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# EVERGREEN LEADER

The Voice of I.A.M. & A.W. District 160 in Western Washington and Alaska

Vol. No. 56

September 2017

## DIRECTING BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

### Union Stands Strong Against ASIG Court Action and Wins

As most of you know contract negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement can be a rough road if the parties are not collaborative in their efforts. This was the case recently in Anchorage Alaska with Aircraft Services International Group (ASIG). Our members at ASIG provide fueling services to ninety percent of the aircraft at the Anchorage International Airport.

ASIG made a decision to not recognize the Union as the bargaining representative of the employees. This decision came within hours of causing a strike that would have totally crippled the Anchorage Airport. ASIG filed suit in federal court seeking an injunction to prevent the bargaining unit from striking. The employer claimed



Dan Morgan

they were not appropriately under the National Labor Relations Act and instead should fall under the jurisdiction of the Rail Way Labor Act and since the Union did not represent all of ASIG's locations nationwide they were not required to recognize the Union as the employees' representatives.

The Judge however completely disagreed with the Employer's position. The Judge cited the parties' long standing bargaining relationship under the NLRA. The Judge further cited that there had been several elections under the NLRA, along with unfair labor practice charges decided by the NLRB with never a claim by the Employer of RLA jurisdiction. The Judge also admonished the Employer stating if they believed the proper jurisdiction was under the RLA, the Employer had violated the Act by not registering the last or any CBA's with the National Mediation Board. The Judge order the parties to bargain in good faith and to utilize every tool at their disposal in attempt to reach an agreement without the Union being forced to resort to a labor stoppage and the resulting impact it would cause the Anchorage community.

Through all of this unnecessary turmoil our members stood strong. The membership never wavered in their resolve to achieve a fair contract. They stood tall in the tradition of the Fighting Machinists with the final strike vote being 100 percent. In the end and because of the resolve of the members, a new three year agreement was reached. The bargaining committee consisting of Andre' Johnson (AJ), Tracy Rogers (Trac), Fitzgerald Woods (Woodie) and lead by Business Rep, Glenn Farmer, did an outstanding job of presenting and achieving improvements in the new agreement. The new CBA provides improvements in wages, shortened progression, holidays, bereavement leave, tool allowance and safety.

The positive conclusion to a very negative situation created by the Employer was achieved by the solidarity of the membership, who stood together and refused to let an employer roll over them. I am extremely pleased and proud of our members working at ASIG. Congratulations on a journeyman's job!

### Local Lodge 289 Sponsors 4-H Kids at the Fair

By John Linboe

On behalf of Washington State 4-H Swine Division, I'd like to say "thank you" to Local Lodge 289 for your generous support of a great youth program.

One of the models we live by as union members is "Service to the Community". This year Local Lodge 289 stepped up to sponsor the 4-H swine division at Pierce County Fair in Graham, Washington.

Since the fair is nonprofit, it relies on donations from local businesses and other nonprofits. The barn was provided by the 4-H chapter of Washington State University (WSU), and Pierce County Parks and Recreation. The contribution Local Lodge 289 made helped make a big difference for these 4-H kids, who have been showing pigs for several years. The generous contribution provided prizes, banners, tack boxes and supplies, as well as champion show chow for the pigs.

My daughter became interested in raising animals at a young age and joined the local 4-H club. It was then that I noticed the similarities between these clubs and the union. I would not be able to support her in showing animals if it weren't for the living wage job my union had helped me attain.

The kids learn to give public presentations and decisions are made by the entire team. They learn the importance of dedication in charitable events, and participating in fund raisers to help with offsetting cost for those who are less fortunate. These clubs are helping to build great leaders for our future and preparing these kids for college.

4-H is a global network of youth organizations whose mission is "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development".



### Fun and Firsts at the Fair

Back row, left to right: Nicole Linboe, Samantha Hyder, Kaylee Logan, Superintendent John M. Linboe, Assistant Superintendent Tammy Mrsny, Audrey Hyder, and Morgan Olsen.

Our union has this same philosophy and is made up some great people. The IAM offers classes in community services to teach members how to communicate and work effectively with other service communities in their Locals and Districts. You learn one of the most important skills and that is to become an effective communicator. Working with our youth helps the kids to realize the importance of unions and developing a

collaborative team to ensure a better life for all.

