



THE ORGANIZER

MAY 2025



OUR MISSION

To better the lives of each and every member by being the strongest, most powerful voice in the industries we represent.

ONE UNION

Our strength is forged through unity by every member within our union working together, regardless of our individual trades, throughout North America. We stand united as one, transcending individual differences and creating collective power.

ONE FAMILY

We stand together as one. We support, care for, and respect each other in our union halls, on and off the job, each and every day. We leave no members behind.

ONE FIGHT

We fight together for stronger contracts - that means safer job sites, industry leading pay, and democracy at work. When we win stronger collective bargaining agreements for IUPAT members we win higher standards of living for every worker in our crafts.



HIT THE BRICKS! (OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION)

- **May 1 - UNITE & FIGHT! - May Day 2025 - Rochester, NY.** More information [here](#).
- **May 1 - May Day! May Day! Make the Oligarchs Pay! - Buffalo, NY.** More information [here](#).
- **May 1 - May Day Rally - Binghamton, NY.** Contact fstento@dc4.org or dmeyers@dc4.org for more information.
- **Click [here](#) To Find Other May Day Actions Near You!**
- **May 8 - Rochester Central Labor Council Meeting.** 6:30pm. Contact jguza@dc4.org if interested.
- **May 13 - Buffalo Central Labor Council Meeting.** 6:30pm. Contact jguza@dc4.org if interested.
- Check out the **FREE** original edition of "A Troublemaker's Handbook: How to Fight Back Where You Work - and Win!" [here](#).
- If you're interested in becoming a central labor council delegate, call, text or email Joe Guza at (716) 458-5844 or jguza@dc4.org.
- **Other Opportunities:**
 - <https://www.standing4democracy.org>



VOC MEETING

Our next VOC Meeting will be held **via Zoom Thursday, May 15, 2025 @ 5:30pm**. Look out for the link!

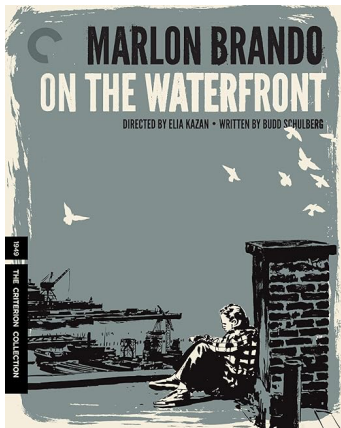
PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your photos [here](#)! Photos from the field help promote our union trades and display our impact in our local communities. Plus, you could win a gas card!

Last month's winner was Dani Wright, Local 112 Apprentice Painter!



EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANIZE!



Marlon Brando (The Godfather) gives the performance of his career as the tough prizefighter-turned-longshoreman Terry Malloy in this masterpiece of urban poetry, a raggedly emotional tale of individual failure and institutional corruption. On the Waterfront charts Terry's deepening moral crisis as he must choose whether to remain loyal to the mob-connected union boss Johnny Friendly (12 Angry Men's Lee J. Cobb) and Johnny's right-hand man, Terry's brother, Charley (In the Heat of the Night's Rod Steiger), as the authorities close in on them. Driven by the vivid, naturalistic direction of Elia Kazan (Gentlemen's

Agreement) and savory, streetwise dialogue by Budd Schulberg (A Face in the Crowd), On the Waterfront was an instant sensation, winning eight Oscars, including for best picture, director, actor, supporting actress (North by Northwest's Eva Marie Saint), and screenplay. [Check out or purchase here.](#)

WHAT MAKES A UNION? (LABOR HISTORY)



- **May 1:**
 - **1883** - Cigar makers in Cincinnati warn there could be a strike in the fall if factory owners continue to insist that they pay \$.30 per month for gas heat provided at work during mornings and evenings.
 - **1901** - The Cooks' and Waiters' Union strikes in San Francisco, demanding one day of res per week, a 10-hour workday and a union shop for all restaurants in the city.

- **May 2:**

- **1933**
- German

police units occupied all trade unions headquarters in the country, arresting union officials and leaders. The treasuries were confiscated and the unions abolished. Hitler announced that the German Labour Front, headed by his appointee, would replace all unions and look after the working class.



