SEPTEMBER 2026

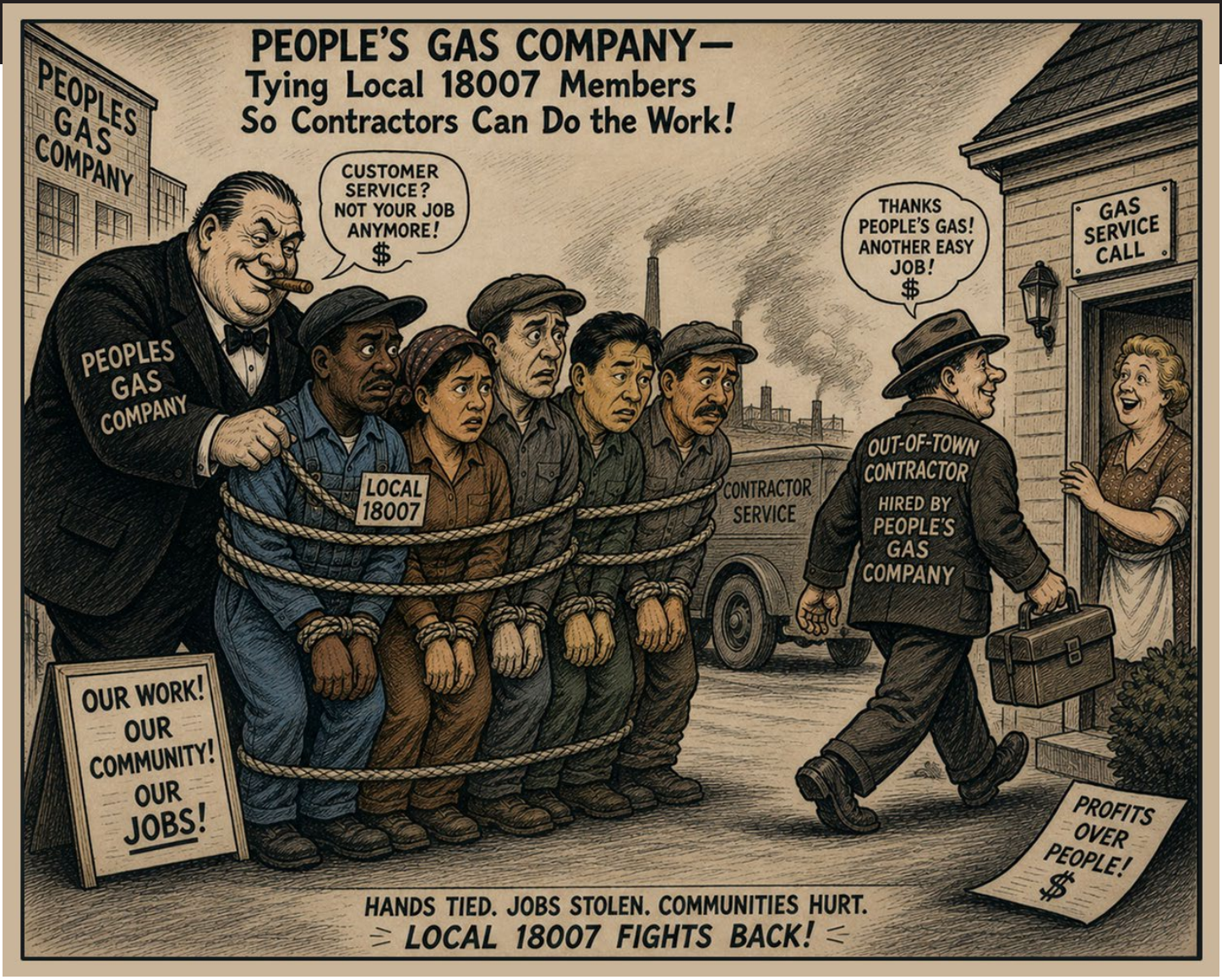
LOCAL 18007 GAS WORKERS

GAZETTE

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT

NO. 002

EXECUTIVE NOTICE



Brothers and Sisters,

We write to you today with deep anger and absolute clarity regarding People's Gas and the latest attack on our jurisdiction and our livelihoods.

