

# IRON WORKERS LOCAL NO. 44

## COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY & PROGRAM

BUILDING OUR HOMETOWN SINCE 1905

IRON WORKERS LOCAL 44

CINCINNATI, OH

KNOWLEDGE - SAFETY - CRAFTSMANSHIP

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

AND

APPRENTICE GRADUATION & SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONIES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015





## We Salute Iron Workers Local 44 For Your Longtime Service to Your Community!

Congratulations Graduating Apprentices and Members!

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## Iron Workers Local No. 44

*110th Anniversary Celebration*

*to Honor Our  
Graduating Apprentices  
and Our  
Longtime Members*

Friday, September 25, 2015  
5:30 p.m. to Midnight

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza  
35 West Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio

Happy Hour & Hors D'oeuvres.....	5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Dinner Buffet & Dessert .....	7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Program & Awards Ceremony .....	8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Music & Dancing .....	9:00 p.m. to Midnight



# *Iron Workers Local 44*

## Apprenticeship Graduates, 2011 to 2015

*The following members graduated from Apprentice to Journeyman through the Local 44 Training Program from 2011 to 2015.*

### 2011

Aeramis Brigner  
Dean R. Callon Jr.  
William Kleimeyer  
Charles R. MacPherson  
David L. Roberts  
Benjamin A. Ryan  
Jarrod D. Tiemeier

### 2012

Jeremy A. Barth  
Anthony L. Berkemeier  
Ray D. Bowling  
Raymond R. Bowman  
David W. Cutebirth  
Michael A. Davis  
Robert L. Dekle Jr.  
Joseph T. Diener  
David J. Fleek  
Kaelin Hawkins  
Ryan C. Jones  
William K. Lindsey  
Derek E. W. Martin  
Thomas T. Nash  
Michael J. Phillips  
Bryan D. Rowekamp  
Jared A. Sherwood  
Wesley A. Stanley  
Maurice T. Walters

### 2013

Brian C. Attebery  
Michael D. Baker  
Gerald A. Comberger  
Thomas D. Pennington  
Joshua A. Schoborg  
Markus T. West

### 2014

Goodnes Chandler  
Jimmy Earl  
David Hall  
Tyler M. Hibbits  
Peter A. Ronnebaum  
Josh A. Wessel

### 2015

Anthony J. Boyce  
Joshua Davis  
Shane Goodpaster  
Rodney Wheeler

# *Iron Workers Local 44*

## Service Award Recipients, 2015

*Local 44 honors the following members for their longtime dedicated service.*

### 65 years

Stanley Dameron

### 60 years

Fred W. Reams Sr.  
Lawrence M. Wagner  
Leroy G. Owens

### 50 years

Arthur "Jack" Baker Jr.  
John Burney  
Larry D. Grizzell

### 45 Years

Daniel R. Mock  
Dennis W. Massengill  
Frank D. Lucas  
Harrison Lawson  
Lee Robinson  
Michael H. Proud  
Raymond E. Shinkle Jr.  
Walter D. Smith  
William E. Warf Jr.  
William R. Deaton

### 40 years

Albert C. Lowe  
Bobby L. Thompson  
Carl E. Behanan  
Carlos E. Lopez  
David M. Milby

Dennis G. Perry  
Don J. Franklin  
James L. Burckey  
James M. Plunkett  
John E. Cotton  
Joseph R. Bross  
Narvell Henderson  
Verlon R. Hurst

### 35 years

Eugene F. Wolpert  
Hanzley Butler Jr.  
Ken P. Geiman  
Mark A. Travis  
Philip E. Mastin  
Ralph H. Jones  
Raymond H. Tullis  
Richard Tibbits Jr.  
Robert F. Pangallo  
Ronald G. Hicks  
Ronnie R. Allen

### 30 years

Gregory R. McFarland  
Raymond Crone Jr.  
Rickey J. Campbell

### 25 years

Brad H. Deaton  
David W. Goodrich  
Kevin J. Miller  
Rodney A. Dirkhising



# Scars, Skylines and Pride

## Make Up Local 44's Unequaled History

Brothers, Sisters and Friends:

A lot has changed in the over 37 years of my career. I remember my first day walking into the Local 44 union hall on 12th and Reading Road as an apprehensive 19-year-old apprentice; there were three bullet holes in the front door of a cramped, smoky and dingy two-floor office space.

I walked upstairs to see a bunch of rough-looking customers drinking coffee with cigarettes dangling from their lips, gruffly speaking to one another. Suddenly, a loud argument broke out down the hall between Assistant Business Agent "Bud" Dooley and either "One Day" or "Gym Shoe" Smitty that nearly came to blows.

I thought, "What have I gotten myself into?"

The weld shop consisted of four booths and was the size of my current office, and the meeting hall was not much larger ... it maybe could hold 25 if they stood really still. (No wonder there were so many fights).

Today, we have a union hall that is appraised at over \$1.2 million, with a state-of-the-art weld shop, spacious offices and a huge meeting room that has just been renovated. This is a testament to what hardworking men and women, of humble beginnings, can achieve when they pull together and work towards a common goal.

It is remarkable that our Local has survived the Great Depression, both World Wars, "Reaganomics," the crashes of 1988 and 2008, the ongoing War on Terror and so many other calamities that have felled some of America's great corporations and institutions. In addition, many countries have risen and fallen over this time span, and even some of our states are not as old as this great Local!

Think about it, some short years ago some of our members could not read nor write and many did not have a high school degree; yet they could erect powerhouses, bridges and multi-tiered buildings. Early in my career, I worked with a guy who could barely read but was sharp in common sense, was determined and knew every aspect of our trade — which, when I listened, he gladly and proudly tried to share with me.

Indeed, even the founders of our great International Union probably didn't get past sixth grade, and look what they have given us.

When there is labor strife, the Ironworkers have always led the way in the fight. We have never backed away from an altercation; we embrace them.

None of the other crafts can do their jobs until the Ironworkers risk their lives erecting the steel their work attaches to and hangs from. As an historical footnote, during the Great Depression, this building we celebrate in tonight was being built and Local 44 Ironworkers went on strike in support of the



striking New York Ironworkers who were building the Empire State Building at the same time.

Much tumult ensued, yet afterwards, we proved our mettle ... and set the world record for floors per week of iron erected that stood for many years!

Like many others in Local 44, I am a third-generation Ironworker. Indeed, there are many proud families within the Local that can rightfully claim the contributions of their immediate family as well as their in-laws (and outlaws), as I do.

I am particularly proud my father was the longest-serving Business Manager in Local 44 history (24 continuous years). Like past members, he took great pride and worked hard to make our Local one of the best — one others look to with envy.

Ironworkers mark their lives by what job they were on that year and can tell you who they worked for and with on that job (and recall the ensuing laughs that set that job apart). After a few years, we are unsuited to work anyplace else ... we become too independent and get a swagger about us no other craft or trade can claim. We sacrifice our bodies over the years in the toughest trade around, then show our scars proudly while pointing to the skyline proclaiming, "I worked on that, and that one, and that one."

It takes pride and dedication to our trade to build a reputation and a legacy that future Ironworkers will talk about. Here tonight are the "old timers" who remember so much of our history and the fresh faces of newer members who will continue to build on their legacy and perpetuate this great Local in the years to come.

This Local has an attribute that all Ironworkers have: We can do that better and faster than anyone else! This attitude has sustained us for 110 years and, God willing, will sustain us and our families for the next 110 years.

Happy Birthday and thanks, Local 44; your awesome history and the pride of past generations inspires us all.

Lawrence E. Oberding  
Business Manager-Financial Secretary/Treasurer  
Ironworkers Local 44, Cincinnati, Ohio

*(Remarks made at the Netherland Hilton Hotel in downtown Cincinnati, September 25, 2015.)*





## Our Local is A Home, Built By Our Forefathers

Brothers, Sisters and Friends of Iron Workers Local 44:

I joined this local at the age of 26 in 1997, at a time when I had no clue about the union or what it was really all about. I was just a young man who was tired of working for nothing.

I was warned by my co-workers at the time how horrible unions were, but I went to Local 44 anyway. As it turned out, all the warnings were dead wrong.

What I came to find here at Local 44 was a place to call “home,” and I found out what it was like to truly belong to a brotherhood. I don’t know how to describe it, but as a member of Local 44, I feel like I am part of something bigger, something that matters.

Now eighteen years later, I have the honor and privilege to serve as Local 44’s business agent/organizer. Words cannot express the love I feel for the membership who make up this union.

The men I worked for taught me to take pride in my work, and they helped to shape me into the man that I am today. Believe me when I say, it took a lot of shaping.

As we celebrate this 110th Anniversary, I am amazed at the things that were needed to be done to get us to this point. If the members of the past would not have fought so hard, we might not have even made it. I am truly grateful to those who paved the way before me. I only hope I can continue to build upon the foundation that those men laid.

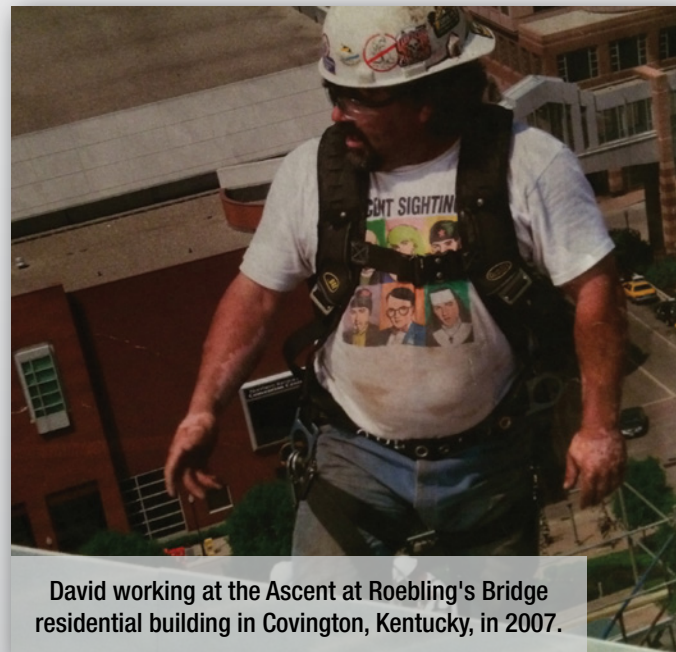
On behalf of all the members of Local 44, I would like to thank all the people who have supported the local and Union Histories for bringing it all into this book.

Happy 110th Anniversary Local 44!

Fraternally Yours,



David Baker  
Business Agent/Organizer  
Iron Workers Local 44, Cincinnati, Ohio



David working at the Ascent at Roebling's Bridge residential building in Covington, Kentucky, in 2007.

## Proud to Be Part of The Local 44 'Family'

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My grandfather, Arthur “Art” Baker, has been a member of Iron Workers Local 44 going on 70 years. Although he was the first in my family to be a member of the Iron Workers Union, counting myself there have been 14 members of my family to follow in his footsteps since 1946.

I am a third-generation iron worker, having started working for Local 44 in May 2005 as the office secretary after graduating from college.

In September 2011, I was given a “Secretary Journeyman” book by the International Iron Workers, and it was one of the proudest days of my career. In November 2013, I was nominated for recording secretary and in December I won the election — becoming the first woman to be elected to that position and serve on the Executive Board in the history of Iron Workers Local 44.

As we all know, training is key to making our local the very best; that is why I am also so proud to be able to help mold our new apprentices by teaching math in our training program.

It has truly been an honor to work for Local 44 and be a part of this local’s history.

Thank you all for believing in me and giving me the chance to work with you and for you.

Fraternally yours,



Vicki L. Bunner  
Office Secretary / Recording Secretary  
Iron Workers Local 44, Cincinnati, Ohio



This book was proudly produced by

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**Iron Workers Local No. 44 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:**

International Association of Iron Workers International Office, Ironworker Magazine  
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Main Branch, Local History Department

Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson  
Art Direction: Andy Taucher  
Layout & Design: Steven Demanett





THE 110-YEAR HISTORY OF IRON WORKERS LOCAL No. 44

# A LEGACY OF SERVICE TO GREATER CINCINNATI

*Chartered February 2, 1905*



*“Members of our local living and dead are responsible for our history. We must all do our part to perpetuate the tradition left for us. With courage, determination and, above all, pride in our trade, this local union will continue growing, providing services for its members and building Cincinnati.”*

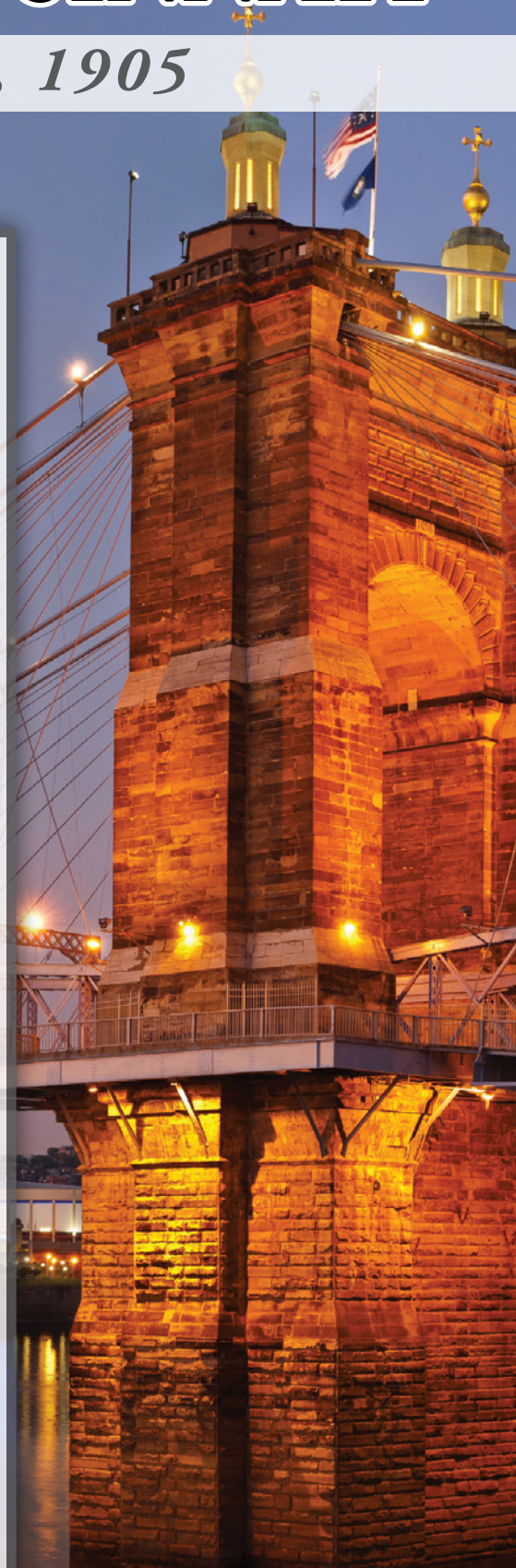
– Iron Workers Local 44’s 75th Anniversary Program, 1980

