

Railroad Workers Memorial Day Joins National Day of Action – April 28th

In spring of 2009, Railroad Workers United announced the first “Railroad Workers Memorial Day” (RWMD), and have observed the event each year since then on Father’s Day Friday. It is - as announced on the posters and flyers (at right) - *“A time for all railroad workers to mourn for the dead and fight like hell for the living.”* Each year we have traditionally focused on a particular safety issue, rail carrier, and/or series of events that has been particularly harmful and egregious to railroad workers, resulting in death. All Railroad Workers Memorial Day activities are archived on the RWU website.

This spring, the RWU Steering Committee opted to combine RWMD with the national Workers’ Memorial Day, held every year on April 28th, sponsored by the AFL-CIO and its affiliates. Workers’ Memorial Day - similar to RWMD - is a day to honor those workers who have died on the job, to acknowledge the grievous suffering experienced by families and communities, and to recommit ourselves to the fight for safe and healthful workplaces for all workers. It is also the day OSHA was established in 1971. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees.

Events are scheduled in locations across the country. Check the web for an event near you. And they are not just in big cities. An example of a Workers’ Memorial Day event is a dinner sponsored by the Lee County Labor Chapter in Keokuk, IA. Although local elected officials will be in attendance, the focus of the evening will be on workers who have been injured or lost their lives at their jobs while trying to earn a living to support themselves and their families. Union members and officers from around the region will attend, along with like minded groups wishing to work in solidarity on safety in the workplace and other issues with the labor movement. The event will be held on April 29th starting at 5:30 PM at the Keokuk, IA Labor Temple. If you would want to send a message of solidarity, you can send it to the Keokuk Labor Temple, 301 Blondeau Street, Keokuk, IA 52632.

RAILROAD WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY



Friday, April 28th, 2017

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For more information, call 206-984-3051; see the website: www.railroadworkersunited.org