- **May 3:**
 - **1886** - Four striking workers are killed, at least 200 wounded, when police attack a demonstration on Chicago's south side at the McCormick Harvesting Machine plant. The Haymarket Massacre would take place the following day.
 - **1895** - Eugene V. Debs and other leaders of the American Railway Union are jailed for 6 months for contempt of court in connection with Pullman railroad car strike.
- **May 4:**
 - **1886** - Haymarket Massacre. A bomb is thrown as Chicago police start to break up a rally for strikers at the McCormick Harvesting Machines Co. A riot erupts, 11 police and strikers die, mostly from gunfire, and scores more are injured.
- **May 5:**
 - **1886** - Some 14,000 building trades workers and laborers, demanding an 8-hour workday, gather at the Milwaukee Iron Co. rolling mill in Bay View, WI. When they approach the mill they are fired on by 250 National Guardsmen under orders from the governor to shoot to kill. Seven died, including a 13-year-old boy.

- **1888** - 19 machinists working for the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad gather in a locomotive pit to decide what to do about a wage cut. They vote to form a union, which later became the International Association of Machinists.
- **May 6:**
 - **1935** - Works Progress Administration (WPA) established at a cost of \$4.8 billion - more than \$100.7 billion in 2022 dollars - to provide work opportunities for millions during the Great Depression.
 - **1937** - 400 Black women working as tobacco stemmers walk off the job in a spontaneous revolt against poor working conditions and a \$3 weekly wage at the Vaughan Co. in Richmond, Va.
- **May 7:**
 - **1867** - Two die, and 20 are injured in "Bloody Tuesday" as strikebreakers attempt to run San Francisco streetcars during a strike by operators. The strike was declared lost in 1908 after many more deaths, including several in scab-operated streetcar accidents.
 - **1977** - Philadelphia's longest transit strike ends after 44 days. A key issue in the fight was the hiring and use of part-timers.
- **May 8:**
 - **1970** - About 200 construction workers in NYC attack a crowd of Vietnam war protesters 4 days after the Kent State killings. More than 70 people were injured, including 4 police officers. Peter Brennan, head of the NYC building trades, was honored at the Nixon White House 2 weeks later, eventually named Secretary of Labor.
 - **1997** - Some 12,000 Steelworker-represented workers at Goodyear Tire & Rubber win an 18-day strike for improved wages and job security.
- **May 9:**
 - **1837** - The first Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women was held on this date in NYC. Attendees included women of color, the wives and daughters of slaveholders and women of low economic status.
 - **1909** - Japanese workers strike at Oahu, Hawaii's Aiea Plantation, demanding the same pay as Portuguese and Puerto Rican workers. Ultimately 7,000 workers and their families remained out until August, when the strike was broken.
 - **1937** - Hollywood studio mogul Louis B. Mayer recognizes the Screen Actors Guild. SAG leaders reportedly were bluffing when they told Meyer that 99% of all actors would walk out the next morning unless he dealt with the union. Some 5,000 actors attended a victory gathering the following day at Hollywood Legion Stadium; a day later, SAG membership increased 400%.
 - **1971** - United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther and his wife die in a plane crash as they travel to oversee construction of the union's education and training facility at Black Lake, MI.
 - **1972** - 4,000 garment workers, mostly Hispanic, strike for union recognition at the Farah Manufacturing Co. in El Paso, TX.

