

TAILGATING

August 2020

Is Published frequently by IBEW Local 204

Volume 40 issue 8



IBEW LOCAL 204
www.ibew204.com



History of Labor Day

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed in 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During 1887, four more states – Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York – created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

More than a century after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

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But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday.

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has changed in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics, and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

-DOL

NLRB Announces Reorganization Plan

The board is stripping Western Regional Directors of their power and redirecting cases

Ever since PATCO union buster Peter Robb took over as the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), he has been trying to weaken the pro-union work the board is supposed to do. Through numerous decisions and rule changes that have made the board much more employer-friendly.

With the election coming up, a Trump loss would severely hinder Robb's power. So he is doing everything he can to make it more difficult for unions to win cases before the NLRB. His new plan is to "streamline" work coming from areas out west. His plan is to demote regional directors by taking away their ability to assign cases, instead, spreading their cases out over different regions. This would affect cases from 7 regions including Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Oakland, Denver, and Phoenix. Unsurprisingly, this would directly affect offices in strong union states like Washington and California.

Robb's plan is expected to have a lot of side effects for cases. First, Regional Directors hold a lot of expertise in the area of labor law and have a lot of local contacts that allow them to quickly investigate cases. However, under Robb's plan, a case in Seattle could get sent to an NLRB official in Alabama. Not only will it take a lot longer to investigate, but it is also moving the case from a strong union state, to one where the staffer is most likely more pro-business. The plan would also reassign staff members from busier areas to those with fewer cases, causing a backlog in cases and further delaying the investigation.

In response to Robb's plan three Democrats, House Labor, and Education Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.), and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), who heads the House Appropriations subcommittee for the NLRB, called on Robb and NLRB Chairman John Ring to suspend the planned change until they could be provided more information. In their letter to Robb and Ring, they said the plan would "undermine the NLRB's ability to fairly and effectively protect workers' rights under the National Labor Relations Act."

Investigations also would suffer if board agents from outside regions handle cases remotely, said Robert Giolito, a lawyer who represents workers and unions in the entertainment industry to Bloomberg. The agency has been interviewing witnesses remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic, and they're generally inferior to face-to-face interviews, he said.

The lawmakers also noted that by stripping regional directors of their power to assign cases Robb is demoting the directors, but demotions are only supposed to happen at the directive of the board, not the General Counsel. They also pointed out that three of the regional directors are black, so this move would cut the representation of people of color at the regional director level in half.

Robb's plan is expected to be put into effect on August 17th. If successful, Robb may use his last year as NLRB counsel to bring this restructuring plan to the rest of the country.

Written by Kris LaGrange for www.ucomblog.com

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR E-BOARD

I hope this finds you enjoying your summer and staying cool. It is hard to believe that we will shortly be sending our kids back to school, celebrating labor day, winding down summer as we look towards fall and cooler temperatures.

In recent days, I know some, if not all of you have been told we are going back to doing COP's and non pay disconnects. In the midst of a COVID pandemic, I do not feel that this is a good idea. When our personnel call to make an appointment, in some areas of the state, there are language barriers making it difficult for the customer to understand what they are asking them. In other cases, some people, may not want us to know the answer to some of the COVID questions that we ask. It leaves the employee going into the house in a vulnerable environment. We do not know what to expect. When we are doing a non-pay disconnect, and the customer calls in to be reconnected, are the COVID questions being asked? We do not know the answer to that. Again, leaving the employee going into a vulnerable environment, and the company seems to be okay with that. But yet, they are allowing some personnel to work from home through the end of the year. They know every day what kind of environment they are going to be coming into. We do not know if these households have had someone that has had COVID, been exposed to COVID or been tested recently.

In the end, we have to look out for ourselves and each other because no one else is going to. Work safe and take care of each other.

In Solidarity
Chad Hilsabeck
Area 6 E-Board Member

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Find more information about a particular event by clicking on it. (electronic copy only)		1	2	3	4	5 <u>First Labor Day observed (1894)</u>
6 <u>Chiquola Mill massacre (1934)</u>	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 <u>Solidarity Day march (1981)</u>
20	21	22	23 <u>Steelworkers at Bayou Steel in Louisiana end 42-month strike (1996)</u>	24 Executive Board	25	26
27 <u>29 west coast ports lock out 10,500 workers (2002)</u>	28	29	30			Times to be posted prior to meetings. Meetings are subject to be changed and added per business needs

Local 204 and COVID-19 Update

All unit meetings through September are postponed until further notice. October's unit meetings are tentatively scheduled, but we anticipate needing to cancel them as well. In addition, the hall is currently open at our new location in Hiawatha. If you need to get a hold of one of us, our contact information is as follows:

Dustin Stumma	Cell (319) 777-6091	dstumma@ibew204.org
Brian Scott	Cell (319) 777-6459	bscott@ibew204.org
Jon Van Zante	Cell (319) 777-6274	jvanzante@ibew204.org
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Negotiations Updates

Alliant Energy

The Large Group negotiations team has come to a tentative agreement with the company. Ballots have been sent out and they will be counted on August 24th.