

"All that serves labor serves the nation. All that harms is treason...if a man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar ..."



Abraham Lincoln

"The right to join a union of one's choice is unquestioned today, and is sanctioned and protected by law."



Harry S. Truman



Thank you for all you do!

*In your honor we wish you a
Happy Labor Day 2021*

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THE FIRST LABOR DAY

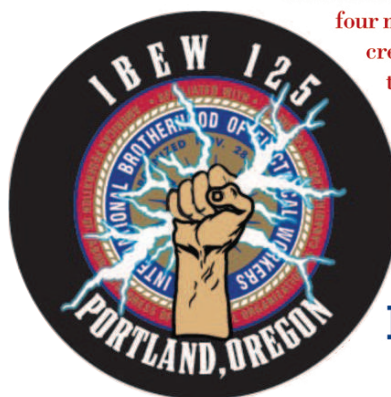
Two men have been credited with suggesting a holiday to honor working people in the United States — Matthew Maguire, a machinist from Paterson, N.J., and Peter J. McGuire, a New York City carpenter who founded the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Both men played an important part in staging the first Labor Day parade in New York City on Sept. 5, 1882. In 1887, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Council, Oregon became the first state to make Labor Day a legal holiday.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected to be the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Council 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 individual centers of the country.

As the years went by the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement 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 Feb. 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. President Grover Cleveland signed it into law making Labor Day a national holiday.



**Have a safe and happy Labor Day
from
the Members, Executive Board
and Staff of IBEW Local 125**

Guest Opinion

By Mike Brown
Assistant Business Manager, IBEW Local 77



Millions of Americans are employed because of natural gas

I am a proud member and representative for IBEW Local Union 77, with over 8,000 members, including our union brothers and sisters who work in the utility gas industry for Avista. I'm also proud to join the more than 20 local labor and union organizations who have joined the Partnership for Energy Progress, a collaboration of utilities, workers, farmers, small and large businesses and community advocates communicating the work we do to provide reliable, affordable energy to homes and businesses in the Pacific Northwest.

IBEW Local 77 acknowledges that being good stewards of our environment is a fundamental component of the utility industry. We're all part of the Spokane community and want to take good care of it for generations to come. And natural gas and its infrastructure are part of our clean energy future.

Natural gas is a reliable, efficient fuel source that is helping businesses and union workers stay at the forefront of new clean energy solutions, like renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen. Avista recently announced it would be investing more in these new technologies to meet their emission reduction goals of 30% by 2030 and 100% by 2045.

Renewable natural gas is made from waste that would otherwise pollute our planet, and renewable hydrogen is created from excess wind and solar power. Both renewable fuels are delivered through our existing natural gas system. Our current natural gas infrastructure can be utilized with new fuel and not disrupt the workers and the communities we live in while still providing customers choice.

The natural gas industry employs nearly 2 million Americans. Affordable natural gas powers millions more families and businesses — like farmers, restaurants, grocers and hospitals right here in Washington and Oregon. Additionally, renewable gas projects are predicted to create 7.3 million jobs by 2050. These are family-wage jobs that come with education, healthcare and pensions.

IBEW Local 77 commends Spokane's Sustainability Action Committee for evaluating options to deploy renewable natural gas, allowing utilities, like Avista, to continue to invest in cleaner, renewable energy that will retain the reliability and affordability people enjoy from natural gas. We must incentivize innovation and research in these new, clean solutions rather than limit options through arbitrary bans which would eliminate choice and put unnecessary burdens on an energy grid.

With the different climates in Washington and Oregon, we need multiple energy options, not a one-size-fits-all approach. Workers from unions like mine are prepared to provide support to energy customers as we transform natural gas infrastructure to renewable natural gas infrastructure. Brothers and sisters who agree are encouraged to join the Partnership for Energy Progress as we continue to work toward a clean energy future for all other humans now and in the future.

Mike Brown is assistant business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 headquartered in Spokane, Washington.