
Our Labor, Our Union, Our Vote

1 message

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September 4, 2024

Happy Labor Day from Your Union!

Did you know? The first observed Labor Day was an organized march of over 10,000 workers. The event on September 5th, 1882, was organized as a day off from work to celebrate workers and labor unions in New York City. The day went unobserved by most workplaces, prompting the Central Labor Union and other union organizations to call for a single-day, city-wide strike which demonstrated the strength of the union and pushed for a reduction of work hours. It was not until 1894, that President Grover Cleveland declared the first Monday of September as a federal holiday, Labor Day.



There is no Labor Day without labor unions. In fact, there are lots of things we wouldn't have without labor unions, besides just Labor Day. Labor unions, in their heyday, brought us weekends, 8-hour workdays, overtime pay, standardized workplace safety practices, healthcare for workers, and pensions.

Since the 1930s, corporations and wealthy elites have been intentionally and ruthlessly busting labor unions like ours, to the detriment of American workers.

Here in North Carolina, you might have heard someone say (once or twice) that public school workers can't unionize. The truth is that North Carolina is a "right to work" state, which basically reads as "anti-union." Public sector workers like us do not have the right to collective bargaining in our state. But we DO have a union, and our local union is GCAE. We know that we need more power in order to win the schools we and our students need and deserve. That's why we have the goal of growing GCAE into a strike-ready majority union. Our power is our people and our labor. [Join your coworkers today.](#)

This fall, your work in the union can get pro-union and pro-public education candidates elected! It's going to take all of us. Come learn more at the [September Mass Meeting](#).

Sources:

- [History of Labor Day](#)
- [A Collective Bargain: Unions, Organizing, and the Fight for Democracy](#) by Jane McAlevey
- [Labor Day in America – Not Just Another Beach Day](#) (Los Angeles Public Library)

Plug in and Build YOUR Union!

September Mass Meeting

<http://bit.ly/GCAEmass9-12-24>

Thursday, September 12

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Smith High School Media Center

Dinner and childcare provided starting at 5:30.

[Register](#)

Canvass Kick-off!

Saturday, September 14

[Register](#)

<http://bit.ly/GCAEcanvas24>

Shifts 10:00-1:00 and 2:00-5:00.

Candidate Round Table

Monday, September 30

Register

<https://bit.ly/GCAEroundtable24>

6:00 - 7:30 PM

First Baptist Church
Greensboro

Ways to Plug In with NCAE & NEA:

GCAE is the local affiliate of our state union, NCAE, and our national union, NEA. The following opportunities are available for all GCAE members ready to learn one more thing, take one more step, or dig just a little bit deeper.

- **Connect with NCAE & NEA**
 - Fill out: <http://join.nea.org/north-carolina/connect>
- **NCAE 2024-25 Learning the Landscape Political Education**
 - 1st Mondays, 6-7:30 PM, virtual
 - Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/ncae/event/649345/>
- **Fall 2024 Building Team Virtual Training Series**
 - 2nd Mondays, 6-8 PM, virtual
 - Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/ncae/event/648990/>
- **NCAE 2024-25 Local Strength Cohort Meetings**
 - 4th Mondays, 6-7:30 PM, virtual
 - Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/ncae/event/649000/>

Join GCAE

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Campaign
Central**

**GCAE on
Facebook**

**GCAE on
Instagram**

Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Guilford County Association of Educators, please [click here](#).