Washington State University 4-H Youth Development is developing young people to become productive citizens who are engaged in positive change, meeting the needs of a diverse and changing society. If you'd like to learn more about Washington State 4-H clubs or how you can get involved, please visit their website at <http://extension.wsu.edu/4h/>.

### LOCAL LODGE 2379 ELECTION OF LOCAL LODGE OFFICERS

Nominations will be held in October. A second nomination and voting will be held in November. In the event a run-off is necessary, it will be held at the December 13th meeting.

#### Notification of Bylaw Changes

A reading of proposed bylaws amendments, including a dues assessment, will take place at Local Lodge 2379's meeting in October. A second reading and voting on proposed amendments will take place at the meeting in November.

**Dates:** Oct. 5th, 2017 and Nov. 2nd, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Place:** 2064 Vista Dr.  
Ferndale, Wa 98248

### LOCAL LODGE 289 DUES ASSESSMENT VOTE

LL 289 members we will have our annual dues assessment vote on December 6th at the General Membership meeting. This 5.00 dues assessment is not an increase to your dues amount that you are currently paying.

#### The breakdown of this assessment would be:

2.00 for the General Fund  
2.00 for the Education Fund  
1.00 for the Special Fund (strike fund)

### INSIDE

Local Lodge Meeting Notices... Page 2  
Retirees ..... Page 2  
In Memoriam ..... Page 2  
Business Reps' Reports .... Pages 3 & 4

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## LOCAL LODGE MEETING NOTICES

### LODGE 79 - SEATTLE

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 5 p.m., 3rd Wednesday, 751 Meeting Hall, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

**Executive Board Meeting** – 5:30 p.m., the Monday preceding the regular lodge meeting (3rd Wednesday). District 160 Conference Room, 9135 – 15th Place South, Seattle.

### LODGE 130 - EVERETT

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 7 p.m., 2nd Thursday, Labor Temple, 2810 Lombard, Everett.

### LODGE 282 - BREMERTON

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 5:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday, 822 Park Avenue, Bremerton.

**Executive Board Meeting** – 5:30 p.m., 3rd Tuesday, 822 Park Avenue, Bremerton

**Local 282 Whidbey Island** – 4:45 p.m., 2nd Wednesday, NAS Whidbey Island.

### LODGE 289 - SEATTLE

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday, 751 Meeting Hall, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

**Shop Stewards' Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., 3rd Thursday, District 160 Conference Room, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

**Executive Board Meeting** – 5:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday, District 160 Conference Room, 9135 15th Place South, Seattle.

### LODGE 297 - TACOMA

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., 1st Thursday, Firefighters Hall, 1109 South 50th Street, Tacoma.

**Executive Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., Tuesday preceding the Regular Lodge Meeting (1st Thursday), 2121 70th Ave. W., Suite A, University Place, WA.

**Retirees' Club Meeting** – All Local 297 retirees are invited to attend meetings the 3rd Tuesday of month, 9 a.m. at Tower Inn & Lanes Bowling Center, 6323 – 6th Ave., Tacoma. Breakfast followed by meeting. Occasional bus trips and potlucks. Join us!

### LODGE 695 - OLYMPIA

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday, Labor Temple, 1191/2 North Capitol Way, Olympia.

### LODGE 1690 - ANCHORAGE

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 5:30 p.m., 2nd Wednesday at the Union Hall, 701 W. 41st, Suite 202, Anchorage.

### LODGE 2379

**Regular Lodge Meeting** – 7:00 p.m., 1st Thursday, Lodge office, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale.

**Executive Board Meeting** – 6:00 p.m., first Thursday, Lodge office, 2064 Vista Dr., Ferndale.

### DISTRICT 160 RETIREES CLUB

10:00 a.m., 1st Tuesday, 751 Meeting Hall, 9135 15th Pl. S., Seattle

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## DISTRICT 160 RETIREE NEWS

### By Art Boulton

Prior to the month-long summer recess of the United States Congress, we watched President Trump and Republican majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives stumble around trying to come up with legislation to “Repeal and Replace” the Affordable Care Act. In the end, the Republicans’ in the Senate were unable to pass their horrible bill. This was a blow to the President and the Republicans in Congress.

