

CALIFORNIA STATE PIPE TRADES COUNCIL



100TH CONVENTION

MAY 19 & 20, 2022

COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY



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HAPPY 100th CONVENTION CALIFORNIA STATE PIPE TRADES COUNCIL

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UA LOCAL 38

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The Officers and Members of UA Local 38 Salute the California State Pipe Trades Council on 100 Years of Service to UA Members

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Congratulations California State Pipe Trades Council

*In celebration of your
100th Annual Convention
Thank you for your continued hard work
to ensure and protect the safety and
futures of our members.*

*From the Officers & Members of
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 230
San Diego California*

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Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

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Business
Representative*

*John Bennett
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*Dan Goar
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Business
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*Sean-Keoni Ellis
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*Ron Attig
Vice President*



**THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS
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WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE AND THANK
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FOR 100 YEARS
OF SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS**

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Thank you for being a beacon for U.A. members since 1908.

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Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

David Hanson
Business Representative

Wyatt Stiles
Organizer

Jaime Valdivia
President

Ray LaVangie III
Vice President

Carl Segura
Recording Secretary

Executive Board
Andres Valdivia
Mike Marietti
Anthony Flores
Duane Wright

Congratulations On Serving The Pipe Trades For 100 Years!

Thank you!
From
Local 442

Bill Taylor
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

Jason Miranda
President

Greg Vincelet
Training Coordinator

Luis Montalbo
Business Agent

Raul Hernandez
Organizer

Steve Stevenson
Organizer



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CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 100TH CONVENTION
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CALIFORNIA STATE PIPE TRADES



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Dan Torres

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Bradford Barnhart
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Angel R. Ferree **Jared S. McGarry**
Executive Board

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From the Officers and Staff of
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District Council 16 represents 13 local
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Director of Plumbing Services

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Director of Jurisdiction



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CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CA STATE PIPE TRADES COUNCIL
FOR 100 CONVENTIONS

From the Officers, Staff & Members of UA Local 467
Representing & Serving San Mateo County Since 1903

DELEGATES TO THE 100TH CSPTC CONVENTION

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- BUSINESS MANAGER

ERIC TASSIO
- BUSINESS AGENT

SCOTT BEALE
- BUSINESS AGENT

JAMES LENG

GREG HIERRO

MIKE BURTON

MIKE DOUGHERTY



PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS
UA LOCAL 159
Martinez, CA



Congratulates
CA State Pipe Trades Council
On their 100th Anniversary!

Thank you for protecting the welfare of the
United Association Membership

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100TH CONVENTION!

From Business Manager Shane Boston, President Timothy Redondo,
Vice President Rodolfo Zamora and the Officers and
Members of U.A. Local 484 of Ventura, California



Congratulations

to the California State Pipe Trades Council
for 100 years of service!

We would like to thank the current director
Mike Hartley and all the Executive Directors
who came before him for a job well done.

For the men and women in the UA, this council
has helped the piping industry flourish
into what it is today.

Have a great **100th** Convention!



Local 582 Orange County Plumbers and Steamfitters

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THANKS FOR 100 CONVENTIONS- AND 114 YEARS-WORTH OF SUPPORT!

With the support of the California State Pipe Trades Council, Local 761 Plumbers, Pipefitters and Welders have been working hard at earning a pension, health benefits and a good wage – while installing piping systems in everything from schools and hospitals to residential and commercial buildings from Lancaster, San Fernando Valley, to Redondo Beach since 1922.

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Congratulations

California State Pipe Trades Council on Celebrating **100 Years of Service!**

*We salute your efforts to protect the health
and safety of all Californians. We wish you
continued success.*



From the Officers and Members of the Plumbers and Steamfitters
U.A. Local 343 – Vacaville, California

Steven McCall – Business Manager
Fredrick Lehman – President
Daniel Barrett – Vice President

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CELEBRATING

100

**CONGRATULATIONS
CALIFORNIA STATE PIPE TRADES
ON THIS 100TH CONVENTION!**



Pipe Trades District Council #36

Business Managers

Bill Taylor, Local 442, Modesto/Stockton
Steve MacArthur, Local 62, Monterey/Santa Cruz
Danny Wright, Local 246, Fresno
Matt Goody, Local 228, Yuba City

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CALIFORNIA STATE PIPE TRADES COUNCIL 100TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Thursday, May 19, through Friday, May 20, 2022

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California State Pipe Trades Council Staff

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Scott Wetch, Lobbyist

Kate McDermott, Office Manager

Cindy Breninger, Administrative Assistant

CALIFORNIA STATE
100th Convention



PIPE TRADES COUNCIL
100th Convention

GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AS WE MARK OUR CENTENNIAL SUMMIT, OUR COUNCIL IS STILL REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN SAFETY AND ADVOCACY

It is with great honor that I welcome everyone here to celebrate the 100th convention of the California State Pipe Trades Council. We welcome you to the City of Napa to commemorate this very special occasion.

The Council is proud of the role we play in providing good jobs and a secure future for all of our members in the state. The Pipe Trades have long recognized the link between our profession and public health. California's plumbing and pipefitting unions established apprenticeship-program requirements, education and training to ensure the quality and safety of the plumbing and mechanical systems their members install. Our locals also helped to establish the first mandatory plumbing standards to fight infection and disease, including the battle for clean, safe drinking water for all Californians.

The Council is committed to maintaining the integrity and quality of apprentice training standards, as well as mandatory plumbing- and mechanical-code standards. Working in partnership with environmental groups, consumer groups, and other labor organizations, the California State Pipe Trades Council has also fought to ensure health, safety, and performance evaluation of potentially dangerous or substandard plumbing and pipefitting materials before they are approved for use in the California Plumbing and Mechanical Code.

Our successful advocacy for stringent testing and review has allowed California to avoid safety problems and costly damages faced by other states. Such review has revealed previously unexamined or undisclosed hazards. It has resulted in improvements in manufacturing practices and mitigation measures to reduce impacts on the public and workers. Our efforts are to ensure safe building standards and materials for the Plumbing, Pipefitting, Sprinklerfitting, Welding and HVAC/R industries.

The California State Pipe Trades Council also is highly involved in all political and legislative issues that affect our membership throughout the State of California.

I want to thank the California State Pipe Trades Council Staff and Executive Board members for all their hard work to make this 100th convention and celebration a success.

Faternally,

Mike Hartley
Executive Director
California State Pipe Trades Council



This book was proudly produced by

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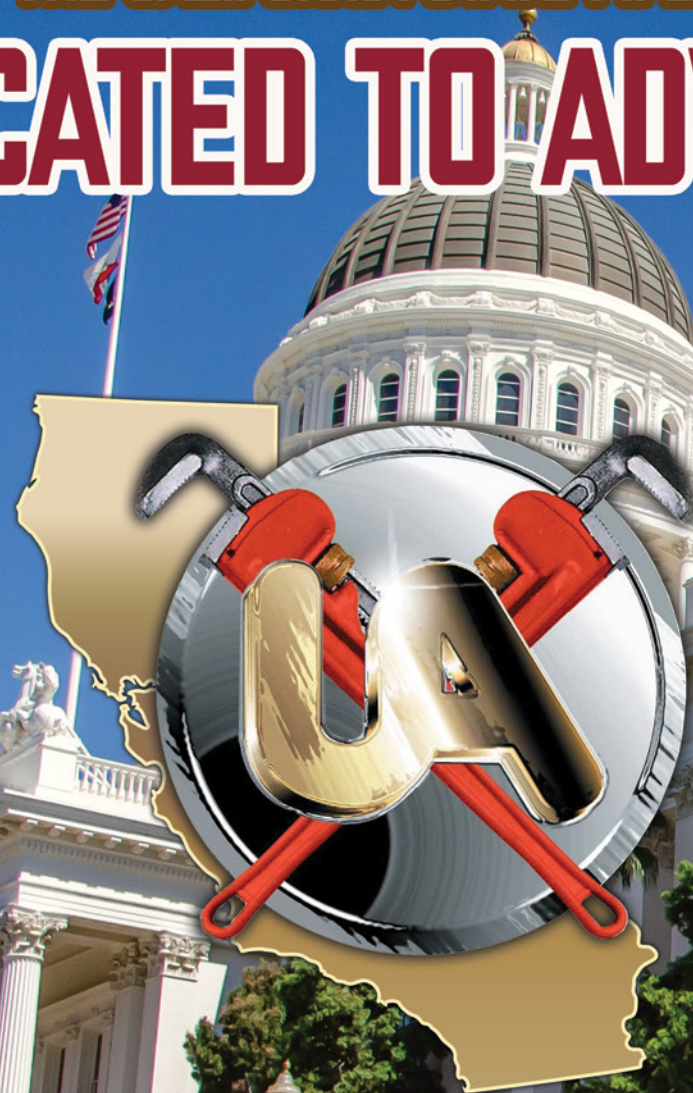


HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE PIPE TRADES COUNCIL

DEDICATED TO ADVANCING

AN INDUSTRY SINCE 1908

AT ITS 100TH CONVENTION IN 2022



“Our main objective is to let everyone on the outside know that the Pipe Trades in the State of California are a force to deal with. Whether it is in contract bargaining, setting standards in our industry, whether you are a private corporation or a governmental agency, if you mess with us, you have a fight on your hands and we are not easily bucked off. Our spurs leave scars.”

