



AMALGAMATED MAY 1, 1994

# LOCAL 15 UNITY NEWSLETTER

UNION NEWS AND INFORMATION TO YOU

September 2021

## WHY DO WE CELEBRATE LABOR DAY?

Labor Day 2021 will occur on Monday, September 6. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, street parades and athletic events.

### Why Do We Celebrate Labor Day?

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters.

In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in

some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As manufacturing increasingly supplanted



agriculture as the wellspring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay.

Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed.

Others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it. Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view. On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives.

On June 26, the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the Pullman strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers.

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified.

Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday.

From <<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/labor-day-1>>

Have a Safe and Happy Labor day !

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## 2021 COULD BE A BIG YEAR FOR UNIONS

Rarely has the chasm between rank-and-file-workers and the extremely wealthy been this wide. While millions of people have lost jobs, gone hungry and struggled to pay for their basic needs, billionaires' wealth soared to new heights in 2020.

And although the pandemic made things worse, America's wealth gap has largely been expanding since the 1980s.

Among the many contributing factors: Far fewer jobholders have a seat at the table in negotiating with upper management than they did decades earlier. In 2020, union membership hit a new modern low.

"There is a direct correlation that when union membership is down, economic inequality is up," said Kent Wong, executive director of the UCLA Labor Center, a department that studies labor and economic issues.

In cities across the US, and between the walls of some of the world's largest enterprises, there is a swelling of union organizing activity that has been propelled by the pandemic and the recession.

"I do think that the current moment provides an opportunity for unions that has not existed in many, many years," Wong said, "and that there is a growing national consensus that there needs to be dramatic changes to ensure that the economy does indeed work for everybody and not just Wall Street."

He added: "There is a sea change with regards to issues involving workers' rights."

### **A 'level of desperation'**

Generally, economic downturns are bad



for union organizing.

In fact, the Great Depression fueled the single largest union push in US history, said Wong, of the UCLA Labor Center. There are some parallels that can be drawn between then and now, when the pandemic has deepened the divide between the haves and the have-nots.

In the Depression era, amid the staggering unemployment rates and the considerable economic inequality, a tremendous amount of organizing activity took place, he said, adding that a mass social movement pushed President Franklin D. Roosevelt to use the power of the federal government to improve the rights of workers.

A similar phenomenon appears to be playing out now.

### **State of employment**

The pandemic has put a spotlight on workers' rights issues and accelerated an organizing movement that's been slowly building in recent years.

"For quite a while, workers have been really frustrated with not having a voice at their workplaces... it just reached a breaking point," Ileen DeVault, a profes-

sor at Cornell, said. "In that way, I don't think [these efforts] are new."

What is new is that other groups of workers such as nurses, gig workers and warehouse employees are being revered as critical during the pandemic while the stark inequalities and their vulnerable situations — such as unsafe working conditions, low pay and lack of access to health care — are being exposed, said Celine McNicholas, director of government affairs and labor counsel for the Economic Policy Institute.

"This is not a moment where these issues can be ignored," she said.

In 2020, nearly 14.3 million workers belonged to a union, 321,000 fewer than the year before, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual union membership report released Jan. 2021. In 1983, more than 17.7 million workers were unionized.

The outsourcing of manufacturing jobs, coupled with economic downturns, political influence, corporate actions, and the

*Continued on page 3*

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increasingly arcane and anti-union nature of the nation's labor laws have all played a role in decreasing union density in recent decades, said labor historian Nelson Lichtenstein, a professor at the University of California - Santa Barbara.

A Gallup poll released in September 2020 showed that 65% of Americans surveyed were in favor of labor unions, matching a high notched in 2003 and representing a significant increase from a Great Recession-era low of 48%.

"We're looking at numbers that are so far afield from that," McNicholas said.

"That is a lot of space between workers getting what they want in a system that provides that choice in a meaningful way and a system that we have."

#### **From Blue-Collar to Big Tech**



At Alphabet, the parent company to tech giant Google, a grassroots workers organization that formed without federal ratification has grown to more than 800 members since its early January launch. Called the Alphabet Workers Union, the organization seeks to provide an amplified voice for a wide swath of Alphabet employees — including full-time workers, part-timers, vendors and contractors — and create a power structure for those diverse concerns and desires to be heard.

"I think that the recognition we've gotten

from our coworkers, who have taken a real risk to join and support us, and from external forces — especially including unions and other labor movements from beyond tech — is really a validation of our underlying message: That unions are for everyone, and tech is no exception," Alex Gorowara, a Google software engineer and Alphabet Workers Union founding member.

