



**LOCAL UNION 1600
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

OUR UNION VOICE

Volume 43, No. 9

September 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

By Steve Knoebel



If you are, or not aware, there is a proposal for a new collective bargaining agreement between IBEW Local 1600 and Talen Energy. This proposal will be mailed to the members that work for Talen along with the ballot that will need to be returned for the vote count on Friday Sept. 14th. The parties did sign an agreement to extend the current contract through Sept. 16th.

The proposal is also posted on the IBEW 1600 website under the Members tab. If you don't have a username and password, have your steward or Chief Steward print a copy for you.

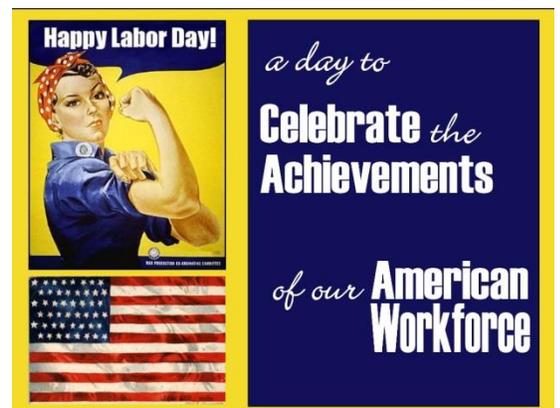
I do not want to get into specifics of the proposals in this newsletter, but I need to point something out. You will notice that I am referring to this as a proposal instead of an agreement as it is titled. That is due to the fact that while the parties did come to an agreement on the majority of the proposed changes, we could not reach an agreement on others. Therefore, some of the contents in this proposal were given to us as the Company's Last and Final Offer. For a full understanding of what is in this proposal, I strongly suggest that you attend one of the explanation meetings, or get a recap of the meetings prior to sending in your ballot. Following is the schedule for the explanation meet:

Tuesday Sept. 4th at 7pm
Espy Fire Co.
300 Tenny Street
Bloomsburg, Pa

Wednesday Sept. 5th at 7pm
Harrisburg Clarion Hotel
148 Sheraton Drive
New Cumberland, Pa

Thursday Sept. 6th at 7pm
Best Western Hotel
300 Gateway Drive
Bethlehem, Pa.

As we try to wrap up a new contract with Talen, the negotiations with Comcast will begin on September 5th. If you have never been personally involved with negotiating a collective bargaining agreement, let me tell you that it can be very frustrating and stressful when you get to see first-hand what the company thinks of their employees when it comes time to reward them for their work and dedication. This is why I ask that you support your negotiation teams because they are working very hard for your interests.



**Sign up for
Text Alerts!**



Visit Us At:
www.ibew1600.org

September Membership	
PPL	1140
Talen	857
Comcast	57
Ephrata	28
Hansen	2
Brookfield	16
Total	2100



IBEW PAC
July's winner
was
Chris S. Christman
Unit 4

REPORT FROM V.P. FRANK GRABOSKI



Hello Sisters and Brothers of IBEW Local 1600. I have been working with the Talen negotiating team in an effort to secure a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. A tentative agreement was reached on August 24, 2018; the summary is on the IBEW

Local 1600 web page and was also mailed to all Talen Union members. Explanation meetings will

be held the first week of September and the vote count will be held September 14, 2018. I want to thank the entire team for their commitment, dedication and efforts during this difficult process. I also need to thank fellow Business Reps. Rusty Clausius and Jane Biever for taking care of my PPL business while I as in contract negotiations.

In Solidarity,

Brother Frank E.G.

Labor Day 2018

This Labor Day, working people in every corner of the country have good reason to be proud. Our movement is on the rise. We are marching and striking and organizing. We are refusing to accept business as usual.

For decades, corporations have rigged the economy to work for the few at the expense of the many. They have tried to destroy our unions. And too many of America's leaders have done their bidding, waging an assault on our most fundamental freedoms.