Ray Foreman, Business Manager, United Association District Council No. 16, Southern California
72nd Convention of the California Pipe Trades Council, 1992

CONVENTION CALL

T. M. Dooley, Gen. Sec.-Treas.

Dear Sir and Brother:—The California State Association of Plumbers, Gas, Steam and Sprinkler Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers, will hold a convention on April 5, 1908, at San Jose, Cal. Meeting called 10:30 a. m., in Labor Hall, 151 S. First St. Each Local in the State is requested to send one or more delegates. If you do not already belong, send your delegates and become a member. The purpose of this convention is to get closer together and in securing legislation for the trade in general, and obtaining sanitary laws for the small as well as the large cities. Hoping and trusting each Local will send the delegates and help to better the condition of plumbing and the trade in general in California. I remain.

Fraternally yours,

John Coefield, President,
California State Association.

Recognizing the necessity of having a statewide alliance for locals of the United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas, Steam and Sprinkler Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers (U.A.), for many years U.A. locals in California had unsuccessfully attempted to form such a group. Undeterred, numerous locals continued to advocate for a state association for the union piping-industry until they succeeded in founding the **California State Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas, Steam and Sprinkler Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers** on January 12, 1908, in Santa Cruz, during which delegates selected **Brother John Coefield** of U.A. Local No. 442 in San Francisco to serve as president of the group.

Answering the “Convention Call” that appeared in early 1908 issues of the U.A. *Journal*, the union's official monthly publication, 15 U.A. local unions gathered in the San Jose Labor Hall on Sunday, April 5 of that year, to officially organize the state association. During what would be its first-ever convention, that day the California State Association was formally instituted, after which the new organization voted for its first elected

president, **Brother William Cahill** of Local No. 442 in San Francisco, and was chartered by the U.A.

At that time, there were 25 U.A. locals throughout the state:

Local No. 460 of Bakersfield; Local No. 404 of Chico; Local No. 471 of Eureka; Local No. 246 of Fresno; Local No. 398 of Gilroy; Local No. 262 of Hanford; Local No. 78 of Los Angeles; Local No. 330 of Los Angeles; Local No. 494 of Long Beach; Local No. 444 of Oakland; Local No. 467 of Palo Alto; Local No. 280 of Pasadena; Local No. 312 of Petaluma; Local No. 436 of Pt. Richmond; Local No. 365 of Redlands; Local No. 447 of Sacramento; Local No. 365 of Santa Cruz; Local No. 230 of San Diego; Local No. 114 of Santa Barbara; Local No. 441 and Local No. 442 of San Francisco; Local No. 393 of San Jose; Local No. 251 of Santa Rosa; Local No. 323 of San Rafael; and Local No. 492 of Stockton.

Over the course of the following year, three more U.A. locals joined the ranks of their sister locals in the California State Association. What's



more, as Association **Secretary-Treasurer Samuel J. Donahue**, who was a member of Local 444, reported in the November 24, 1908, *Sacramento Bee* newspaper, it was “proving (to be) a great benefit.”

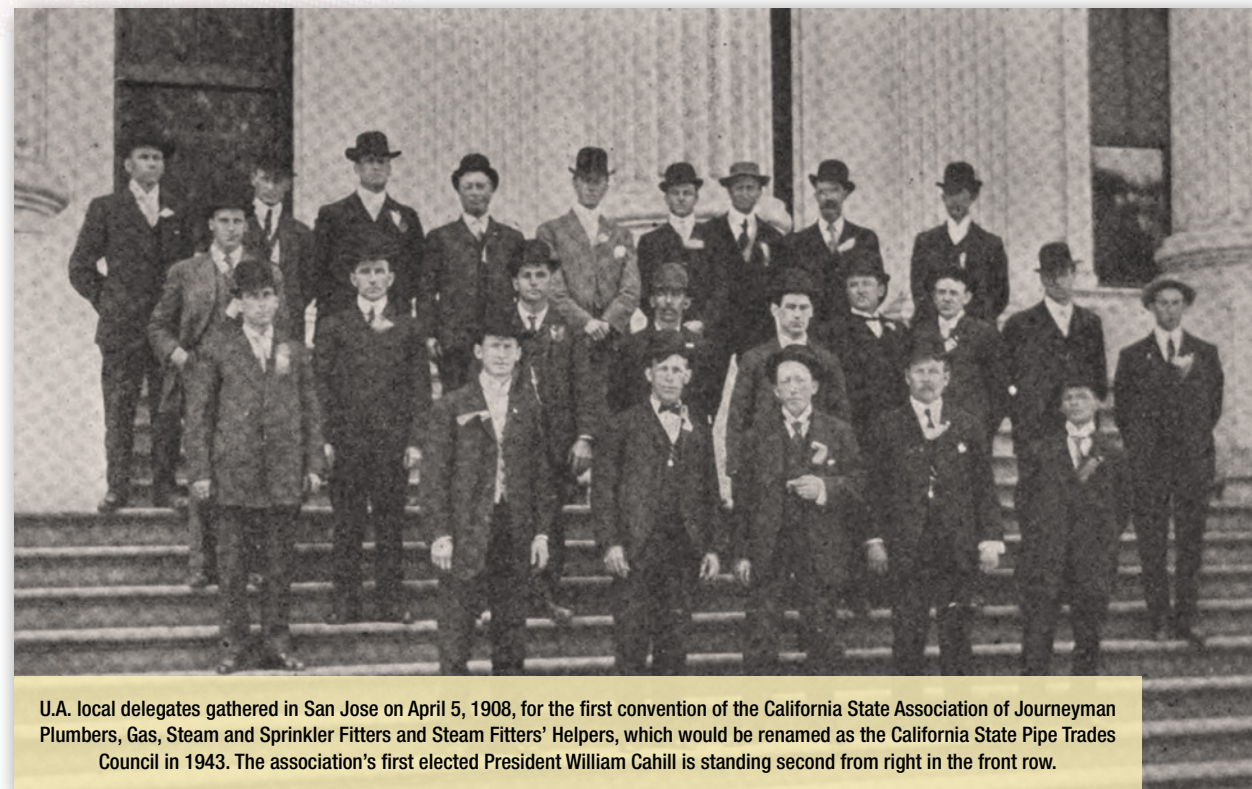
EXPANDING ITS INFLUENCE THROUGH ITS FIRST DECADE

The fledgling California State Association held its second convention on January 9, 1909, in Santa Rosa with 18 locals, whose delegates were instructed during the proceedings to visit the state’s unaffiliated U.A. locals “and acquaint them with the objects and benefits of the state organization.” Although the Association’s financial report showed a good balance, delegates also decided to increase the quarterly per-capita tax for affiliated locals’ members from 5 cents to 15 cents to help better support the Association.

But perhaps the most important issue addressed by delegates was the adoption of a

motion instructing the Association’s Executive Board to prepare a bill to be introduced in the state Legislature providing for the appointment of a State Examining Board for master and journeymen plumbers. The objective of the proposed legislation was to ensure qualified personnel were installing approved sanitary plumbing throughout California by requiring plumbers pass a standard examination to be issued a license to work at the trade – although the vast majority of many previous bills pertaining to plumbing introduced in the state had failed to pass into law. (After **Brother William Pugh** of Local 442, who had been elected to the state Legislature, later introduced the bill to his colleagues, it was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Assembly and by a large majority of the Senate but was not signed into law by the governor.)

Before the convention concluded, numerous other resolutions were adopted, “all calculated to improve the conditions of the trade and the workings of the Association,”



U.A. local delegates gathered in San Jose on April 5, 1908, for the first convention of the California State Association of Journeymen Plumbers, Gas, Steam and Sprinkler Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers, which would be renamed as the California State Pipe Trades Council in 1943. The association's first elected President William Cahill is standing second from right in the front row.



as the January 19, 1909, Bee described, and delegates also reelected Brother Cahill as president. Shortly after, U.A. First Vice-President Walter E. O’Connell, who had been in attendance as an observer, remarked in his March 23, 1909, report that was published in the *May Journal*:

“I was very favorably impressed with the progressive and businesslike manner in which the convention was conducted, the intelligence and wisdom displayed by the delegates, and the sincere and honest efforts made by all to better the conditions of the trade and perfect as much as possible an organization equipped to defend the rights and further the interests of the membership in general.”

The following year during its third annual convention, which was extended to two days, the Association attempted to flex its political muscle. Assembled in the headquarters of the Monterey Building Trades Council on January 15 and 16, 1910, some 30 delegates from locals around the state adopted a resolution pledging the support of the plumbers of California to San Francisco Mayor Patrick H. McCarthy “in all of his political undertakings,” with the purpose of ultimately placing him either in the state Senate or in the governor’s chair (neither of which ever came to fruition after he served just one term as mayor before returning to his former post as president of the San Francisco Building Trades Council).

During the Monterey proceedings, delegates also approved a resolution providing for a state organizer at a salary of \$150 per month “to extend the influence of the Association to all parts of the state,” as well as decrees calling for the establishment of a uniform scale of wages for union plumbers throughout the state and the passage of a sanitary-plumbing law. President Cahill, who was again reelected to

U.A. FORMED OVER 130 YEARS AGO

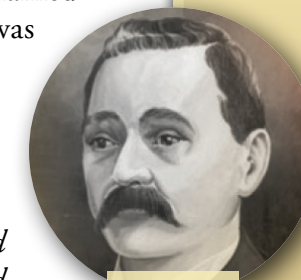
With a general lack of stable, national organizations to represent steamfitters and plumbers at the time, **Patrick J. Quinlan**, a plumber from Boston, sent a letter to **Richard A. O’Brien**, a plumber in Washington, D.C., on April 25, 1889, proposing the formation of a new, national pipe-trades union. Subsequently, on October 7, 1889, 40 delegates from 23 piping-trades locals in 10 states and the District of Columbia assembled in Washington for a convention.

Four days later, the **United Association of Journeymen Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada (U.A.)** was inaugurated on October 11, 1889. The U.A. selected Brother Quinlan as its president, Brother Henry Collins of New York City as its vice president and Brother O’Brien as its secretary/treasurer.

