

History of Labor Day

Labor Day, an annual celebration of workers and their achievements, originated during one of American labor history's most dismal chapters. In the late 1800s, at the height of the [Industrial Revolution](#) in the [United States](#), the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages. People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As manufacturing increasingly supplanted agriculture as the well-spring of American employment, labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, grew more prominent and vocal. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay. Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several [Chicago](#) policemen and workers were killed. Others gave rise to longstanding traditions: On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in [New York City](#), holding the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history. The idea of a "workingmen's holiday," celebrated on the first Monday in September, caught on in other industrial centers across the country, and many states passed legislation recognizing it.

Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later, when a watershed moment in American labor history brought workers' rights squarely into the public's view. On May 11, 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives. On June 26, the American Railroad Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. To break the strike, the federal government dispatched troops to Chicago, unleashing a wave of riots that resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen workers. In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified. Many credit Peter J. McGuire, cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, while others have suggested that Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, first proposed the holiday.

Labor Day is still celebrated in cities and towns across the United States with parades, picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and other public gatherings. For many Americans, particularly children and young adults, it represents the end of the summer and the start of the back-to-school season.

Courtesy of www.historychannel.com

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Committee Chairs

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President:	Kristen Wilson
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Rotary Club of Crystal River

Club #4267 District #6950

P.O. Box 1207

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<http://www.crystalriverrotary.com/>

*2010-2011 Recipient
Rotary International
President's Citation*



August 2011

Please "Make Up"

We need 100% Attendance! Local Clubs welcome you for your "Make Up" meeting:

- **Tuesday** Inverness 12:00 PM Inverness Family Restaurant
- **Tuesday** Sugarmill 5:00 PM Sugarmill Woods Country Club
- **Wednesday** Central Citrus 7:30 AM Black Diamond Clubhouse
- **Wednesday** Kings Bay 12:15 PM Café on the Avenue
- **Thursday** Homosassa 7:00 AM Luigi's Restaurant

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS ARE MAKE-UPS TOO!

<http://www.rotaryclub34.org/> or

<http://www.rotaryclubone.org/programs.htm>

Congratulations to the following for 100% attendance for July 2011

Grant Bryson, J. Paul Cash, R Blair Commons, Avis Marie Craig, Robin Dearden DVM, Jeri Diehl, Carl D. Flanagan, Robert John Haines, Wendy Hall, Casey Jones, Charles Li, Alison Markham, Larry Masut, Gerard Mulligan, K. C. Nayfield D.V.M., Cheryl Phillips, Frances Roberts, Neil O. Sawyer, Marc Shapot, James T. Shidner, Donald Shook, Patty Silvey, Mickey Smith, Frederick J. Snell Jr., Fancy Taylor, Keith Taylor, Brenda Wendt, Kay Wilkes, Ellen C Zane



SERVICE Above Self

Visitors and Visiting Rotarians

Guests:

This Week:

Curt Ebitz—H2O Savior

Next Week:

Labor Day—No Rotary

Rotary Calendar

- September 5—Labor Day—No Rotary
- September 15—TGIAF (Thank goodness it's almost Friday) 5:30pm at Lollygaggers
- September 17—Adopt a Shore at Kry's Baum's Home
- September 24—District Foundation Seminar—Clarion Inn and Suites f/k/a Grand Hotel
- October 1—Rotary Leadership Institute—www.rlittraining.org
- October 15—Beast Feast at Jack and Julie Reynolds' home 4:00pm
- October 21—Halloween party at Candy and Billy Sasser's Home
- October 27—Upward Bound Middle and High Schools
- November 3—Upward Bound Elementary
- November 17—TGIAF 5:30pm at Lollygaggers
- December 3—Christmas Shopping and Crystal River Christmas Parade
- December 16—6pm—Christmas party at Julie and Keith Taylor's Home
- February 16—Travels with KC at Pecks (Travel photos and commentary by KC Nayfield)

Monday, August 29, 2011

Meetings will be in the Magnolia Ballroom for the following weeks: 8/29/2011

Please bring your copy of the "Rotarian Magazine" in after reading. Don Shook is collecting these.

Birthdays

Byron Costley 9/7

Casey Jones 9/5

K.C. Nayfield 8/30

Billy Saller 9/3

Anniversaries

Grant and Tracy Bryson 9/10

K.C. and Marybeth Nayfield 9/8

Mark and Adelaide Pickett 9/8

Cliff and Betty Pierson 9/3

Billy and Candy Sasser 9/9

Don and Susan Taylor 8/31

Keith and Julie Taylor 8/29

Club Anniversaries

Donna Copp 9/10 -4 yrs

Jim Farrior 9/1 -16 yrs

Gerry Mulligan 9/1 -21 yrs

Don Shook 9/1 -16 yrs