When International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers Local No. 26 was organized in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 30, 1902, United Metal Workers’ International Union Local 1 had already existed in the city since October 1, 1900. Brother O.H. Hill, International organizer and president of Architectural and Ornamental Iron Workers Local 63 of Chicago, described the precarious situation in the February 1905 *Bridgemen’s Magazine*:

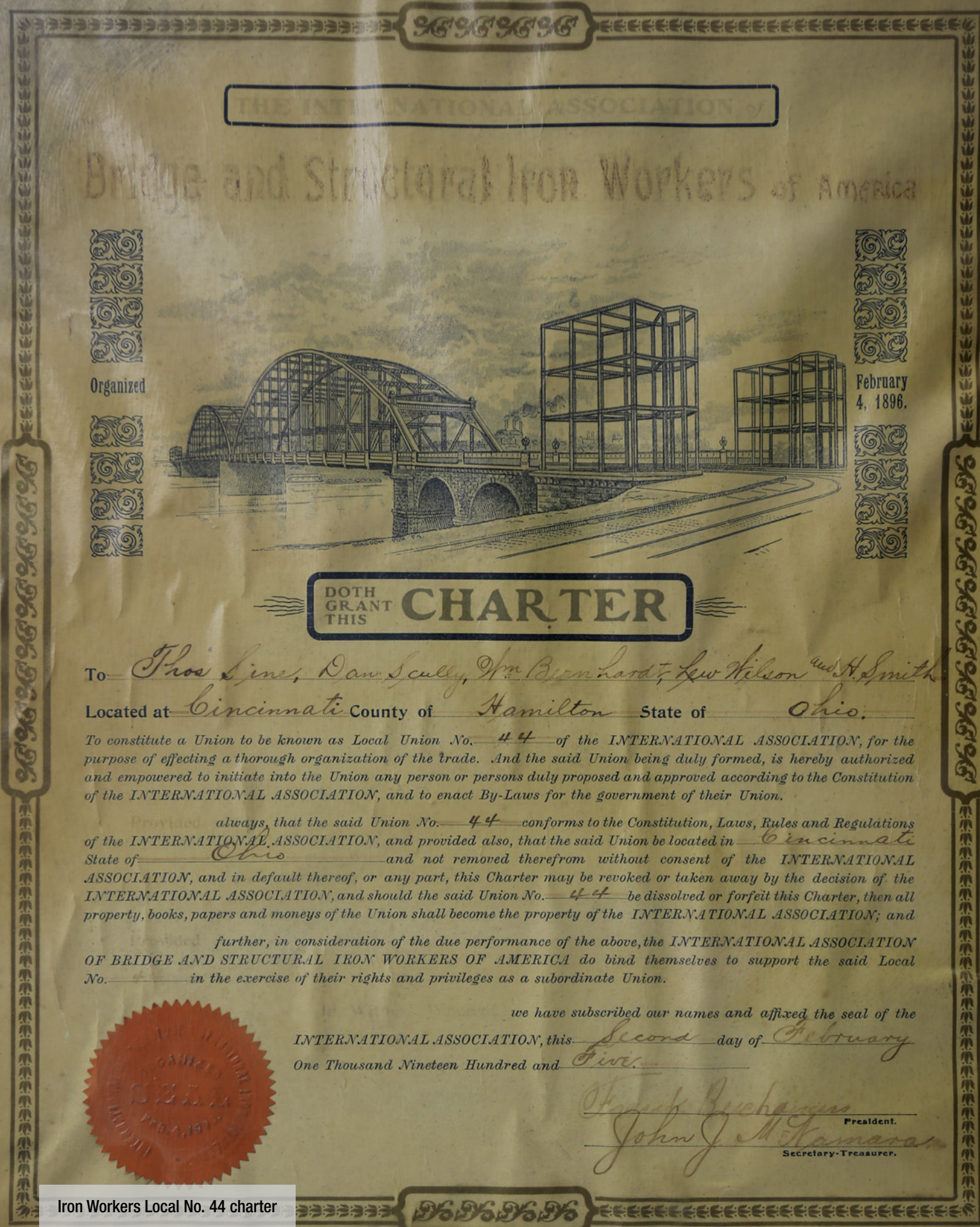
*“When the Bridgemen’s organization was formed in Cincinnati, there was an Association of Metal Workers Local No. 1, which had been in the field for some time, but owing to their slow method and stand-still doctrine, the more aggressive mechanics, some of which were members of No. 1, started, with the assistance of Bro. Buchanan, No. 26, and from that time we have had nothing but war in Cincinnati, which has been a very heavy load on the International, rather than help.”*

By 1905, the relationship between the two locals was contentious, if not volatile, as the roughly 130 members of Local 1 were working exclusively on buildings while only about half of the roughly 65 members of Local 26 had “had a day’s work in a year at structural work.” Brother Hill went on to further explain the crisis that had taken hold over the previous few years:

*“International officers have visited this local from time to time, but as soon as they left everything went back to the old conditions, and as a consequence, No. 26 has never been able to control any home contracts in their city, but had to wait for an outside firm to come in to hire them, and Metal Workers No. 1 got all the work for home contractors because their wage scale was 30 cents and nine hours, as against 45 cents and eight hours of No. 26.”*







Iron Workers Local No. 44 charter

As Brother Hill declared, “an amalgamation of these men was an absolute necessity for the benefit of not only those who work in Cincinnati but our entire membership.” To that end, the two unions met in early February, and as a result, the locals merged to form **Bridge and Structural Iron Workers Local 44** and **Inside Architectural, Bridge and Structural Iron Workers Local 47**, which were chartered for Cincinnati on **February 2, 1905**.

**Iron Workers International President Frank Buchanan** reported on the amalgamation proceedings and meeting with Local 1 in the February 1905 *Bridgemen's Magazine*:

*“This meeting resulted in the ratification of a proposition to amalgamate with No. 26 and to divide their membership into two locals, to be chartered by the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers; one to consist of the men qualified to do erection work, and the other of men who work in structural and ornamental iron assembling shops.*

*“The movement to affect this amalgamation has been going on for about six months, and with the good efforts of No. 26, assisted by some of the members of the Metal Workers, we were finally able to get them to see that their interest laid in this amalgamation. ... This amalgamation is very gratifying and will unify the forces of the men who work at the structural iron industry in Cincinnati and vicinity, and make it possible for them to establish and maintain fair conditions.”*

Brother Hill also hailed the benefits of the merger and further expressed his hopes for the resultant organization of iron workers in the city:

*“Instead of one union fighting the other in Cincinnati, we will have two unions, one Bridge and Structural, who will also control the finishers or ornamental men on the buildings, and one shop local; each local will have near 200 members to start.”*

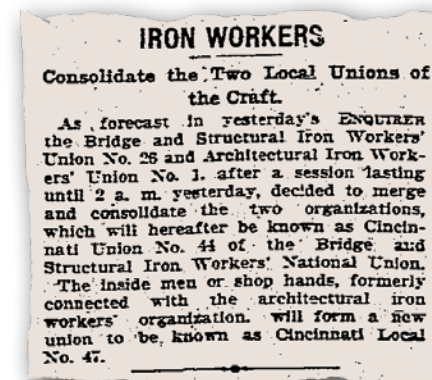


The steel for the first all-steel ship hull built in the United States was fabricated in 1905 or 1906 by L. Schreiber & Sons Company of Cincinnati with a crew from Local 44 before being sent to Needles, California, to be assembled.

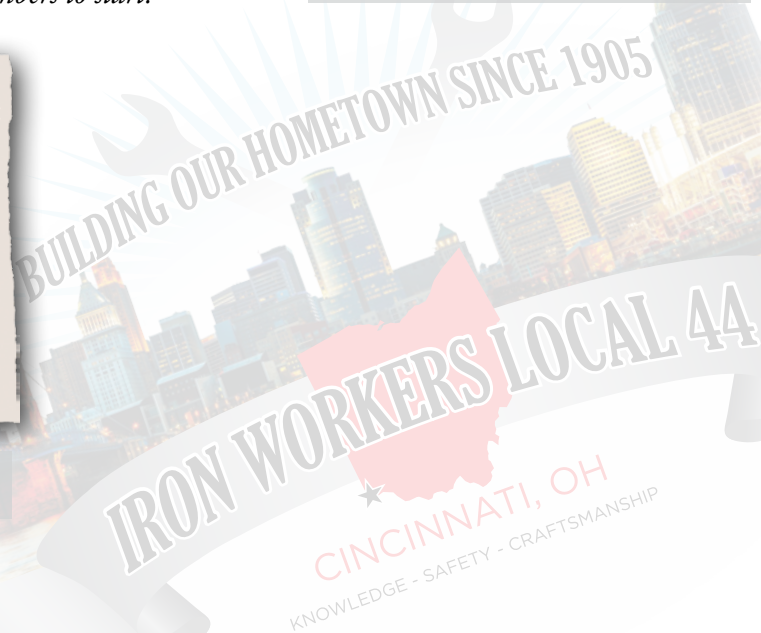
The family of Local 44 charter member Harry Smith gave this photo of the hull to Elmer C. Schwarz, local project director for the National Iron Workers and Employers Training Program in Cincinnati, who submitted it to *The Ironworker* magazine in 1971.

No. 44, Cincinnati, O.—Meets at 522 Walnut St., Wednesday evenings.  
Thos. Sine ..... P.  
Dan Scully ..... R. S.  
Lou Wilson ..... T.  
Wm. Bernhardt, 1518 Jones St. .... F. S.  
Harry Smith ..... B. A.

*Bridgemen's Magazine*, February 1905



*Bridgemen's Magazine*, March 1905







Local 44's first secretary, William Barnhardt, went on to exalt the formation of his new local in the March 1905 *Bridgemen's*:

LOCAL NO. 44.  
Cincinnati, O., Feb. 27, 1905.  
Editor Bridgemen's Magazine:  
Dear Sir and Bro.:—It has been some time since the brothers have heard anything from this locality, but I hope some of them won't faint from surprise at hearing from Cincinnati.  
Well, to start, I will say that we have come to the end that the iron workers have been looking for for the last three years, uniting the forces of the iron workers in Cincinnati. And I will say that it has come about with little friction and the best of good will and harmony to all. Heretofore, it has been one fighting the other with the bosses reaping the harvests. But now it is shoulder to shoulder, for that one purpose, unity is strength. Bro. O. H. Hill, of Local No. 63, of Chicago, was chairman when the amalgamation took place and handled it very nicely to the satisfaction of all. Some brothers wanted to skip out and store a few away, but our honorable chairman, Brother Hill, stated that he didn't think they were any drier than he was. So that settled the point.

## SURVIVING A PROLONGED INITIAL STRIKE

While Iron Workers Local 44 had received its charter, Brother Hill returned to Cincinnati a few days later to officially obligate and enroll its members into the International. On February 7, 1905, the local elected its officers, which Brother Hill installed (while also installing Local 47's officers – who were former members of Local 1) and soon after commented in the March *Bridgemen's Magazine*:

*"It has been my aim and object to install harmony in our locals, and among our members; and in no city, or local, of our International is peace and harmony more necessary than in Cincinnati. I may say that the future progress of both locals there depends more upon the harmonious and fraternal workings of their members, than all the assistance that the International could possibly render."*

After paying its charter fee on February 9, the fledgling Iron Workers Local 44 held its initial general membership meetings at **522 Walnut Street** on Wednesday evenings. By March, meetings were being held at **1324 Vine Street**.

However, work for the local was slow that first year; as Secretary Barnhardt described in a February 27, 1905, letter that appeared in the March *Bridgemen's*, "They are doing nothing but tearing down

buildings and it will be some time before they get started on the foundations, at least five or six weeks." In fact, the only erection work at the time was a bridge on the Southern Railroad at Ludlow, Kentucky, erected by C. L. Strobel & Co. of Chicago with **Brother Mike Galvin** superintending about 25 members on the job; several spans being put in at Springfield, Ohio, by contractor K. & A. with **Brother Kirk Harrison** in charge of 12 men; and a job at Liberty, Indiana, where about 12 more members were under **Brother Alex M. Hall**.

But soon after, **Local 44 went on strike beginning April 1, 1905**, against the **Iron League of Cincinnati** for the next four months, although some firms did sign with the local early into the stoppage. The *Cincinnati Enquirer* reported that evening that Local 44's members, who had been receiving 45-cents-an-hour pay for nine-hour workdays, were asking for 50 cents an hour and eight-hour workdays.

President Buchanan explained the strike more explicitly in his report to the May 1905 *Bridgemen's Magazine* as such:

*"The Iron League of Cincinnati refused to meet Local No. 44 and also refuses to give them the conditions of the agreement of old Local No. 26, which was 45 cents an hour and eight hours, but asked them to work for 30 cents an hour and nine hours, which they refuse to do, and they went out on strike the first of April."*

*"Local No. 47, the shop local, made an earnest effort, through their Executive Board, to secure an agreement with the representatives of the Iron League who desire to force them into an agreement where they would be compelled to do the erection work which rightfully belongs to Local No. 44, which they refused to agree to on Monday, April 3rd, and voted almost unanimously to reject the bosses' proposition and go out on strike with Local No. 44."*

Brother Buchanan had even attempted to hold a conference with the Iron League, "for the purpose of taking up the agreement paragraph by paragraph and finding the objectionable parts to the agreement," but to no avail. The members of the League, he reported, had informed him "if they complied with our agreement that they could not succeed in their business" – to which the president replied, "I am at a loss to know how this statement is true when other structural iron erectors in that locality are succeeding and complying with the agreement there."