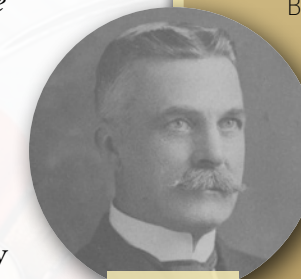
Meanwhile, most steamfitters were attempting to sustain their own national union, the National Association of Steam, Hot Water and Power Piping Fitters and Helpers, that they had formed in 1888, soon after which had become the International Association (I.A.). For two decades, however, the two piping unions clashed regularly over jurisdiction – before the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) ordered the I.A. to amalgamate into the U.A. in 1912.

The U.A. endured through two world wars and the Great Depression, after which on January 1, 1947, it changed its name to the **United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada**. Throughout its more than 130 years, the U.A.’s skilled members have taken part in building many of the most-iconic structures in North America and have also protected the health of the citizens of both countries by providing proper piping installations and services, while the union has represented and trained plumbers, pipefitters, sprinklerfitters, service technicians and welders in locals across the continent.

the post, gave his report for the previous year, in which he showed the Association was “in a prosperous condition” and “enjoying a healthy growth,” according to an article in the January 16 *Monterey Daily Cypress* newspaper.



Patrick J.
Quinlan



Richard A.
O'Brien



Over the course of the following years, the California State Association continued its attempts to have a law on the statute books governing and regulating plumbing; providing a State Plumbing Board and Local Board of Examiners and defining their duties; fixing their compensation; and providing a special fund for providing for the licensing of plumbers. In 1911, the Association again succeeded in getting a bill through the Assembly and Senate before it was rejected by the governor.

Notably during that time, at the Association's fifth annual convention held in Fresno from January 12 to 14, 1912, Brother Cahill declined serving another term as president. Delegates representing 27 of the state's 30 U.A. locals subsequently elected **Brother Arthur W. Crellar** of Local 280 as his successor.

Two years later during the seventh convention in 1914, locals' delegates passed a motion that called for the Association's secretary to "notify every local of the United Association of the true condition of affairs here in our state." At the time, employment was down for California's union plumbers and fitters and, as such, the Association wanted to warn members of sister

locals not to travel to the state seeing work as its piping-industry labor market was "flooded," California State Association **Secretary-Treasurer Charles A. Coon**, a member of Local 78, reported in the *May Journal*.

By the Association's 10th annual convention, which was held March 26 through 28, 1917, in Marysville, 37 U.A. locals were organized and operating in the State of California. The principal topic of discussion by the delegates from a majority of those locals who had convened for the conference was the new state law for examination of journeymen plumbers – after four attempts before the state Legislature, which previously advanced it twice to the governor only to be vetoed, the California State Association-backed legislation had been signed into law by Governor Hiram Johnson. In celebration, the convention delegates passed a resolution to "extend a rising vote of thanks" to U.A. First Vice-President John Coefield, General Organizer Frank I. Kennedy and **Business Agent L. C. Brightwell** of Local 78 "for the efforts and assistance they gave in furthering our state plumbing law."



U.A. local delegates gathered for the California State Association's second annual convention in Santa Rosa on January 9, 1909. Association President William Cahill is standing fifth from left in the front row.



EFFECTS AND BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATION GET CLEARER

Representatives from 17 U.A. locals attended the California State Association's 12th annual convention from March 13 to 15, 1919, in Fresno, during which issues addressed included amendment proposals to the state plumbing law.

From there, the Association committed more time, focus and resources to growing the organization. To that end, in April 1922 it established a **Death Donation Plan**, which would become a popular attraction for the state's locals and its members. Over the year following the plan's inception, no appeals were sent out from any State of

California U.A. local asking for financial assistance for the dependents of departed members. In one specific example of the plan's importance, after Brother A. F. Osbourne of Local 78 passed away in September 1923, his family received the 14th benefit paid from the Death Donation Plan in the amount of \$1,758 (which is equivalent to about \$30,000 in 2022).

Then on July 1, 1922, it hired **Brother F. M. Van Norman** of Local 78 as an organizer and put him in the field, as Secretary-Treasurer Coon explained in his August 31 report, "to see if we could not get every local in California to see the necessity of organization or co-operation with our Association." By that October, Organizer Van Norman was able to report in that month's *Journal*, "I wish to inform you that conditions in the state at this time are better than at any previous time since the pipe industry of the state has been under the jurisdiction of the United Association." With several of the state's locals "vigorously resisting the unjust advances" of anti-union forces in the industry at the time, he further noted:

FIRST COUNCIL PRESIDENT LED U.A.

A member of Plumbers, Gas and Steamfitters Local No. 442 of San Francisco, **Brother John Coefield** was selected to be president of the newly formed California State Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas, Steam and Sprinkler Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers (forerunner to the California State Pipe Trades Association) during its initial meeting on January 12, 1908, in Santa Cruz. Brother William Cahill of Local 442 was elected president of the association during its first convention on April 5 of that year, after which Brother Coefield returned to his duties as an officer of Local 442 and the San Francisco Building Trades Council.



The United Association of Plumbers, Gas, Steam and Sprinkler Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers (U.A.) called on Brother Coefield to serve as first vice president of the international union beginning January 1, 1912. He held that position until he was unanimously selected by the union's Executive Board to replace resigning General President John R. Alpine in November 1919.

General President Coefield would lead the U.A. for the next more-than 20 years until his untimely death on February 9, 1940, while he was still in office. He was 70 years old.

"With the California State Association solidly back {sic} of the affected locals, they can carry the fight on indefinitely to successful ends. One of the pleasing features of the fight is that every United Association member in the State of California, realizes the importance of extremely close cooperation and are supporting financially those members who are standing the blunt of the hardships and sacrifices."

In one such instance of the expanding effectiveness of the state Association, in early 1923 it was able to reorganize Local 251 in



Santa Rosa, where conditions had become so deplorable for union piping craftsmen that the local went defunct – leaving its members without the protection of the U.A., which forced many to work for \$2 per day below the old union daily wage scale. However, Brother Van Norman called together a “sufficient” number of men to revive the local, after which he declared in his June 1923 report to the Association:

“The California State Association is rapidly improving conditions in the State, being aware and having knowledge of what is doing {sic} in every section of the country, advancing as many conveniences and benefits to the individual and local union as possible, bringing to the front the truest co-ordination that has ever existed in the west, with the result that the United Association locals are functioning, moving as a solid unit, getting the full benefit of organization.”

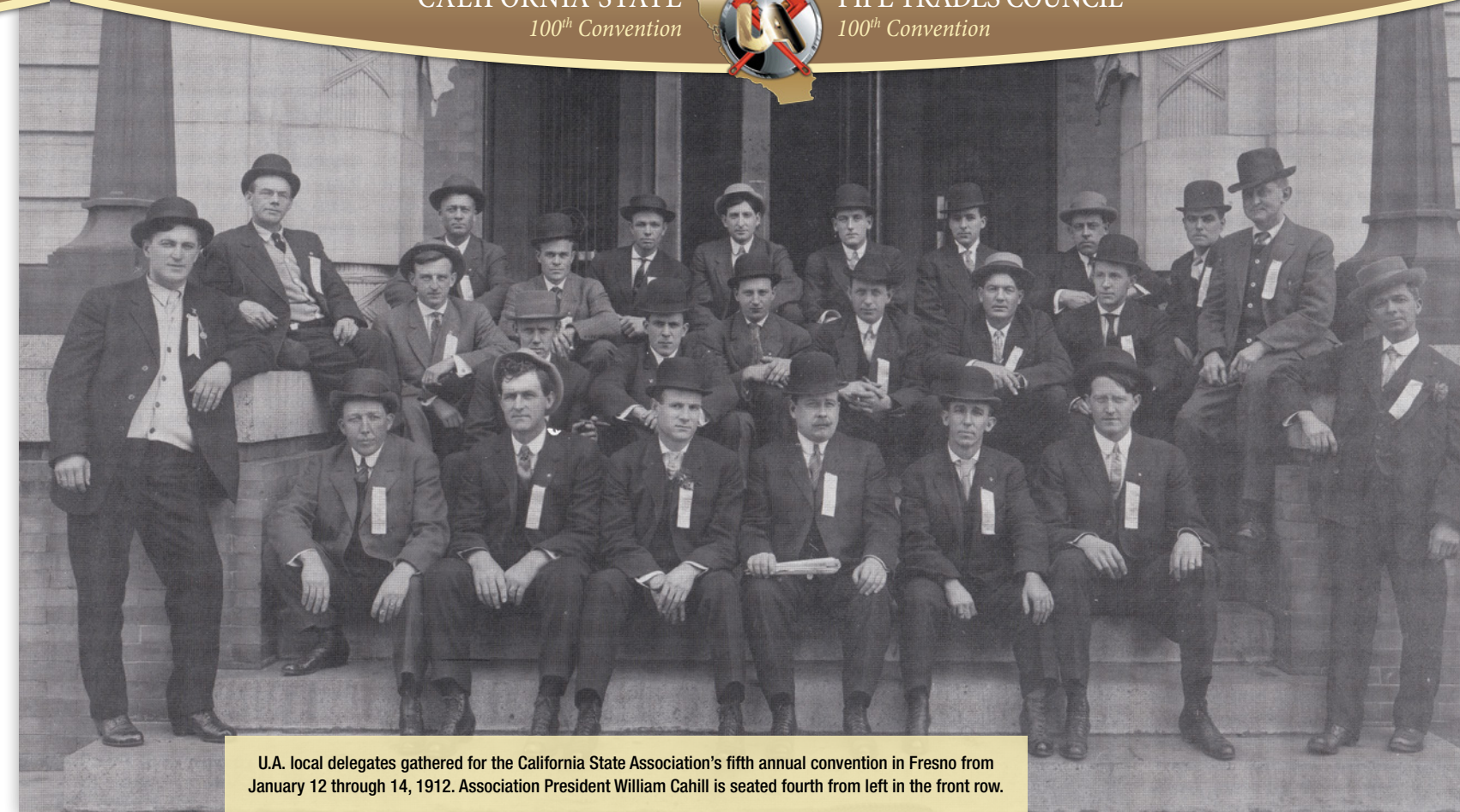
Throughout the balance of the 1920s, the California State Association and, in particular, Organizer Van Norman continued to render aid and support to the state’s union piping industry, providing its local unions with

assistance on issues such as settling jurisdictional disputes with other trades; addressing lack of employment; improving local plumbing ordinances; arbitrating disputes between locals and their employing contractors; promoting the steamfitting and sprinklerfitting industries; and encouraging locals to provide financial support for sister locals in need, such as Local 442 and **Local No. 509** of San Francisco during their strikes in 1923.

