

John M. Retondo

Objective

As a board member appointed in 2024 to the Regional Transportation Authority, I am honored to represent DuPage County and to serve in support of our region's transit priorities. My participation in the transition to the new NITA Board has provided meaningful insight into governance, oversight, and the evolving needs of our transit system.

I am seeking appointment with the METRA Board to further apply this experience while expanding my working knowledge of METRA's operations, strategic planning, and service delivery. I am committed to contributing constructively, strengthening regional collaboration, and ensuring that METRA continues to serve riders with safety, reliability, and accountability. My goal is to bring informed, practical, and community-focused leadership to this role.

Skills & Abilities – Transportation Board Experience

- **Regional Transit Governance** — Current RTA Board member representing DuPage County (appointed 2024).
- **Public Transportation Oversight** — Growing experience from reviewing operational performance across regional transit agencies.
- **METRA Operational Familiarity** — Growing a working knowledge of METRA operations, service planning, and system needs.
- **Strategic Decision-Making** — Ability to evaluate issues and support responsible, rider-focused transit policy.

Education

- **High School Diploma (1985)** / Ridgewood High School
- **Trade School Diploma**/ Coyne American Institute ANSI 1704 Certified Instructor & Coordinator of Apprenticeship/ LIUNA Training
- **VOICE Training** /LIUNA Training
- **Labor History** / University of Illinois Urbana – Champaign
- **Construction Safety Coordinator Training** / Northern Illinois University
- **Forklift Training** / Northern Illinois University
- **Home Inspectors License** / College of DuPage
- **Realtors License** / National Association of Realtors
- **OSHA Authorized Construction Trainer**/ United States Department of Labor

SKILLS & ABILITIES

MANAGEMENT

Before retiring in 2025, I served as Director of Apprenticeship for the LIUNA Chicagoland Laborers District Council Training & Apprenticeship Fund. I also served on the Training Fund's Executive Board and the Laborers Local 2 Executive Board.

SALES & MARKETING

As a former licensed Realtor and member of the National Association of Realtors, I developed strong experience with contracts, real estate law, sales, and marketing.

POLITICS

I have supported the Laborers' Union in several campaigns for endorsed elected candidates. I previously served as a volunteer deputy voter registrar and precinct captain in Addison, and in 2012 I ran for Trustee of Addison Township.

COMMUNICATION

Over the past 30 years, I have developed strong communication skills through frequent presentations to both large and small groups. I am organized, detail-oriented, and effective at communicating, negotiating tactfully, resolving conflicts, and working with teams to achieve shared goals.

LEADERSHIP

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated leadership and management abilities in roles including craft laborer, certified instructor, safety department head, City of Chicago apprenticeship supervisor, apprenticeship coordinator, and Director of Apprenticeship.

I have upheld the policies and standards of the LIUNA Chicagoland Laborers District Council Training & Apprenticeship Fund, the United States Department of Labor, the American National Standards Institute, the International Accreditation Service, and the Council on Occupational Education.

I am a conscientious, self-motivated, and detail-oriented leader who has dedicated the past 30 years to training and supporting others in their personal and professional development. I have trained students to work safely and effectively, developed instructors and apprenticeship coordinators, mentored training staff, and created opportunities through outreach events such as job fairs and career fairs.

As a member of Laborers Local 2, I have held several elected positions, including Auditor and Recording Secretary. I have also served as an elected delegate to the Illinois AFL-CIO Convention and the LIUNA Convention.

JOB TITLE | COMPANY | DATES FROM - TO

Director of Apprenticeship 2021 to 2025

JOB TITLE | COMPANY | DATES FROM - TO

Apprenticeship Coordinator 2018 to 2021

JOB TITLE | COMPANY | DATES FROM - TO

City of Chicago Apprenticeship Supervisor CLTAF 2015 to 2021

JOB TITLE | COMPANY | DATES FROM - TO

Safety Department head CLTAF 2014 to 2015

Instructor CLTAF January 1993 to 2018

Before January 1993, my work with the following companies focused on laborers' work under sewer and water contracts.

Construction craft union Laborer:

Arby Construction

Laser Construction

Dominick Fiordiroso Construction