Local 44 sent four delegates to the Iron Workers International Convention in 1905, held in Philadelphia: John Donahue, Harry Smith, Dan Scully and James Malone.

## IRON WORKERS

Will Lay Down Their Tools To-Day  
and Mass Meeting Will Be Held  
To-Morrow.

*Cincinnati Enquirer*, April 1, 1905



But so determined was Local 44 to win a favorable settlement that during a mass meeting on April 2 with Local 47 and their “friends and sympathizers,” the local passed the following resolution along with Local 47 and the **International Union of Steam Engineers** in the city:

#### A RESOLUTION.

Whereas, The conditions surrounding the men employed by the Iron League, in the city of Cincinnati and vicinity are far below that of other cities, and

Whereas, The members of the Iron League have shown no disposition to treat with their employes on the question of a wage scale, and

Whereas, The dangerous class of work necessary to be done by these employes, is of such a nature as to make it necessary that they should receive a fair compensation for their labor, and

Whereas, It has become necessary for the members of Local Union No. 44 of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers to cease to work, for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the unfair employers of the Iron League, therefore be it

Resolved, That the men who work in the structural iron industry in Cincinnati, stand as a unit until this contest is brought to a successful termination, and be it further

Resolved, That we call upon the trades union organizations in Cincinnati and vicinity, and the public in general to give us their moral support in our contention for justice and a fair remuneration for our labor.

This contest is one of great importance to our International Association, and I would appeal to our entire membership to give their full support to bring it to a successful issue. However, I hope to bring this matter to an early settlement, but if it is necessary for our membership to fight to a finish for a just remuneration for their labor, they should be supported to the fullest extent in doing so.

Despite the union’s best intentions, the strike dragged on into May – and became quite fierce at times. The May 16, 1905, Cincinnati Enquirer even declared that the strike “reached a critical stage” the day before when non-union iron workers were hired to work on the city’s new **Havlin Hotel**, which was being erected by The Stewart Iron Works Company and watched by several police patrolmen throughout the day.

The *Enquirer* went on to describe the ensuing altercation that evening:

*“... When the strike-breakers quit for the day, about 5 p.m., foreman Millard F. Carr, accompanied by two of his workmen, boarded an East End car for their homes.*

*“As the car approached Pearl and Butler streets, Carr and his companions were standing on the rear platform when several men, supposed to be strikers who are on picket duty around the shops of the Stewart Company, which is only one square north, got on the car. Two of the men held Foreman Carr while the third beat him in the face unmercifully, blacking his eyes, and then throwing him off the car.”*

The next day, the Employers’ Association applied in the city’s Superior Court for an injunction “to restrain the structural iron union men from interfering with the work on the new Havlin Hotel,” the May 17 *Cincinnati Enquirer* reported. Earlier in the day, nearly 100 union shop hands voluntarily returned to their old positions, according to the newspaper – although it did note that those men were “not the class that usually follow the dangerous work of steel construction” and that the iron workers claimed “their ranks are still intact and that the pressing need for their services will force a settlement of the strike within a few days.”

The hostilities did not end so soon, however, as on May 19 detectives and police raided the Local 44 union hall in search of Local 44 **Second Vice President James Harrigan**, who had been charged with assault against a foreman for the L. Schreiber & Sons Company during an incident the previous day. According to the *Enquirer*, “As the officers were forcing their way into the meeting, Harrigan escaped, it is supposed, by jumping from a window in the rear.”

Meanwhile, the contractors had secured their injunction against the union. Secretary Barnhardt explained in the June 1905 *Bridgemen’s Magazine* how it would have no affect on the strikers:

*“The Iron League of Cincinnati, being unable to get our members to return to work by false promises and coercive methods, have resorted to that favorite weapon that all labor oppressors resort to when suffering defeat from a trade union that is peacefully, legally and successfully conducting a strike against them. They will not, however, with the injunction weapon added to their unscrupulous methods be able to coerce our members to return to work and sacrifice their rights as trades unionists.”*

The strike was finally settled in July with a compromise that gave Local 44 an agreement providing its members 40 cents per hour for nine hours a day until April 1, 1906, and then **50 cents per hour and eight-hour workdays** from then until April 1, 1907. The strike did, however, deplete the local’s treasury of “all its surplus and other funds,” forcing the local to “curtail expenses for organization work,” Brother Barnhardt reported – while suggesting the International



A group of Local 44 brothers who escorted the remains of Brother W. K. Wolf to his final resting place in Evergreen Cemetery in Newport, Kentucky, following his death on June 17, 1905, after he fell 70 feet at job in Ludlow, Kentucky.

#### AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

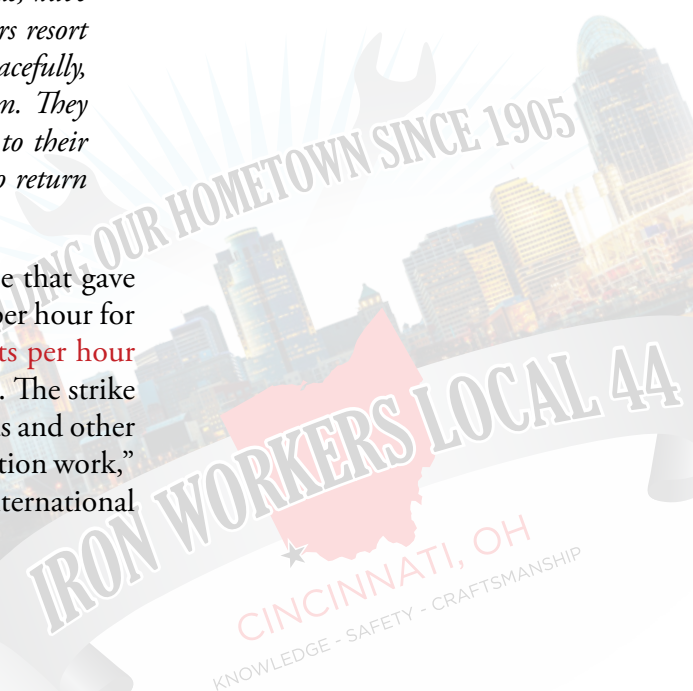
To the Editor:

I desire to use the columns of the Official Journal to convey my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the officers and members of Local 44, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for the services rendered and the courtesies extended to me in connection with the death and funeral of my deceased brother, W. K. Wolf, a member of Local No. 44; I wish to thank Bros. Bernhart and Bray particularly for the interest they took in the matter. Such conduct serves to cement the ties of unionism more strongly and bring us closer to one another. With best wishes I am,

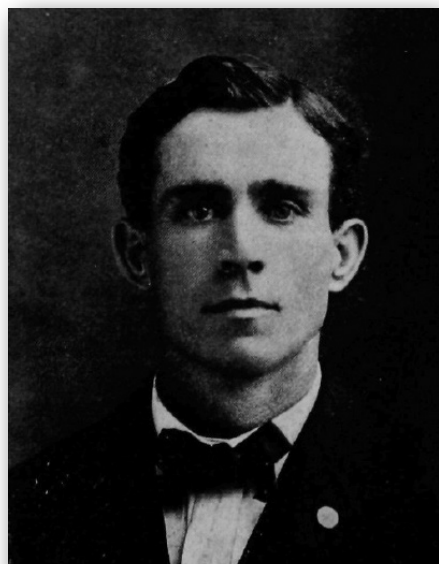
Yours fraternally,

S. C. Wolf.

*Bridgemen’s Magazine, September 1905*







Local 44 Brother John Donahue, 1906

create a “surplus fund” to be used for emergency purposes such as strikes and lockouts.

The local’s secretary in the July 1905 *Bridgemen’s Magazine* also had a message of caution and reconciliation for the contractors:

*“From a pedestal of disdain and scorn this obstructor (the Iron League) of industrial advancement has been brought to a realization of the fact that a fair day’s wages and fair conditions to the employee is productive of a fair day’s work and advanced returns for the employer. ... The Cincinnati Iron League has always been a good and hard fighter, and now that they have seen the error of their way, we are willing to return the sword to the scabbard and march hand in hand along the highway to progress and prosperity.”*

Soon afterwards, work picked up for Local 44, and all its members were working along with some travelers from sister Iron Workers locals. Among the projects on which the local’s members worked during the late summer and fall of 1905 were a 10-story power building at 4th and Elm streets in the city being erected by Oscar Daniels & Company with **Brother William Wall** in charge; a Barney & Smith car shop being erected by McClintic & Marshall Company with **Brother Warren Gilliland** in charge and **Brother G. Handlin** as “pusher;” and bridge repairs in Miamisburg on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad being done by H.&A. with **Brother John Ramsey** in charge.

## CONTINUING THE FIGHT TO CARRY ON

The inside “shoppers” of Iron Workers Local 47 were transferred into Local 44 during 1906 – a move that would be at the center of another labor dispute between the local and its contractors. Although they had signed the agreement with Local 44 just the year before, members of the Iron League and the Employers’ Association refused to pay the increased rate “except to men engaged on bridge work or the erection of large buildings,” the April 11 *Cincinnati Enquirer* reported.

At noon on April 10, 1906, about 40 members of Local 44 employed by Schreiber & Sons and by the Walton Iron Works went on strike in protest. The balance of the membership of about 200 iron workers stopped working by the next day, before the employers eventually capitulated.

At the time, the only large structure under construction in the city by the union iron workers was the new **Sinton Hotel**, according to the newspaper. Then in January 1907, the remaining members

of Local 47 amalgamated with **Finishers Local 88**, which had also been formed in 1905.

When the new contract ended in July 1907, Local 44 was again forced to strike for a new agreement with better wages and conditions. But jobs for the local’s members were plentiful at the time, as Secretary Barnhardt described in the June 1907 *Bridgemen’s Magazine*:

*“There is enough work here at present to keep what brothers are here at work and the strike situation looks pretty good. As soon as the strike is settled, we will need a few more men here. ... As soon as our trouble is settled, if it is settled with the Iron League, Cincinnati will have about as much work as she ever had, and I hope the brothers will try their utmost to get established on a good, sound basis and get down to business while we have the opportunity.”*

A few of the jobs employing Local 44 members at the time were a hotel building at Springfield, Ohio, being erected by Tan Dorn Iron Company and a machine shop and foundry for the Cincinnati Milling Machine Company being erected by the Interstate Engineering Company with **Brother George Fuller** as superintendent and **Brother Joe Labelle** as foreman.

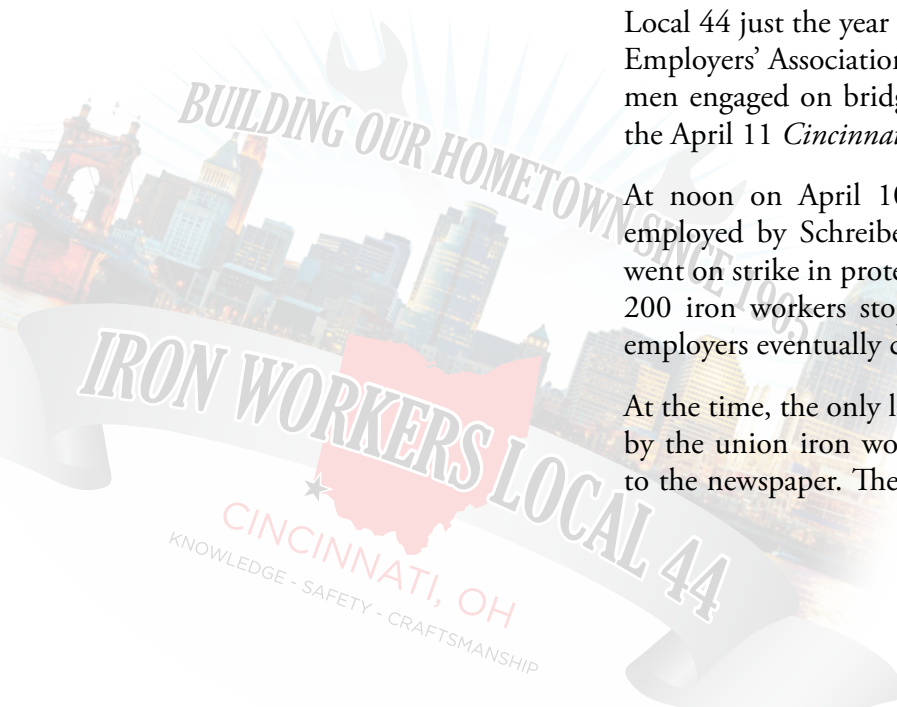
The following year, the local’s employment condition took a downturn, and by May 1908 there were at least 50 of its iron workers idled for the ensuing couple of months. Meanwhile, the local’s agreement with the Iron League expired May 1 without a new contract being immediately signed.

As non-union iron workers were repeatedly employed on projects around the city, the situation again became tense and then – literally – explosive. On May 8, 1909, dynamite was detonated on two piers on Budd Street that had just been constructed by non-union labor working for the Riter-Conley Construction Company, and two weeks later on May 24, another explosion damaged two iron girders that were to be used by Riter-Conley workers on piers being erected for the elevated railroad near Front Street.

While no one was immediately charged with the crime, the May 25 *Enquirer* reported, “The blame for the outrages is laid by the members of the contracting firm upon the disgruntled union iron workers because the company permits an open shop plan.”

Employment continued to wane throughout 1909, and Local 44

Downtown Cincinnati, 1908





took the fight for jobs for its members directly to the Cincinnati City Council that year. On October 4, in fact, Local 44 **President Edwin F. Clark** made a plea that the city assist with the hiring of more residents of Cincinnati for construction work, reading a letter to council that in part stated:

*“At the present time there are unusually many unemployed in this city in all the crafts. It has been the custom, and in conformity with law, that all contracts made by the city be awarded to the lowest bidders. This necessarily means that many of the city’s contracts are given to contractors outside of Cincinnati. While we realize that the awarding of contracts to non-residents cannot be avoided under the law, yet we believe the influence of Council, either by resolution or otherwise, can compel these non-resident contractors to employ home labor on their various contracts.”*

In June 1910, Local 88 was merged into Local 44, bringing its membership to about 80 iron workers and finishers.