What’s more, between the California State Association’s 1923 convention in San Bernardino and its 17th annual convention in 1924 in Sacramento, Brother Van Norman also successfully affiliated five additional locals with the Association, including three he helped reorganize and had functioning again after they had ceased operations. By March 1924, only two locals in the state – Local 509 and Local 444 – had not yet joined the Association, and more than 50 locals were represented at its convention held that month. However, with the persistence of Brother Van Norman, both locals 509 and 444 affiliated with the California State Association that April, giving it full participation of all U.A. locals throughout the state.



Delegates, officials and guests gather for a banquet hosted by Local No. 246 of Fresno during the California State Association’s fifth annual convention held in that town from January 12 through 14, 1912.



U.A. local delegates gathered for the California State Association’s fifth annual convention in Fresno from January 12 through 14, 1912. Association President William Cahill is seated fourth from left in the front row.

As the Association’s influence continued to spread and conditions for its locals and their members likewise continued to improve, during the Association’s 19th convention in Stockton on March 12 and 13, 1926, delegates reelected **President Joseph J. Green** of Local 246 to continue to lead the organization. In another significant move, the delegates also approved a motion to hold Association conventions every two years instead of annually.

SURVIVING THE 1930S, THRIVING IN THE 1940S

With conventions only offered biannually and the onset of the **Great Depression**, the worldwide economic and human catastrophe that essentially began with the U.S. stock market crash of October 29, 1929, (history’s “Black Tuesday”) and persisted throughout the 1930s, disrupting the U.A. at all levels, the California State Association only held 13 conventions during the 25-year span between 1927 and 1952. Even though

the Association reinstated annual conventions beginning in 1938, the gatherings were not mandated, and each year the Association’s locals would vote on whether or not a convention would be conducted.

Meanwhile, the depression and its devastating financial collapse hit U.A. members across the country, including those in California, particularly hard as unemployment among their ranks soared. “Construction all but stopped, and this led to a significant decline in manufacturing.” The union’s official international history recounts. “The economies of both (the United States and Canada) spiraled ever downward, until unemployment reached extremely high numbers and workers began to give up altogether.”

The U.A. history even notes that the *Journal* ran several issues during the early 1930s that offered advice on how members could stretch their wages as far as possible, although much of the focus of the articles was either on calling on the government to take action to



U.A. LOCALS OF THE CALIFORNIA PIPE TRADES COUNCIL

These 26 locals and two district councils are affiliated with the Council as it celebrates its 100th Convention in 2022.

Local No. 38, Plumbers & Pipefitters, San Francisco
Local No. 62, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Monterey/Santa Cruz
Local No. 78, Plumbers, Los Angeles
Local No. 114, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Santa Barbara
Local No. 159, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Martinez
Local No. 228, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Marysville
Local No. 230, Plumbers & Pipefitters, San Diego
Local No. 246, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Fresno
Local No. 250, Pipefitters, Los Angeles
Local No. 342, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Concord
Local No. 343, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Vallejo
Local No. 345, Irrigation Sprinklerfitters, Los Angeles
Local No. 355, Irrigation Sprinklerfitters, Vallejo
Local No. 364, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Colton
Local No. 393, Plumbers & Pipefitters, San Jose
Local No. 398, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Pomona
Local No. 403, Plumbers & Pipefitters, San Luis Obispo
Local No. 442, Plumbers & Steamfitters, Modesto
Local No. 447, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Sacramento
Local No. 460, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Bakersfield
Local No. 467, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Burlingame
Local No. 483, Fire Sprinklerfitters, Hayward
Local No. 484, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Ventura
Local No. 582, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Santa Ana
Local No. 709, Fire Sprinklerfitters, Los Angeles
Local No. 761, Plumbers & Pipefitters, Burbank
District Council No. 16, Southern California
District Council No. 36, Northern California

help people or on trying to offer some hope and encouragement to the U.A. membership. Meanwhile, as its overall membership declined and the U.A. held no international conventions between 1928 and 1938, “the union held it together,” the U.A. history declares.

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s federal “New Deal” legislation to create jobs and combat the destructive effects of the depression provided a measure of relief to the country and the U.A. membership. The New Deal also established the Public Works Administration,

an employment program for federally funded projects, and the Roosevelt government in November 1933 also created the Civil Works Administration, whose mission was to rapidly create mostly manual-labor construction jobs.

At the same time, the California State Association also worked to help the state’s piping and construction industries to recover and its member craftspeople to get back on their feet. In one such effort, in 1935 the Association’s Executive Board went on record as supporting the \$1.395-billion state building bond issue, Proposition No. 1, on that year’s August 13 special-election ballot, although the measure was defeated.

Conditions for the state’s construction and piping workers turned dramatically following the official entry of the United States into **World War II** after the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. As the demanding wartime economy of the 1940s pulled the nation and its construction-trades unions completely out of the Depression, across North America, U.A. membership swelled from 81,000 in 1941 to 210,000 members, many of whom were working in shipyards, weapons plants, aircraft factories and other facilities to support the war effort.

Following the war’s end on September 2, 1945, with Japan’s surrender after Nazi Germany had capitulated on May 7, the newly re-named **California Pipe Trades Council**, which the U.A. had re-chartered with the new title on July 11, 1943, held its 26th convention on April 27 through 29, 1946, at the Californian Hotel in Fresno. Headed by **President Ralph A. McMullen** of Los Angeles, the approximately 100 delegates from associated U.A. locals enjoyed “no social activities at the convention in as much as all the time available (was) devoted to committee reports bearing and acting on resolutions and other matters of business affecting the approximately 40,000 craftsmen



Members of California State Pipe Trades Council-affiliated Local No. 78 of Los Angeles working on construction of the Beverly Hilton Hotel in 1954 and 1955.

affiliated with the state group,” the April 28 *Fresno Bee* newspaper reported.

The Council continued its unrelenting efforts on behalf of its membership and the state’s union piping industry throughout the late 1940s, as well. For example, in 1948 its Executive Board during one a regular quarterly session on November 20 voted to protest to the State Department of Architecture “the limited space provided for installation of heating boilers and equipment in school buildings now under construction in the state.”

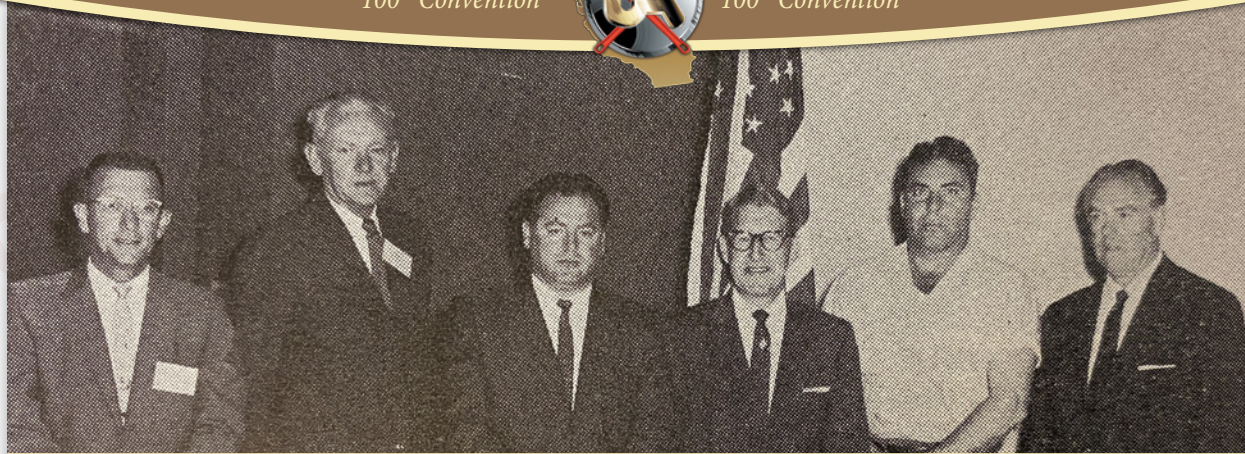
The board also recommended to each local that, “because of the many problems with which the plumbing and piping industry is faced during the coming year,” a convention be held in 1949 “for the reason that a critical period was facing the Piping Industry and that this period could only be faced successfully through the cooperation and understanding brought about by unity made possible only through a convention this coming year.” Subsequently, the state’s locals voted by referendum ballot to hold a convention in 1949, which took place on April 8, 9 and 10 in San Diego.

Also that year, among its continued activities the Council put its support behind and notified

each of its locals that they should likewise back state Assembly Bill No. 1927, which was introduced in the Legislature in early 1949 and would set up the Uniform Plumbing Code as the minimum standards for the installation of plumbing in the unincorporated areas of the state. “It is very important to our industry that you contact your assemblyman and request that he vote favorably on this bill,” the Council advised its locals and their members in a memo.

