the labor movement could improve on, in today's economy? I believe the Labor Movement can provide workers with education on how valuable benefits will be for them and their families.

On Foley was born and raised in Yonkers New York. He went to Saunders Trade and Technical HS were he took up carpentry. Upon graduation a family member encouraged him to join the Union so, in 1984 he joined Local 608. Throughout the years he was an apprentice, Journeyman, shop steward, Union Delegate, and in 2015 he was brought on to staff at the New York City Council of Carpenters as a Council Representative. In 2019 he was elected into the position of Vice President of Local 157. He is grateful to utilize both positions to further help his fellow union brothers and sisters.

Paul has been a Member of Plumbers Local 1 for over 30 years, of which 16 were spent as an officer of the Union. He has served Local 1 on the Examining Board, as Recording Secretary, Business Agent, Business Agent at Large, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, and is the current Business Manager. Along with those accomplishments, he serves on the New York City Building Trades Executive Board, The New York State Pipe Trades Executive Board, and the Central Labor Council. Additionally, he has served as a 4-time delegate to the United Association Convention. Paul graduated from Queens Vocational, Local 1 Plumbing School, Mechanics Institute and holds a certificate from Cornell Labor School.

Paul has been married to his wife, Alison for 23 years and they have 3 daughters Riley, Leah, and Meghan. Paul’s parents, Joseph and June both immigrated to the United States from Co Cork, Ireland. His Dad Joe is a Life Member (50 yrs) of the Plumbers Union. Paul’s uncles Richard and John, also from Ireland, were Local 1 Plumbers as well. Paul has 3 siblings, Barbara, Joe, and Kieran, who is also a Local 1 Plumber. While Paul was born here in the United States, he lived in Ireland for 5 years during his childhood and spent most summers there. Paul is well aware of the impact that the Irish have had on the Labor Movement and is proud to be a part of it. He cherishes his Irish Heritage and is honored to be selected as one of the 2023 Labor Ambassadors for the Irish Echo.
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Organized in 1968, the West Gulf Maritime Association (WGMA) embraced within one association steamship owners, operators, agents along with stevedoring, and terminal companies located in Texas. Today the Association has grown to over 200 members throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

**OUR STORY**
We negotiate and administer various multi-employer collective bargaining agreements with the ILA. The WGMA provides payroll, payroll support services, and processes grievances. In addition, we coordinate the training of longshore workers to promote a safe and efficient working environment.

**OUR VISION**
The WGMA plays a significant role as a partner for progress in the maritime field. By working towards the betterment of our members, partners, and the industry as a whole, we contribute to the advancement and sustainability of maritime operations and services.

**OUR MISSION**
We serve our members and partners in the maritime industry by fostering a strong, stable and dependable workforce as well as providing crucial information and representation. We are dedicated to the well-being of our members, partners, and the maritime industry as a whole.

**WHAT WE DO**

**Service Hub**
WGMA administers payroll services for labor. We coordinate and process grievances, training, and other labor related activities.

**Communication**
We communicate and coordinate industry issues with various governmental entities in a unified voice.

**Informational**
Our Daily Industry Update Report provides information on news, events, and forums impacting navigational, environmental, and safety concerns in the maritime industry.

**Community**
We conduct town hall meetings to give members an opportunity to network and hear the latest activities, news, and developments impacting businesses in the maritime industry.

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Congratulations to the 2023 Irish Labor Ambassadors on your recognition by The IrishEcho, especially to one of our own, Paul O’Connor, U.A. Local I Business Manager.

Your contributions in the American labor movement are most commendable.

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2023 Labor Ambassadors

**Lynn O’Donnell**, Yonkers Federation of Teachers; NYS United Teachers - Consultant for Retiree Council’s 14, 15, and 16

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1920 - 2023

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On behalf of Connect Trade Union, I congratulate Bro. Tiller Eaton IBEW International Representative on his nomination for an Irish Echo Labour Award 2023. Tiller is deserving of this award not only for his service to his union the IBEW and US Labour Generally but also his work on behalf of the International Trade Union movement and in particular the Irish Trade Union movement. Tiller through his deeds has proven himself a true friend of Ireland and especially Connect Trade Union.

Paddy Kavanagh,
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is pleased to join the Irish Echo in honoring this year’s Labor Leader and President of the International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Tim Driscoll and the 2023 Labor Ambassador honorees.

