



Labor Division

March 2024 Newsletter

A Few Days in March

What could come of a few days in March in Providence, Rhode Island? A handful of days in a month that tells of the start of spring and the anecdotal “in like a lamb, out like a lion” or the reverse, will indeed have profoundly positive consequences. Such a few days in Providence brought together presenters and leaders with the desire to share their knowledge of safety and health. The very same days attracted hundreds of safety and health advocates, safety and health professionals, and those thirsting to bring safety and health knowledge and innovation to workplaces, co-workers and fellow union members.

Hosted in Providence over March 4, 5 and 6 and March 7, 8 and 9 we found the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Safety Conference and the National Safety Council (NSC) Labor Division Spring meetings. In this all too brief a time vast amounts of information and experience was shared. Many attending the NSC Labor Division meetings also attended the IBEW Safety Conference, and it is with no small measure of pride, it can be reported that both events shared many of the same messages.

For the new Executive Committee of the Labor Division this was the first full meeting. The attendance was outstanding, and it could be said that the number of attendees at this spring meeting is now equal to or more than the best days before the global COVID pandemic. The recovery is in no small measure a tribute to leadership, support and, very importantly, the presented material at the meetings being relevant in today’s workplace.

At this year’s Spring meetings three panels focused on Opioids and musculoskeletal disorders, OSHA investigations when a fatality occurs and the state of safety. Experts answered questions and shared their expertise and experience. In addition, presenters talked about decision making in changing conditions and taking the time to be sure of safety. Being sure of safety, personal and that of co-workers, was driven home by the tumultuous story about being buried in a trench collapse. The IBEW Sobriety group from Local 103 took their regular Sunday morning meeting on the road and carried out a meeting for us in the Troubled Worker Committee. This meeting is a story about changing the stigma of substance use disorder and the love towards one another and the embrace of our sisters and brothers reaching out and saving lives when addiction is overwhelming. In addition, all the committees that carry out the administration of the Labor Division and focus on areas such as Transportation or Utility Safety and Health convened to move the division forward and to permit more intensive conversation across a wide range of subjects.

As the Labor Division looks to the future, it is indeed bright. The numbers of delegates are increasing, the number of affiliated unions is increasing and the number of new attendees is increasing.

The Labor Division of the NSC is the place to be to put yourself, your union, your union local and your workplace at the forefront of safety and health.

The fall meetings will be upon us before we know it. Coming up in Orlando and attached to the NSC Congress and Expo, the Labor Division meets September 17-19th, 2024. Registration will include a one-day pass to the Expo floor on the 16th. Registration will also include an invite to social events and the welcoming reception. Both are coveted invitations and events. Please watch this space for further information about registration and accommodations.

In closing, while the spring meetings of the division have come to a close, the division is better placed to grow and save lives than perhaps ever before. You need to be here.

In Solidarity and Kindest Regards

Bob Stone, Chairperson, NSC Labor Division



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