

January 2023

Newsletter/Blog, Labor Division

National Safety Council (NSC)

As the current Chairperson of the Labor Division, it is a privilege to wish all our readers the very best for 2023 and beyond. January will be nearly gone by the time this note hits your inbox. Division leadership and the NSC will be deep into preparations for the spring 2023 meetings of the NSC Labor Division. Please make sure you are watching for ongoing registration information emails. This link will connect you to registration information: <https://na.eventscloud.com/laborspring23>

The 2023 Labor Division Spring meetings will see us in the Minnesota state capital of St. Paul. Taking place immediately after the completion of the two and half day IBEW Safety Caucus (June 5-7), the spring Labor Division meetings will run from June 8th to June 10th. Many participants will experience the best there is to offer by attending the IBEW Safety Caucus and the spring Labor Division meetings.

Please note that Labor Division on site registration will be available commencing at 3PM on June 7th.

Early 2023 brought another reminder that safety and health is not guaranteed, but is attained through training, preparation and execution. In 2023 across the nation and in other countries much is on exhibit on how we have successfully trained, prepared and executed on the work to protect the safety and health of workers. Bringing this into focus in ways not previously envisioned is the cardiac arrest of Buffalo Bills safety, Damar Hamlin. Elite medical professionals such as ICU doctors and nurses are fully prepared for such an occurrence, but what about in the workplace? Intervention at the workplace and in the immediate aftermath of an event such as an unexpected medical emergency or injury may be the difference between life and death.

In the case of Damar Hamlin, it was the immediate intervention of well-trained and prepared co-workers such as team doctors and paramedics. Not everyone has a "team" doctor or paramedic seconds away, but the outcome can stand a similar chance of success if a plan is in place that ensures trained and prepared co-workers can execute the actions necessary to successfully intervene to mitigate an injury and/or save a life.

As safety and health advocates and activists we know the tragic reality in the absence of training, preparation and execution.

Labor Division meetings, spring and fall, very often offer training, information sessions and expert panels that provide the very fundamentals of the training so needed. Not to exclude experts and professionals delivering such sessions, but as Labor Division chair,

it is my hope and the desire of the Labor Division leadership that members of the division will step up to share their expertise in such sessions. There really is nothing more powerful than workers teaching workers. The first step for anyone considering delivering a session or sessions is approaching any Labor Division committee chair, vice-chair or executive and indicating the desire to deliver a session or sessions at the spring or fall meetings.

Our meetings are not all about work. Our Welcoming Committee works very hard to bring about a reception and to help out local communities while connecting meeting attendees at the reception where networking goes to a whole new level.

Along with the social and celebratory nature of the welcoming reception, the Awards Committee has perhaps as important an undertaking as there is. After reviewing award nominations, this committee puts forward names for recognition of some of the exceptional work of division members and associated entities. However, the work of this committee cannot take place without nominations. The Labor Division web page has all the forms for nomination and as we know there may be equivalent nominees in other divisions, but there are none more deserving of recognition. This recognition is done at the spring and fall meetings at an amazing and awe inspiring awards luncheon. Please look at these forms and make as many nominations as you wish.

I wish to thank all of you, our readers and beyond, Labor Division members, union locals, NSC staff, committee chairs and vice-chairs and so many people that make the Labor Division vibrant and relevant.

In Solidarity,

Paul Chaney, Chair

Labor Division, NSC