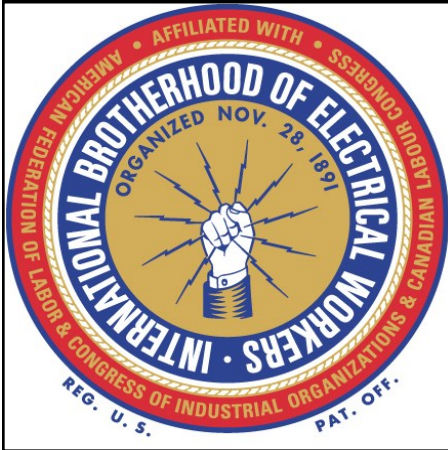


TAILGATING

May 2016

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IBEW LOCAL 204

Annual IBEW Local 204 Picnic

This years' 2016 IBEW Local 204 Picnic is going to be put on and organized by Mike and Becky Welsh. The picnic is for current 204 members and retirees. Following are the details.

When: 12:00 PM - May 28th 2016

Where: IBEW 405 Hall

At 1211 Wiley Blvd. SW Cedar Rapids IA. 52404

RSVP to Local 204 Union Hall by May 18th, 2016
319-366-3434.

There are plenty of Hotels and Camping in the Cedar Rapids area.



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June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Area Meeting Washington 6:30pm	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Area Meeting Council Bluffs 6:30pm	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day 	15 Area Meeting Oelwein 6:30pm	16 EXECUTIVE BOARD	17	18
19  Father's Day	20 First Day of Summer	21	22 Area Meeting DAEC 3:00pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May Day

By: Rob Pitcher Assistant Business Manager

I hope you enjoyed Sunday May 1st this year maybe with family or friends I know I did. When I think of May Day I think of weekend grill out's, leaving May Day baskets at friend's and family's doorsteps as a kid, and playing baseball at the park on the weekend or after school.

May Day is a traditional spring holiday in many cultures and observed in the United States but not as a holiday. The first of May does however hold some historical significance in the labor movement that impacts our life to this day.

May 1st is lesser known as **International Workers' Day**, in celebration of the struggle for the 8hr working day.

In the 1800's and early 1900's Men, Women, and Children as young as 5yrs old worked in the United States anywhere from 10 to 16 hours a day, 6 to 7 days a week, being paid only around 3 dollars a week, or for credit at the company store so they could eat. The idea behind the 8 hour work day was 8 hours work, 8 hours leisure, and 8 hours of rest.

The fight for an 8hr work day started to gain momentum in 1866 when a newly organized union called the National Labor Union asked congress for a bill mandating an 8hr work day. Congress failed to pass any legislation that year. In 1867, the Illinois Legislature passed a law mandating an eight-hour workday, but allowed a loophole that permitted employers to contract with their employees for longer hours. On May 1st, 1867, Chicago's first Trades Assembly sponsored a general strike by thousands of workers to enforce the state's new eight-hour-day law. This week long strike was unsuccessful and the workers hours remained unchanged.

At its national convention in Chicago, held in 1884, The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (which later became the American Federation of Labor), proclaimed that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886." The eight-hour movement united skilled and unskilled workers of all nationalities. Chicago anarchists, Trade Unionists, and the Knights of Labor, actively promoted the movement, and made Chicago its national center.

On May 1st 1886 more than 300,000 workers, 40,000 of which were in Chicago went out on strike across the United States in the first May Day celebration in history. Workers in Chicago paraded from work place to work place to urge other workers to go on strike. On May 3rd, at the McCormick Reaper Plant, police fired at strikers, killing at least two. In protest a public meeting was called by some of the anarchists for the following day at the West Randolph Street Haymarket to discuss the police brutality.

On May 4th at the Haymarket Square a crowd of 3,000 men, women, and children gathered, in what Mayor Carter H. Harrison, who was in attendance, called a peaceful gathering. As the protest came to the end and the crowd began to disperse one of the speakers urged the dwindling crowd to "throttle the law," under the direction of inspector John Bonfield 176 officers marched on the crowd and ordered people to disperse. Someone threw a bomb at the police, killing one officer instantly. Police drew guns, firing wildly. Sixty officers were injured, and eight died, an undetermined number of the crowd were killed or wounded. Police would arrest hundreds of people, but would never find out the identity of the person that threw the bomb.

Eight anarchists, Albert Parsons, August Spies, Samuel Fielden, Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab, George Engel,

(Continued on page 4)

Local 204 IBEW Scholarship Winners

Thomas Haddy, son of Local 204 member Brett Haddy has been selected by the Executive Board as a recipient of the scholarship program. Thomas will be attending Iowa State University in the fall to pursue Computer & Info SCI, GEN.

Autumn Weaver, daughter of Local 204 member Todd Weaver has been selected by the Executive Board as a recipient of the scholarship program. Autumn will be attending Upper Iowa University in the fall to pursue a Chemistry degree.