## GAINING STRENGTH AND RECOGNITION

There was a steady amount of work for Local 44’s members during the early 1910s, including several large projects within the City of Cincinnati. In particular at that time, the local worked on the 32-story **Union Central Life Insurance Building** (now known as the 4th & Vine Tower and formerly the Central Trust Bank Building) on the Ohio River waterfront. When construction of the office tower was completed in 1913, it was the fifth-tallest building in the world, the second tallest outside of New York City and the tallest in Cincinnati until 1930.

During construction, Local 44 iron workers walked off the job with other building-trades unions for a week beginning August 26, 1912, in support of the Stone Cutters Union, whose members had refused to handle stone purchased from non-union quarries in Vermont. The iron workers – several of whom were travelers – again stopped working on September 14 because of difficulties between the two different plumbing and steamfitting unions on the job, but they returned several days later in defiance of the city’s Building Trades Council because, as the September 23 *Cincinnati Enquirer* noted, “the iron workers, in point of numbers, suffer most by the strike on the big skyscraper.”

On May 1, 1913 – “May Day” or “Strike Day” – between 70 and 80 union iron workers drop their tools at the skyscraper because they had recently

been refused an increase of 2-1/2 cents an hour. However, the men returned to work within a couple of days.

But just the year before, Local 44 **Press Secretary George J. Binder** had reported on the improving conditions in the city for the local’s membership in the June 1912 *Bridgemen’s Magazine*:

*“The local firms have now very nearly all signed up, with a good increase for the ornamental finishers, doing away with the sliding scale and putting each and every finisher on an equal footing of 50 cents per hour. The abandoning of the sliding scale is in itself quite a victory, let alone the increase, which gives some of the finishers an increase of from four to eight dollars per week.*

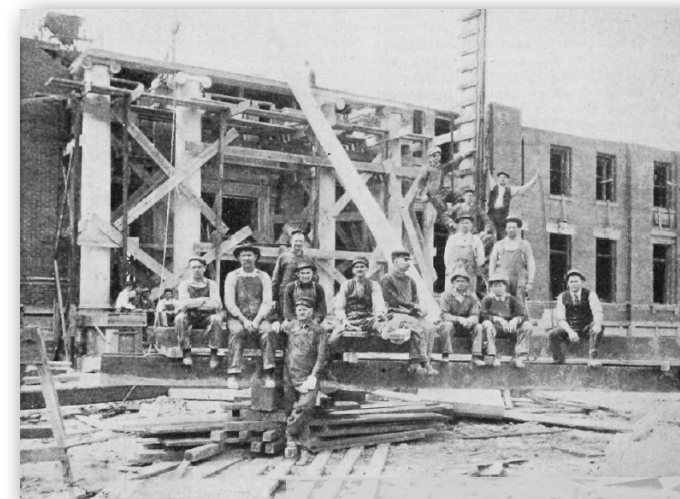
*“The structural men have the same scale as usual, 60 cents per hour, not having made a demand for more money, but were loyal to their fellow brothers and went out on strike with the finishers and remained out until the victory was gained.*

*“The majority of the brothers are all working and things are now running very smoothly. There are one or two very large jobs here and more coming up, if the weather permits I think we are going to have a good summer and winter for the boys.”*

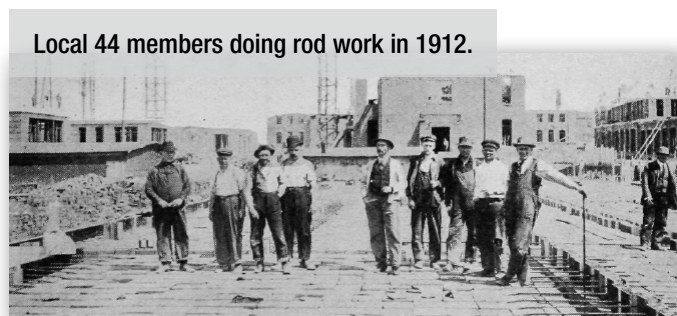
In June 1913, the local made a significant breakthrough with the Harig Company of Cincinnati, who was the general contractor for the 11-story **Reibold Building** that was just rising from the ground in the city. As **International General Organizer J. H. Barry** described, “Our Cincinnati local has had considerable trouble with this company in the past, but after they tried both union and non-union men they learned that the most competent and reliable workmen are the fellows who carry our card” – and afterwards, a number of Local 44 members were on the Reibold job beginning that month.

By that time, the local had also finally reached a new agreement with its employers for 62-1/2 cents per hour in wages. What’s more, the contractors agreed to use Local 44 members on all of their reinforced-concrete work.

Construction in the area slowed over the next few years, during which time Local 44 received only 5 cents in total wage increases. Meanwhile, the International Union chartered **Local 143** in Cincinnati for its ironworking shopmen on July 17, 1913 (although the local would be declared defunct on August 31, 1914).



Local 44 crew on a jobsite in 1912.



Local 44 members doing rod work in 1912.



Union Central Life Insurance Co. Building (Image from The New York Public Library.)





Local 44 members working on a bridge over the Big Miami River in Cleves, Ohio, in 1914.

Despite the downturn, Local 44 did continue to work on several major projects in the area, including the 12-story **Gwynne Building** in Cincinnati, which was completed in 1914 (and was registered in the National Register of Historic Buildings on August 3, 1979). That year, the local's members also erected a bridge over the Big Miami River in Cleves, Ohio, and a viaduct for the Cincinnati Southern Railroad using girders weighing 78 tons each.

Employment picked up again beginning in late 1916, and the local was busy on the new Cincinnati courthouse, among other jobs, as Local 44 **Press Secretary Bert Wagner** was able to announce in the November 1916 *Bridgemen's*, "Some work here for any of the boys who can drift in soon." In fact, the need for iron workers became so extreme that the Local 44 Executive Board declared during its October 27, 1917, meeting, "Owing to the constant demand for men, the board recommends that we allow possible members to work at the trade by paying 50 cents per day temporarily until the situation is relieved during the present crisis."

That year, members of Local 44 were also doing the iron work on a Union Gas and Electric Company plant at Front and Race streets in Cincinnati and a plant for the General Refractors Company that was being installed by the Kilgore Construction Company of Chicago. When finished, the General Refractors facility was one of the largest brick plants in the country.

Local 44 was also working on the new city jail by early 1918. However, its members walked off the job in sympathy of the riggers who were in a jurisdictional dispute with the elevator erectors over who had the right to place tanks for the elevator equipment in the new **Hamilton County Courthouse** being built in Cincinnati, according to the March 6, 1918, *Enquirer*.

Then on May 1, Local 44 ornamental members quit working when their demands for a new contract with an

hourly wage increase from 65 cents to 75 cents were rejected by the Employers' Association and the General Construction Company. About 2,000 building trades workers joined them in a sympathy strike on May 3, affecting scores of projects, large and small, across the city, including the new courthouse, the *Enquirer* reported on May 4, 1918.

The strike continued into September, before which time the local did reach a new agreement with the Iron League. In the end, Local 44 negotiated for the 10-cent increase from the Employers' Association to bring its ornamental wages to 75 cents an hour.

By that time, Iron Workers **Local 44-A** had been established in Dayton by Local 44 **Business Agent John Luchsinger** as a sub-local to Cincinnati on May 2, 1918, although it would be defunct by November 30 that year. The following year, the International Union chartered **Iron Workers Local 290** in Dayton on May 14, 1919, with 20 members.

Over the final year and a half of the decade, Local 44 received an additional 40 cents in total wage increases. But work declined again by the end of the 1910s – to the point where the local gave back 35 cents an hour to its contractors in an effort to stimulate construction in Cincinnati.

## STEADFAST THEN ROARING IN THE '20S

Local 44 recovered as it entered the early 1920s, and Brother Luchsinger even reported to the 1920 Iron Workers International Convention that his local's members "are enjoying good conditions." Indeed, by then the local was controlling all rod work in its jurisdiction and it had successfully arbitrated all of the jurisdictional difficulties it was having with several of the building trades.

The iron workers of Cincinnati again went on strike in November 1920 after the Building Trades Council's Wage Reduction Board proposed a wage reduction for trades "as a means of avoiding abuses in sympathetic strikes in the building trades," the May 12, 1921, *Enquirer* reported.

During that time, because of the increased use of reinforced concrete in construction, the Local 44 Executive Board agreed that a separate local was needed to handle that work. On March 31, 1921, **Rodmen's Local 372** was chartered by the International Union; Local 44 **Brother Joe Obermeyer** became Local 372's first business agent – a position he held for 27 years.

Together, locals 44 and 372 then formed the **Iron Workers District**

## Local 44 World War I Honor Roll

Frank Hart  
John "Jack" Dempsey  
Harry Smith Jr.

**IRON WORKERS WALK OUT.**  
Contractors at Carthage Fair Grounds To Hire New Force.  
Five structural iron workers employed on a new art building in the course of construction at Carthage Fair Grounds went on strike yesterday afternoon. James Davis, Business Agent for the Structural Iron Workers' Union, said the men walked out because Henry Wittmann, for whom the men were working, obtained the contract from the H. Ley Company, the first contractor, which the union considers unfair to its organization. Davis said, although Wittmann is fair to the union, the men would not return to work until the Ley Company signed an agreement with the organization. Howard M. Ley, President of the Ley Company, said last night new men would be put on the job this morning.

*Cincinnati Enquirer*, July 15, 1918

Local 44 and sister Cincinnati Iron Workers locals 142 (riggers) and 208 (piledrivers and dock builders) formed the **District Council of Cincinnati, Ohio and vicinity** in 1918.

Gwynne Building (Photo courtesy of *cincinnativiews.net*.)





Local Union No. 44  
CINCINNATI, O., Feb. 6, 1925.  
*Editor of Bridgemen's Magazine—Greeting:*  
Local Union No. 44, Cincinnati, Ohio, sent out an appeal for financial aid for Brother Chas. Wilson, Card 19995, who was badly crippled on a job at Louisville, Ky., and wishes to acknowledge the following receipts, which have been turned over to Brother Wilson up to date:  
Local No. 179, \$10; Local No. 301, \$5.50; Local No. 59, \$2.94; Local No. 60, \$10; Local No. 118, \$5; Local No. 40, \$10; Local No. 19, \$5; Local No. 20, \$31.50; Local No. 2, \$6.30; Local No. 229, \$14; Local No. 33, \$5; Local No. 107, \$10; Local No. 97, \$33; Local No. 25, \$15; Local No. 374, \$6.40; Local No. 135, \$5; Local No. 350, \$4; Local No. 387, \$8; Local No. 377, \$11.40; Local No. 373, \$41; Local No. 67, \$4.37.  
Brother Wilson and family wish to thank all the locals and members for the aid given them.  
J. A. ANSLINGER,  
Secretary, Local No. 44.

Bridgemen's Magazine, March 1925



Local 44 Brother John Luchsinger (shown here in 1928), who served as the local's business agent from 1921 to 1925 before being named an International Representative.

**Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity.** The two locals settled the strike with their contractors on May 12, taking a temporary wage reduction from \$1.25 an hour to 90 cents, while still receiving no benefits for healthcare or retirement.

Up until that time, Local 44's trades classification had been "undesigned;" but in June 1921, it officially became a "structural and ornamental" local. (That designation would change in February 1924, when the local was re-classified for "structural, ornamental, riggers and machinery movers" – which would not change again until 1960.)

Transfers out of Local 44 and into Local 372 and a lack of work dropped Local 44's membership from about 180 in 1920 to about 70 in early 1922. But work was good for the local during much of 1922 and 1923, as nearly all of its membership was employed most of the time during those years; additionally, by the end of 1923, Riggers Local 142 had been amalgamated into Local 44, increasing its membership by about 40 more workers.

Again in April 1924, Local 44 was forced to contend with the Wage Board – except this time it was with the contractors' insistence on not abiding by wages set by the board and instead lowering wages to \$1.12-1/2 cents per hour ("in accord with what was being done relatively in other cities," they claimed). In a letter dated April 18, 1924, the Architectural Iron League further informed Local 44, "As fabricators of structural steel and ornamental iron and bronze work, employing only men of one union, we cannot recognize a scale of wages that has been fixed by other contractors who employ your men only occasionally or possibly whenever it suits their convenience to do so."

The Iron League did concede to a short-term scale of \$1.15 per hour for journeyman finishers. However, by June 11, 1924, no new agreement was in place and the Iron League threatened Local 44:

*"That the members of this League, in order to terminate a disagreeable situation, are agreed to employ the outside help, on the basis of the same wages and the same conditions under which the members of your local are now being employed by such concerns who are recognizing the so-called Wage Board Understanding, this to be in effect to January 24, 1925."*

Jurisdictional disputes also continued and escalated throughout the 1920s and 1930s, including constant battles with the carpenters over the installation pressed steel beams in various construction projects. Iron Workers **International General Secretary-Treasurer W. J. McCain** even sent a letter on behalf

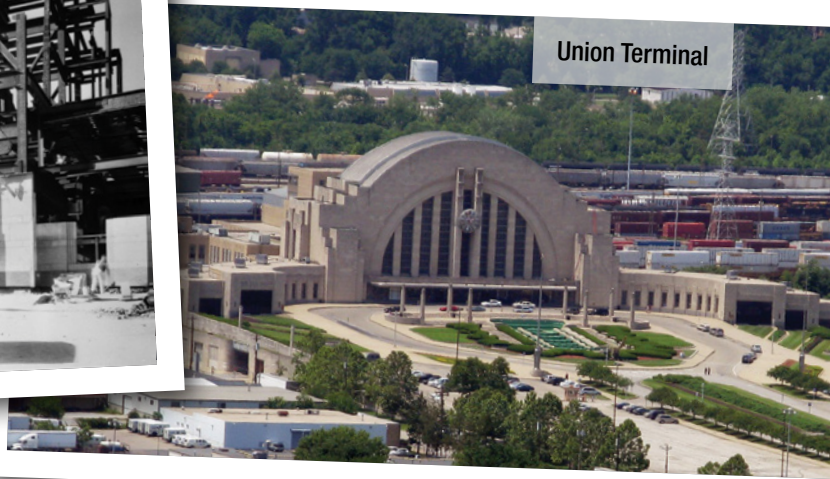
Local 44 crew at Union Terminal construction site in June 1932.



