FOR OUR FUTURE:
- Organizing
- Education
- Training
- Experience
- Knowledge

Dave Monsour
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

Mickey Dowdle
President

Ken Wieken
Vice-President

Linda Powers
Recording
Corresponding Secretary

Skip Metcalf
Treasurer

May 2020 MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 2020
5:00pm Local 70 Office
2722 County Road D East, White Bear Lake, MN

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEETING

THE ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEETINGS
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

PLEASE NOTE

The Local 70 office will be closed
Monday, May 25, 2020 to observe
Memorial Day!
Another month has gone by, we are supposed to be one month closer to summer and all the wonderful things that the great outdoors in Minnesota has to offer. Unfortunately, with the situation that faces us today that is not necessarily the case. We are under an extended Stay at Home directive from Governor Walz, thankfully I believe he is doing the right thing for the people of the state. He is taking a very wise step in preparing, or is it attempting to prepare the people of this state for the eventual crest in the wave of this terrible virus COVID – 19.

We at the Local are doing our best to stay on top of the ever changing information both Locally and Nationally. Everyday new proposed legislation is being debated and acted on both here in St. Paul and in Washington D.C.

There are links online that provide an abundance of answers. Often the employer is attempting to react to an ever-changing environment where the situation and response changes by the day. I encourage all of you to ask questions of your employer and your Union Representative.

Unemployment is a big question that is looming in everyone’s mind, along with that many job sites are discussing lay-offs and furloughs. Will a person qualify for unemployment if they take a voluntary lay-off or furlough? Most times the answer is yes. If work is available, you should be working. If given the opportunity to volunteer for a furlough, then each person needs to make their own decision. If you are uncertain about your eligibility for unemployment, ask the question.

As part of the essential work force we are maintaining the operations at the office. Our multi-talented clerical staff never run out of important things to do from answering questions to updating contracts and processing information. I have asked the Business Representatives to work from home during this pandemic, be assured they are available to respond to questions either on the phone or through email. We are doing our best to maintain the duty of representation.

We will prevail, we will move forward and we will get through this pandemic.

Keep the faith, wash your hands and be safe.
WHERE DOES MEMORIAL DAY COME FROM?

Washington Examiner

Several cities claim to have held the first Memorial Day either during or in the wake of the Civil War. In October 1864, a group of women in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers. In April 1865, a group of black people, mostly former slaves, moved over 200 bodies of Union soldiers that had been buried in a mass grave into individual graves. On May 1, 1865, a parade of over 10,000 people was held to honor those who died and to commemorate the end of the war.

In the following years, many other communities held similar ceremonies. Waterloo, New York held an annual community-wide event from 1866 on, leading the town to be recognized as the birthplace of Memorial Day by the federal government in 1866. That same year, the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans’ group, recorded that many of its state groups observed what they called a Memorial Day.

In 1868, General John A. Logan, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, proposed holding a national ceremony on May 30th. The event, held at Arlington National Cemetery, was called Decoration Day after the tradition of decorating soldiers’ graves with flowers. The date was chosen, in part, because it didn’t correspond with any specific battle. New York made Decoration Day a state holiday in 1873, changing the official name to Memorial Day in 1889. In 1888 Decoration Day was made a holiday for federal employees. By 1890, all the Union states had adopted Decoration Day or Memorial Day as a state holiday.

Southern states tended to observe their own rites on different dates, and several Southern states currently recognize a Confederate Memorial Day in addition to the national holiday. Following World War I, Memorial Day was held to honor all those who died while serving in the military, not just those lost in the Civil War.

In 1950, Congress passed a joint resolution, signed by President Truman, “proclaiming Memorial Day, Tuesday, May 30, 1950, and each succeeding Memorial Day, as a day of prayer for permanent peace.”

The National Holiday Act, passed in 1968 and put into effect in 1971, changed the date of Memorial Day from May 30th, to the last Monday of May, and made Memorial Day a national holiday.

The long weekend is often considered the unofficial start of summer and is often celebrated with parties and barbecues. Some feel that the long weekend has detracted from the holiday’s somber purpose. In 1972, Time called the long weekend “a three-day nationwide hootenanny that seems to have lost much of its original purpose.” Late Hawaiian Senator and World War II veteran Daniel Inouye introduced legislation to move Memorial Day back to May 30, beginning in the late 1980s, and continued to pursue the change through the remainder of his life.

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People used the day for celebration or leisure almost from its beginning, though. An 1883 Cincinnati Enquirer headline asked: “Is Memorial Day To Be Desecrated By Holiday Sports?”

In 2000, Congress passed a resolution, signed by President Clinton, urging Americans to set aside 3pm on Memorial Day “to observe a National Moment of Remembrance to honor the men and women of the United States who died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.”

“In Flanders Fields” is a poem written by Dr. John McCrae, a World War I surgeon who wrote the poem after a chlorine gas attack by Germany killed half of his brigade including his best friend.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.
Statewide and Proud

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please make sure you notify the Local 70 office at 651-646-4566 with any changes in your home mailing address, job location, hours you are working and wage information. We want to maintain accurate information on our members so you receive important mailings and other information pertaining to union membership, pension information, proposal meetings and contract votes for your job site. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.