



Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2018

#### Labor Day Facts:

1. The first celebrated US Labor Day was on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City, planned by the Central Labor Union.
2. 10,000 workers marched from City Hall all the way to 42nd Street and then met with their families in Wendel's Elm Park for a picnic, concert, and speeches.
3. Canada is said to have originated the idea of hosting a day honoring the labor movement. In 1872, they held a "Nine-Hour Movement" to show support for striking workers.
4. There is disagreement about who actually proposed Labor Day as a holiday. Some say it was Peter J. McGuire, who was the cofounder of the American Federation of Labor. Others believe that it was Matthew Maguire, a machinist.



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# THE GAUGE

BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS,  
LOCAL 148

## Right-to-Work (for less) Defeated

Election Day, August 7. 4:30am. Aside from the few city busses making their early morning stops, the streets were quiet. Daylight was still an hour away. Rainfall was expected most of the day. Across the city of St. Louis—and the entire state of Missouri—union and non-union households were stirring. Outside my third-floor window I saw bedroom lights flickering on and could almost smell the coffee brewing.

To the left, the right, and straight ahead, as far as the eye could see, were "Vote No on Prop A" signs scattered across front yards.

This was no ordinary primary election day, in fact, Tuesday would mark the end of a yearlong, hard fought effort by organized labor, students, community allies, and activists from all walks of life—all part of the working class—to keep Missouri a proud union state.

Volunteers collected over 310,000 signatures to place Missouri's right-to-work legislation on the ballot for voters to decide, knocked over 800,000 doors, made over a million phone calls, and placed over 100,000 yard signs—keeping the conversations going with family, friends, and neighbors in between.

Voting down Prop A (right-to-work) would be a crushing defeat for Republican state legislators, and disgraced ex-governor Eric Greitens, who peddled the BS narrative that "right-to-work" would bring jobs to the

state, and forced the law down voters' throats last year.

Beyond state borders, it would be a powerful rebuke of the Trump Administration's anti-worker policies, Pro- "right-to-work" politicians, and the National Right to Work Committee funded by corporate interest lobbyists.

This election touched voters personally, many of them growing up hearing stories of the first time Missouri made labor history in '78.

Constitutional Amendment 23 (Right-to-Work) was introduced by the Freedom to Work Committee November 7, 1978 and would have added language to the Missouri Constitution—like Prop A's language—making the state right-to-work. *Cont. on pg. 3...*



“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Thank YOU, for defeating Prop A!

I am pleased to report that our monumental efforts to defeat Prop A paid off with a resounding victory for all working people.

Organized labor’s influence was deeply felt by big money politicians and corporate interests in Missouri, and nationwide, who poured millions into trying to make Missouri the 28<sup>th</sup> Right-to-Work (for less) state.

I am also very proud to know our local union and the Operating Engineers played such a major role in this effort.

I want to thank those members who collected signatures to get this issue on the ballot, and dedicated time knocking on doors, and educating voters on the importance of getting out to vote: “NO on Prop A.”

A special thank you goes out to all our members and their families who turned out to vote election day, letting our anti-union legislature, and ex-governor, know that working people set the political agenda, not corporate outsiders.

While this effort was led by organized labor, it would not have been as successful without the support of so many other pro-worker coalition organizations across Missouri.

By recognizing that our numbers were limited, our coalition partners stepped up by reaching out and educating non-union workers and their families, as well as the small business community, and played a vital role in making sure Prop A was defeated.

In the end two-thirds of all Missourians, across all political spectrums, said NO for the second time in history. Hopefully our Republican legislators will show respect for the will of the people and move on to more pressing matters we all agree need to be addressed, such as improving our infrastructure.

Thanks again to all of our members, and let’s make sure we finish the job this November, by electing strong supporters of working class families.