We appreciate Tim’s continued leadership and dedication to creating life changing opportunities for the men and women of BAC and the Building Trades.

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Finding Grandad in Missouri

By Peter McDermott
pmcdermott@irishecho.com

On the road to Independence, the Uber driver told me that his grandfather, a dedicated smoker, lived to an advanced age.

"He was over 90," he said.

I nodded along in such conversations. On this occasion, I was thinking, "If this guy wants to have the odd cigarette past 60, good luck to him. It's none of my business."

The strange thing is that a powerful counter example had presented itself by the time I stepped out into the air ready for the return trip to Kansas City.

It was 4:30, dark and drizzling, early December. The spacious car park was almost empty. I ordered another Uber, but my mind was 4,200 miles away, on a motor car in 1937. Its driver said that he was ferrying "five or six" passengers, when it was apparently attacked.

The building I'd been in is very much like most modern libraries you'll encounter, ordered and well-run, with a friendly and helpful staff. Only its name – Midwest Genealogy Center – sets it apart: It's a branch of the public library system of three Missouri counties, Clay, Platte and Jackson, the last being the most famous, as it encompasses Independence, Mo., and Kansas City.

The librarians there showed me some of the resources available, both on-site and online at home, for the counties' residents who become members. They suggested that I look at the Irish Newspaper Database.

So, I spent a couple of hours, when I could've easily spent a couple of days browsing through some of its contents. I saw a Ballina newspaper that I'd never heard of listed and looked up its coverage of the last time Mayo won the All Ireland football final, in 1951. I was surprised that I found – quite the cast of characters, in fact. A policeman, Guard Albert Long, the works manager Patrick Conboy, of Messrs McCains', Alexandra Road, East Wall; Mr. O'Sullivan, District Justice; Mr. J.A. Geary, Chief State Solicitor's Office; Mr. P. Campbell, solicitor for the defense, two additional workers who weren't on strike, the defendant, who was, and four other strikers.

The charges involved throwing a stone, intimidation, and malicious damage to property, with the driver of the car being the named victim.

"Patrick Mulhern, 34, of Herbert Street," who'd been sentenced to a month in prison, lost the appeal in January. The shorter of the appeal pieces was buried inside – instead of sharing space with Il Duce, it was just above "Golf Club Dance."

This was of particular interest to me as this convicted man, Patrick Mulhern, is my maternal grandfather.

One of his surviving children, my uncle Paul Mulhern, told me, "My mother, your grandmother, hated visiting him in Mountjoy. She said she would never forget the pervading smell: a combination of sewage, Dettol [antiseptic liquid] and cabbage. It was an awful place."

By the time Paul was born in 1944, Granddad was serving as a Royal Air Force military policeman on bases in England and Northern Ireland. He believes he was working in England when he joined. "That was the great thing about it. When the war broke out," he said. "They looked into nobody's background. You'd just enlist. No questions asked."

At the outset of the war he'd also joined the Local Defence Force, specifically its 26th battalion, which was comprised of people who'd once been in the IRA, and particularly those who opposed the infant state during the Civil War. Granddad was picked up in late 1922

news in the main story on front page, having done a joint event with Hitler; while another adjoining report has an RAF detachment going to Gibraltar as part of a multinational effort against piracy.

There is no shortage of names in the court story I found – quite the cast of characters, in fact. Walter Reuther, fifth from left, and other United Auto Workers leaders being approached by Ford Motor Company security guards ahead of the "Battle of the Overpass" in Dearborn, Mich., on May 26, 1937.
I remembered that 1937 was the year there were intense battles between the Ford Motor Company and the UAW. This was the year, too, George Orwell published “The Road to Wigan Pier,” and the civil war in which he fought was raging in Spain. Mussolini’s most famous prisoner, Antonio Gramsci, had died on April 26, a few days after being unconditionally released.

After the war, when he demobilized from the RAF, Grandad didn’t have much luck getting a permanent job. He developed his own upholstery repair business, but the supply of luxury cars dried up in the 1950s. There was a factory in Inchicore where he got some piece work, their son recalled. Granny used to wait for him in the window at the end of the week “because if he came home without his toolbox he had another week’s work. If he came home with his toolbox, he’d been laid off.”

