



About Our Honoree

Ida Ines Berrocal-Torres



Ida describes herself as “a worker for workers.” She started as a telephone operator on the Union staff. Following the 15-day strike at Bloomingdale’s in 1965, the workers petitioned that she become a union organizer for Local 3 United Storeworkers RWDSU.

In 1977, Ida was elected Vice President of Local 3. She was elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1987 and became President in 1998. Ida is also an International Vice President of the RWDSU Council.

Ida is an Advisory Board member of the United Food and Commercial Workers, serves as an Executive Committee member of the UFCW Women’s Network and is an Advisory Board member of the UFCW United Latinos.

Ida has been in the forefront of the struggles for workers’ rights, specifically the rights of women workers, Hispanics, African American and other people of color.

She takes great pride in having participated in the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. – the founding of both the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Council of Puerto Rican Women – her membership in the N.A.A.C.P., in the National Conference for Puerto Rican Civil Rights and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Ida serves as the President of the Hispanic Labor Committee, an Advisory Committee to the New York City Central Labor Council and has served as the Treasurer of the New York City Central Labor Council AFL-CIO.



Ida's busy union life is the result of growing up in a union family. Her father, Francisco Berrocal, was a founding member of the National Maritime Union. Her mother, Eulogia, was a member of the I.L.G.W.U. Her brother, Victor, was a member of Local 100 Transit Workers Union. Her sister Sylvia worked for the Screen Actors Guild. Her sister Carmen was a member of Local 3 RWDSU.

Ida represents the Retail-Wholesale Department Store Union/United Food and Commercial Workers on the National Executive Board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

She is an Instructor in Labor Studies at Cornell University New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations and she was an Instructor at the Harry Van Arsdale Center for Labor Studies – State University of New York. She has participated in the UALE-Summer Institute for Union Women for the past 30 years. She is a member of NYSUT.

Ida is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and is a widow, mother of two and grandmother of three.