The good that came out of the failure to “Repeal and Replace” is that 30 million Americans did not lose their medical insurance, and millions more will not see outrageous increases in their insurance premiums. Will Congress try again to “Repeal and Replace”? It would not surprise me if they did; however, there are many other is-

ssues Congress needs to work on before the end of the year.

The issues of tax cuts for corporate America may come soon because there seems to be a big push for Republicans to come up with a reduction. As for now there is not much detail on how legislation might look. My concern is that Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid funds will be used to back fill holes in the budget because of tax cutting.

Keep sending letters and emails to your Senators and Representative in Congress on issues important to seniors and your family.

The meetings of the District 160 Retiree’s Club are on the first Tuesday of every month, at 10:00 a.m. in a hall on the ground level of the Machinist’s Building, 9135 15th Place S., Seattle. Come and bring your spouse or a friend.

### RETIREES

#### Local Lodge 79

Porter, Andrew	Vigor Shipyard	7/31/2017
Thompson, Jeff	Washington State Ferries	6/30/2017

#### Local Lodge 289

Berden, Dirk	SSA Terminals	6/30/2017
Cutler, Curtis	Rabanco Recycling	7/31/2017
Keith, Mark	SSA Terminals	7/31/2017
Pederson, Steven	Kenworth Truck	7/31/2017

#### Local Lodge 297

Holbrook, Warren	Computer Science Corp.	8/31/2017
Timbrook, David	TOTE	6/30/2017

#### Local Lodge 695

Masters, Daniel	Mason Transit	8/31/2017
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#### Local Lodge 2379

Wedin, Bill	Fairhaven Shipyard	7/31/2017
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### IN MEMORIAM

#### Local Lodge 130

Gilreath, Rube	6/28/2017	Maxwell Jr., Charles	8/7/2017
		Parsons, Frank	7/18/2017

#### Local Lodge 297

Johnson, Harry	8/9/2017	Koeppen, Robert	6/27/2017
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#### Local Lodge 695

### DISTRICT 160 OFFICERS & STAFF

President  
**Tom Burke**

Vice President  
**John Gehringer**

Secretary-Treasurer  
**John Decker**

Sgt. at Arms  
**Jeff Eberle**

Trustees  
**Bruce Baillie**  
**Agustin Galindo**  
**Don Zeth**

Directing Business Representative  
**Dan Morgan**

Assistant Directing Business Representative  
**Greg Heidal**

Business Representatives  
**Glenn Farmer**  
**Greg Heidal**  
**Brandon Hemming**  
**Paul Miller**  
**Bobby Joe Murray**  
**Alfredo Silva**  
**Bob Westbrook**

## Elections for Local Lodge 282 Officers to be Held in December

In December, Local Lodge 282 will hold an election for the Local Lodge Officers, President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Conductor Sentential and three Trustees.

**Requests for Absentee Ballots must be received 30 days prior to the Local Lodge meeting!**

Local Lodge 282- Location: 822 Park Avenue, Bremerton, WA, - Date/Time of Meeting: 5:00 p.m., December 20, 2017. Voting is from 12:00 Noon until 7:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballot Request Mailed to John Decker, S/T, 9135 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108 and must be received by November 20th.

You can also cut out and fill out the absentee ballot to the right and mail it in at the address provided.

Cut out and mail in

### REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

In accordance with the Constitution of the IAM&AW, I hereby request an absentee ballot for the election date of \_\_\_\_\_ . I qualify under the IAM Constitution for an absentee ballot for the following reasons (must qualify under one of the below — check appropriate line):

- \_\_\_\_\_ I reside more than 25 miles from the designated balloting place
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am on approved employer travel assignment outside the area
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be on approved Family Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be on IAM business approved by the Local, District or Grand Lodge
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am confined with a verified illness
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be on vacation
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be on Reserve Military Leave

PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Union Book # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All absentee ballot requests MUST BE RECEIVED no later than 30 days prior to the Local Lodge election date (See article for dates)! Requests must be made singly. CUT AND SEND THIS FORM TO: JOHN DECKER, S/T, IAM DISTRICT 160, 9135 15TH PL. S., Seattle, WA 98108.

## BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

### By Glenn Farmer

All negotiations are battles of one sort or another. Bargaining Units have different tolerances for conflict. We always come to the table with varying degrees of support and leverage. Sometimes, with limited leverage, you have to rely on the grit of the unit itself. The IAM members at Acrowood in Everett don't seem to mind a fight. I was impressed by their solidarity, and in the end, it paid off quite well.

Earlier this year, Menzies Aviation purchased Aircraft Services International (ASIG) which is serviced by 75 IAM members out of Local 1690 in Anchorage, AK. ASIG distributes roughly 90% of the fuel used at Ted Stevens International Airport, piping fuel from the Port of Anchorage to storage facilities at the airport. From the storage tanks it is distributed throughout the airport in a network of underground piping. Our fuelers run the trucks out to the planes. Operators run the pumping and storage, and our mechanics keep it all rolling.

We were a bit concerned when Menzies took over,



as with any change. The Company sent out a letter assuring nothing was going to change, that business would continue as usual.... Not! After serving the Company with our notice to bargain the Contract expiring June 30, 2017, we received a letter from the Company claiming ASIG was under the Railway Labor Act (RLA) and they (the Company) were withdrawing recognition of the Union.

The Union filed a ULP and took a strike sanction vote. The Company filed for an injunction to prevent a strike. We went to Federal Court. The Union filed a total of three ULP's, including failure to bargain in good faith and one charging the company with threats and intimidation. With a great deal of pressure and concerns of retaliation, five union members stepped up to testify in Federal Court to fight the injunction and we won. We won big! Federal Judge Russel Holland in Anchorage ruled the Union has been under the NLRA since 1982 and denied the request for the injunction by the Company. The Members had the right to strike.

Concerns remained as to the Company's willingness to bargain in good faith, so the members took a Strike Affirmation vote over the ULP's against the Company. We were ready and could go out at any time. All eyes were on ASIG and the Union. The Airlines were making contingency plans. After two days of intense negotiations with the Company, we had a tentative agreement.

IAM Members at ASIG voted overwhelmingly to accept the proposal negotiated August 30/31. After a battle in Federal Court and some intense negotiations, we are very pleased with the result.



*This contract was won with the courage and leadership of the of the five IAM members who rose to the challenge. I was grateful to have them in my corner. L to R: Glenn Farmer; Fitzgerald (Woodie) Woods, Trac Rogers, Rob Ney and Andre Johnson. Absent: Jason Flowers.*

### The new CBA includes:

- Three year agreement
- Wage increases of 3.5% each year
- Reduced hire in wage progression
- General language cleanup.
- Held on to 80/20 medical split
- Held on to all sick leave and vacation
- Improved bereavement leave
- Increased flexibility in using vacation time

This is the best contract we've seen in years, but the real win is the Union's right to represent the members under NLRA. It was a testament, as it was at Acrowood, to the solidarity and courage of members standing up for their rights.

The Union is about family wage jobs and protection in the workplace. Good wages and benefits help to create job retention and better skilled and experienced workers. This benefits Employees, the Company, and the Customer.

It is also in our best interest to address cost and efficiency, and I look forward to working with the Members and the Companies to keep ASIG, Acrowood, and others strong and viable into the future.



*Bargaining committee member Trac Rogers (left) and Local Lodge 1690 President Andre Johnson celebrate a new three-year agreement.*

### By Paul Miller

I recently returned from a shop visit road trip. I have been assigned to service the City of Seattle contracts. There are two contracts with the City, one with Local 289 and the other with Local 79. The road trip came in when I drove to the Boundary Dam via HWY 20. It was my first time driving to Eastern Washington on HWY 20. I drove that route so I could stop at Newhalem on the way which houses two Local 289 members and nine Local 79 members with the City of Seattle. While I was able to catch up with a few of them I missed most of the Local 79 members, so I will make another trip up there before too long to meet with them.