- **May 10:**
 - **1869** - Thanks to an army of thousands of Chinese and Irish immigrants who laid 2,000 miles of track, the nation's first transcontinental railway line was finished by the joining of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific lines at Promontory Point, UT.
 - **1898** - U.S. & Canadian workers form Western Labor Union. It favors industrial organization and independent Labor party politics.
 - **2005** - a federal bankruptcy judge permits United Airlines to legally abandon responsibility for pensions covering 120,000 employees.
- **May 11:**
 - **1894** - Nationwide railway strike begins at Pullman, Ill. Nearly 260,000 railroad workers ultimately joined the strike to protest cuts by the Pullman Palace Car Co.
 - **1953** - 17 crewmen on the iron ore freighter Henry Steinbrenner die when the ship, carrying 7,000 tons of ore, sinks during a violent storm on Lake Erie. Another 16 crewmen survived.
- **May 12:**
 - **2008** - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents raid the Agriprocessors, Inc. slaughterhouse and meat packing plant in Postville, IA, arresting nearly 400 immigrant workers. Some 300 are convicted on document fraud charges. The raid was the largest ever until that date.
- **May 13:**
 - **1909** - The Canadian government establishes the Department of Labour. It took the U.S. another 4 years.
 - **1980** - UAW President Douglas A. Fraser is named to the Chrysler Corp. board of directors, becoming the first union representative ever to sit on the board of a major U.S. corporation.
 - **1998** - Thousands of yellow cab drivers in NYC go on a 1-day strike in protest of proposed new regulations.
- **May 14:**
 - **1953** - Milwaukee brewery workers begin 10-week strike, demanding contracts comparable to East and West Coast workers.
- **May 15:**
 - **1891** - Pope Leo XIII issues revolutionary encyclical "Rerum Novarum" in defense of workers and the right to organize.
 - **1906** - U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of Samuel Gompers and other union leaders for supporting a boycott at the Buck Stove and Range Co. in St. Louis, where workers were striking for a 9-hour day.
 - **1917** - The Library Employees' Union is founded in NYC, the first union of public library workers in the United States. A major focus of the union was the inferior status of women library workers and their low salaries.
 - **1920** - The first Labor bank opens in Washington, D.C., launched by officers of the Machinists.

- **May 16:**
 - **1934** - Minneapolis general strike backs Teamsters, who are striking most of the city's trucking companies.
 - **1938** - U.S. Supreme Court issues Mackay decision, which permits the permanent replacement of striking workers.
 - **1979** - Black Labor leader and peace activist A. Philip Randolph dies.
- **May 17:**
 - **1954** - Supreme Court outlaws segregation in public schools.
 - **2004** - 12 Starbucks baristas in a midtown Manhattan store, declaring they couldn't live on \$7.75 an hour, signed cards demanding representation by the Industrial Workers of the World.
- **May 18:**
 - **1912** - In what may have been baseball's first Labor strike, the Detroit Tigers refuse to play after team leader Ty Cobb is suspended: he went into the stands and beat a fan who had been heckling him.
 - **1917** - Amalgamated Meat Cutters union organizers launch a campaign in the nation's packinghouses, an effort that was to bring representation to 100,000 workers over the following 2 years.
 - **1928** - Big Bill Haywood, a founding member and leader of the Industrial Workers of the World, dies in exile in the Soviet Union.
 - **1979** - Oklahoma jury finds for the estate of atomic worker Karen Silkwood, orders Kerr-McGee Nuclear Co. to pay \$505,000 in actual damages, \$10 million in punitive damages, for negligence leading to Silkwood's plutonium contamination.
- **May 19:**
 - **1902** - 216 miners die from an explosion and its aftermath at the Fraterville Mine in Anderson County, TN.
 - **1920** - Shootout in Matewan, W. Va. between striking union miners (led by Police Chief Sid Hatfield) and coal company agents. 10 died, including 7 agents.
 - **1942** - The Steel Workers Organizing Committee, formed by the Congress of Industrial Organizations, formally becomes the United Steelworkers of America.
 - **1950** - A total of 31 dockworkers are killed, 350 workers and others are injured, when 4 barges carrying 467 tons of ammunition blow up at South Amboy, N.J.
- **May 21:**
 - **1945** - The "Little Wagner Act" is signed in Hawaii, guaranteeing pineapple and sugar workers the right to bargain collectively. After negotiations failed, a successful 79-day strike shut down 33 of the territory's 34 plantations and brought higher wages and a 40-hour week.
 - **2004** - Nearly 100,000 unionized SBC Communications Inc. workers begin a 4-day strike to protest the local phone giant's latest contract offer.