"The company is making money hand over fist," he said. "It is not unreasonable for the workers to expect to get higher wages and better benefits."

#### **A potential ally in the White House**

A day before the 2020 election, Joe Biden told a crowd of union members in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, that he'd be "the most pro-union president you've ever seen."

The Scranton, Pennsylvania native has long garnered support from working-class Americans, but after four years of "fierce anti-union, anti-worker policies", labor unions mobilized behind Biden in key battleground states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, UCLA's Wong said.

"These were the people who got Joe Biden elected," he said.

Biden's pro-union campaign plan included forming a cabinet-level working group in the first 100 days of the presidency to increase union density. Biden also promised to require federal contractors to sign neutrality agreements committing to not run anti-union campaigns. Depending on how it's written, such a policy could have a ripple effect on Big Tech, which has resisted unionization efforts in the past. Companies like Ama-

zon, Google and Microsoft contract with the federal government.

In the early days of the new presidency, Biden signed an executive order that restored collective bargaining power to federal employees, and the administration took aim at the National Labor Relations Board, ousting appointed officials such as Peter Robb, the board's general counsel. Robb, a longtime management-side lawyer, most notably served as the lead attorney in the Reagan Administration's watershed case that decertified the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Or-



ganization in 1981. (The Reagan administration's firing of more than 11,300 striking air traffic controllers and the subsequent PATCO takedown have been viewed as catalysts for a decline in union activity.)

Biden on February 17 nominated Jennifer Abruzzo, the Communication Workers of America's special counsel for strategic initiatives, to replace Robb and tapping Marty Walsh, the Boston mayor and former union leader (Laborers Union Local 223, and Secretary Treasurer of the Boston Metropolitan District Building Trades Council), as labor secretary. Sourced CNN

## 40TH IBEW CONVENTION POSTPONED TO MAY 9-13, 2022

The International Executive Council, in consultation with International President Stephenson and International Secretary-Treasurer Cooper, has voted unanimously to postpone the 40th IBEW Convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 40th IBEW Convention was scheduled to commence on August 30, 2021, but has now been postponed to Monday, May 9 through Friday, May 13, 2022. Nomination and election of International Officers have also been postponed to May 2022 and will take place at the Convention.

On February 16, 2021 the IEC passed a resolution calling for a vote of the Local Unions on whether to amend the IBEW Constitution to add a new provision – Article XXVII, Section 1(d) – allowing the IEC, in consultation with the International President and International Secretary-Treasurer, to make temporary amendments to the IBEW Constitution if circumstances beyond the control of the IBEW make it impracticable, impossible, inadvisable, or unsafe to conduct the business of the IBEW. That resolution passed by a vote of the Local Unions 564 to 71.

On April 20, 2021, the IEC acting pursuant to its authority under new Article XXVII, Section 1(d), made necessary temporary amendments to the IBEW Constitution to enable the Convention to be postponed to May 9, 2022. That resolution, which sets forth the temporary amendments, adjusted timetable and key dates can be found below.

From <http://www.ibew.org/IBEW-40th-Convention>



## BURN GEL WILL SAVE YOUR SKIN

When a burn occurs, seconds count! Heat will continue to destroy the surrounding tissue unless burn injuries are cooled immediately. Burn gel kits stop the burning process, cool the burned area, relieve pain, and protect against contamination.

Electrical arc flashes or blasts produce extremely high temperatures, up to 35,000°F. Fatal burns can occur when the victim is several feet from the arc. Serious burns are common at a distance of ten feet. Staged tests have shown temperatures greater than 437°F on a person standing close to an arc blast. All electrical burns require medical attention.

Electrical contacts may cause fractures or dislocations secondary to blunt force trauma or muscle contractions. In high voltage injuries, most damage may occur internally. The extent of the injury cannot be judged by examination of the skin. Contact with either low voltage or high voltage may produce cardiac arrhythmias or cardiac arrest.

Superficial 1st Degree Burn (112°F) - minor epidermis damage; red, tender, dry, no blisters. Heals in three to six days.

Partial Thickness 2nd Degree Burn (140°F) - impacts epidermis and dermis, thick-walled blisters which may rupture, painful, especially if pressure is applied. Heals in three to six weeks, potential scarring, may require hospital admission, surgery

Full Thickness 3rd Degree Burn (158°F) - destruction of epidermis and dermis, high risk of infection, skin appears white, black, gray, leathery and charred, requires hospital admission, surgery, months or years to heal.

