
ILLINOIS WOMEN MARCH ON SPRINGFIELD

for a progressive agenda and responsible budget for all – Tuesday, April 25, 2017

march co-chair biographies

co-chairs include Tracy Baim, Jennifer Camille Lee, Jaquie Algee, Jessica Scheller

Tracy Baim is publisher and executive editor at Windy City Times, a weekly LGBTQ newspaper which she co-founded in 1985. Baim received the 2013 Chicago Headline Club Lifetime Achievement Award for her 30 years in journalism. In 2014, she was inducted into the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association Hall of Fame. She has won numerous gay community and journalism honors, including the Community Media Workshop's Studs Terkel Award. Baim's most recent book is *Barbara Gittings: Gay Pioneer*. In 2013 she was founder of the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality. She received the American Institute of Architects-Chicago Presidential Citation Award in 2016 for her work on tiny homes for the homeless. Additional awards include those from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, and Unity Parenting.



Jennifer Camille Lee is the Outreach Coordinator for the Labor Education Program at the School of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She works with union labor across the state of Illinois to help develop programming that benefits all working people. She is Co-President of Action Illinois a grassroots advocacy and activist organization that seeks to use its resources to take effective action to promote social and economic justice for all. She is also the founder and leader of Women Rising, an organization based in downstate Illinois that recruits, trains and helps elect progressive women candidates to office. Jennifer has been an active participant in Democratic political campaigns since her days as a college student at the University of Illinois-Springfield. She lives in Rochester, Illinois, with her two teenagers, Zachary and Isabella.



Jaquie Algee is Vice President/Director of Community Relations for Service Employees International Union Healthcare Illinois/Indiana/Missouri/Kansas. In this capacity, she directs activities that support and foster positive relations and collaboration with the faith leaders and congregations, community organizations/residents, elected officials and key stakeholders in support of SEIU HCIIMK, worker rights, as well, a variety of community interests and issues. Ms. Algee works to ensure that SEIU HCIIMK establishes and maintains relationships in the broader community as a committed partner.



Over the years Ms. Algee has worked with a variety of organizations, faith-based congregations and senior residents throughout the state of Illinois to build a base of people who actively participate in the fight for worker's rights, as well, social and moral justice issues. These fights have worked to protect such programs as the Child Care Assistance Program, Community Care Program and the Affordable Care Act. In building a movement to protect programs, services and workers' rights, Ms. Algee has organized members of SEIU HCIIMK, community allies and faith leaders to lobby, march, protest and engage in activism by making regular visits to Springfield, in legislative districts, as well Washington, DC throughout the year.

Continued activism from this base has helped seniors maintain the services they rely on to live independently. This base also helps to support major issues such as: minimum wage increase, fair tax and voter's education.

Ms. Algee has helped to convene a diverse group of community leaders/organizations and elected officials in support of A New Roseland. This collaboration was initiated as result of a healthcare crisis that threatened the sustainability of Roseland Community Hospital. As result of this collective commitment, steadfast approach and support from the Roseland coalition, Roseland Community Hospital was granted release of Medicaid funding to remain open.

Ms. Algee has also worked with the Roseland coalition and communities across the state to mobilize in support of the Fight for \$15 campaign (FF15) and the Illinois state budget crisis. In doing so, Ms. Algee has helped to coordinate statewide Moral Monday, direct action events in the fight for livable wages and the impact of the Illinois budget crisis on children, seniors, people with disabilities and working families.

Ms. Algee directed Souls to the Polls, an early vote program that she coordinated with faith leaders, which helped to mobilize over 37,000 congregants, seniors and young adults to the polls for early voting.

Ms. Algee was one of the coordinating organizers of the Women's March on Chicago that brought 250,000 people, to Chicago where they shutdown access to most of the major streets, in defense of their rights and resistance to any form of oppression or disrespect. Most recently, Ms. Algee was again a coordinating organizer for the International Women's Rally at the Chicago Teachers Union where hundreds of people, mostly women came to make their voices heard on issues that impact them, their families and communities.

As a vice president on the Service Employees International Union HCIIMK Executive Board, Ms. Algee participates as a decision-maker/leader, representing SEIU HCIIMK membership with the public at-large. In addition, Ms. Algee is a board member and past president of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, vice president of Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans, secretary of Community Assistance Program, Inc., executive board member of the Association for Child Development, board secretary of Bright Star Community Outreach and an active board member of the Community Renewal Society, Kids Off the Block, and the Illinois Hunger Coalition.

In all areas of affiliation, Ms. Algee's commitment to the labor movement and social justice work is fueled by her faith and inspired by a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which states **"the time is always right to do the right thing"**. This work does not bring a victory every day, week, month or year. However, on rare occasions, victory does ring true to benefit the masses, like it did recently with the ACA. It is victories such as this that help Ms. Algee maintain her strong belief that, **"if we don't quit, we will win!"**