But we have never looked to corporations or politicians to validate our movement. The rights of working people have always been won and sustained by our own desire and passion for change.

We have the power to create the fair economy and just society that we deserve. And that means making our voices heard loud and clear on the campaign trail and defeat corporate-backed politicians and fill the halls of power with genuine allies of working families.

As we celebrate Labor Day, take care to remind friends, family and co-workers how much is at stake this year—from our paychecks and benefits to our basic dignity on the job.

You have the ability to win hearts and minds and ensure that working people have a say in the future of our country by electing candidates who will create fundamental, lasting change for everyone, not just the wealthy few.

LOCAL 1600 Newsletter

Published by Local 1600 I.B.E.W.

P.O. Box 470, Trexlertown, Pa. 18087-0470

President & Financial Secretary Steve Knoebel
Vice President Frank Graboski
Recording Secretary Donna Kancsal
Treasurer Jane Biever
Newsletter Editor Rafael Cuevas



IMPORTANT NUMBERS LOCAL 1600 HOTLINE NUMBER

1-800-344-2200

610-395-8167

Or 1-800-342-5515

FAX 610-395-6158

LABOR DAY QUIZ

Q.1

When was the first Labor Day celebrated in the U.S?

- 1901
- 1882
- 1817
- 1945

Q.2

Where was the first Labor Day parade held?

- Washington, DC
- Boston
- Chicago
- New York
- Las Vegas

Q.3

When was the earliest recorded strike in the US?

- 1865 in Philadelphia
- 1768 in New York
- 1904 in Chicago
- 1776 in Boston

Q.4

When was the American Federation of Labor founded?

- 1880
- 1886
- 1932
- 1776

Q.5

What was the original federal minimum wage?

- \$.75/hr
- \$1.25/hr
- \$.25/hr
- \$2.75/hr

Q.6

What is the current federal minimum wage?

- \$5.95/hr
- \$7.25/hr
- \$7.95/hr
- \$8.15/hr

Q.7

In what year was the National Education Association founded?

- 1942
- 1857
- 1889
- 1905

Q.8

Throughout its history NEA has lobbied for...

- Collective bargaining
- Lowering the voting age to 18
- Women's suffrage
- Civil Rights
- All of the above

History of Labor Day

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

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, 1884, 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 a century after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.



Matthew
Maguire



Peter
McGuire

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."

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.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

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.



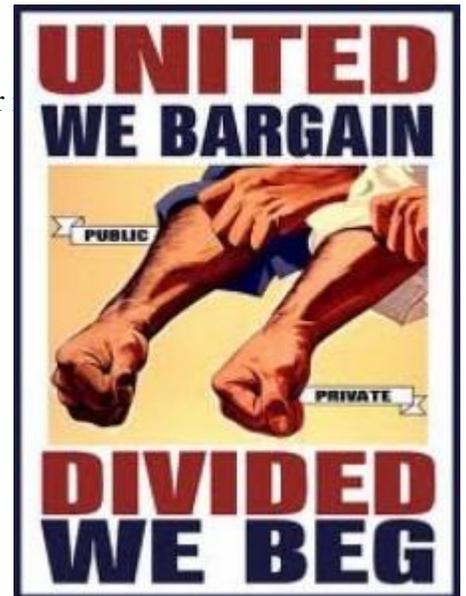
The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor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

Union Approval Reaches a 15-year High Point

This week, Gallup released a study on the American support for organized labor. Today 62% of Americans support unions. This is the highest support we've seen since 2003. The rules of the economy favor the wealthy at the expense of the working class, and the best way to unrig the system is for workers to join together highlights from the Gallup Poll:

“The American public has long supported organized labor, starting with Gallup’s earliest measure, taken in 1936 at the dawn of the U.S. labor movement. In fact, support for unions was relatively high across the first three decades of measurement, averaging 68% from 1936 to 1967. During this period, approval never dropped below 61%, and twice — both times in the 1950s — it stretched to 75%.