People's Gas has brought in 597 pipefitters to learn how to perform inside gas work. Let us be perfectly clear: the Local 18007 Executive Board has never condoned, never agreed to, and never authorized any of this. This scheme was not brought to us by People's leadership. It was brought to our attention by a field worker.

To remove any confusion: the contractors that work for People's are utilizing their own employees to take on this additional work. This is not coming through the union hall.

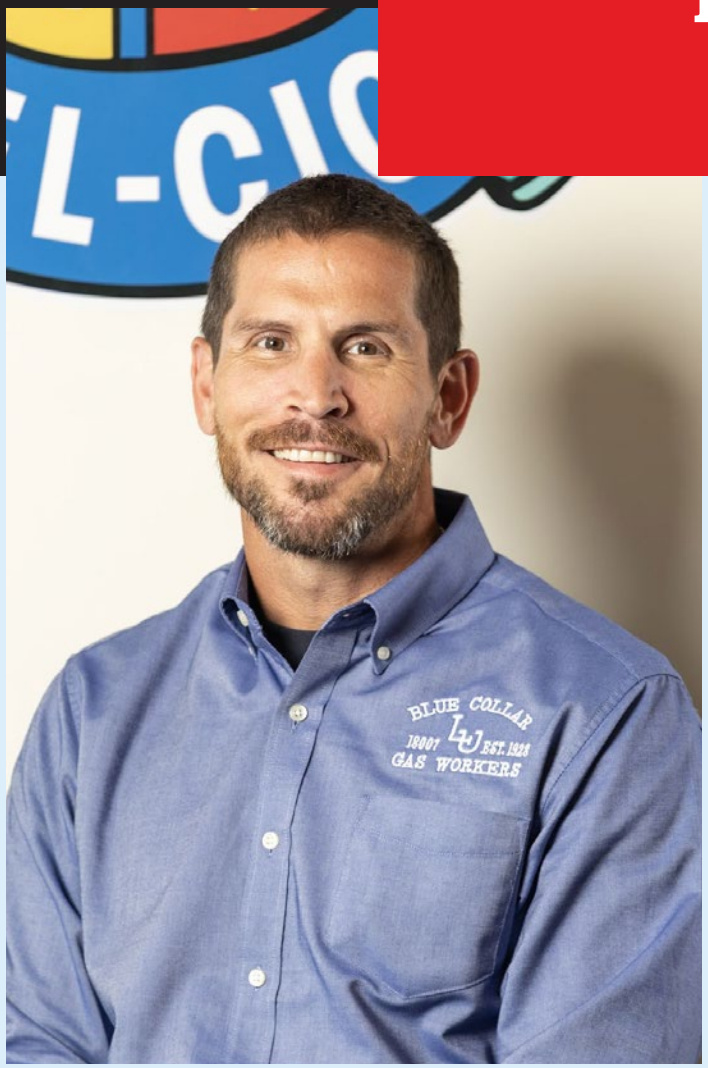
This has been an idle threat hanging over our heads for more than 20 years. Now we are at zero hour. The time for talk is over. Now is the time to step up and prove everyone who ever doubted us wrong.

The Executive Board will explore every legal option available to us. We will continue to fight. Our attorney is fully in the loop, and so is our national union, the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA).

We will not sit quietly while our work is handed away. We will not accept this as the new normal. Stand ready. Stand united. We fight together.

In Solidarity,
The Executive Board of 18007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



WE WILL CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE DECISIONS THAT UNDERMINE OUR WORKFORCE

Brothers and Sisters,

I want to speak directly to you regarding a matter that has caused me deep frustration and concern for the future of our members' work and our union.

For more than a year, Local 18007 has repeatedly raised concerns with Peoples Gas leadership regarding the workload demands associated with the Pipeline Retirement Program. We have consistently warned the company that the expectations stemming from the ICC order are unrealistic and that our members have not been given a fair opportunity to demonstrate what can realistically be accomplished with the workforce currently in place.