In Solidarity,

Keith Linderer, Business Manager



## ***Right –to-work continued...***

**CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENT NO. 23**  
*Provides that no person be deprived of the right to work for any employer because of membership or nonmembership in any labor organization or because of payment or non-payment of charges to any labor organization. It is estimated that there would be no additional cost or savings to the state if this amendment is adopted*

The National Right-to-Work Committee and its local branch in Missouri had been testing the political waters for years to push anti-worker legislation, creating a domino effect in other industrialized, union strong states throughout the Midwest.

The amendment failed by a 60 to 40 margin with 948,387 opposed and 631,829 in favor.

7:00pm. Closing time at the polls.

As volunteers plucked and tossed out all the yard signs outside of polling locations, union members and their families headed over to Sheet Metal Workers Local 36 union hall for the election results watch party.

Rank and file members, politicians, local labor leaders paced up and down throughout the massive hall, union-made beers in hand. While there was an overwhelming sense of confidence in the air, ex-

haustion coupled with anxiety could be seen on peoples' faces occasionally.

The overwhelming victory was announced at 10:17pm: Prop A lost 67 percent to 33 percent (937,241 No—452,075 Yes). Making Missouri the first state to defeat right-to-work at the ballot box... Twice!

This is a tremendous victory," said Mike Louis, president of the Missouri AFL-CIO. "This is what we've worked so hard for. This is a victory for the people of the middle class. It's time to stop counting people who work as being middle class when the CEO makes 361 times more than we do."

"Forty years ago, they tried to force this down our throats, and we said, 'No,'" continued Louis. "Today we're saying, 'Not then, not now, not ever!' "...Today we sent a clear message to any politician, any CEO any dark money donor who wants to silence our voices, the voices of the people, the voices of who should be middle class America, we'll stand together and we're going to tell them 'Hell no!'"

Tuesday's Prop A vote was defeated in both urban and rural areas, and despite a decline in union membership nationwide. Unofficial results showed that only 14 of Missouri's 114 counties supported the right-to-work measure.

And like '78, these results show that partisan politics

and workplace issues don't have to line up—many of the rural counties who voted no, also voted Trump/Pence in 2016.



"I've seen the facts of states that have laws like right to work," said United Auto Workers union member Michelle Whitley of Wright City. "It's just not a good thing for our state."

"I don't think we'll ever stop fighting,"

Now, our fight moves on to November.

**Labor can not stand still. It must not retreat. It must go on, or go under.**  
—Harry Bridges

## Growing the labor movement

The history of the U.S. labor movement is full of ebbs and flows. Times of resurgence and growth. Times of retrenchment and decline.

While unions aren't nearly as strong as during the post-World War II period into the 1970's, when about 35 to 40 percent of the workforce belonged to the organized labor movement, we are seeing a resurgence of activism and organizing.

In fact, over 260,000 workers joined unions last year!

This is nothing to sneeze at, especially given the decades-long assault on workers.

Additionally, tens of thousands of workers went on strike last year, most notably school teachers largely in right-to-work (for less) states. Wages and working conditions were so bad that a work stoppage became the best option.

And they won!

Most recently, the Operating Engineers International Union – in Missouri and throughout the country – along with other

unions and community/labor allies defeated so-called right-to-work (for less) here in Missouri.

A whopping 67 percent of voters voted “no!” They said, “enough is enough” and spoke in one unified voice and sent the right-wing, Koch Brothers, ALEC backed, anti-union forces packing.

With this victory, all eyes are on Missouri as unions across the country study our campaign and victory, a victory that saw voters in 100 of 114 counties overwhelmingly vote “no!”

The wind is at our backs, brothers and sisters! We can grow our union and win!



## **The New International Training and Education Center**

This past spring was the grand opening of the new International Training and Education Center (ITEC) in Crosby Texas. This facility is absolutely state of the art. The International created a centrally located training center capable of housing and delivering top notch training to both the H&P and Stationary side of our Union.

