

# The Long History of Labor Day in America

#### By US Department of Labor

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

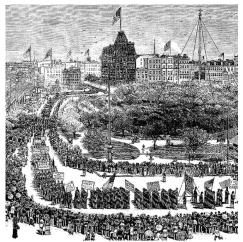
Through the years, the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year, four more states-Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York-created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade, Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, twenty-three other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, congress passed an

act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

More than one hundred years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, New Jersev, proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.



The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September

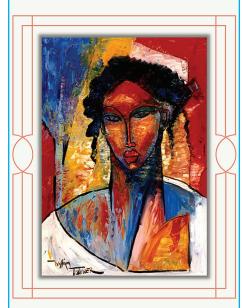
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## THEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS





SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar Thursday, September 7, 2023, 9:00 am-11:00 am

Online Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration.

New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division

#### Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601, miquel.moralez@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. This workshop (currently held online during the pandemic) is offered on the first Thursday of every month. To join this free webinar, copy and paste the link below into your browser, then register for tickets for the date of your choice to receive the access code. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/secretary-ofstate-quickstart-and-small-business-administration-programs-tickets-262004180557

#### 8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 10:30 am-11:30 am Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer addional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit https://www.eventbrite. com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947

#### Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, September 28, 2023, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov

#### Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at https://www. eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federalgovernment-tickets-21790713611 SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

#### **CORPORATE OFFICE**

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