Grandad’s most successful venture was launching Granny in her full-time business career making curtains. Still a mother to young children when he died, she lived on in their South Circular Road flat until her death in 1990.

Global solidarity

There was an indirect link between the obscure events at Messers McCairns Motor Works, Ltd. in 1937 and the famous Dunnes Stores strike of 1984-87 — and that was my granny, although for the latter episode she wasn’t required to visit anyone in Mountjoy.

Her nephew, her sister’s Bertha’s son, Brendan Archbold, was the full-time official most centrally involved. My uncle, Paul Mulhern, has a personal perspective, too, as a cousin who was a lifelong friend. It began when 21-year-old Mary Manning refused to handle South African goods in the store’s window (with “Dublin Incident” at Messrs. McCairns probably not an ideal model to work from).

He was the right person to co-ordinate the strikers’ campaign, as he’d been a member of the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement before he worked for the union, and was committed to global solidarity. But he was also aware of the potential personal cost to each of them individually.

“As the union organizer, I was paid at all times,” Brendan said in an interview years later. “It was the strikers, one of whom lost her house when she was unable to meet her mortgage payments, who made the sacrifices.”

Paul remembered on other occasions him trying to rein in actions that would undermine the union. “Look at the battles you want to win, and look at the battles you’re prepared to lose,” he said, summarizing Brendan’s approach. “He was astute.”

In a way, there were two faces of the strike: the Saturday protests when the picket was three or four deep, which I remember. The strike drew high-profile supporters, such as musicians like Donal Lunney and poets Hugh Paxton and Seamus Heaney. But on the weekdays, which Paul remembers, shoppers passed the picket, often indifferent or oblivious to what was happening. And indeed most of the store’s workers continued to show up for work.

Brendan traveled to South Africa four times over 28 years as part of this unique episode in labor history and global solidarity. In 1985, during the strike he went with Mary Manning and other strikers to meet Archbishop Desmond Tutu, but they were prevented from entering and held under armed guard before they could put on a flight back to London. “The most dangerous supermarket workers in the world,” Brendan said at the time. In 1994, he returned as an official European Union observer when the country had its first free elections.

A dozen years later, he traveled for a private family vacation with his wife Rosaleen and sons Michael and Dylan, during which they met with Nelson Mandela. Finally, in her terrific 2017 memoir “Striking Back” (written with Sinead O’Brien) Mary Manning revealed that it was Brendan’s bold plan in December 2013 that allowed all of the Dunnes Stores strikers to pay tribute to Mandela upon his death. Manning, Karen Gearon and Liz Deasy attended the state official service, while the other strikers and Brendan joined them in the country a few days later.

Brendan, who was 67 when he died in December 2014, was remembered as the one person who didn’t let the strikers down.

John Douglas, the general secretary of Mandate (which IDATU had become), commented, “Brendan was a formidable trade union official and an exceptionally intelligent individual who brought huge energy to the trade union movement. He will be very sadly missed by all, but his legacy...”

His Irish Times obituary said: “Friends described him as a loving husband and father who was wry, self-deprecating, great company and a funny, warm and modest man.”
Merrill congratulates
Paul O’Connor.

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Congratulations!

We are proud to support the Irish Echo's 13th Annual Labor Awards honoring our friend Paul O'Connor and the other 2023 Labor Ambassadors

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Charles Lavery  Tiler Eaton
Don Foley  Tim Driscoll
James Slevin  William Doyle
Larry Ayers
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Adam Harkin       Larry Ayers       James Slevin
Tim Driscoll      Charles Lavery    William Doyle
Don Foley

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AND
BEST WISHES
TO
TIM DRISCOLL
International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, President

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS UNION LOCAL 3
MASSACHUSETTS - NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAINE & RHODE ISLAND

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Local 1 New York

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BEST WISHES
to the
Members and Staff
of the
Irish Echo

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
2023 Labor Ambassadors
Distinguished Honorees
Our Dear Friends and Clients
Paul O’Connor ● Donald Foley ● Adam Harkin
and
Co-Honorees
Hon. Diane Savino ● Gary Walker ● Larry Ayers
Timothy Driscoll ● Tiler Eaton ● Charley Lavery ● William Doyle
Scott Cowan ● James T. Slevin ● Lynn O'Donnell
and
John "Chick" Donohue
Irish Echo's Irish American of the Year

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Congratulations to RCPBA President & OPD PO Larry Ayers & all Recipients

It is an honor to have one of our leaders, Larry Ayers recognized as an Irish Echo Labor Ambassador. Larry has been a supporter and fighter for the labor rights of all RCPBA and OPD PBA members for his entire career and has an unrivaled will to fight for all cops.