Rather than working collaboratively with us to address these challenges, our members' hands have been tied. Time and time again, we have offered practical solutions to address staffing and workload concerns. Unfortunately, many of these recommendations have been ignored or dismissed by company leadership.

Over the past month, the company has engaged in negotiations that appeared to focus on addressing workload concerns and increasing headcount. However, it has become increasingly evident that, while these discussions were taking place, plans were already underway to bring in and rapidly train highly paid contractors to perform work that has historically been the responsibility of our bargaining unit employees. This raises serious concerns about the company's commitment to meaningful dialogue and good faith problem-solving.

What is particularly troubling is that this work is not new, nor is it unfamiliar to our members. For more than 98 years, Local 18007 members have safely and effectively performed this jurisdictional work. Our workforce has built, maintained, and operated the gas system that serves our communities, and we have continually demonstrated the skill, knowledge, and dedication required to perform this work at the highest level.This week, I will be speaking directly with Mike Hooper, Chief Operating Officer of WEC Energy Group, to discuss the recent actions taken by Peoples Gas management and their decision to move forward with the use of outside contractors to perform our work. During that discussion, I will make it clear that Local 18007 will continue to advocate for our members, protect our jurisdiction, and hold the company accountable for decisions that impact our workforce and our future. We are thoroughly evaluating every available legal, contractual, and strategic option with our legal counsel and are engaged in continuous discussions with our labor partners to ensure all avenues are fully explored.

Please know that your leadership remains committed to fighting for every opportunity to keep our work in the hands of our members. We will continue to challenge decisions that undermine our workforce and will not stop advocating for solutions that invest in our members rather than outsourcing their work.

Thank you for your continued professionalism, dedication, and solidarity.

In Solidarity,
Nick Passarelli
President, Gas Workers Local 18007

2ND ANNUAL SOFTBALL SHOP TOURNAMENT

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

- Open to members and their families
- Win a title belt for the tournament
- Food will be served

From
11:00 am to 6:00 pm

At
Brands Park,
3259 N. Elston Ave.,
Chicago, IL.

Scan QR Code To Register Or Visit:
gasworkers.org/softball-shop-tournament

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

WE WILL NOT BE SILENT WHILE SAFETY IS COMPROMISED

Brothers and Sisters of Local 18007,

I am writing as Business Manager of Gas Workers Union Local 18007 and as an Executive Board member of the Utility Workers Union of America to bring to light the serious inadequacies in People's Gas leadership of the Pipeline Retirement Program.

What we are witnessing is not isolated friction. It is a pattern of mismanagement that puts safety, efficiency, and our members' ability to do the work correctly at risk.

Our members are not allowed to make their own appointments. Crews are left waiting hours for afternoon appointments that should have been scheduled properly. Supervisors routinely fail to line up carpenters in advance, leaving our people unable to perform the work efficiently. There are not enough cutoff crews to keep pace with the transfers so the work can be completed safely and on schedule. Safety is clearly not People's Gas's number-one priority.

Resources are being starved from the PRP because of internal struggles among senior leadership. Shops are being told to "slow down." There is no overtime authorized to catch customers coming home. Local 18007 is repeatedly left waiting on Miller to finish running the new service before we can complete the transfer. Seasoned Local 18007 members—the actual subject-matter experts—are micromanaged by supervisors who have never turned a wrench.

Most critically, we are seeing neighborhoods where new sidewalks and new sod have already been laid with no cutoff performed. Sound familiar? Mismanagement and unnecessary spending are exactly what shut this program down before. People's Gas is heading down the same path again.

Repeated conversations with the President and Vice President have fallen on deaf ears. Apparently, they know better. This is not a sprint; it is a marathon. The contractors promise the world until the money runs out—then they come back to Local 18007 to keep Chicago safe.

Stand strong. Do not trust past management employees who left to work for the contractors. They will do anything to protect their own retirement and will not hesitate to undercut the people still doing the work.

