



## **WISHING ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS A SAFE, HAPPY, WELL-EARNED LABOR DAY**

Brothers and Sisters, On Labor Day 2016, the Officers and Executive Board of Local 1-2 wish all of our Brothers and Sisters in our Union and across the Labor Movement a happy, healthy and well-earned Labor Day.

The Labor Movement was born in blood and strife. The first Labor Day Parade was held in New York City in 1887, but it was not until 1894 in the aftermath of the Pullman Strike, which shut down railroads across the country, that the first Monday in September began to be recognized as Labor Day.

To break the Pullman Strike the U.S. government called out the Army and the strike was put down, resulting in the death of 30 workers and thousands of beaten and battered citizens.

Then as now, the Labor Movement was vilified by the public, portrayed as criminal thugs in the media, and denounced in pulpits all across the land.

Union Members were seen as “foreign” and dirty, full of immigrants and agitators. Then as now, the Bosses tried to strip us of dignity and respect in the workplace. The first step to dictatorship is to dehumanize the men and women who do the work.

So this Labor Day we celebrate our struggles and triumphs. We celebrate with our family and friends. We celebrate our well-earned day off, which became a day of rest from labor for all Americans because of our fight for Dignity. YOU EARNED IT.

And don't forget to mark your calendar and be part of Local 1-2 contingent at the Labor Day Parade, Saturday, September 10. BE THERE IN UNITY!