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1300 WEST HIGGINS ROAD • SUITE 220 • PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60068 • PHONE (847) 292-1225 • FAX (847) 292-1412

## NEWS >>

### LOCAL 700 COOK COUNTY MEMBERS SING IN FAMOUS CHICAGO GOSPEL CHOIR

While Monica Robertson has worked at the Cook County Clerk's office for the past 14 years, she has also been part of one of the nation's top gospel choirs, The Chicago Mass Choir.

Monica, who currently works as a Teamsters Local 700-represented clerk in District 5, joined the famous choir in 2003 as a tenor.

"I always loved to sing and I used to sing in the choir at church," said Monica. "After going to one of the choir's concerts, I had the opportunity to audition to be part of the choir. When I got the call that I had made it, I was attending my grandmother's funeral. That's when I knew that this group would become my new family."

The Chicago Mass Choir is comprised of approximately 80 members who perform together all over the country at churches, special events and on television shows. The choir has been featured locally many times, including appearances on channel 7's Windy City Live program and at the Chicago Bulls game where they sang the National Anthem.

Monica has traveled with the choir for various performances and her most memorable trip was visiting Switzerland. The choir gets together twice a month to practice on a regular basis and increases practices when they get closer to a concert.

"It's a wonderful feeling to be ministering to people through song," said Monica.

John Gosa, another Local 700 member who works for the Cook County Forest Preserve, is also in the choir with Monica. He joined the choir in 2009 and also sings as a tenor.

"I've been singing all my life," said John. "Being a part of the choir and performing in front of people, especially when someone has a breakthrough, is such a joy. Having this opportunity is really amazing, especially being able to travel and share this experience around the world. I enjoy the Lord."

Since 1991, the Chicago Mass Choir has been at the top of the Billboard charts, won numerous awards, and has been nominated for multiple Stellar Gospel Music Awards and Grammy Awards. This year, the choir is nominated for three Stellar Awards in the following categories: Choir of the Year, Traditional Choir of the Year and Traditional CD of the Year.

The choir will be holding their annual Spring Concert and fundraiser on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at Sweet Holy Spirit Church in Chicago. Each year, the choir donates money to a charity and will donate this year's proceeds to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. For more information, please visit their website at [www.chicagomasschoir.com](http://www.chicagomasschoir.com).

Teamsters Local 700 is an affiliate of Teamsters Joint Council 25, America's premier labor union for Chicago, Illinois and northwest Indiana.