TRANSFORMING INTO MODERN, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

The California Pipe Trades Council embarked on the 1950s with its 13th annual convention since reinstating yearly gatherings, held in the Hotel Sacramento from April 22 through 24, 1950, and attended by about 250 delegates. The Council’s Executive Board also continued to convene quarterly; during its July 15 meeting that year, the board voted to go on record as supporting the new U.A. Organizational Program and recommend that all California locals affiliated with the Council “give their full cooperation in carrying out the proposed program,” whose aim was to streamline local administration and grow membership.



California State Pipe Trades Council officers pictured at the Council's 40th convention, held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco on May 6, 7 and 8, 1960, are (left to right) Ray North of Local 582 in Santa Anna; Tom Ramsey of Local 484 in Ventura; Joe Mazzola of Local 38 in San Francisco; President Ed Rogers of Local 398 in Pomona; William Francis of Local 447 in Sacramento; and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Martin of Local 342 in Oakland.

But despite the many strides made through the efforts of the Council since it was formed in 1908, into the early 1950s it remained a relatively casual association of locals meeting on an irregular basis, with no full-time staff and no legislative lobbyist. The Council took its first steps in changing that and improving its influence and capabilities in early 1953 when delegates to its **33rd convention**, held that April 10 through 12 in Riverside, voted to hold mandatory annual conventions of the Council and re-organized the Executive Board, which for the first time had the duties of its various officers spelled out. The delegates also established a schedule of board meetings and, in general, began the long climb toward a modern, professional way of protecting the interests of its members.

Eventually, those modifications and adjustments made during the 1953 convention would help transform the Council into a well-organized, aggressive and well-funded organization. As such, over the next nearly 70 years into 2022, the Council became better equipped to recognize changes within its industry and fight back against challenges in a timely – and effective – manner. Consequently, over the last seven decades the California Pipe Trades Council was able to effectively assist its membership with taking on the challenges of new technologies; the balancing environmental and economic concerns; attacks by regulatory and governmental agencies; attacks on their

jurisdiction; and the rapid growth of the non-union sector of the construction industry.

With the Council's new structure and methods in place, over the next 20 years conditions for the U.A. locals in California would be relatively secure. Indeed, the continued and strong growth borne from measures taken at the 33rd convention brought with it abundant work and only routine jurisdictional challenges.

Additionally, as some 5,000 bills were to be presented to the Law and Legislative Body of the State of California during its 1953 legislative session and roughly half of those bills concerned labor – 1,500 of which were “in direct opposition to the laboring people, most of which are affecting the Building Trades industry,” delegates further resolved that all Council officers “shall meet immediately upon installation with the General Organizer in the district and other interested parties to formulate a definite plan for taking immediate action toward defeating the anti-labor legislation now being considered in Sacramento.”

Interestingly, delegates to the convention also showed they already understood the relationship between good environmental policy and economic well-being. For example, one resolution they passed asked the State of California “to enforce additional regulations with respect to the disposal of sewage or industrial waste which might result in the pollution of our water.”



The Council remained active throughout the remainder of the 1950s before holding its final convention of the decade in April 1959 in San Diego, during which delegates elected **Brother James Dawkins** of Santa Ana to succeed **Brother C. F. Koons** of San Diego as president of the Council. Delegates also approved resolutions calling for a seven-hour workday, mandatory installation of automatic fire-sprinkler systems in schools and protection for workmen in construction and repair jobs at atomic installations.

Into the following decade, the 40th convention of the California Pipe Trades Council was held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco from May 6 through 8, 1960. The conference's 144 delegates acted upon 12 resolutions, and some 350 total people attended its formal dinner, hosted by **Local No. 38**, which had been chartered by the U.A. in that city in 1947.

As the Council's new rules dictated, it held conventions each year of the 1960s, and accordingly (if somewhat oppressively), each was operated like clockwork. In fact, many years later in 1992, **Brother Tom O'Brian** of Local 246 recalled:

“I went to my first state convention in 1961. There was nothing unusual. The agenda was set and ran pretty much according to Hoyle. Most of the conventions were like that. You could raise all the hell you wanted, but it didn't change anything.”

The Council also worked to continue growing its political influence throughout the decade. As such, during its 49th annual convention in May 1969, delegates adopted a resolution strongly urging San Francisco Mayor Joseph L. Alioto to run for governor, calling him “the logical choice for the voters” in the resolution. (Alioto opted instead to remain mayor, a position in which he served from January 8, 1968, through January 8, 1976.)

CONFRONTING LOBBYISTS, POLITICS AND PLASTIC PIPE

By 1970, however, the climate for the union piping trades was less favorable than it had been over the previous decades, as the extreme “no-growth” sector of the environmental movement threatened the economic health of the community and the federal government's attack on labor commenced during President Richard M. Nixon's first administration, which began January 20, 1969, with its imposition of wage-price controls. As early as 1974, U.A. international President Martin Ward repeatedly warned California Pipe Trades Council delegates of the incursions of non-union contractors on U.A. jurisdiction and the growing strength of so-called “right-to-work” committees, which pushed legislation to prohibit non-union members of union workplaces from paying dues for representation, and similar anti-labor groups.

Compounding escalating challenges, although it was the largest state body within the U.A., the California Pipe Trades Council still had no real program as it advanced through the early 1970s. One delegate to the Council's 1972 convention even openly warned, “There is almost no enthusiasm or knowledge of the purposes and work of this Council.”

As a result, the Council determined that year that it would become a true legislative and political body. To fund that initiative, the per-capita tax for each member of each local was increased, and subsequently the Council hired a full-time **legislative lobbyist** in 1972, established offices in the State Capitol of Sacramento and began issuing quarterly reports to the locals that detailed Council activities.

Slowly but surely, the Council moved toward a stronger presence in the capitol, bolstered in 1974 when delegates to that year's convention approved a motion to set aside 15 cents of the per-capita to establish a **Legislative and**

continued after spread



APPRENTICE AND MEMBER EDUCATION SUPPORTING THE LIFE'S BLO

Since its inception in 1908, the California State Pipe Trades Council has recognized that apprenticeship and training is the heart and soul of its union, the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry (U.A.). As such, the Council has worked constantly with its locals in the state and the international union to legislate for and help promote and fund apprenticeship training programs at the local level.

President **Hank Iverson** laid out the Council's ultimate objective for training of the state's U.A. workforce in an essay in the Winter 1992 issue of the Council's newsletter:

"Apprenticeship, jointly administered by labor and management, is a time-tested model for what education is really all about – giving young people real skills to make a contribution in the real world."

By turning apprentices into qualified journeymen, it lays the groundwork for lifetime careers with good pay, benefits and job security. And by providing continued training for journeymen, it allows us to keep pace with changing technology."

Throughout the past more than 100 years, the Council has been actively involved in advancing the training of U.A. members in California. For instance, its representatives were at the table for the first meeting of the **State Apprenticeship Committee** on November 3, 1951, in Long Beach, which would work to set training standards throughout California's pipe-trades industry.

In 1973, with an increasing number of legislative proposals that would directly affect the state's U.A. apprenticeship programs, U.A. local representatives at the Council's 53rd convention



A group of pipefitter apprentices of Local 442, Modesto, at work in the local's training center sometime during the mid-2010s.

OD OF ITS TRADE: TRAINING



Steamfitter apprentices of Local 342, Concord, perform night-rigging training at the local's training center in March 2011.

passed a resolution calling for the **California Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship Committee** to establish a sub-committee to keep in direct communication with the Council's legislative advocate in Sacramento. In doing so, the sub-committee would monitor "matters pertaining to apprenticeship training" within the state and "formulate action in administrative/legislative matters ... in the best interest of apprenticeship training."

Because the apprentice programs of the locals affiliated with the State Pipe Trades Council are the training ground for future generations of skilled piping professionals, every year they invest more than \$18 million to train the next generation of plumbers, pipefitters and refrigeration and air conditioning journeymen at apprenticeship training centers across the state. What's more, the Council works with the state's Division of Apprenticeship Standards and the California Apprenticeship Council to promote the highest professional standards, both in the classroom and on the job.

The Council also annually sponsors the **California State U.A. Apprentice Contest** between apprentices of the various U.A. locals throughout the state.

With the State Pipe Trades Council's input and involvement, particularly at the legislative level, U.A. entry-level members in California graduate from their five-year apprenticeships as fully rounded craftworkers, ready and able to meet challenges set by their respective employers. With upgrade training also provided by locals' training programs, U.A. journeyman members are able to keep pace with the industry, improve their skills and enhance their current knowledge.



Apprentices of Local 447, Sacramento, take part in training sessions at the local's training center in March 2022.





Political Fund. Administered by the Executive Board, the fund was to be used on projects such as development of strong licensing procedures; resisting efforts by major utilities, such as Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), to use their own employees on construction work rather than members of the building trades; fighting efforts to promote plastic piping for plumbing installations; and supporting other labor legislation.

In forming and determining political objectives, delegates to the 1974 convention set the basis for what would be the California Pipe Trades Council's priorities for the next 50 years, while also providing their representatives some of the tools they needed to achieve those goals.

One of the new, key political battles the Council had to confront was addressed during its 56th annual convention held June 4 through 8, 1976, in Kelseyville when delegates pledged to defeat Proposition No. 15, which would halt construction of nuclear-fueled power-generation facilities, on the June 8 statewide ballot. Taking its endeavor a

step further, the Council had also been part of the formation of the new **Nuclear Energy for Environmental Development (NEED) Organization**, which would promote the further development of nuclear energy "for peaceful and domestic purposes" even after the proposition was defeated in the election.