Current support for unions is fairly high across U.S. society, with majorities of all major gender, age, education and geographic groups approving. At the same time, approval varies sharply by political affiliation, with 80% of Democrats versus 45% of Republicans approving. The rate among independents falls squarely in between, at 62%.



Although a majority of Americans approve of labor unions, fewer want unions’ influence to grow. About four in 10 (39%) would prefer to see unions have more influence than they have today; 26% want their influence to stay the same, and 29% would prefer that they have less influence. Americans’ preference for union power is nearly identical to what Gallup found a year ago and represents greater support for strengthening unions than was the case for most of the previous decade.”

Workers' Rights Remain Critical as NAFTA Negotiations Continue

Joint statement from six labor leaders on the latest North American Free Trade Agreement announcement:

NAFTA is a rigged game that has been decimating communities and pushing working people down the income ladder for a quarter century, and today's announcement is another step in the continuing process of renegotiating NAFTA. Renegotiation is a mammoth undertaking. Meaningful renegotiation will upset the powerful global corporations that have made huge profits off the backs of North America's working people. Getting it right is not easy, which is why we appreciate U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's close consultations and willingness to consider new ideas. However, more work needs to be done.

North America's economies are so integrated that it is hard to see how this new deal could work if our brothers and sisters in Canada are not included. We think it is a mistake to move ahead on a bilateral basis and will continue to push to be sure that Canada is included in any final agreement.

We look forward to reviewing a complete text of the agreement and any side deals once the negotiations have been completed. We welcome the improvements made so far to the labor chapter, including, most importantly, new rules to eradicate wage-suppressing protection contracts in Mexico. But these changes will be meaningful *only if we can be certain that the international labor standards in the agreement are strong and that specific changes to current labor law in Mexico are adopted and enforced.* We continue to work with the Trump administration and both parties in Congress to ensure the deal contains swift and certain enforcement tools. We will be relentless in advocating for trade terms that ensure working people in the United States, Mexico and Canada have the freedom to join together in unions and negotiate for better wages and working conditions. This deal is more than just a labor chapter. Effective measures to stop the outsourcing of manufacturing to Mexico in many sectors, like auto, aerospace, service jobs and others are of paramount importance. We will reserve final judgment on the value of this deal for working families until we can review the full and final text. We will work with the administration and Congress as the process unfolds.

Richard Trumka, *President, AFL-CIO*

Leo W. Gerard, *International President, United Steelworkers (USW)*

James P. Hoffa, *General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

Gary Jones, *President, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union (UAW)*

Robert Martinez Jr., *International President, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)*

Christopher Shelton, *President, Communications Workers of America (CWA)*

Answers to the Labor Day Quiz

Q.1 When was the first Labor Day celebrated in the U.S?

1901

✓ 1882

1817

1945

Q.2 Where was the first Labor Day parade held?

Washington, DC

Boston

Chicago

✓ New York

Las Vegas

Q.3 When was the earliest recorded strike in the US?

1865 in Philadelphia

✓ 1768 in New York

1904 in Chicago

1776 in Boston

Q.4 When was the American Federation of Labor founded?

1880

✓ 1886

1932

1776

Q.5 What was the original federal minimum wage?

\$.75/hr

\$1.25/hr

✓ \$.25/hr

\$2.75/hr

Q.6 What is the current federal minimum wage?

\$5.95/hr

✓ \$7.25/hr

\$7.95/hr

\$8.15/hr

Q.7 In what year was the National Education Association founded?

1942

✓ 1857

1889

1905

Q.8 Throughout its history NEA has lobbied for...

Collective bargaining

Lowering the voting age to 18

Women's suffrage

Civil Rights

✓ All of the above

Union-Made Camping

It's never too late to enjoy the last few weekends of summer, by going for a hike or camping in the backyard. Enjoy the family time with union-made, American-made gear, and s'mores.

When we support union workers, we all win.