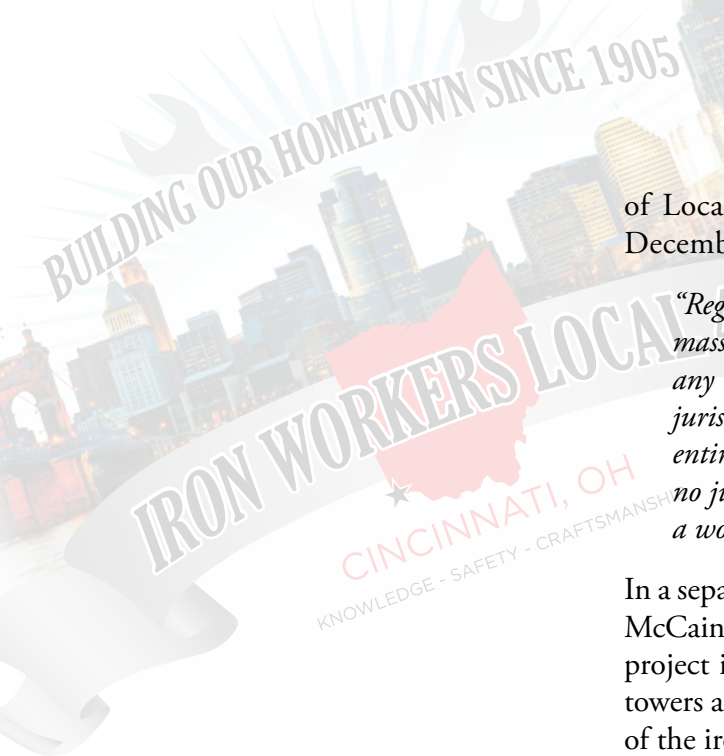
Cincinnati's Union Terminal train station under construction in 1930.



Union Terminal







of Local 44 to the Cincinnati Building Trades Council dated December 10, 1928, stating:

*“Regarding who has jurisdiction over the installation of massillon bar joists I will state it is inconceivable to me how any other organization outside of the iron workers can claim jurisdiction over the installation of these joists as they are made entirely of iron and are welded, and certainly carpenters have no jurisdiction over material of this kind as the carpenters are a wood working craft.”*

In a separate correspondence that same day to the Council, Brother McCain referenced electrical workers at the municipal power plant project in Hamilton, Ohio, erecting steel going into transmission towers and transformers. That work, he stated, was the jurisdiction of the iron workers.

(Almost eight years later on May 5, 1936, the iron workers and Local 44 would hold a meeting with the carpenters and both of their employing contractors to “settle a dispute on the Wyoming School job between the carpenters and the iron workers relative to the installation of metal bar joists.”)

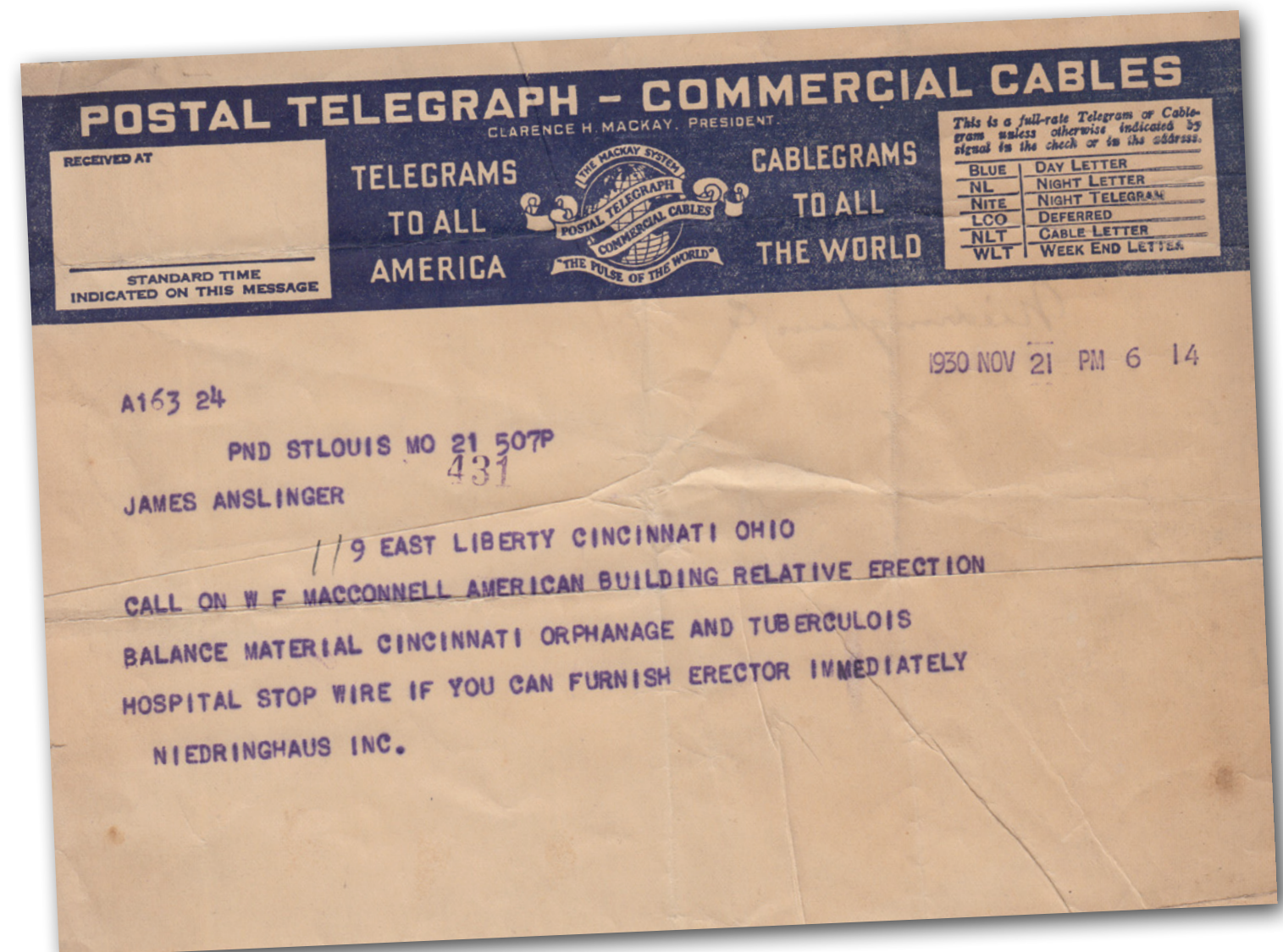
Nearing the end of the 1920s, Local 44’s members were again earning \$1.25 per hour, and membership jumped from 203 in March 1924 to more than 330 in 1927, despite occasional slow periods of work. By late 1928, among the projects on which the local was working was the City of Hamilton’s new power plant under contractor **R. H. Bunnoset**.

However, membership dropped abruptly by year’s end to about 250 as work slowed considerably, with only about 65 percent of the membership employed at times – many of whom were only working part time.

### OVERCOMING THE DEPRESSION, WAR

The construction industry in Cincinnati was doing well in 1929 before the stock market crash that year initiated the **Great Depression**. Local 44 members were working on the **Carew Hotel** soon after, however, with Overland Steel setting its first column on March 6, 1930.

But the local went on strike against Overland on March 24 because the company was using non-union workers on the Empire State Building in New York City. Before



walking out, Local 44 workers had completed three stories of the hotel in 15 days; when they returned on May 17, they topped-out the remaining 45 floors – consisting of 15,000 tons of iron – in 46 days, setting a new world record for steel erection.

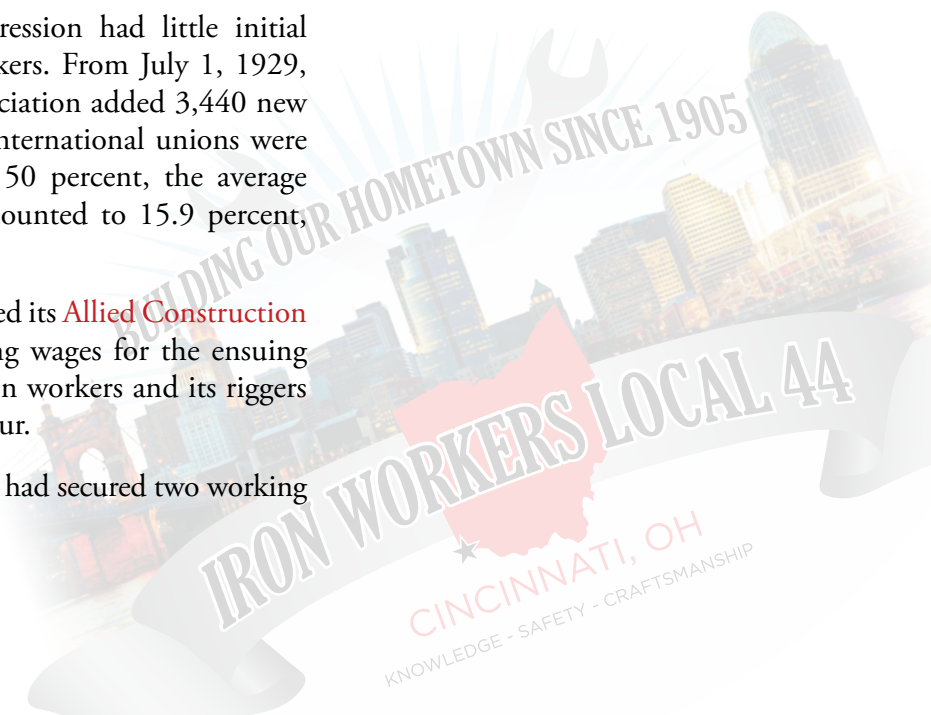
Locally and nationally, the Great Depression had little initial impact on the employment of iron workers. From July 1, 1929, to June 30, 1930, the International Association added 3,440 new members to its ranks, and while other international unions were experiencing wage reductions of up to 50 percent, the average reduction of all Iron Workers locals amounted to 15.9 percent, according to the International.

In fact, on April 17, 1930, Local 44 notified its **Allied Construction Industry** employers that it was requesting wages for the ensuing year for its structural and ornamental iron workers and its riggers to be increased to \$1.62-1/2 cents per hour.

Importantly, the International Association had secured two working



Carew Tower







The Simon Kenton Memorial Bridge, crossing the Ohio River between Maysville, Kentucky, and Aberdeen, Ohio, under construction by Local 44 members in 1931.

Wage Scales Local No. 44 Cincinnati, Ohio			
		Scale... per hour	Increase over the Preceding Year
June 1, 1939 to March 1, 1940	War broke out in Europe Sept. 39	\$1.52½	
March 1, 1940 to June 1, 1940		\$1.55	2½¢
June 1, 1940 to June 1, 1941		\$1.55	
June 1, 1941 to June 1, 1942	Pearl Harbor - bombed Dec. 7-41	\$1.62½	7½¢
June 1, 1942 to June 1, 1943	War Year	\$1.67½	5¢
June 1, 1943 to June 1, 1944	War Year	\$1.67½	
June 1, 1944 to June 1, 1945	War Year	\$1.72½	5¢
June 1, 1945 to June 1, 1946	Reconversion Work	\$1.77½	5¢
June 1, 1946 to June 1, 1947		\$1.92½	15¢
June 1, 1947 to June 1, 1948		\$2.10	17½¢
June 1, 1948 to June 1, 1949		\$2.35	25¢
June 1, 1949 to June 1, 1950		\$2.42½	7½¢
June 1, 1950 to Oct. 30, 1950	Korean War broke out - June 25, 1950	\$2.42½	
Oct. 30, 1950 to March 1, 1951		\$2.45	2½¢
March 1, 1951 to June 1, 1951		\$2.50	5¢
June 1, 1951 to June 1, 1952	* See Circular Letter No. 571	\$2.66½	16½¢
June 1, 1952 to June 1, 1953	**	\$2.81½	15¢
June 1, 1953 to June 1, 1954		\$2.91½	10¢
June 1, 1954 to Jan. 15, 1955	7 wk. Strike - June 18 - Aug. 4, 1954	\$3.04	12½¢
Jan. 15, 1955 to June 1, 1955	(5½ Months)	\$3.11½	7½¢
June 1, 1955 to June 1, 1956		\$3.20	8½¢
June 1, 1956 to June 1, 1957		\$3.35	15¢
June 1, 1957 to June 1, 1958		\$3.50	15¢

\* Circular Letter No. 571 dated Oct. 10, 1951 said that the Wage Stabilization Commission would allow only a 10% increase based on the scale of Wages existing as of July 1, 1950. In as-much as local No. 44 had received a total of (7½¢) increase since July 1, 1950, we were only allowed to negotiate for a (16½¢) increase, which made a total of (24¢). This was the maximum increase allowable under the provisions outlined in Circular letter No. 571.

\*\* The Union signed up the Contractors Association to the "Welfare Plan." This was to be paid at the rate of (7½¢) per hour - per employee into the Ironworkers Welfare Plan. The Contractor was to begin making payments into the Fund the first full payroll period after Nov. 1, 1952.

All members of the Union were to become eligible the first of February 1955 - regardless of time in the local.

agreements at the time, one of which was the **Bridge Erectors' Agreement**, which covered the nationwide jobs of "fair" contractors in the Structural Steel and Bridge Erectors' Association. As part of the contract, iron workers took a wage reduction and worked six days a week so that those employers "could compete with unfair contractors."

The Depression and unemployment "finally caught up with the iron workers within two years after the crash as building construction nearly came to a halt," according to the International. During that time, the union lost almost 50 percent of its paid membership nationwide – but despite that, nearly every Iron Workers local remained intact as the International Association officers "were leaders in New Deal efforts to get labor back on its feet again."