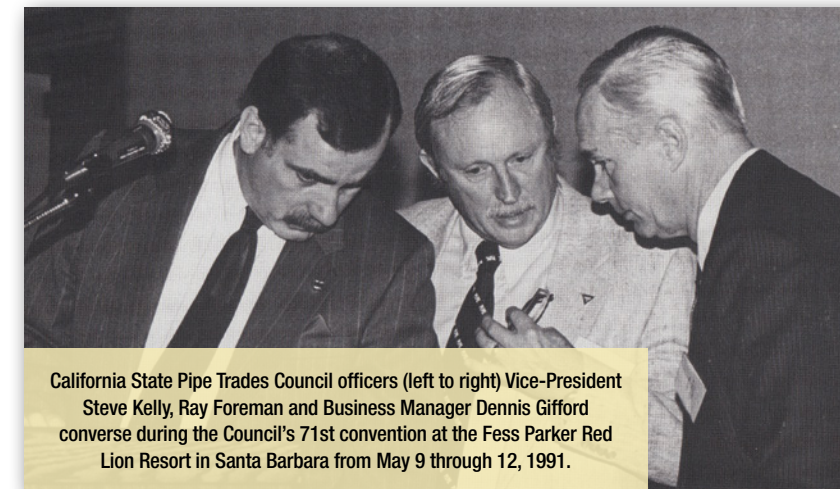
But in the end, the development and increasingly widespread use of plastic pipe, which requires less labor than metal piping but is not as reliable, at that time pushed the Council forward, as it was forced to go up against the powerful, savvy and extraordinarily well-funded lobby and public relations apparatus of the petroleum industry, for which plastic pipe was a by-product. Arguably, the Council's greatest contribution over more than 114 years was its ability to battle the plastics lobby to a standstill using the fundamental strategy of highlighting the health of the public, the safety of pipe-industry workers and the inferior quality of the material.

Early on, beginning in the mid-seventies, the Council focused its activities on resisting efforts by the plastic industry to win code changes through the International Association of Pipe and Mechanical Officials (I.A.P.M.O.) the association of inspectors, contractors and craftsmen that, although a private, non-governmental association, had the authority to establish codes for the use of piping materials. Every year, Council officers and members attended the I.A.P.M.O. convention at which, with the assistance of representatives from the U.A. international office in Washington, D.C., they faced-off against agents of the Plastics Institute and oil companies in their effort to reduce areas in which plastic pipe could be used.

The Council also fought plastic pipe in other arenas, such as putting pressure on state agencies to ensure I.A.P.M.O. codes were being enforced. At each level, they locked horns with the

Plastics Institute, Shell Oil and others who sought to impose the unsafe, inferior plastic-piping material on workers and consumers of California. Throughout the 1970s, Council lobbyists, officers and other personnel as well as attorneys, who the council first hired in 1975, appeared regularly at meetings of the State Housing Commission, the Bureau of Building Standards and other various county and municipal agencies whenever the issue of plastic pipe was raised. During those proceedings, their successful challenges to the use of plastic pipe in the construction of state schools, colleges, hospitals and other facilities became particularly important.

At the same time, the California Pipe Trades Council became increasingly more involved in other battles, including strengthening building codes, getting public utilities out of the construction business and protecting the U.A. apprenticeship program. As early as 1973, the Council and the U.A. were fending off efforts by non-union contractors to develop their own non-union apprenticeship programs, and in 1978, to boost the state's union training, delegates to the Council's convention amended their state constitution to require all affiliated locals to participate in joint apprenticeship committees with their employing contractors.



California State Pipe Trades Council officers (left to right) Vice-President Steve Kelly, Ray Foreman and Business Manager Dennis Gifford converse during the Council's 71st convention at the Fess Parker Red Lion Resort in Santa Barbara from May 9 through 12, 1991.

Increasing time and effort spent monitoring significant agencies such as the Housing and Community Development Commission and the Building Standards Commission pushed the Council to make another move forward in 1978 by hiring a full-time representative to monitor those commissions and boards. As such, the union piping industry would have additional, earlier input into their permit-licensing and building processes.

When the State Housing Commission voted in 1979 to approve the effectively unrestricted use of plastic pipe, that year's California Pipe Trades Council convention responded



Activity at the California State Pipe Trades Council 69th convention at the Palm Springs Marquis Hotel and Villas on May 11, 12 and 13, 1989.



Delegates stand for the Pledge of Allegiance during proceedings of the California State Pipe Trades Council 71st convention in Santa Barbara from May 9 through 12, 1991.



immediately, increasing its per-capita tax from 25 cents to 50 cents to allow the Council to take a more active role in the regulatory and legislative processes. An additional assessment of \$1 per member per month, renewable annually, was also earmarked through a 1980 Council resolution, passed during its 60th convention in Kelseyville from May 20 through June 1, for a study of the health effects of the use of plastic pipe. (It was already clear by that time, however, from various partial studies that the glue used in the installation of plastic pipe posed serious danger and that the leaking of dangerous solvents from the soil through the pipe into the state's drinking water could pose threats to the public's health.)

But by the fall of 1979, the Council was facing an uphill battle, as its attorney told Council delegates:

"From a political, legislative and legal point of view, we had been knocked off a cliff and were hanging on by our fingernails while the housing commission and the plastics industry were standing on top of us trying to cut our fingers off."



The 1991-1992 California State Pipe Trades Council Executive Board consisted of (left to right, seated) Dennis Gifford, Tim Hunter, Ray Foreman and Steve Reid; and (standing) Steve Kelly, Preston Oliver, Joe Winstead, Bill Rhoten and Hank Iverson.

Within a year, however, a dramatic turnaround took place as a result of years of preparation and the experience and knowledge the Council had acquired during its struggle with the plastic-pipe industry. Subsequently, a Council delegate was able to proclaim in 1980:

"We've got our leg back up on the cliff, and we're just about standing up and just about ready to charge, and the plastics industry and the Housing Commission and, in fact, the Brown Administration is beginning to be aware of that fact."

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS VIA MAJOR CHALLENGES

Beginning essentially with its 1980 convention, the California Pipe Trades Council put itself on a path toward becoming a better-structured, functioning professional organization. **Brother Walter Mattern** of **Local No. 250** of Los Angeles later recalled in 1992:

"The Pipe Trades (Council) used to be honorary – just meet, plan the next convention, pay the bills. But in the last 10 to 12 years, it's become a very functioning body. We used to change officers every year. That didn't give them a long enough time. And the state apprenticeship committee didn't have much of a plan. There have been major improvements."

Meanwhile, the Council gathered its political and economic strength and, citing the California Environmental Quality Act, forced the Housing Commission to abide by the law. Under tremendous legal and political pressure, in November 1980 the commission agreed to delay its previous order and called

for Environmental Impact Reports on the effects of plastic pipe. Regardless, over the next decade and more, the Council continued its fight to make sure that the health and safety of workers and consumers were addressed in the reports, and that the tests were performed in a competent laboratory that had no ties to the plastics industry and were under neutral supervision.

An important impetus in the ongoing campaign was the Council's own survey, which was based on the experience of its own members. The report clearly showed that the use of plastic piping put union members at risk.

On another front, the Council, the State Department of Consumer Affairs, the State Building Trades and Friends of the Earth filed suit in 1981 against I.A.P.M.O., which had capitulated to the pressure of the plastics industry to make major code changes that allowed an increased use of plastic pipe. Finally, Council staff and officials became even more active in cities and counties all over the state where local officials were under siege by the plastics supporters to change their local codes to allow the use of polybutylene and other plastic pipe.

The Council's coordinated legal, political and legislative campaign was also accompanied with an increasingly sophisticated and aggressive use of the media, press conferences and solid television coverage. Over the ensuing years, the Council fought the plastics establishment to a standstill.

As the plastics issue fell into a holding pattern, the Council found that the techniques and tools it had developed were also effective in dealing with other issues, including, perhaps most importantly, the recapture of union jurisdiction.

By the early 1980s, U.A. membership nationally was in a slow decline while membership in California had leveled off at about 30,000 as an increasing amount of work was going non-union. As such, while in the 1960s roughly 70 percent of all construction work was union, that proportion had declined to about 30 percent by the mid-1980s.

To counter that trend, the Council deployed the system and procedures it had established while battling the plastics industry against non-union contractors, moving increasingly more toward political action than promoting jobsite



The new California State Pipe Trades Council Executive Board is sworn in during the Council's 72nd convention at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey from May 14 through 16, 1992.



U.A. local delegates and officers gathered for the California State Pipe Trades Council 73rd convention at the Hyatt Islandia in San Diego from May 13 through 15, 1993.

conflict in the form of pickets and strikes. With 65 percent of its members registered to vote – the highest percentage of any union in the state – the Council during its 1987 convention also approved an increase to its members' per-capita tax to 5 cents per hour worked to establish a well-funded **Political Action Committee**.

What's more, after a long process of meetings and discussion around the state that allowed members and local officials to give substantial input into the process of rebuilding the Council, in 1988 it put several structural changes into effect. These included the total restructuring of the Council; hiring of a full-time business manager, the first of whom was Brother Dennis Gifford of Local 159; and creating U.A. **District Council No. 36** for the northern half of the state to balance the long-established **District Council No. 16** in the south.

To further help regain some of the two-thirds of the state's pipe-trades work that had escaped the union to non-union workers, the Council developed a program of tracking major building projects in order to get union contractors in on the ground floor of those potential jobs. In each case, success of that **Jobs Recovery Program** was dependent upon the union's ability to produce the most-skilled workers; therefore, a tremendous number of resources was put into protecting and enhancing the state's union apprenticeship programs. At the same time, the Council also pursued a realistic approach in bargaining by deploying staff to skillfully work permit processes to make sure local and state agencies were not permitting companies to cut costs on air pollution controls, hazardous-waste reduction, water-quality controls, energy-conservation measures, seismic safety and toxic-exposure limits.