S'mores:

Honey Maid Graham Crackers

Campfire Marshmallows

Chocolate – Hershey (check for Made in U.S.A.)

Sunscreen:

Coppertone

Bain de Soleil

Hammocks:

Algoma Net

Boots:

Wolverine

Danner

Double-H

Red Wing

Thorogood

Wood N' Stream

Coffee:

USA Coffee Company

Millstone Coffee

Eight O'Clock Coffee

Folgers

Maxwell House

Hot Cocoa:

Swiss Miss

Ghirardelli

Coolers:

Rubbermaid

Tools:

Channelock (Made in PA)

Craftsman

Ridgid

Stanley Hand Tools

Black & Decker

SnapOn

Outdoor Clothing:

AFL-CIO Union Made Gear

All American Clothing Co.

Carhartt



Get the facts First Hand

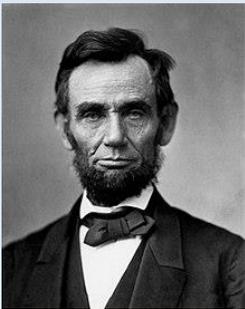
Attend your union meeting

I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 1600 SEPTEMBER MONTHLY UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
General Office Unit 1600-1	Sept. 13, 2018 6:00 p.m.	1259 Grange Road Allentown
Harrisburg Unit 1600-2	Sept. 13, 2018 6:00 p.m.	New Cumberland VFW 109 3rd St. New Cumberland
Lancaster Unit 1600-3	Sept. 12, 2018 6:00 p.m.	AmVets Post 19 715 Fairview Ave. Lanc.
Lehigh Unit 1600-4	Sept. 13, 2018 6:00 p.m.	1259 Grange Road Allentown
Central Unit 1600-5	Sept. 13, 2018 6:00 p.m.	Comfort Inn 58 State Rd. Rt. 93, Hazleton
Northern Unit 1600-6	Sept. 12, 2018 6:00 p.m.	Sheraton 4 Points Hotel 300 Meadows Ave. Scranton
Susquehanna Unit 1600-7	Sept. 11, 2018 7:00 p.m.	VFW Post 804 1258 Millville Rd Bloomsburg
Ephrata Unit 1600-8	Sept. 11, 2018 7:00 p.m.	Ephrata VFW 141 S. State St. Ephrata
LOCAL UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD	Sept. 4, 2018 9:00 a.m.	1259 Grange Road Allentown

I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 1600 OCTOBER MONTHLY UNIT MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
General Office Unit 1600-1	Oct. 11, 2018 6:00 p.m.	1259 Grange Road Allentown
Harrisburg Unit 1600-2	Oct. 11, 2018 6:00 p.m.	New Cumberland VFW 109 3rd St. New Cumberland
Lancaster Unit 1600-3	Oct. 10, 2018 6:00 p.m.	AmVets Post 19 715 Fairview Ave. Lanc.
Lehigh Unit 1600-4	Oct. 11, 2018 6:00 p.m.	1259 Grange Road Allentown
Central Unit 1600-5	Oct. 11, 2018 6:00 p.m.	Comfort Inn 58 State Rd. Rt. 93, Hazleton
Northern Unit 1600-6	Oct. 10, 2018 6:00 p.m.	Sheraton 4 Points Hotel 300 Meadows Ave. Scranton
Susquehanna Unit 1600-7	Oct. 9, 2018 7:00 p.m.	VFW Post 804 1258 Millville Rd Bloomsburg
Ephrata Unit 1600-8	Oct. 9, 2018 7:00 p.m.	Ephrata VFW 141 S. State St. Ephrata
LOCAL UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD	Oct. 1, 2018 9:00 a.m.	1259 Grange Road Allentown



**Labor is the superior of capital,
and deserves much the higher consideration**

Abraham Lincoln

I.B.E.W. LOCAL 1600 PO BOX 470, TREXLERTOWN, PA. 18087-0470