-Sean O’Connor, RCPBA First VP & Pat Casey, OPD PBA President
WE PROUDLY SUPPORT THE IRISH ECHO
FOR ALL THE INTIITIATIVES YOU HAVE BEEN CHAMPIONING FOR DECADES

Congratulations to our brother John “Chick” Donohue on being named Irish Echo’s Irish American of the Year and all of this year’s Irish Labor Ambassadors!
THE STEAMSHIP TRADE ASSOCIATION

Proudly recognizes these 2023 Irish Echo Labor Ambassadors

Scott E. Cowan
President
ILA Local 333
International V.P.

William P. Doyle
Executive Officer
Dredging Contractors of America
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Local 282 Proudly Supports
The Irish Echo’s
13th Annual Irish Echo Labor Awards!
Congratulations to the Labor Leaders of 2023!

The Executive Board
THOMAS GESUALDI
President & Principal Officer

LOUIS BISIGNANO
Secretary Treasurer

MICHAEL O’TOOLE
Vice President

DARIN JEFFERS
Recording Secretary

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2500 Marcus Avenue, Lake Success, New York 11042
(516) 488-2822 (718) 343-3322 Fax (516) 488-4895
Best Wishes to

Tim Driscoll
International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, President

Congratulations Tim on your award.
May there be many more!

From
The Officers, Staff & Members of Local 1 CT

Gerald Marotti ~ President, Secretary, Treasurer
Steve Carney ~ Executive Vice President
Vin Arpino ~ Business Agent, VP, Recording Secretary
John Chandler ~ Business Agent, Vice President
Congratulations on your
Thirteenth Annual Irish Echo Labor Awards 2023

From International Longshoremen’s Association

~~Local #1235~~

Congratulations and best wishes to
Scott Cowan

and all the Labor Ambassadors

Brandon Garcia, President
Celso Telle, Business Agent
Jose Reyes, Sec. Treasurer
Tile, Marble & Terrazzo BAC Local Union No. 7
proudly supports the Irish Echo Labor Awards
Congratulations to
Tim Driscoll
& all of the 2023 Ambassadors

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William Hill

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Joseph Andriano
Chris Avallone
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Jack Cusumano
Adolfo Dicosmo
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CMC-ITI is proud to support the 2023 Irish Echo Labor Awards

Congratulations to
Scott Cowan, President, ILA Local 333
Vice President, International Longshoremen’s Association
and all the honorees
Congratulations to IUBAC President

Tim Driscoll

On receiving a 2023 Irish Echo Labor Ambassador award!

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 3 NY.

Thank you for your leadership, friendship and for all the work you do for organized labor.

ZAREMBA BROWN

CONGRATULATES

PAUL O’CONNOR

AND ALL THE OTHER HONOREES
CONGRATULATIONS

TO

Donald Foley

Labor Ambassador of 2023

Anthony Madaio..........................President
Donald Foley............................Vice President
Eamon Carey ..............................Recording Secretary
Mangito Fowlkes ........................Financial Secretary
Joseph Keating ........................Treasurer

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Christopher Tantillo.....................Warden
Shawn Murphy ............................Trustee
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FROM CERES

Ceres Marine Terminals would like to congratulate Scott Cowan on being recognized for his leadership with the ILA. Over the years, Ceres and the ILA have maintained an excellent partnership, this has been due to leaders like Scott and his ability to understand all stakeholders' involvement in the movement of cargo.

Robbins Geller proudly supports the Irish Echo’s Annual Labor Awards and congratulates the 2023 Irish American of the Year, John “Chick” Donohue.
Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
Administrative District Council of New Jersey
Locals No. 4 & 5

3281 Route 206
Bordertown, NJ 08505

John F. Capo
Director

Leon Jones Jr.
Sec./Treas.

Office (609) 324-9681
Fax (609) 324-9685

Congratulations
President Driscoll

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Ronald Green
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1st Vice President
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2nd Vice President

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