Congrats to the winners. We had several good applicants and it was a tough decision as it is every year. We want to thank all of the students that applied and wish all of them good luck.

(Continued from page 3)

Adolph Fischer and Louis Lingg, were tried and convicted of murder. Lacking credible evidence that the defendants threw the bomb or organized the bomb throwing, prosecutors focused on their writings and speeches. The jury, instructed to adopt a conspiracy theory without legal precedent, convicting all eight and were sentenced to death. Many Americans were outraged at the verdicts, but legal appeals failed. On November 11, 1887, four defendants, Parsons, Spies, Engel and Fisher were hanged in the Cook County jail, Louis Lingg committed suicide. Hundreds of thousands turned out for the funeral procession of the five dead men. In 1893, Governor John Peter Altgeld granted Fielden, Neebe and Schwab an absolute pardon, citing the lack of evidence against them and the unfairness of the trial. The trial is now considered one of the worst miscarriages of justice in American history.

Through legislation, strikes, and Collective Bargaining, Unions were successful in obtaining shorter working hours and in 1938 Congress passed and Franklin D Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act which gave us a 40 hour week, paid overtime for time worked over 40 hours, Child Labor Laws, a minimum wage, and in effect gave us our weekend.

So the real reason we should celebrate May 1st is not because the weather is nice, but to celebrate the Unions that stood up for, and the lives of the Men, Women, and Children that fought for, reasonable working hours that eventually lead to, overtime pay, child labor laws, a minimum wage for all workers, a 40 hour week, the weekend, Laws Ending Sweatshops in the United States, Breaks at Work, including your Lunch Breaks, Paid Vacation, FMLA, Sick Leave, Social Security, Civil Rights Act/Title VII (Prohibits Employer Discrimination), Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA), Worker's Compensation (Worker's Comp), Unemployment Insurance, Pensions, Workplace Safety Standards and Regulations, Employer Health Care Insurance, Collective Bargaining Rights for Employees, Wrongful Termination Laws, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Whistleblower Protection Laws, Employee Polygraph Protect Act (Prohibits Employer from using a lie detector test on an employee), Veteran's Employment and Training Services (VETS), Compensation increases and Evaluations (Raises), Sexual Harassment Laws, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), Holiday Pay, Employer Dental, Life, and Vision Insurance, Privacy Rights, Pregnancy and Parental Leave, Military Leave, The Right to Strike, Public Education for Children, Equal Pay Acts of 1963 & 2011 (Requires employers pay men and women equally for the same amount of work). The Labor movement is not done with the fight for equality there is still work that needs to be done to improve people's lives, this is a worthy cause and I for one am proud to be a part of it.

Messages From The Executive Board

Politics and IBEW Local 204

By Dave George – Business Manager

Because 2016 is a Presidential Election year, 2015 and 2016 have been packed with political ads and political candidates or politicians everywhere you turn. Sometime it gets to be just a little too much. Although politics is a part of American society, many people have differing views on it. Some people hate politics, others love it, while most others realize that it is a necessary part of American life.

Politics, and its results, touch everyone from those that are yet too young to vote, to the senior citizen on Social Security. Some people have aligned themselves with a particular party such as the Republicans or Democrats, while others have no party affiliation and call themselves Independents. The position taken to align with a particular party, or no party, is very personal and may be based on many factors.

While many aspects of politics are confusing and misunderstood, the position of IBEW Local 204 as it relates to politics can also be confusing to, and/or misunderstood by our members.

One misunderstanding is that members feel that Local 204 is *“only supportive of Democrats and Democrat ideals”*, but in reality this is not always the case. Many times Local 204 has supported Republican or Independent candidates or politicians because they may be supportive of our issues which are the issues that are important to working men and women. It is a fact that Democrats, for the most part have supported and championed the issues that are most important to Union households and working men and women in general. But we have also gone against and criticized Democrats who have turned their backs on issues that were or are important to us as a Union.

One of the biggest misunderstandings by our members is that *“my Union dues are going to support Democrat candidates and politicians”*. This is absolutely **FALSE!** If, and when, IBEW Local 204 spends money to support a particular candidate or politician, no matter what their political party may be, the money comes from voluntary COPE contributions from members, **NOT** out of our general fund where the member’s dues are deposited. Union dues money **IS NOT** used to support political candidates or politicians. “COPE” stands for Committee On Political Education.

Contributors to COPE support the direction of the COPE Committee and how the COPE funds are spent. Participation on the COPE Committee is open to all COPE contributors regardless of their political affiliation. For more information on COPE call the Local 204 office.

I just felt that due to us being in the midst of the political season and process, and because some members may be wondering about or have misconceptions, it was important to clarify these two issues as it relates to who Local 204 may or may not be supporting and why, and how any financial support is handled.



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Bill Bruce from DAEC is presented with his 25 year anniversary watch by Business Manager Dave George



Dale Jensen from DAEC is presented with his 25 year anniversary watch by Business Manager Dave George