There are over 70 pieces of heavy equipment onsite. Track hoes, dozers, mobile cranes and tower cranes are located onsite, as well as a maintenance shop and power plant building.

The training offered at the ITEC includes stationary engineer, heavy equipment operation and mechanics, welding, pipeline, OSHA training and more.

Students will stay in a 225 room hotel located onsite with a top shelf cafeteria and an after work lounge. The main building also has seminar/conference capabilities, as well as classrooms and a heavy equipment simulator room.

After a hard day studying, you can work out in the fitness center or relax in the lounge and catch the game on one of several big screen TVs.

**The best part of the new ITEC is the fact that all costs (travel, ground transportation, lodging, meals and of course the training itself) are covered by the ITEC. Students pay nothing for the use of the facility.**

Your business reps will be in contact with your employers in the near future to further explain this process, but for members the process couldn't be simpler.

Once you are approved to take a class by your employer and the business manager, the ITEC staff makes all the flight reservations for you and takes you from the airport to the training facilities. It is truly one stop shopping. I encourage you to check it out online through the International's website.

Though we haven't had any stationary engineer training since we relocated to our new hall, that is partly due to the lack of employers participating in the training fund since 2012 negotiations. But we also knew this new International Training Center was going to be built and we hope to make good use of it.

**Local 148 is committed to providing our members with first class training opportunities in all respects and with this new facility we can deliver on that commitment.**

For more information, don't hesitate to call me or your business rep for more information.

Thanks for your time and work safely!

Lynn Sherman, Training Coordinator IUOE Local 148: 314-477-8109

## Why you and ALL union members should support Prop B!

- ***Who are the workers that make minimum wage?***

Minimum wage workers include health care workers, classroom aides, janitors, and servers at restaurants... hardworking people who put in an honest day's work but struggle to get by.

Prop B will impact over 677,000 Missourians. These workers include almost 170,000 working parents and over 100,000 seniors and near retirees, impacting over 260,000 Missouri children.

- ***How does a minimum wage increase affect small businesses?***

Over 400 small business owners all across Missouri are supporting passage of Proposition B.

When a minimum wage worker gets a small raise, they spend that money locally, putting money directly into communities and the local economy.

In fact, 29 other states have increased their minimum wage and in each one, unemployment went down and incomes went up.

- ***How does a minimum wage increase affect prices?***

Corporations have been increasing the cost of food, gas, health care, and other basics for years. The minimum wage has had nothing to do with.

Raising the minimum wage is a tested solution: in states and counties that have increased their minimum wage, neither job losses nor price increases have been found.

- ***Will increasing the minimum wage impact rural areas differently than urban and suburban communities?***

By 2023, nearly a quarter of Missouri's workforce will see a raise as a result of Proposition B.

Many of Missouri's rural areas will see more than 30 percent of their workers positively impacted. People living and working in every county of Missouri are falling behind.



**YES ON PROP B**  
**RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE**

Prop B has the potential to strengthen all Missouri communities.

- ***Will raising the minimum wage have an effect on taxes and taxpayers?***

Because people who earn minimum wage are those most likely to spend their income and spend it with local, small business for basics like food and clothing, it is estimated by the state of Missouri that state and local government tax revenue could increase as much as \$214 million dollars.

Proposition B will help workers become more self-reliant and reduce the amount of taxpayer assistance they need. In fact, this initiative could reduce the number of workers getting public assistance welfare by 10 percent.

Additionally, the extra money spent by low-wage workers gets funneled back to businesses large and small that need to hire more workers to keep up with the increased demand, creating economic growth. That's great for those businesses and it's great for Missouri taxpayers.



# YES ON 1

*For a CLEAN Missouri*



## Require that legislative records be open to the public

by ensuring that the legislature operate under the same open records law as other public entities in Missouri



## Require politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists

after the conclusion of their final legislative session



## Eliminate almost all lobbyist gifts in the General Assembly

by banning any single gift worth more than \$5 — that means no more steak dinners, expensive booze, junkets or sports tickets. This rule would eliminate more than 99% of the lobbyist gift giving happening in Missouri.