Several Items recently coded for use with Burn Gel kits include:

1676706 Vehicle Headrest Hooks

1676707 Seat Organizer (for vehicle without head rests-use caution when installing to prevent organizer from becoming a projectile)

1639652 Water Gel Sticker for door

*Replicated with edits*

**YOUR LOCAL 15 REPRESENTATIVES AND ELECTED OFFICERS**

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**Lisa Sims**  
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 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

**George Longoria**  
 TREASURER

**— EXECUTIVE BOARD —**

CHAIRPERSON

**Kathy Flynn**  
 CLERICAL DIVISION

**Brian Daniels**  
 GENERATING PHYSICAL NUCLEAR DIVISION

**Ian Hacker**  
 GENERATING PHYSICAL FOSSIL DIVISION

**Mike Keating**  
 COMMERCIAL PHYSICAL DIVISION

**Vinnie Rochotte**  
 COMMERCIAL PHYSICAL DIVISION

**Russ "Rudy" Ruettiger**  
 AT LARGE

**Tom Tibbles**  
 CLERICAL DIVISION

**CLERICAL BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES**

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**IBEW**

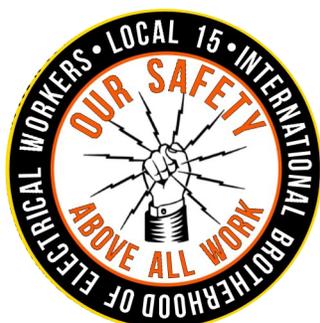
...the *Right* choice

**UNITY September 2021**

**WORK AT HOME ISSUES**

Over the past few months Local 15 has seen an increase in the number of inquiries regarding the handling of internet and equipment issues from employees who are working remotely. As the impact of working remotely was unknown at onset of the pandemic, the Company agreed (as part of the Covid-19 Emergency Agreement that was signed on March 19th, 2020) to reimburse employees for any increases in data or internet costs which resulted from employees working from home. It has come to Local 15's attention that some supervisors have been telling employees who have experienced technical or equipment issues that they need to upgrade their internet and/or replace their personal equipment (modem, etc.) to resolve these issues and have been telling employees that these reimbursements for increases in data usage resulting from working from home are limited to a "one-time only" basis. This is incorrect. Provisions of the contract remain in place during the pandemic period and continue to apply to employees who are working remotely.

Any questions regarding reimbursement for data or internet usage or any other issues related to working remotely should be directed to your Steward ASAP. Don't wait to seek reimbursement for any out-of-pocket expenses you may have incurred during this period!



**ATTEND YOUR UNIT MEETINGS  
GET THE FACTS**

September - Calendar		
1	First Wednesday	<p><b>POWERTON UNIT MEETING - 4:00<sup>PM</sup></b>  <b>PACE</b>                      300 McLean Street - Pekin</p> <p><b>JOLIET UNIT MEETING - 5:30<sup>PM</sup></b>                      Stone City VFW                      124 Stone City Drive - Joliet</p>
2	First Thursday	<p><b>DIXON UNIT MEETING - 6:00<sup>PM</sup></b>                      American Legion                      1120 W. First St. - Dixon</p> <p><b>ELMHURST UNIT MEETING - 6:30<sup>PM</sup></b>                      American Legion                      310 W. Butterfield Rd - Elmhurst</p>
6	Monday	<b>Labor Day</b>
7	First Tuesday	<p><b>NORTHERN UNIT MEETING - 5:30<sup>PM</sup></b>                      American Legion                      749 Milwaukee Ave - Gurnee</p>
8	Second Wednesday	<p><b>KINCAID UNIT MEETING - 3:45<sup>PM</sup></b>                      South Fork Building - 124 Central Avenue - Kincaid</p> <p><b>CHICAGO UNIT MEETING - 5:00<sup>PM</sup></b>                      IBEW Local 134 2722 S Martin Luther King Dr - Chicago</p>
9	Second Thursday	<p><b>ROCKFORD UNIT MEETING - 5:30<sup>PM</sup></b>                      Holiday Inn                      7550 E. State Street - Rockford</p>
		 <p><i>*Local 15 continues to push for Energy Legislation, as a result President McGoldrick and Vice-President Phillips can't commit to be at specific Unit meetings this month. Both will attempt to attend Joliet Dixon ,Rockford meetings as schedules allow. Thanks for your patience.</i></p>

# NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN AT UNIT MEETINGS

Joliet Unit Meeting Chairman- Brian Daniels, swears in new members on at the August Unit Meeting.