All of this stems from contractors retraining already-employed pipefitters to go inside the house, offering ten dollars over scale to knowingly work outside of their jurisdiction. Greed is the governing factor—not safety, not efficiency, and not respect for the craft or the agreement. People's Gas may be doing this so they can claim to the ICC that they are "trying everything" to meet a ridiculous timeline that they themselves dragged their feet on for two years.

We will not be silent while safety is compromised and our jurisdiction is eroded. Local 18007 has always been the backbone that keeps this work safe and done right. We will continue to be.

In solidarity,
Sean Gaurige
Business Manager Local 18007

THE 2026 “DUCKY OPEN”

THE 2026 “DUCKY OPEN” HONORING OUR BROTHER JAMES “DUCKY” KOSTKA IS OFFICIALLY IN THE BOOKS.

We were proud to see a tremendous turnout of both active Gas Workers Local 18007 members and retirees who came together in support of a cause that is deeply important to our union family.

On behalf of Local 18007, we extend our sincere gratitude to all of our hole sponsors, Friends of the Local, and the management representatives from Peoples Gas who joined us in supporting this outstanding event and its mission of promoting Mental Health Awareness.

Under the leadership of President Nick Passarelli and the Local 18007 Mental Health Committee, our union has made it a priority to break the stigma surrounding mental health and ensure that our brothers and sisters know help is available when they need it. Events like the Ducky Open help advance that mission while bringing our membership together in solidarity.

This outing was a tremendous success, bringing union brothers and sisters from across Chicagoland together to strengthen the bonds that make our Local strong.

A special thank you goes out to Business Manager Sean Gaurige, Senior Trustee Larry Carella, Vice President/ Treasurer Curtis Rearden, Recording Secretary Ericka Igess, Trustee Mike McDonagh, Jorge Villagomez, Vito Johnson, “Pooch,” all Local 18007 Business Agents, and every member who volunteered their time and effort to make this event one to remember.

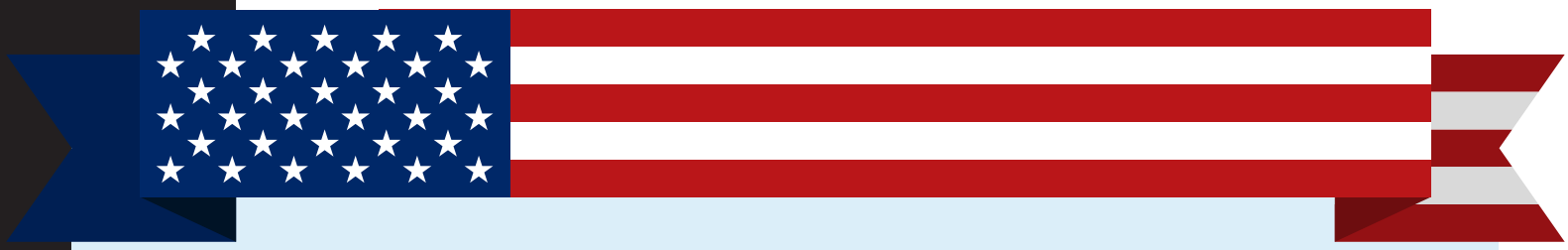
Most importantly, thank you to everyone who participated and helped honor the memory of our brother James “Ducky” Kostka.

We are already looking forward to seeing everyone again next year. In Solidarity!

Gas Workers Local 18007

GAS WORKERS
LOCAL 18007
"Ducky" Open
YOUR NEIGHBORS,
YOUR GAS EXPERTS
KEEPING CHICAGO SAFE
SINCE 1928

2026 SCHEDULE



January, 2026 - December, 2026

All regular meetings will be held on the Second Thursday of the Month at 11:30am & 5:30pm at Union Hall.

October 8th, 2026

- Officer Election -

November 12th, 2026

- Membership Meeting -

December 10th, 2026

- Membership Meeting -

Utility Workers Union of America
Local 18007, Affiliated with AFL-CIO
300 S Ashland Ave, #506
Chicago, IL 60607