After stopping in Newhalem my journey on HWY 20 continued. It was a beautiful drive and I must confess it was a lot of fun to drive it. When I got to vicinity of the Boundary Dam I stayed the night in Metaline Falls. It is a very nice and very small community with a population of 242 people. Everyone I met while I was there were very friendly. The next morning I drove to the Boundary Dam and met the Local 79 members who work there and was given a tour by our steward. I also met a few others who work there and our member's supervisor. That evening after the members were off



work we had a very good meeting. They filled me in on past issues and a couple of current issues. We also talked about a few things we need to begin preparing for contract negotiations.

The drive back was just as exciting as the drive over but there was a bit more traffic to deal with. I took HWY 20 again in an effort to catch more of the members at Newhalem but that was unsuccessful. I apologize to anyone I wasn't able to get back to quickly this last week as the cell phone reception was spotty at best. If you're wondering where the Boundary Dam is located, its north of Spokane near the Canadian border.

There is actually a border marker visible from part of the maintenance yard at the Dam. It's a beautiful part of the State and I highly recommend a trip to Metaline Falls and they give tours at the Dam as well. It was a pleasure to meet all of the members I met on the trip and I'm happy to get to work them moving forward.

As for the rest of my shops I've been as busy as ever. There have been multiple terminations at various employers, a few suspensions, tons of grievances, re-organizations, labor management meetings, shop visits, pension discussions and a lot of contract negotiations both ongoing and coming up. I hope everyone had a fun and safe summer. Until next time stay safe Brothers and Sisters.

### By Bob Westbrook

It has been difficult taking time off this summer, but I took a couple weeks and enjoyed our sunny weather. In doing so, however, things backed up and I'm still struggling to make up lost time.

As reported in the last Evergreen Leader, we are headed into mediation for the first collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for a bargaining unit working for the Armed Forces Services Corporation (AFSC). This company has experienced a large turnover of personnel since the wages paid are not what they should be. My hope is that the Company will seriously agree to adequate wage increases, which they haven't so far as we prepared our fifth counterproposal. Net employee losses for this company has exceeded 30% in the Everett and Kitsap County areas for 2017. Their gains in hiring are often short lived as people have moved on. Therefore, a good CBA would be a good tool for the company to have in order to retain personnel. Just looking at the bottom line is myopic.

The LB&B Service Contractor has won the Government contract for the Boeing P8 Poseidon Simulator at Whidbey Island. We worked out a satisfactory bridge agreement for the bargaining unit there. Cubic Corporation won the Government contract for the Boeing EA-18G Growler Electronic Attack Aircraft Simulator at Whidbey.



We are still working out details for the bridge agreement and will have a conference call regarding that. The original draft the company presented was unacceptable since they didn't want to carry the pension that we negotiated with the previous contractor, Delaware Resource Group (DRG). We are also dealing with downgrades of some personnel since the company's bid came in low. I am watching the dirty process carefully to ensure seniority isn't violated.

Other negotiations to contend with will include the Electronic Attack Wing, Madigan Hospital, and the Trident Training Facility. Besides negotiations I have been handling a plethora of grievances for military commissaries, various Naval Commands and Army Commands. Not having stewards at many of these Federal locations means my attention is needed starting at step one in grievance processes. Stewards working in the Federal sector know how difficult internal organizing is in their open shops. However, we all are working hard to build the union presence to ensure fairness in the workplace. The Federal stewards we have do an excellent job representing their members. I am proud of each and every one.

In closing I pray all will have a great fall as school begins. Remember, "Even the longest day has its end." From an Irish proverb.

## BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

### By Brandon Hemming

At this point all Washingtonians should have at least heard of Initiative 1433, also known as Raise Up Washington. The initiative was introduced January 22nd 2016 and was on the November 8th ballot of the same year. This initiative will put in place minimum standards for paid sick days across the state and increase the minimum wage. It is seen by the majority to bring our state's minimum wage and workplace standards into the 21st century.

Columnist John Burbank, reports that the statewide minimum wage is currently \$9.47 an hour. That amounts to less than \$20,000 for full-time work. I-1433 will increase the minimum wage in steps for the next four years: \$11 in 2017, \$11.50 in 2018, \$12.00 in 2019, and \$13.50 in 2020. It also put into law the proposal that when you get sick, your child gets sick or your mom needs help going to the doctor, you should be able to take time off work without fear of losing your job or your wages. Through I-1433, for every 40 hours you work, you earn one hour of paid sick leave. This amounts to six-and-a-half days of sick leave for full time, 8 hour day, year-round work.