## Lower campaign contribution limits for state legislative candidates

to limit the influence of big money and lobbyists in state government.

- Establish new campaign contribution limits for General Assembly candidates— \$2,500 for state senate, and \$2,000 for state house.
- Limit the ability of individuals and organizations to circumvent caps by counting money from single-source committees towards totals for original, actual donors.
- Stop legislative fundraising on state property.



## Ensure that neither political party is given an unfair advantage when new maps are drawn after the next census

by asking a nonpartisan expert to draw fair legislative district maps, which would then be reviewed by a citizen commission.

- Add fairness and competitiveness as required criteria for new district maps
- Protect the political power of minority communities against vote dilution
- Ask an independent state demographer to lead on technical work in creating district maps, instead of entrusting political appointees to do all of that work



## 2018 IUOE Local 148 Charity Bass Tournament Winners



RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES

Benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities® of St. Louis

### Big Bass Winners

Place	Boaters and Boat Number	Total Weight
1st	David Goestenkers & Scott Emmert #26	6.7 lbs
2nd	Gary Shartzter & Ryan Jordan #105	5.15 lbs
3rd	Ronnie & Carroll Howerton #87	5.13 lbs

### Guy/Gal Winner

Place	Boaters and Boat Number	Total Weight
1st	Ken Hunt & Teresa Magnesa #28	12.7 lbs

### Total Weight Winners

Place	Boaters and Boat Number	Total Weight
1st	Mike Heiligenstein & Brian Davis #101	21.10 lbs
2nd	David Goestenkers & Scott Emmert #26	20.12 lbs
3rd	Gary Shartzter & Ryan Jordan #105	20.4 lbs
4th	Shawn Hemken & Carl Hemken #57	18.8 lbs
5th	Corey Fritz & Ryan Fritz #73	18.3 lbs
6th	Jeff Russell & Steve Ferrell #20	17.2 lbs
7th	Jason Schumer & Crisanto Leonor Jr #99	17.2 lbs
8th	Clayton Chandler & Michael Chandler	17.1 lbs
9th	Gary Lawson & Jeremy Davis	16.14 lbs
10th	Ron Belew & Dereck Dack #95	16.7 lbs
11th	Roger Springs & Rich Wagner #31	16.5 lbs



# Labor Day Parade 2018



"This is just the beginning of a new era for America's workers."

James P. Hoffa

## IUOE 148 and WES partner-up for steward's training

The St. Louis Workers' Education Society continues its mission to create a culture of on-going worker education by partnering with IUOE Local 148 on member-activist trainings and development

WES president, Tony Pecinovsky, and Director of Education and Advocacy, Al Neal, conducted a day-long shop stewards training Tuesday, February 20 with shop stewards and member-activists from Phillips 66 Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois locations, excited to learn how to fight back in right-to-work (for less) states.

Pecinovsky gave a brief overview of U.S. labor history, noting the challenge workers' face today with the expansion of so-called right-to-work laws. Neal facilitated an overview of labor law 101, grievances/arbitration handling, and how to organize and win against anti-union bosses.

Keep an eye out for future training opportunities.



### Local 148 Charity Golf Scramble

Benefitting Ronald McDonald House  
Charities of St. Louis

*Ronald McDonald House Charities is an American  
independent nonprofit organization whose  
stated mission is to create, find, and support programs  
that directly improve the health and wellbeing of children*

**Saturday, October 13, 2018  
8:00 am Shotgun Start**

**Paradise Valley Golf Club  
1055 Lochmoor Drive  
High Ridge, MO 63049  
636/225-5157  
paradisevalleygolf.com**

### Four Person Scramble Format

**Tournament Fees Include:**  
Driving Range Prior to Tournament  
Hot Dogs Served at the Turn  
Beer/Water/ Gatorade  
Lunch will be Served in the Banquet Room  
Following the Tournament

