

Milestones in Labor History

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1975 - First APWU Constitutional Convention, Kansas City, Missouri.

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1900 - International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union founded.

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1956 - Newly built AFL-CIO building situated in full view of the White House opens its doors.

1982 - APWU wins right for 1978 fired workers to reapply for jobs.

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1979 - Founding convention of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union by merger of the Retail Clerks International Union and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

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1904 - 50,000 members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen employed in meatpacking plants walk off their jobs. Among their demands, equalization of wages and conditions throughout U.S. plants.

1920 - PMG issues order number 4295: Employees of the post office making any statements about the post office, or who make false and slanderous statements, will be dismissed.

1991 - APWU/NALC Joint Bargaining Committee awarded 4-year contract by arbitration panel.

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1979 - 1,200 postal workers rally on the steps of the Capitol along with eight Congressmen and Senators to demand amnesty for all 200 postal workers fired during the 1978 contract dispute.

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1936 - Twelve trade unionists meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to launch a drive to organize all steelworkers. This effort marked the birth of the United Steelworkers of America, then called the Steelworkers Organizing Committee. By the end of 1936, more than 125,000 joined the union rallying to the \$5-a-day wage demand.

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1893 - American Railway Union headed by Eugene Debs founded. The next year, in a strike against Pullman Company, the union was defeated by the use of injunctions and federal troops sent to the Chicago area. Debs was imprisoned for violating injunctions.

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1877 - Molly Maguires hung in the Pennsylvania coal fields.

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1947 - Antiworker Taft-Hartley Act passed over President Truman's veto. The act weakened unions and allowed states to exempt themselves from union requirements. Twenty states immediately enacted antiunion open shop laws.

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1981 - First APWU and NALC Postal Solidarity Day.

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1905 - Industrial Workers of the World founded. Known as "Wobblies," they believed that only by building "one big union" could the workers of the world combine to overthrow the management class.

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1894 - President Cleveland signs the bill making Labor Day a national holiday.

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1989 - As a result of a successful campaign by the APWU, Sears announces it will close all postal contract stations.