



Labor Division

October 2024 Newsletter

Excelling in every way possible the recent National Safety Council (NSC) Congress and Expo is now in the books. However, as we contemplate and perhaps even glow in the grand success of those few days, we now must look reality back in the eye as those residing in the state of Florida and numerous other states in the path of hurricane Helene suffer exceptional hardship and loss.

In the context of the hurricane the Labor Division acknowledges the work the members of the Division will be involved in to mitigate hurricane damage. Not only the members of the Division but those represented by the Division members and too many to note that find themselves in all services to aid in hurricane recovery.

In an earlier newsletter/blog advice was given on dealing with a crisis. The advice was not all encompassing, but as we see the damage and unfortunately the loss of life a consideration of plans in such crisis moments is a must. We are early in hurricane season!

As recognized leaders in safety and health the NSC and the Labor Division of the NSC are excellent sources of information on safety and health and crisis mitigation is most certainly in the lexicon.

During the Congress and Expo, the Labor Division undertook its regular order of meetings and of celebrating those in the Division undertaking exceptional actions on behalf of workers. Perhaps not specific to the Labor Division, but no one exceeds the Division in this recognition, celebration and activities that make Division attendees feel welcome. Arranged by Dave Zelasko, the Frank Rapp Memorial Golf Outing took place with ten enthusiastic golfers. Although not arranged for at all spring and fall meetings the golf outing is a great opportunity to have some fun and get a jump start on getting to know others in the Division.



Rena Harrington, The President of the United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities, shared a powerful message about the tragic loss of her son Justin at the young age of 27 due to a workplace accident. Her organization plays a vital role in supporting others who have faced similar tragedies. During our recent Labor Division meetings, we were deeply moved by Rena's story, prompting us to donate



\$4,293 to her cause. In addition to our contribution, we encourage you to consider supporting her organization directly and sharing the information with your network.

Speaking of recognition, how about IBEW Local 103 and their Sobriety Group? In front of the entire Congress and Expo the Local 103 Sobriety Group was awarded a very prestigious NSC Green Cross Safety Advocate Award. Crediting this group with saving lives hardly touches the surface. The Sobriety Group can easily be credited with saving lives, rescuing careers, keeping families together and strengthening families and giving people the support on their road to health and the lifelong journey of recovery.

Celebrating our own is a jewel in the crown of the Labor Division. Many in the Division have come to know IBEW 17 member Chuck Dortenzio. Chuck is on the precipice of retirement and for Chuck's years of contributions to the Division he is nominated for an award to be presented in Milwaukee in the spring of 2025. Most recently brother Dortenzio gave rise to the success of the regular calls referred to as the Safety Pros call. This open forum for all things safety and health is a success story of keeping people in touch and informed between the spring and fall meetings of the Labor Division.

All Division committees met over the time in Orlando and for the purposes of general information some of the issues are listed here. With approximately 130 in attendance at the fall Labor Division meetings, reaching to our sisters and brothers in your local or workplace for details will likely be quite easy.

- Roadwork Hazards, Work in adverse weather conditions, Supervisory roles and responsibilities and responsibilities and preparedness and training for such roles
- The success of the Sobriety Group and how, for example, how the accessibility and acceptance of alcohol in the workplace has changed for the better
- Dangers of fentanyl
- The upcoming spring meetings in Milwaukee where a theme of workplace violence will be the order of business.

In closing, the Labor Division planning for [spring meetings](#) in Milwaukee is underway. As chairperson of the Division, it is a pleasure and privilege to undertake the work of the Division. Like any work in the life of a trade unionist nothing is done alone. It is how we support and help each other that sets organized labor and this Division apart. The Sobriety Group is one such gleaming example. For me, as chairperson, I have great support, and I want to add a personal thank you to Keith Prendergast. As vice-chairperson of the Division as he stepped up and ran the fall meetings in Orlando when my other responsibilities prevented me from being with all of you in Orlando.

Kindest Regards and Solidarity,

Bob Stone, Chairperson, NSC Labor Division

[Register now for the Spring 2025 meeting!](#)

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