**Contests**  
Closest to the Pin  
Longest Drive

**Cash Prizes will be Awarded**

Registration Must be Received by September 29, 2018

Please Make Checks Payable to:  
**IUOE 148 CHARITABLE FUND**  
Mail Registration and Checks to:  
IUOE Local 148  
Attn: Golf Tournament  
11000 Lin Valle Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63123

**Elected Officers:**

Keith Linderer  
*Business Manager*

Steven Mooney  
*President*

Lynn Sherman  
*Vice President*

Glen Tolan  
*Recording Secretary*

Greg Glass  
*Treasurer*

Bryant Wooten  
*Trustee*

William Masters  
*Trustee*

Dave Bahr  
*Trustee*

**Staff Positions:**

Eric Mosshegian  
*Business Rep.*

Michael Yates  
*Business Rep/  
Organizer*

Doug Williams  
*Business Rep*

Patrick Lynch  
*Business Rep.*

Herschel Riddle  
*Field Rep.*

Steven Joyce  
*Business Rep/  
Organizer*

## Labor History 101 In Brief: Part 1

The history of the U.S. labor movement has been one of extreme violence. Employers from the start refused to embrace the rights of workers to organize into unions.

In fact, employers partnered with the government to combat every effort on the part of workers to organize. And convinced the courts to outlaw unions until the mid-1800s.

The 1st official record of a union being formed in the U.S. was that of the Philadelphia cordwainers (shoemakers) who chartered themselves in 1792. Prior to the formation of the cordwainers, skilled workers formed guilds to essentially establish the trades work rules, standards and wage rates.

They enforced their rules by getting members to agree that they would not work for anyone who refused to pay the set wage rates.

The unskilled workers organized protests against their employers and engaged in direct collective activity to compel employers to submit to their demands. Once the issue was resolved or the workers acknowledged defeat the group disbanded.

The Philadelphia cordwainers union went on strike against its employers in 1804 to increase the wages of the journeymen cordwainers. The employers sued the union maintaining that it illegally interfered with their ability to operate their businesses and that their request to improve wages endangered the general public of Philadelphia.

Essentially, the argument was: If the employers agreed to increase the wages of the journeymen the cost of shoes and boots would have to be increased and this in

crease in cost was detrimental to the public's interest.

The court found in favor of the employers and ruled that the union constituted an illegal "criminal conspiracy." This ruling became known as the "Cordwainer Doctrine" and was followed by the courts until 1842 when the Massachusetts state Supreme Court overturned this doctrine.

Nevertheless, the courts in other states continued to apply the doctrine and judges continued to grant employers injunctions to stop organizing drives and strikes to improve wages and working conditions.

Under this doctrine union leaders were regularly imprisoned and unions fined if they engaged in any kind of a strike. Often the employer would call upon the police and state militia to forcibly and violently put an end to any strike by its employees.

We will look at several examples in the next edition of the Gauge

## IUOE Local 148

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St. Louis, MO 63123

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## The Gauge

### Local 148

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St. Louis, Mo 63123

Find Current Local Union  
News and Information at:

[www.iuoe148.com](http://www.iuoe148.com)



### Meet The Gauge Editors:

The **St. Louis Workers' Education Society** (WES) is a 501c3, non-profit organization chartered by the St. Louis Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO as a Workers' Center.

We educate and train St. Louis residents, especially people of color, women and youth, to become community leaders. We work with unions – like the Operating Engineers' Local 148 – to help educate and mobilize, to turn members into activists.

Our focus is on the intersection of workers' rights, racial justice, sexual and gender-minority rights and disabilities empowerment.

Additionally, WES acts as a small business and grassroots organization incubator. We facilitate on-going worker-education campaigns, partnering and advising union and community groups, to build a permanent culture of worker-education in St. Louis.

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