The minimum wage in Washington was at its highest almost 40 years ago, in 1968. In inflation-adjusted dollars, it was \$11.06 an hour. But workers have gotten a lot more productive in these past four decades, so workers together now produce more than two times more in value for each hour of work, which can largely be attributed to advances in education, innovation and investment.

The fruits of that increase in productivity used to be proportionally shared among workers and businesses. But since 1970, the wealth generated by productivity increases has gone more and more to corporate profits and CEO salaries, leaving workers with less and less to show for their contributions to the growth in our economy. If productivity increases were shared across the board, as they were up until 1970, our minimum wage would be over \$25 an hour.



We have done this before. The people voted with a 3-to-1 majority to increase the minimum wage in 1989 and 1990. Again in 1998, the people voted 2-to-1 to increase the minimum wage and then tie it automatically to inflation. That vote set a national standard and broke the ice across the country for states to increase their minimum wages, even as Congress did nothing on the matter.

Now Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Florida, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey and Oregon, among other states, have minimum wages that keep up with inflation. Five states, California, Oregon, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont, and more than 30 cities have passed paid sick leave legislation. This is not a simple red state/blue state breakdown. It seems that voters across the country know that the minimum wage should keep up with inflation and sick workers should be able to stay home.

The data also shows that raising minimum standards helps communities thrive. Working people have a little more income, which they spend in local businesses. Workers also stay on the job longer and are more productive, so businesses have lower retraining costs and happier customers. That's why companies are able to pay those higher wages with minimal impact on prices.

Several other states, including Oregon and California, have recently increased their states' minimum wage. Colorado and Maine also have ballot initiatives to increase their minimum wages.

After the last public hearing held by the Department of Labor and Industries on August 29th, the Department will develop two sets of rules to explain and enforce the new requirements under I-1433. These rules will include procedures for employers to notify their employees, recordkeeping and reporting requirements regarding sick leave, and protecting employees from retaliation for the lawful use of paid sick leave. For light reading, you can find amended language in RCW 49.46.005, 49.46.020, 49.46.090, 49.46.100, and 49.46.120 with new sections added to RCW 49.46.

### By Alfredo Silva

As the long, warm summer days begin to transition into early fall and all that brings, kids are getting back to school and our days are getting shorter and Labor Day is upcoming.

Labor Day weekend should not only be about the traditional end of summer routine, with BBQ's, sales and last minute getaways before school. It should also be a time for pause and reflection upon what the Labor Movement has accomplished. From its earliest days to where we find ourselves today, because if we do not or we are not capable of knowing and learning our history we are bound to repeat mistakes from the past.

Below is brief summary of the history of Labor Day from the Department of Labor.

#### Labor Day: What it Means

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.

#### Labor Day Legislation

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 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 the year 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 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

#### Founder of Labor Day

More than 100 years 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 cofounder 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."

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

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.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

#### A Nationwide 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 undergone a change 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 pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American Worker.

### By Bobby Joe Murray

As I sit and write this article I'm in a very pensive mood. It seems as if there's nothing good happening in this world. The people in the Houston area are suffering unimaginable devastation, wildfires are burning across the western states, Florida is facing the potential of yet another major hurricane, and the world is facing a potential nuclear confrontation unseen since the Cuban missile crisis.

This can seem overwhelming if we concentrate on



these negatives yet there are positives in even these terrible events. Watching the reports out of Texas my spirits are lifted seeing not only our first responders, heroes in every sense of the word, but also everyday people coming together to help those in need. They aren't concerned with skin color, politics, religion or anything else. They see people in need and give of themselves to help.

We all face challenges in our lives, yet when we see a

neighbor needing help we put aside our issues and help. This gives me reason for hope. As we move forward, we need to look for ways we can help one another instead of tearing each other down. There are many civic organizations out there in need of people to give of their time. Find one that works for you and give them that time. If you have the ability to donate monetarily do that. You will feel better at the end of the day for having helped someone in need.

Hoping everyone has enjoyed this summer and GO HAWKS!!!