Members are Deborah Meyer (Dresden Chemistry technician), Penny Minick (Channahon SSG B Tech) & Maynor Pineda (Joliet Supply).

# MEMBERS FLOCK TO GURNEE TO GET THE FACTS



Unit Chair Marcus Neris Swears in a cadre of new Members at Gurnee Unit Meeting. “it was good to see the turnout for the meeting” said Business Rep Ralph Trentadue.

Pictured from left to right: Marcus Neris Unit Chair Mike Thielen OHH Rockford Nate Stephens OHH Crystal Lake Adam Eichelberger OH Libertyville Bill Moore OH Highland Park Aaron Dyszelski OH Highland Pk Richard Hauck OH Libertyville Drew Hebor OH Highland PK



## PJM CAPACITY AUCTION RESULTS

Three Illinois nuclear power plants—Byron, Dresden, and Quad Cities—did not clear in June’s long-delayed PJM Interconnection capacity auction, Exelon Generation reported in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Braidwood and LaSalle did manage to clear in the auction.

The Company also noted that Quad Cities will continue to operate despite its failure to clear, citing financial support from the state’s Future Energy Jobs Act, which took effect in 2017. Exelon specifically pointed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s

minimum offer price rule, recently implemented by PJM, as the reason Quad Cities was unsuccessful in the auction. Originally this auction was scheduled for May 2019, the 2022–2023 capacity auction was postponed until this year as FERC considered approval of the contentious minimum offer price rule. According to PJM, the auction procured 144,477 MW of resources for the period of June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023, at a total cost of \$3.9 billion—\$4.4 billion less than in the most recent auction, in 2018.

PJM added that it secured commitments for power at \$50/MW-day for much of its footprint, compared with the previous auction’s \$140/MW-day—a decrease of 64 percent.

Future PJM auctions will follow this timeline, which could vary slightly:

The 2023/2024 Delivery Year auction will take place in December 2021

The 2024/2025 Delivery Year auction will take place in June 2022

The 2025/2026 Delivery Year auction will take place in January 2023

The 2026/2027 Delivery Year auction will take place in July 2023

Thereafter, the traditional annual timing of auctions takes place with the 2027/2028 Delivery Year auction scheduled for May 2024.



## CONGRATS NEW SPLICER GRADS!

On Aug. 13th, eighteen Local 15 members progressed through their apprenticeship in the Underground Department to Cable Splicer. Congratulations to our Underground brothers and sisters, Donald Moore Jr, Jason Hill, Benjamin Pinchuk, Manuel Ochoa Jr, Richard Long, Christopher Mahar, Robert Zuber, Shawn Walsh, Alec Kollar, Mike Jaski, Jonathan Cap, Jason Hammer, Daniel Gonzales, Glen Johnson, Matthew Russell, Matthew Livesay, Brain Tolbert and Dewayne Brooks on all their hard work and dedication to fine-tune their skills and progress to Cable Splicers. Their achievements were made possible with the assistance of the training department instructors: Conrad Crosby, and experienced demonstrators: Sylvester Samuels, Rojai Person, Rigoberto Gonzalez and Matthew Coppolino sharing their knowledge and skills.

## PHYSICAL PROMOTION AND LATERAL PROCESS

ComEd and Local 15 have agreed to streamline the promotional and lateral process. The bidding process for promotions and laterals was fourteen weeks, now it is down to five to seven weeks depending on the discipline. Changes to the bidding process were shared multiple times in past Unity's. This information is designed to help our members further understand the process.

Job postings go up on Monday morning after 10am. Promotions and laterals are posted for seven days. There will be one system-wide departmental posting for all positions at various reporting locations. All potential open positions will be part of the single posting which includes First Rights Back, Laterals and Promotions. The posting will list the number of openings for the highest classification position. The next positions for lower classifications will list the projected numbers. Conference calls for the highest classifications posted will occur first and next calls will progress through lower classifications to the promotion – Selection Call. **An employee must indicate their choice during a Conference Call, or by a proxy to supply a fair and efficient process, all selections are considered final at the end of each Conference Call.**

Informational postings are up for ten days, these postings are for jobs that cannot be filled with members eligible for the position after it has been posted. The company will post an informational posting system wide for all local 15 members prior to hiring from the street. Members are required to meet the minimum qualifications to accept a position.