In 1931 throughout Cincinnati, construction workers were being rotated on jobs to help provide employment for more workers. Wages were frozen for 13 months, and in 1932 building tradesmen agreed to a 20-cent-per-hour reduction in pay in another attempt to stimulate construction in the city.

Local 44 members had started working on the **Cincinnati Union Terminal** train station in August 1929, and the \$41 million facility was completed on March 31, 1933. (*One of the last great train stations ever built in the United States, Union Terminal has since become home to three museums and the Cincinnati History Library and Archives.*)

Continuing its efforts to assist its membership during the Depression, the International's Executive Board renewed the Bridge Erectors' Agreement on July 10, 1933, and even revised it to cover building and other forms of iron and steel erection to further assist the union's members.

Local 44 then became part of an International-wide endeavor to organize ironworking shopmen. As the International Association explained:

*"It was not until our brothers engaged in erection realized*

*that if we were to be successful in organizing our trade, the fabricators would have to be organized, and this would not only benefit the shopmen in wages and working conditions, but would also help the erection worker by stopping the practice of the fabricator using shopmen to erect his work (at shop rates, of course)."*

Subsequently, the Shopmen Organizing Campaign was initiated at the 25th International Convention held in 1936. Soon after, **Shopmen's Local 522** was chartered in Cincinnati on May 1, 1937, with 45 members initially under the guidance of Local 44. (*In 2015, Local 522 celebrated its 78th anniversary.*)

By 1937, Local 44's wage scale had returned to \$1.50. What's more, the local's members agreed to dispense with electing officers for the next five years because, as the local's 75th Anniversary essay testifies, "It seems that Local 44 members were well satisfied with their



Local 44 riggers at work at the new Cincinnati Times-Star Building at 800 Broadway Street, circa 1933: (front row) James Davis (third), Short Lawson (fourth), W.M. Crawford (sixth), George Turner (seventh) and Clarence Keller (eighth); Joe Turner (back row right); and John White (in back, right, in front of light). The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings on November 25, 1983.



## ‘Jack’ Dempsey: Member Rose to International Office

In 1939, Iron Workers International General President P. J. Moran selected Local 44 Business Agent John J. “Jack” Dempsey to serve as the International’s general treasurer, a position he held until his death 20 years later on December 20, 1959 – at which time Brother Dempsey had been a member of the Iron Workers for over 42 years.

Brother Dempsey became an iron worker in 1916 and a journeyman member of Local 44 in November 1917. He worked at the trade continuously except for the year he was in France during World War I. At the time of his appointment to general treasurer, he had been business representative of Local 44 for 10 years and had served as its president for five years.

In announcing his passing, the *Bridgemen’s Magazine* reflected: “Jack,” as he was familiarly known to his many friends, was always a staunch trade unionist completely dedicated to the welfare of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers.”

business agent, Jack Dempsey, and the way he represented them.”

During World War II, Local 44’s wages remained at about \$1.65. After the war, however, wages and membership increased rapidly; in 1947, the local had 350 members who were making \$2.10 per hour, but in 1950, the local had 450 members making \$2.45.

In between, the local sought increases for its busy craftsmen several times; its April 26, 1946, meeting minutes even recorded:

*“After reading the Wage Committee report on the contractors’ offer of a 12-1/2-cent-per-hour increase, it was a motion made by Brother L.E. Buckley, seconded to Brother Irwin McCormick, that Local 44 stand pat on our demands for a 22-1/2-cent-per-hour increase, and to notify the contractors accordingly. This motion carried unanimously, 103 members approving.”*

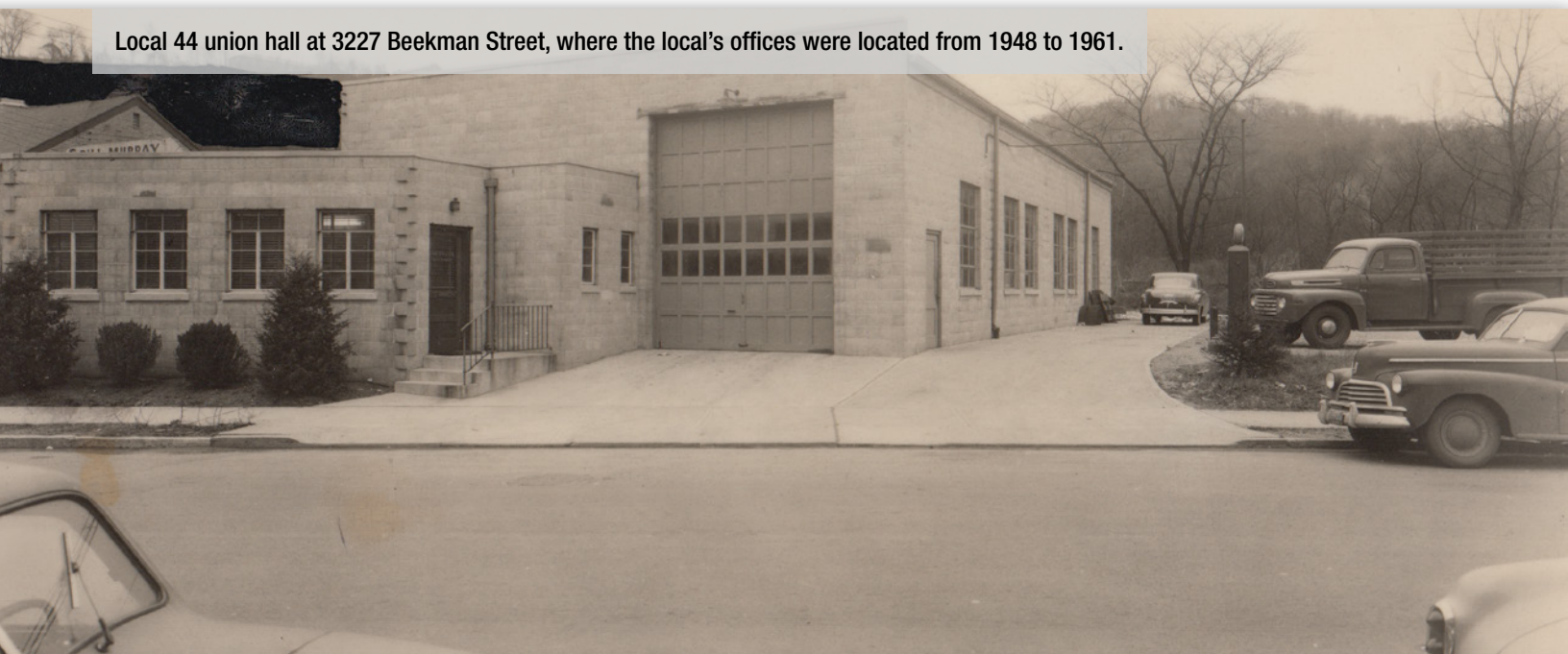
The following February, the local was again seeking a wage increase from \$1.92-1/2 to \$2.25 per hour.

Directly after the war, Local 44 still pushed for higher pay; its officers even asked the International Office in January 1948 if it could request a 65-cent-per-hour wage boost, although it was denied because the increase would not be “in conformity with the conditions as existing in Cincinnati and vicinity.”

With employment good and its members working steadily, Local 44 purchased a new union hall at 3227 Beekman Street in 1948 – the first union-hall building it ever owned. That year, its structural and ornamental members were earning \$2.35 per hour while working 40-hour weeks.

The following year and into the 1950s, Local 44 journeyman iron workers were earning \$2.42-1/2 per hour, although they still were not receiving any additional welfare benefits from their employers.

Local 44 union hall at 3227 Beekman Street, where the local’s offices were located from 1948 to 1961.



Local 44 members (left to right) Arthur J. Baker Sr., Roger Motley, Jerry Schwartz and Donald “Red” McGillivray and (back) “Beer Barrel” Morgan work on a bridge over the Little Miami River for the American Bridge Company in 1952.

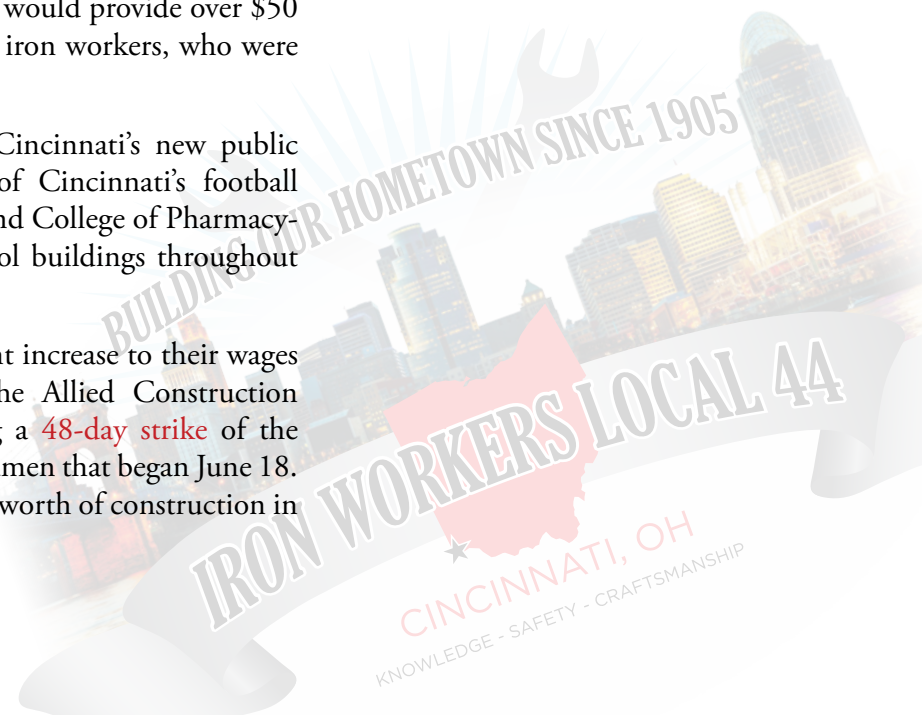
## GROWING AND GAINING MORE BENEFITS

By 1951, Local 44 and Cincinnati locals 372 and 522, Columbus locals 172 and 626, Dayton Local 290 and Terre Haute, Indiana, Local 439 had formed the District Council of Southern Ohio and Vicinity. Later that year, Local 44’s wages increased to \$2.66-1/2 per hour.

Then, while being paid \$2.81-1/2 cents per hour, Local 44 members finally received healthcare benefits in early 1953 when the District Council developed a Health and Welfare Plan for its locals. Members’ initial contributions were 7-1/2 cents per hour worked. (Over the next 27 years, the plan would provide over \$50 million worth of coverage to the district’s iron workers, who were paying \$1 per hour into it by 1980.)

Meanwhile, Local 44 was working on Cincinnati’s new public library, an addition to the University of Cincinnati’s football stadium, the university’s new fieldhouse and College of Pharmacy-Biology building and several public school buildings throughout the city.

Local 44 and 372 received a nearly 20-cent increase to their wages from the 30 member contractors of the Allied Construction Industries on August 5, 1954, following a 48-day strike of the locals’ 750 structural-steel workers and rodmen that began June 18. After work resumed on millions of dollars worth of construction in





# Advancing Member Training Remains a Priority

By 1955, Local 44 had begun setting up its official, formal apprenticeship program and school; two years later, its apprentices were attending classes at Central High School in Cincinnati. The local held its first “completion ceremonies” on January 14, 1959, for its graduating apprentices.

Among many other efforts, in 1969 Local 44 became part of the National Iron Workers and Employers Training Program for recruitment and training of minorities. The program was completely funded by the government, and the Local 44 75th Anniversary program described its benefits:

*“In the better than 10 years the program has been in existence, we’ve given scores of minorities, blacks, Indians and in the last few years women the opportunity to learn our trade, earn a decent living and raise their families with dignity.”*

By 1980, the local’s training program had educated hundreds of highly qualified journeymen and had a full-time training coordinator and five instructors. In 2015, the four-year curriculum consists of 850 total hours of technical training in three areas: safety, skill-building and history. Journeyman iron worker upgrade-training is also provided to members throughout the year and consists of six classes: Forklift Training, First Aid/CPR, Lift Trainings, Subpar R, Lead and Asbestos Awareness and OSHA 10- and 30-hour courses.

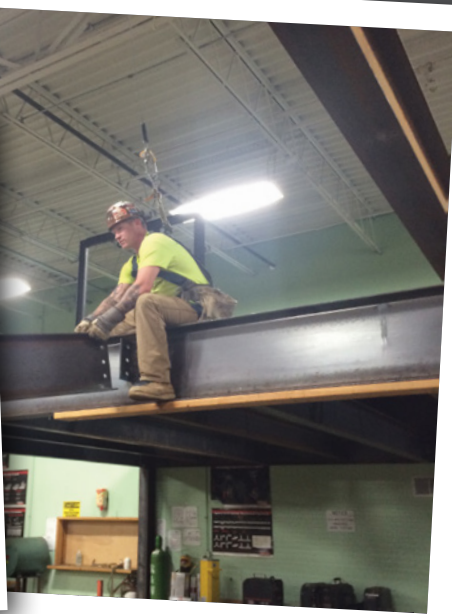
Local 44 had been renting space from area vocational schools for that training prior to 2009, but that year when the local moved into its new union hall, the space also included the local’s own training center. The facility includes 2,000 square feet of total classroom space, 4,500 square feet of total shop space and 20 welding booths – further enhancing the union’s world-class, hands-on training of about 70 apprentices each year.



Attending Local 44’s very first apprentice graduation ceremony in January 1959 were (front row, left to right) instructor George (Bud) Dooley, apprentice Harold Jones and apprentice Robert Merrill; (second row) apprentices Charles Grizzell, Bruce Adkins, Leonard Smith and Thomas Leahy; and (standing) William L. Sells of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, apprentice Edward Traurig, instructor Doug Baker, General Organizer Ray Armstrong and International Director of Apprenticeship J. W. Hardesty.



Local 44 Training Center, 2015



greater Cincinnati with the one-year wage agreement, the *Cincinnati Post* reported that day, “A directive from the union’s International headquarters signaled resumption of work on some \$40 million to \$50 million in building projects. A union spokesman said the international used its authority to end strikes.”

