



Hello 3937! We hope you have had a good week! In this issue we have a little bit of history about May Day in our VP Corner, as well as some photos from the May Day Parade! We also have info on the Teamster 792 call for a beer boycott, notification of the next Happy Hour, info about a food drive, and more!

Special Election

We are having an election for Local President. The candidates are Mary Austin and Robert (Bob) Francis. Members will be receiving a ballot very soon to vote for your next President. Be sure to follow instructions and return it before the deadline. Special membership meeting for the Election Committee to officially report the results of the Local's Officer and Executive Board elections is on May 30th at 5:30 in Suite 356, 312 Central Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.



We have a Union Happy Hour coming up sponsored by all the AFSCME unions on campus. It is Friday, May 18th at Stub and Herbs from 4-7pm. We'll see you there!

Beer Boycott!

Teamsters Local 792 is asking that we boycott a list of 14 beers in solidarity with their strike against JJ Taylor Distributing. For more details on the situation and a list of beers to avoid, follow [this link](#) to the excellent City Pages article.

Stamp Out Hunger

Help Letter Carriers 'Stamp Out Hunger' by setting non-perishable food items in a bag (with handles) near your mailbox on Saturday May 12th. Last year Twin Cities letter carriers collected more than 1 million pounds of food which they delivered to local emergency food shelves operated by Second Harvest Heartland. AND if you are so inclined, you may volunteer to help in this massive undertaking. Volunteers will be needed to help unload letter carrier vehicles and load the larger trucks. For a list of locations and to volunteer, visit www.2harvest.org. Letter Carriers are part of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Union.

VP Corner

Happy Belated May Day, Local 3937:

May Day, not to be confused with MayDay, is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement which occurs every year on May 1st. This is an important date for the labor movement as it commemorates the Haymarket Affair, or the Haymarket Massacre, as it's also known.

The Haymarket Massacre was originally a labor rally to protest the killing of striking workers by the police. The striking workers were demanding an 8-hour work day, and two of them died for it. In response, labor leaders held a rally in Chicago's Haymarket Square. By all accounts it was a small and subdued affair. Speeches were given, the mayor was there but left because it was so peaceful. However, as the last speech was winding down the police moved in to break things up. At that point, someone threw a bomb at the advancing police and six officers died in the explosion. The police then opened fire on the crowd, killing four and wounding 70.

In the days that followed labor leaders and labor journalists were rounded up and put in jail. Some had spoken earlier in the day and some hadn't been there at all. The man now thought to have perpetrated the bombing was able to flee the country, after being arrested twice and let go. A trial made up of prejudiced jurors and surrounded by negative press against union activists resulted in the hanging of four of the defendants, August Spie, George Engel, Adolph Fischer, and Albert Parsons - none of whom were accused of making or throwing the bomb. They were murdered for being active in their unions, for associating together, and for publishing thoughts and ideas counter to the economic and political elite of the time.

So, this week, as we work our 8-hour day and our 40-hour work week, let's take a moment to remember those that came before us, those that fought for us, and those that died for us.

In Solidarity,

Robert Francis

Vice-President of Organizing

AFSCME Local 3937

References

A Short History of the U.S. Working Class by Paul Le Blanc

Class War USA by Brandon Weber



Don't forget! Every Friday is a new opportunity to show your support for the union with a little bit of fun. Wear something green this Friday! Take a selfie or have a friend take a picture and post it to our [Facebook event](#), the most interesting or creative selfie will win a prize! Show us your green socks, shirts, pants, ties, lanyards, lipstick, earrings, or scarves!



It was a beautiful May Day! Here are some of the U of M AFSCME folks at the International Workers Day March. See more photos in our [Facebook post](#).

Save The Date

Steward meeting

- 2nd Wednesdays: May 9th

Organizing meeting

- 3rd Wednesdays: May 16th

Membership meeting

- 4th Wednesdays: May 23rd (E-board meeting at 5:15 pm immediately followed by

membership meeting)

Special Membership meeting (for the Election Committee to officially report the results of the Local's Officer and Executive Board elections.)

- Wednesday, May 30th

All at 5:30pm in Suite 356

[312 Central Avenue SE,](#)

[Minneapolis, MN 55414](#)



Our home page has more information and resources such as steward contact information. Find the most current version of our contract [here](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#) and/or follow us on [Twitter](#), we post a variety of labor related items daily as well as breaking news that affects us.

submitted in solidarity by AFSCME Local 3937 leadership, edited by Diana Rico, Organizer