No postings will be put up during weeks that include New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. If a holiday falls on a Monday, the posting will go up on the previous Friday. When filling out the bid (electronic or written) keep in mind that posting numbers must be checked that match the position being bid on by the member. Promotion bids start with the letter P, lateral bids start with the letter L. Take time to verify that you have entered the correct number. Make sure you check the box that matches the position you are bidding on. We've had several issues with members attempting to bid on a position that they are found to be ineligible for

due to entering the wrong posting number and or not checking the correct box. It is okay to fill out one bid sheet for multiple postings, make sure you put all the posting numbers on the form before sending it in. Members bidding on positions should check into the requirements for eligibility prior to bidding to ensure that you have all the needed requirements met. For laterals this includes medical forms submitted to OHS if you are on restricted duty/disability. These forms must be submitted verifying your release to full duty 14 days in advance of the selection call. For promotions submit the medical release forms to OHS prior to the selection call verifying your release to full duty within 21 days of the selection call. Other eligibility issues include CAST testing, ability to secure a CDL if needed and passing assessment schools where needed. Qualified bidders must bid on positions electronically or FAX a bid sheet in. Electronic bids can be submitted by going to [Local15Postings@exeloncorp.com](mailto:Local15Postings@exeloncorp.com) (click on the link to open the email and apply online) This link only works while on a company network. Paper copies of the bids can be Faxed to 877-364-9110. Bids must be received by the removal date of the posting. Make sure that you receive a confirmation number when faxing in your bid sheet. If for some reason the company does not receive your fax, you will need that confirmation number/email or you will not be eligible for the promotion and or the lateral call.

Be proactive and call the job hotline at least once a week to check on open positions. (877-739-3566) If you are planning a VACATION, fill out the pre-bid vacation sheet to inform the company (HR) of your bid. You can inform HR of your intent to accept a position with a pre-bid sheet. If you miss the selection call for the position you are interested in, you will not be eligible for the position.

**Happy Bidding!**

## R E T I R E M E N T S

The following Members have received Honorary Withdrawal Cards from IBEW Local 15  
 Congratulations and Thank You for Your Service - from your IBEW Local 15 Sisters and Brothers

<b>Keith Karpola</b>	Crew Leader Line	Chicago South	Aug-83
<b>David Lang</b>	Sr. Energy Tech Physical	Chicago North	Oct-83
<b>Keith Kueteman</b>	Control Systems Tech	Dresden	May-90
<b>Eric Danner</b>	Primary Meter Service	Chicago North	May-85
<b>Harold Coers</b>	Nuclear Station Op	Quad Cities	Aug-87
<b>William Conlisk</b>	Liability Rep	Lincoln Center 3	Jun-89
<b>Timothy Amerine</b>	Control Systems Tech	Byron	Dec-91
<b>Terrance Sheridan</b>	Crew Leader Line	Maywood	May-80
<b>Michael Sandifer</b>	Crew Leader, Construction	Crestwood	Mar-88
<b>Kelly Bond</b>	Mechanic Shop and TI Serv	Technical Center	Apr-90
<b>Juan Alvarado</b>	Crew Leader, Construction	Crestwood	Jul-91
<b>John Kopp</b>	Control Systems Tech	Dresden	Nov-90
<b>James Glover</b>	General Service Rep	Joliet	Sep-78
<b>James Walters</b>	Crew Leader, Construction	University Park	Nov-83
<b>Gary Tuchowski</b>	Crew Leader, Line	Chicago South	Feb-90
<b>Brenda Finley</b>	Constuction Order Clerk	Glenbard	May-98
<b>Mark Smeltzer</b>	Equipment Operator Nuclear	Byron	Aug-90
<b>Thomas Ferguson</b>	Sr. Maint Electrician	Dresden	Sep-85
<b>Anthony Aristodemo</b>	Mechanic Shop and TI Serv	Technical Center	May-85
<b>Timothy Dalman</b>	Nuclear Station Op	Quad Cities	Feb-91
<b>Joseph Nedza Jr.</b>	Control Systems Tech	Dresden	Oct-99
<b>Jay Wimmer</b>	OH Elec Spec	Crystal Lake	Oct-88
<b>Marcos Gonzalez</b>	Mechanic Shop and TI Serv	Technical Center	Mar-90



## IN MEMORY



Daniel Buckley – 81 years old Retired QC Mechanic Passed away on 7/30/2021