- **May 22:**
 - **1895** - Eugene V. Debs imprisoned in Woodstock, Ill., for role in Pullman strike.
 - **1909** - While white locomotive firemen on the Georgia Railroad strike, Blacks who are hired as replacements are whipped and stoned - not by the union men, but by white citizens outraged that Blacks are being hired over whites.
 - **1920** - Civil Service Retirement Act of 1920 gives federal workers a pension.
- **May 23:**
 - **1903** - An estimated 100,000 textile workers, including more than 10,000 children, strike in Philadelphia area. Among the issues: 60-hour workweeks, including night hours, for the children.
 - **1934** - The Battle of Toledo begins today: a 5-day running battle between roughly 6,000 strikers at the Electric Auto-Lite company of Toledo, Ohio, and 1,300 members of the Ohio National Guard.
 - **1946** - U.S. railroad strike starts, later crushed when President Truman threatens to draft strikers.
- **May 24:**
 - **1883** - After 14 years of construction and the deaths of 27 workers, the Brooklyn Bridge over New York's East River opens. Newspapers call it "the 8th wonder of the world."
 - **1995** - Some 2,300 members of the United Rubber Workers, on strike for 10 months against 5 Bridgestone-Firestone plants, agree to return to work without a contract.
- **May 25:**
 - **1805** - Pressured by employers, striking shoemakers in Philadelphia are arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy for violating an English common law that bars schemes aimed at forcing wage increases. The strike was broken.
 - **1925** - Two company houses occupied by non-union coal miners are blown up and destroyed during a strike against the Glendale Gas & Coal Co. in Wheeling, W. Va.
 - **1936** - The notorious 11-month Remington Rand strike begins. The strike spawned the "Mohawk Valley (NY) formula." Described by investigators as a corporate plan to discredit union leaders, frighten the public with the threat of violence, employ thugs to beat up strikers, and other tactics.
- **May 26:**
 - **1937** - Some 100,000 steel workers and miners in mines owned by steel companies strike in 7 states. The Memorial Day Massacre, in which 10 strikers were killed by police at Republic Steel in Chicago, took place 4 days later, on May 30.
 - **1937** - Ford Motor Co. security guards attack union organizers and supporters attempting to distribute literature outside the plant in Dearborn, MI, in an event that was to become known as the "Battle of the Overpass."

- **May 27:**

- **1935** - The U.S. Supreme Court declares the Depression-era National Industrial Recovery Act to be unconstitutional, about a month before it was set to expire.



- **May 28:**

- **1946** - At least 30,000 workers in Rochester, NY participate in a general strike in support of municipal workers who had been fired for forming a union.

- **May 29:**

- **1941** - Animators working for Walt Disney begin what was to become a successful 5-week strike for recognition of their union, the Screen Cartoonists' Guild.
- **1946** - A contract between the United Mine Workers and the U.S. government establishes one of the nation's first union medical and pension plans, the multi-employer UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund.
- **1996** - The United Farm Workers of America reaches agreement with Bruce Church Inc. on a contract for 450 lettuce harvesters, ending a 17-yearlong long boycott.
- **2009** - UAW members at General Motors accept major contract concessions in return for 17.5% stake in the financially struggling company.

- **May 30:**

- **1937** - In what became known as the Memorial Day Massacre, police open fire on striking steelworkers at Republic Steel in South Chicago, killing 10 and wounding more than 160.
- **2002** - The Ground Zero cleanup at the site of the World Trade Center is completed 3 months ahead of schedule due to the heroic efforts of more than 3,000 building tradesmen and women who had worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for the previous 8 months.

- **May 31:**

- **1943** - Some 25,000 white autoworkers walk off the job at a Detroit Packard Motor Car Co. plant, heavily involved in wartime production, when 3 Black workers are promoted to work on a previously all-white assembly line. The Black workers were relocated and the whites returned.
- **1997** - Rose Will Monroe, popularly known as Rosie the Riveter, dies in Clarksville, IN. During WWII she helped bring women into the labor force.

Labor News



- [A Coalition of Hundreds of Employers is Asking the Trump Administration to Override the NLRB and Dictate Labor Law.](#)
- [The Protect Utah Workers Coalition Make Progress in Its Effort to Repeal Anti-Union Legislation.](#)
- [Judge Blocks Federal Government from Ending Collective Bargaining for Most Federal Workers.](#)

- [Trump's Tariffs Hurt the Working Class. Why Are Some Unions On Board?](#)
- [Union Workers Turn on Trump Tariffs: 'Direct Attack on the Working Class'.](#)
- ['Trump and Musk are Setting the Example': How Companies Are Becoming Emboldened to Be More Anti-Union.](#)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNION

The DC4 Women's Committee is getting off the ground and running! Thanks to all the members and staff that stepped up to make this happen. We know that our Women's Committee will shine as a bright light in the strange, dark months ahead. We have been reaching out to our women members – but if you're interested please reach out to [Heather Lewandowski](#) or [Joe Guza](#).



If you have questions or suggestions for The Organizer, please email jguza@dc4.org.