As construction continued to flourish within its jurisdiction, the local on June 3, 1955, made a motion for the appointment of an assistant business agent. The local then circulated petitions for members to sign, which read:

*“Due to existing conditions in our jurisdiction such as the loss of work because of the large area to be controlled and the inability of one man to cover all the jobs and attend all the necessary meetings, I feel that it would help our local to have an assistant business agent and I move that the president appoint a man to serve in this capacity until the next scheduled election when the office of business agent shall be designated by the candidate with the largest amount of votes polled the office of assistant business agent the one with the second-largest amount.”*

Dues book, 1952.

I. A. B. S. & O. I. W.

INITIATION Stamp

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that in consideration of Initiation fee of \$100.00 duly paid or transfer of Local Union No. 44

N. B.—This book is void without regular Initiation Stamp.

Richard Eckert (Name)

WELDER 500623 (Classification) (Number)

is hereby granted membership in the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers Affiliated with AFL-CIO

By Local Union No. 44 of CINCINNATI, OHIO

Sept 5, 1952

Robert Thelk (President)

Arthur J. Baker (Financial Secretary)

IRON WORKERS LOCAL 44

544 E. 12th St. (Secretary's Address)

CINCINNATI 10, OHIO

Dues book, 1956

Ruth Hooten

INITIATION Stamp

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that in consideration of Initiation fee of \$380 duly paid or transfer of Local Union No. 380

N. B.—This book is void without regular Initiation Stamp.

HERBERT PETTY (Name)

JOURNEYMAN IRONWORKER 431745 (Classification) (Number)

is hereby granted membership in the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers Affiliated with AFL-CIO

By Local Union No. 112 of PEORIA, ILL.

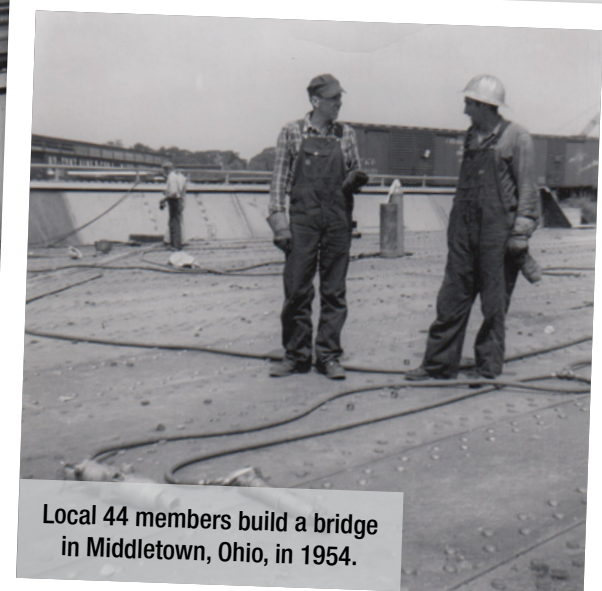
DEC. 10, 1956

James C. Conkey (President)

Arthur J. Baker (Financial Secretary)

400 N. Jefferson (Secretary's Address)





Local 44 members build a bridge in Middletown, Ohio, in 1954.



By the second half of 1955, Local 44's wages were \$3.20 an hour. Over the second half of the decade, pay continued to escalate, highlighted on June 17, 1959, when 550 members went on strike demanding higher wages – and after the work stoppage was settled in August, pay reached \$3.80 by 1960.

Meanwhile, the local's members were also working on projects that included the **Markland Locks and Dam**, a 1,395-foot concrete dam bridge and locks that span the Ohio River between Gallatin County, Kentucky, and Switzerland County, Indiana, beginning in 1956. Construction on the locks began in March that year and they were placed in operation in May 1959, while the dam construction began in April 1959 and was finished in June 1964.

During 1961, after deciding that the neighborhood in which its Beekman Street union hall was located was “going downhill,” Local 44 bought a building at 544 East 12th Street in Cincinnati for its new home. The local purchased the building for \$18,500 and spent another \$10,000 on improvements to it, and it would serve as the Local 44 union hall until 1982.

The District Council also developed a **Pension Plan** for Local 44 and its sister locals in 1961, with an initial contribution of 10 cents per hour. At the time, a special provision entitled any retiree who had been a member of the union for at least 10 years

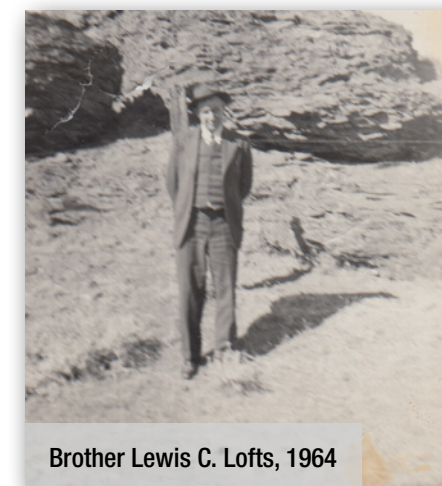
Local 44 members build a bridge crossing Beechmont Avenue in Cincinnati over the Little Miami River in 1954.



to a \$25-per-month-pension. *(The Local 44 75th Anniversary program reported on the plan: “Through the years, this contribution has been increased and there is presently over \$65 million in our Pension Fund. Last year alone, close to \$5 million was paid to members out of this fund.”)*

Construction on the **Daniel Carter Beard Bridge**, a twin-span, steel-tied arch bridge carrying Interstate-471 across the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Newport, Kentucky, began that year and would be a significant employer for Local 44 until its completion in January 1976.

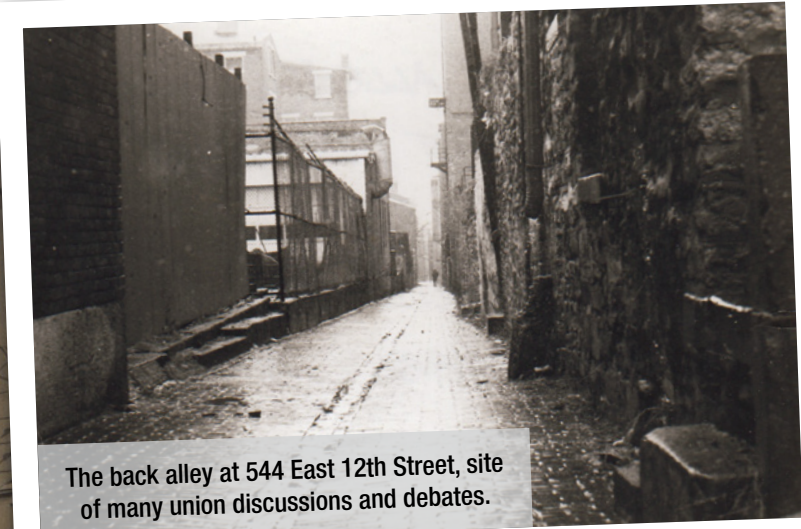
**Riverfront Stadium** (which would be renamed Cinergy Field from 1996 until it was closed and demolished in 2002) was yet another jewel project in the crown of the “Queen City” that was erected by Local 44's members. Construction on the \$45 million, multi-purpose facility that was home to the Cincinnati Reds and the Cincinnati Bengals began on February 1, 1968, and was completed by June 30, 1970, for the Reds' game that day against the Atlanta Braves. (Just two weeks later on July 14, 1970, Riverfront hosted the 1970 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.)



Brother Lewis C. Lofts, 1964



Local 44 union hall at 544 East 12th Street, where the local's offices were located from 1961 to 1982.



The back alley at 544 East 12th Street, site of many union discussions and debates.



# Local 44 Earned Victory for Safety in 1968

After losing about four men during the previous six years and having dozens more injured as the result of "Nelson Bolts," Local 44 won a long, hard-fought battle in August 1968 with contractors who agreed they would no longer weld the bolts onto beams. The bolts, known in the trade by the name of their longtime supplier, the Nelson Company, would trip workers or catch their clothing or boot laces.

Nelson Bolts would stick up in one, two or three rows along structural beams to strengthen them when concrete floors were poured over the beams. A new contract between the local and its contractors stipulated the bolts would no longer be used as of July 1, 1968.

Later in the decade, Local 44 members could also be found building the **J. M. Stuart Station** powerhouse in Aberdeen, Ohio. The coal- and diesel-generator facility would have a generating capacity of 2,318 megawatts when completely online by June 1974.

As the 1960s came to an end, Local 44 members were earning \$6.28-1/2 per hour, as well as an additional 25 cents per hour that was being put into the local's Welfare Fund and 45 cents that was being put into its Pension Fund.

## RIDING THE '70S, '80S ROLLERCOASTERS

Local 44 experienced its share of ups and downs in the 1970s, a highlight of the former taking place in 1978 when the local started its **Vacation Plan**. That year, the local also took advantage of an escalation in work and started a **Building Fund**, which just two years later held \$285,000.

Earlier that decade, Local 44 members working for SOFCO Erection Company raised a 340-foot replica of the famous Eiffel Tower in Paris at the new, \$30 million **Kings Island** "super amusement complex" just north of Cincinnati. The tower was built with more than 1.12 million pounds of steel and was set completely by a motor crane at the park, which would also feature the world's longest and fastest roller coaster when it opened in 1972.

By mid-decade, the wage scale for Local 44 reached \$9.99-1/2 per hour, and members were getting 55 cents per hour contributed towards both their welfare and pension plans.

The local voted to strike on June 1, 1976, after its current contract expired; however, the local's nearly 600 members remained on the job the next day. "We're not striking in the morning. We negotiated in good faith with the contractors and we will meet again," Local 44 **Business Manager Jess Chandler** explained in the June 2 *Enquirer*.

The next year, Local 44 iron workers built the **Carroll Lee Cropper Bridge**, a steel, arch-shaped truss bridge over the Ohio River between Indiana and Kentucky providing a four-lane western Ohio River crossing for the Interstate-275 beltway around the Cincinnati area.

With construction booming in and around Cincinnati, by 1978 Local 44 had about 500 active workers locally plus about 300 additional iron workers who

traveled to Cincinnati because of the building surge. At the time, Local 44 was involved in hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars worth of area construction projects, including the **Federated Department Stores** building in downtown Cincinnati and a **Montgomery Wards** distribution center in Sharonville.

But after working a full week with an expired contract, Local 44 reach an agreement on June 8, 1978, with its contractors of the Allied Construction Industries on a new four-year contract. The deal provided the local's nearly 800 members with hourly wage increases that would total \$4.40 and bring total pay to \$15.88 beginning June 1, 1981.

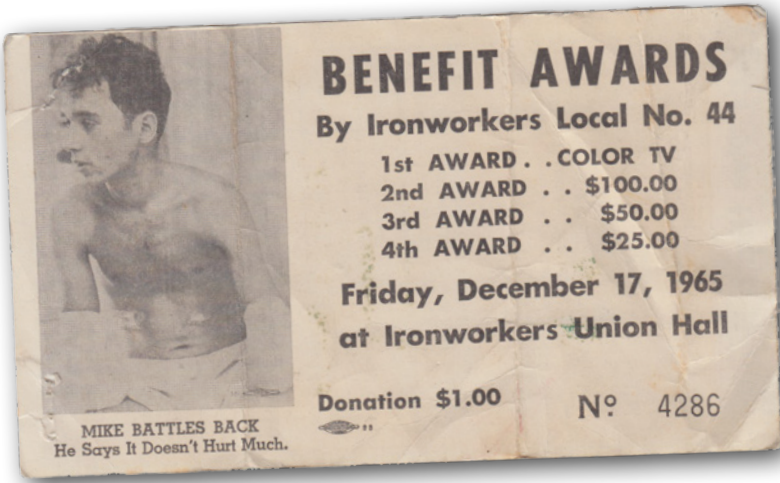
However, the agreement also called for a reduction of overtime wages, as at the time, iron workers were paid double-time for certain



Riverfront Stadium



Local 44 members erect the I-471 "Daniel Carter Beard Bridge" over the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Newport, Kentucky, in 1974. It was opened in January 1976.







Local 44 Spurlock Station No. 2 crew, 1978.

jobs. The new contract stipulated that the union members would only receive time-and-a-half for the first two hours of work beyond eight hours on weekdays and up to eight hours on Saturdays, with any work beyond that paid double-time.

Local 44 **Business Manager Leroy Oberding** lauded the deal in the June 9, 1978, *Enquirer*:

*"I think we got the best contract we could get. The trend across the country is going away from double-time overtime. We used it while we still had it to bargain for higher wages. And under this contract, we'll be one of the highest-paid locals in town."*

That year, Local 44 purchased 7-1/2 acres of land on Red Bank Road near Madison, Kentucky, to construct a new union hall, offices and training center.

By decade's end, the local had also raised yet another span across the Ohio River, the **Combs-Hehl Bridge** twin-span cantilever structure carrying Interstate-275 between Cincinnati and Campbell County, Kentucky. At upwards of 719 feet across, it was opened in December 1979.

The 1980s brought with it another significant breakthrough for Local 44, as along with its \$15.03 in hourly wages and \$1 and \$1.85 per hour contributions to health and pension benefits, respectively, the local and its contractors started an **Apprenticeship Fund**. Initially, 3 cents per hour worked was placed into the account to help fund the local's apprentice-training program.

