



Specification Roundhouse

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NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD CHAPTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

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.

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.

A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were 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.

This information was obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor website.

The Construction Specifications Institute is a nationwide non-profit technical organization dedicated to the improvement of specifications and building practices in the construction industry through service, education and research. Founded in 1948, CSI provides a forum for architects, engineers, specification writers, contractors, suppliers, and others in our industry. Membership is open to all who are involved in the built environment. Please contact Chapter Membership Chairman, Shane Lanzendorfer, 866-460-5610, or any chapter officer listed on the back of the newsletter.

September Meeting

Join us for a presentation focused on Storm Water do's and don'ts by Dr. Larry Fennessey of Sweetland Engineering & Associates, Inc.

The meeting will take place at the Bullpen Restaurant in Tyrone, PA at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 5. The cost is \$20 for a buffet dinner preceding the presentation.

RSVP by Thursday, August 31, to Mike Lechleitner at mikelechleitner@lrkimball.com or 814-472-7700 ext 252.

Chapter News

Brian Lockwood has recently resigned as our Chapter President to pursue a career in advertising with Yellow Book. We are very grateful for Brian's hard work and enthusiasm, which without, this Chapter would not exist. Thank you Brian.

Monthly Meetings

First Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Bullpen Restaurant, Tyrone, PA.

Directions

From the North:

Take the Tyrone exit.

Go to stop sign at the bottom of the exit and turn right.

Go to traffic light and turn left onto Pennsylvania Ave.

Go to traffic light and turn right onto 10th street.

Go under RR bridge and bear to the left onto Washington avenue.

Stay on Washington Ave., turn right into a parking lot between the Kwik Fill gas station and Pizza Hut.

There is a sign for the Bullpen Restaurant and it is located in the middle of the shopping plaza.

Meeting will be on the left side of the restaurant as you enter.

From the South:

Take the Tipton / Grazierville exit.

Go to end of off ramp and merge right onto old 220.

Stay on old 220, turn left into a parking lot between the Kwik Fill gas station and Pizza Hut.

There is a sign for the Bullpen Restaurant and it is located in the middle of the shopping plaza.

Meeting will be on the left side of the restaurant as you enter.

List of Officers

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Vice President:	(Your Name Here)	
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