Additionally, the Council dealt with legislative struggles head-on, as well. For instance, it worked with other building trades unions to win prevailing-wage ordinances in various counties, which helped give union contractors the ability to bid successfully against non-union companies.

Also during the late 1980s, as a result of the Council's demand for health and safety review of **polybutylene (PB) plastic pipe**, homeowners in California were largely spared the widespread and catastrophic failures of the pipe that led to over a billion dollars of damage claims across the country. Concerned that the safety and effectiveness of the material had not been adequately studied, the Council, among others, demanded that California review the health and safety of PB products prior to its approval. Presented with evidence of potential risks associated with PB, the California Department of Housing and Community Development agreed that environmental review of PB pipe was necessary and withdrew its proposed approval of the product to allow further study. Eventually, because of the dramatic and extensive problems with PB, California never approved it for use in statewide home construction, and Shell withdrew the product from the marketplace and stopped all manufacture of the pipe.

Together, the various strategies employed by the California Pipe Trades Council to protect its jurisdiction during the 1980s became integral parts of an overall program to counteract the non-union piping industry. As a result, one delegate at the Council's convention in 1989 was able to declare:



U.A. local delegates and officers gathered for the California State Pipe Trades Council 76th convention in 1996.

"It's great to be able to call the State Pipe Trades or district office and get some help on a plan of attack against a non-union contractor, to develop real targets and plans to turn non-union contractors around."

'ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT' LEADS TO AMPLE GAINS

The California Pipe Trades Council's campaign to keep the use of plastic pipe in construction to a minimum persisted into the 1990s. By that time, the Council had spent more than half-a-million dollars just to answer the Environmental Impact Report issued by the Department of Housing and Community Development, and it had expended most of its resources over the previous year alone on the crusade.



Sister Maxine Lawson of California State Pipe Trades Council-affiliated Local 342 of Concord performs plumbing work on the campus of the Shepherd's Gate women's shelter in Livermore in 1998.

But as discussed during its 70th annual convention at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose on May 10, 11 and 12, 1990, the Council had become more involved in apprenticeship and training. As such, Council **President Steve Kelly** was chairman of the **Coordinating Advisory Committee**, a consulting group to the **California State Pipe Trades Apprenticeship Committee**.

The following year, as the need for the Council to lobby and communicate heightened, during its 71st convention held in Santa Barbara from May 9 through 12, delegates passed a resolution that called for all local business managers to "actively promote participation in the **California Pipe Trades Council Voluntary Political Action Fund**." The Council also launched a monthly newsletter for all of its locals' members that July.

Delegates to the 72nd annual convention held in Monterey from May 14 through 16, 1992, were then inundated with information on statewide, regional and local initiatives to protect and expand the strength of the union. The primary theme of the conference was increasing work opportunities for members, to which end five different seminars on topics related to gaining work were presented for delegates: apprenticeship, work recovery, prevailing wage, certification and political action.

In his first article in the Council newsletter, **Brother Hank Iverson**, who during the 1992 convention had been voted to succeed Brother Kelly as Council president, touted in the Summer 1992 issue the many gains the Council had made over the previous half decade years. In doing so, he cited initiatives such as the Council's certification program and environmental permit review procedure, and he further declared:

"The California Pipe Trades have come a long way in the last five years. We've moved from being an easy going, good-old-boy network to a professional organization with solid funding and a solid program. We were awakened by the relentless assault of non-union contractors and anti-union regulators, courts and legislators. We had to give up old ways of doing things and go through a profound attitude adjustment. We had to recognize that we had a problem – the devastating loss of work opportunity – and we had to design programs to deal with those problems."

But President Iverson also warned members that all of the Council's gains were "up for grabs" on Election Day, November 3. Subsequently, he urged members to be involved in the election process, register to vote, campaign for labor-friendly candidates and donate "generously" to the Voluntary Political Action Fund.

Again during the Council's 73rd annual convention the following year, held in San Diego from May 12 through 16, delegates were focused on work recovery for their members. By that time, union piping craftspeople were only performing about 40 percent of the piping work in the state, compared to 80 percent that was done by union plumbers and fitters less than 20 years earlier in 1974 – a decline brought on through jurisdictional picketing between unions and the advancement of anti-labor political forces and non-union contractors.



Along with attending workshops on code enforcement, environmental-labor alliances and apprenticeship, among the resolutions passed by delegates to help reverse that trend was a measure directing Council officers to meeting with the business managers of affiliated locals within 60 days after the convention "to establish ad hoc committees to study and examine existing work-recovery programs and strategies. Another resolution called for the Council to set aside "sufficient funding to pay the costs" of the Council's efforts to protect the union's apprenticeship programs.

Over the previous five years, Council locals gained 3-million hours of work they would not have had in the absence of Council programs, and another 8-million hours would be worked in the coming years because of the Council's initiatives and efforts. "But that's just the beginning," President Iverson cautioned. "We've slowed the decline."

The 1990s were further marked with the election of a Democratic governor, Joseph Graham "Gray" Davis Jr., in 1999 with the full political backing of the Council, its locals and their members. Almost immediately, having a labor-friendly chief executive in the Statehouse in Sacramento made a difference as he appointed union representatives to the California Apprenticeship Council, giving the building trades control of the commission.

What's more, by that time the Council's members were contributing 2 cents per each

NEWSLETTER FIRST INFORMED IN 1991

The California State Pipe Trades Council launched its first newsletter for members in the Spring of 1991 to coincide with the council's 71st convention, of which the inaugural issue contained a full report. "This first issue of **Cal Pipe Quarterly** is just the beginning of what we hope will be a successful endeavor to better inform and communicate with U.A. members in California," Council staff wrote in the first issue.



The Council conducted a "Name the Paper Contest" for all members, and shortly after, the newsletter's title was changed to **Cal Pipe Connections**.

hour they worked into its political fund, making the Council a true player in state politics and legislative lobbying. To further enforce its standing as a powerful political participant, the Council in 1999 also moved its offices into the **Senator Hotel** on L Street in Sacramento, directly across the street from the California State Capitol building.

KEY LEGISLATIVE VICTORY HIGHLIGHT OF NEW CENTURY

As its 80th convention commenced on May 19, 2000, at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey, the California Pipe Trades



U.A. local delegates and officers gathered for the California State Pipe Trades Council 79th convention at the Riviera Resort & Racquet Club in Palm Springs on May 21 and 22, 1999.



Council represented 27,114 members of 26 affiliated U.A. locals throughout the state. Delegates and the Council had to address plastic pipe issues again during the conference, as they would continue to throughout the 2000s.

Four years later, the Council's persistence and commitment to plumbing code standards that allow for the continued advancement of the industry, while at the same time protecting public and worker health and ensuring safe and effective performance, was again rewarded when a Court of Appeals ruled in December 2004 that new **plastic potable water pipe materials** must be tested for potential health and safety risks prior to state approval. The court, in the case Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association v. California Building Standards Commission, declared that potential health, safety and environmental impacts of proposed plumbing materials, such as cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) piping, must undergo review by the state before inclusion in the California Plumbing Code.

Ultimately, pursuant to a 2010 settlement agreement, the State of California approved the use of PEX subject to several mitigation measures and unprecedented restrictions for

which the Council vehemently advocated. The provisions provided unprecedented protection to California workers, residents and homeowners; however, concerns remained regarding taste and odor impacts from low-quality PEX products, the sufficiency of PEX performance standards that only require a 25-year adjusted lifetime, the inability to tell how long PEX has been exposed to sunlight prior to installation and the lack of meaningful recyclability of the product.

Meanwhile, the Council, as part of a coalition of consumer, environmental, public health and labor organizations, fought to require meaningful review of the public and worker health and environmental risks associated with **chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (C.P.V.C.) plastic plumbing pipe**. As a result of the review, the state imposed significant conditions on the installation and use of C.P.V.C. in order to protect California consumers, workers and the environment from the risks associated with C.P.V.C.

In 2006, the State of California finally completed a full Environmental Impact Report on the statewide approval of C.P.V.C., which confirmed the validity of many of the



U.A. local delegates and officers gathered for the California State Pipe Trades Council 90th convention in Monterey in 2010.

longstanding concerns raised by the State Pipe Trades Council and imposed significant restrictions on the installation of C.P.V.C. to address those concerns. As a direct result of the California State Pipe Trades Council's long participation in this process, the unprecedented set of measures to protect the environment and the health and safety of workers and consumers within the California Plumbing Code now requires a one-week flushing of new C.P.V.C. pipes to reduce toxic leachates; certification of worker safety training; worker safety protective measures such as ventilation and safety gloves; and the use of one-step, environmentally friendly, low-volatile organic compounds (V.O.C.) cement.

During that time, the Council also held its 85th convention in Disney's Grand Californian Hotel on May 20 and 21, 2005. In a move to protect its own political action funds, resolutions passed by delegates included a measure declaring that delegates of the convention "are in complete and total opposition to any and all actions that involve the regulation of spending of dues monies on political campaigns."

Over the ensuing years, the California State Pipe Trades Council continued lobbying and communications efforts while also

implementing new and innovative ways to advance its agenda. For instance, in 2011 it joined with the Building and Construction Trades Council of California to form the labor-backed **Californians Against Identity Theft**, which in late July and early August that year launched a website and ran a radio spot that urged voters not to sign initiative petitions because they increased their risk of identity theft – while unions opposed many of the initiatives that could have ended up on ballots.

The Council and its U.A. locals and members gained one of their most important victories in 2013 with the passage of **California Senate Bill 54** (SB-54), which was signed into law on October 1 of that year after the state's pipe trades had backed and lobbied for the bill to be ratified from the time it was introduced in the state Legislature by labor-friendly State Senator Loni Hancock. As law, SB-54 mandates that a petroleum refinery must "require that its contractors and any subcontractors use a skilled and trained workforce to perform all onsite work within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades, including skilled journeypersons paid at least a rate equivalent to the applicable prevailing hourly wage rate."

U.A. local delegates and officers gathered for the California State Pipe Trades Council 85th convention at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel in Anaheim on May 20 and 21, 2005.





A welder with California State Pipe Trades Council-affiliated Local 442 of Modesto makes a position weld on a project at the Gallo Winery in Livingston in 2018.

The bill also requires the establishment of a safety program for covered work. As a result, in California a 20-hour refinery-safety completion course is required prior to any additional site-specific requirements by the refineries themselves.

Twenty years prior to the passage of SB-54, U.A. **Local No. 342** of Concord had promoted a “Good Neighbor” ordinance in Contra Costa County, after a release at the General Chemical Corporation facility sent a sulfuric acid cloud through the City of Richmond that sent more than 20,000 people to local hospitals. Although the ordinance stalled in court, it sought to hold refineries accountable to hiring contractors whose insurance rates were above an industry threshold strictly tied to safety. Soon after, the refineries responded to the local’s proposed legislation by awarding fewer maintenance and turnaround work to the U.A.; in fact, by 2005 virtually the only refinery work awarded to Local 342 and sister locals in California was new construction/capital projects.

Then in 2012, a major explosion at the Chevron Richmond Refinery sparked a think tank of elected officials and California labor affiliates to come up with a solution to the unskilled workforce on which the refineries so heavily depended, resulting in SB-54. The year the bill was signed into law, only 30 percent of the journeyman workforce was required to have graduated from a state-approved apprenticeship program or a federally approved, out-of-state program. The following year, the journeyman graduation requirement increased to 45 percent, and by 2018, the requirement increased to 60-percent for the workforce in California refineries.

The induction of California SB-54, brought about in part through Council lobbying efforts, has leveled the playing field for all refinery/maintenance contractors covering U.A. work and ultimately led to a major “top-down” organizing effort of new contractors becoming signatory with the union, the likes of which had never before been seen.

HISTORIC VIRUS CAN'T HALT COUNCIL, 100TH CONVENTION

The state’s U.A. locals and their members were focused during the mid-2010s on the internal well-being and effectiveness of the state’s piping industry and, subsequently, the California State Pipe Trades Council. As such, delegates approved a resolution on May 14, 2014, that added the positions of “**Vice-President Sprinklerfitters North**” and “**Vice-President Sprinklerfitters South**” to the Council’s Executive Board to help promote union fitters within the burgeoning fire-suppression industry.

The following year during the Council’s 95th convention, held May 14 and 15, 2015, at The Fess Parker in Santa Barbara, delegates passed a resolution that called for a per-capita tax increase on locals and their members of 2 cents per hour worked, effective July 1, that would go into the

Council’s General Fund “for the protection and betterment of the membership.”

Then in September 2016, among its growing list of accomplishments, the Council collaborated with the U.A. Education and Training Department and many U.A. local training centers to convince the California Energy Commission to unanimously approve the Council’s submission to become an “**Acceptance Test Technician Provider**” in accordance with the Building Energy Efficiency Standards. A key feature of the state’s Title 24 energy code, the standards were initially designed in 1978 and are regularly updated to ensure new and existing buildings achieve energy efficiency and preserve outdoor and indoor environmental quality, which has saved Californians billions of dollars in reduced electricity bills.

As acceptance test technicians, properly trained Council members could find employment performing tests and inspections to determine whether specific equipment, systems and interfaces between systems conform to the criteria set forth in the Energy Standards. U.A. locals approved by the Council would offer training and certification to U.A. members. The Council would provide quality assurance, independent oversight and accountability measures, such as independent oversight of the

HELPING MEMBERS’ KIDS AFFORD COLLEGE

Each year, the Council hosts a benefit golf outing that funds the **California State Pipe Trades Council Scholarship Foundation**, which in turn awards college scholarships to the children of members of U.A. locals affiliated with the Council. For 2022, the foundation will provide 40 scholarships of \$2,500 each to college-bound children.

The scholarships must be used for full-time undergraduate study at an accredited U.S. community college or four-year college or university. U.A. members must be a parent, legal guardian or custodial stepparent of an eligible applicant and must be a current member, in good standing for at least a full year, of a local affiliated with the Council. To be eligible, a student also must carry a cumulative, unweighted high-school grade point average of no less than 2.5.

Applicants are judged by an external, independent panel of professional educators through the University of California Berkeley based upon academic achievements, school activities, community service, application form, essay style and essay content.

certification processes and procedures, visits to building sites where certified technicians are completing acceptance tests, certification process evaluations, enforcement agency surveys to determine acceptance testing effectiveness, and expert review of the training curricula developed for the standards.

Later reflecting on another successful endeavor offered through the Council to its U.A. piping professionals and signatory contractors, U.A. **Training Specialist Rich Benkowski** proclaimed:



U.A. local delegates and officers gathered for the California State Pipe Trades Council 98th convention in San Francisco in 2018.



“Approval as a ‘provider’ in compliance with the California legislative language increases market share and manhours in both the new construction and service sectors. Furthermore, by offering a path to California Energy Commission compliance through U.A. training, the success of this program clears the way for U.A. business managers, business agents and organizers to recruit any non-signatory contractors.”

The Council during that time also was able to assist in having a new state certification process for fire-sprinkler installers implemented through the California State Fire Marshal’s Office. “In requiring that state certification and that additional continuing education for people that install life-safety fire-protection systems,” **Brother Stan Smith**, former Council Executive Board member (as one of the first two sprinklerfitter representatives on the board when they were appointed in 2015) and past business manager of Sprinklerfitters Local No. 483 in San Francisco explained, “it’s critical in our members maintaining their expertise level over and above people who do the work but aren’t educated.”

Leading up to the California States Pipe Trades Council’s planned 100th convention in May 2020, local-union delegates and Council officials from around the state met for the 98th convention on May 24 and 25, 2018, at the Marriott Marquis in San Francisco. The following year, the Council held its 99th convention on May 16 and 17, 2019, at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel in Anaheim.

However, the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which first appeared in the United States in early 2020 and would claim the lives of more than 900,000 Americans while it continued into 2022, forced the Council to postpone its **100th convention** from May 2020 until it was safe to gather again two years later on May 19 and 20, 2022, at the Silverado Resort & Spa in Napa.

Meanwhile, the Council worked to build on its recent successes while engaging in its primary function – political lobbying and legislative proposals – such as promoting the energy sector and heavy-industrial refinery work in California, from which all 27 U.A. local unions of the Council stood to benefit for years to come. The Council also continued to promote the election of labor-inspired candidates and



A Local 342, Concord, pipeline crew, wearing masks to protect themselves against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, works at the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) McDonald Island gas-storage facility with Underground Construction in November 2020.

pushing clear and concise language targeting the piping industry, all of which helped make **Senate Bill 54** possible nearly a decade earlier.

As it approached its 100th convention, the Council also worked – and will continue to work – on expanding SB-54 to chemical facilities as well as schools and hospitals, collectively. It is also taking on several new challengers, including zero-carbon, net-zero lobbies that want to shutter refineries, a key source of U.A. employment. As always, the Council has remained focused on supporting legislation that helps improve U.A. members’ lives, opposing current anti-labor bills and supporting those addressing water quality and air-conditioning ventilation.

Considering the ongoing and expanding role within the Statehouse that the Council continued to embrace, new Council **Executive Director Mike Hartley** noted in early 2022:

“A lot of our work depends on politics, and it depends on the people we get elected. It depends on project labor agreements. It depends on workforce agreements. It’s all relative. Without politics, we would be a lot smaller.”

Undeniably, the California State Pipe Trades Council and its U.A. locals and their memberships have faced a plethora of challenges within their rapidly changing industry, such as new technologies; balancing environmental

and economic concerns; attacks by regulatory and governmental agencies; attacks on their jurisdiction; and the rapid growth of the non-union sector of the construction industry. But in each case, the Council, representing in 2022 the strength of more than 37,000 members in 26 local unions spread across the state, has been able to protect the interests of those members.

Indeed, the story of the California State Pipe Trades Council is the story of challenge and response. That history of fighting back in a timely and effective manner is a history that bodes well for the California Pipe Trades Council’s future success. ●



U.A. members from California State Pipe Trades Council-affiliated locals work on construction of the state’s new, 1.25-million-square-foot Richards Boulevard Office Complex in Sacramento in March 2022.





*In recognition and appreciation for
your dedication to the labor movement
we extend our congratulations and best wishes
to the officers and members of*

California State Pipe Trades Council

on your

100th Convention

from the

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of the

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Best Wishes from Los Angeles

To the California Pipe Trades Council For a Successful
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From the Officers, Staff and Membership of U.A. Local 78

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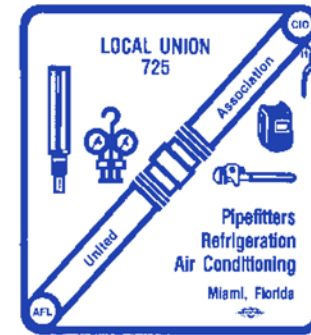
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**Happy 100th
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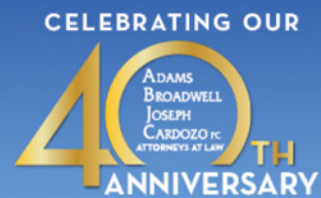
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*Congratulations
to the California State Pipe
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