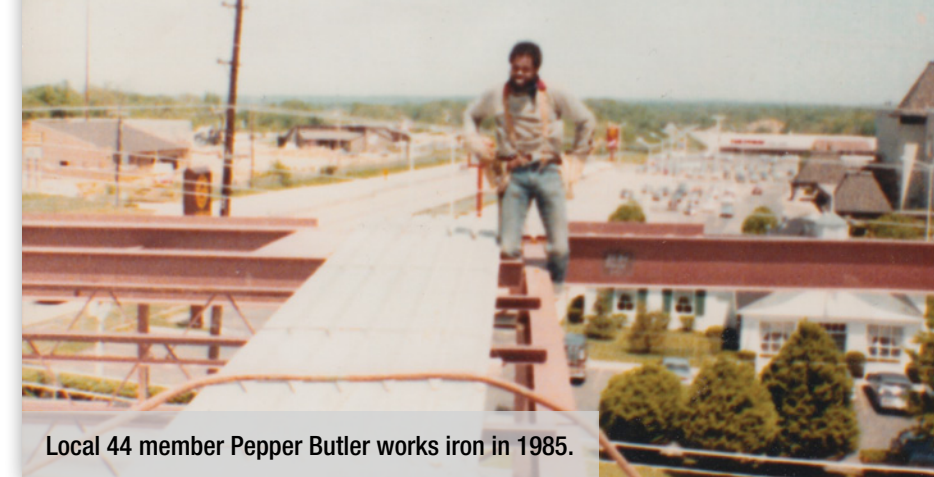
But when the local's four-year contract expired in 1982, it was again forced to strike for a new agreement after rejecting an offer from

contractors for a 55-cent raise over the next two years. The local stopped working on June 6 after the contact ended on May 1.

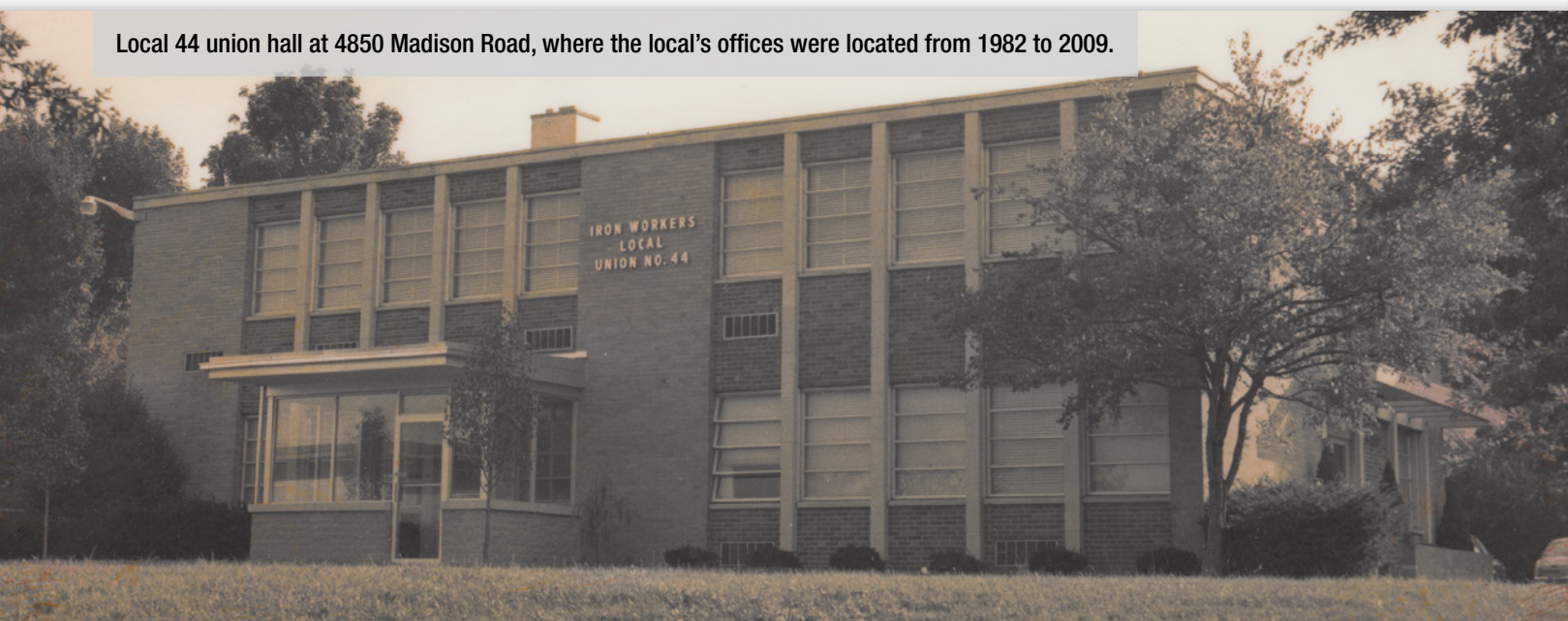
Construction of the **William H. Zimmer Power Station** near Moscow, Ohio, a planned nuclear-reactor facility that had been idled in 1982 because of defective pipe welds and massive cost overruns, was restarted in 1987. With Local 44 members again on the job, the power station would be converted to a coal-fired plant over the next four years.

Once completed in 1991, the \$1 billion Zimmer Power Station was the world's first nuclear-to-coal power plant. *(As of 2012, the plant was the largest single-unit power facility in the United States, according to Duke Energy, which operates Zimmer.)*

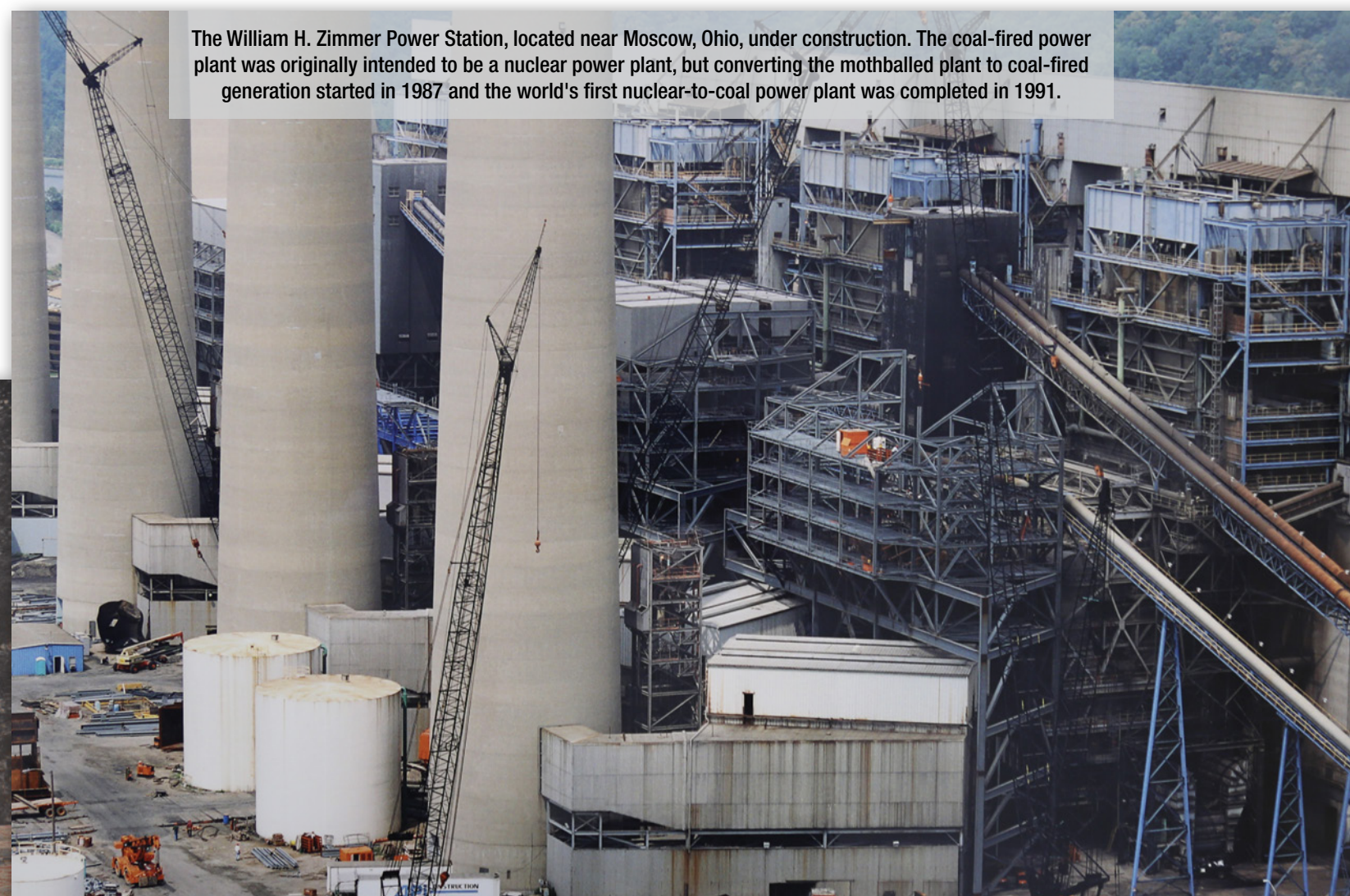
Other employment opportunities for Local 44's membership slowed considerably during the early and mid 1980s, and 200 members were not working at one point in 1983. Regardless, wages continued



Local 44 member Pepper Butler works iron in 1985.



Local 44 union hall at 4850 Madison Road, where the local's offices were located from 1982 to 2009.



The William H. Zimmer Power Station, located near Moscow, Ohio, under construction. The coal-fired power plant was originally intended to be a nuclear power plant, but converting the mothballed plant to coal-fired generation started in 1987 and the world's first nuclear-to-coal power plant was completed in 1991.





Taylor-Southgate Bridge

to climb during the second half of the decade to \$16.03 in 1985 and then to \$17.73 by 1990, at which time the local was also receiving \$2.25 per hour into its health and welfare, \$2.30 into its pension and 8 cents for its training.

### STILL PERFECTING THE ‘HIGH-WIRE ACT’

Approaching a new millennium, Local 44 employment steadied as its members continued to help build the Greater Cincinnati area, which they would continue to do into the 21st Century and up through the local’s 110th anniversary in 2015. During that time, the local put yet another bridge across the Ohio River – this one the **Taylor-Southgate Bridge**, an 1,850-foot continuous-truss bridge carrying U.S. Route 27 between Newport, Kentucky, and Cincinnati that opened in 1995.

To end the 20th Century, among many other projects, Local 44 members could be found at the Kings Island amusement park, building more thrills and fun for future park guests. The local erected two of the park’s signature attractions that opened in 1999: **“Face/Off”** (later renamed Invertigo), the only inverted face-to-face roller coaster in the Midwest, and **“Drop Zone,”** the world’s tallest gyro drop.

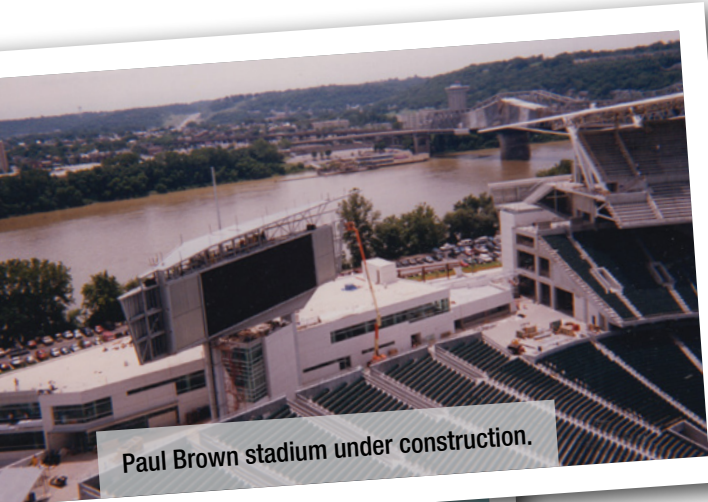
Working for The Fenton Rigging Company of Cincinnati to create the two rides, with **Brother Mike Proud** as project manager and brothers **Mike Wilkerson** (Drop Zone) and **Jim Schoborg** (Face/

Off) as foremen, the projects were completed within budget, on time and without injury. But they were not without their unique challenges, as the June 2000 *Ironworker* magazine described:

*“The erection of the rides had to be well-coordinated due to a tight time schedule, winter weather conditions and a congested area where the rides were to be erected. Local 44 Ironworkers utilized a 140-ton P & H Truck Crane and an 888 Manitowoc Crawler Crane to erect the rides. ...*

*“One of the last and most unique picks was to set the 32,000-pound gearbox and cable drum on top of the 315-foot structure. After the erection of the tower and installation of the guide-rail system, Local 44 iron workers perfectly aligned the tower and rails, utilizing lasers. As the sun passed and rotated daily, the tower would move as much as a foot from the top compared to the bottom. Therefore, all the alignment took place at night to avoid the thermally induced movement of the tower.”*

Local 44 was also constructing one of the shining new edifices for the revitalized downtown area: **Paul**



Paul Brown stadium under construction.



Paul Brown Stadium, completed in 2000.



Local 44 King's Island crew, 2000: (front row, left to right) Ben Hall, Bart Wheelington, Paul Fernbach and Mike Proud; (middle row) operating engineers Urb Besl and Henry Hess; and (back row) Rod Dirkhiesing, Tim jeffers, Gary Ayers, Jim Schoborg, Mike Wilkerson and Chuck Cook.



Great American Ballpark





Ascent Condominiums

## Iron Workers Local 44 Officers, 2015

Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer:  
Lawrence E. Oberding

Business Agent/Organizer: David R. Baker

President: Timothy E. Holt

Vice President: Richard Tibbits Jr.

Recording Secretary: Vicki L. Bunner

Executive Board: John Pruitt Jr., Elvin Taylor,  
Martin Michels, Gregory Marshall, Markus T. West

Examining Committee: John Pruitt Jr.,  
Martin Michels, Jarrod Tiemeier

Trustees: Jon Huxell, Troy Fenty, Jarrod Tiemeier

Sergeant at Arms: Jon Huxell

Conductor: Mitchell Oberding

**Brown Stadium**, which broke ground on April 25, 1998, and was opened on August 19, 2000. The \$455 million home of the Cincinnati Bengals replaced the antiquated Cinergy Field (formerly Riverfront Stadium) with a seating capacity of 65,535.

By that time, the local's journeymen were earning \$20.90 per hour and receiving \$3.05 per hour for Health and Welfare, \$3.70 for their pension, \$2.86 into an annuity and 23 cents into the Apprenticeship Fund.

Meanwhile, work on the **Great American Ball Park** baseball stadium that would be the home field of the Cincinnati Reds began in August 2000 with Local 44 members on site. When the \$290 million park opened on March 31, 2003, the iron workers had erected another destination for sports fans right in downtown Cincinnati.

As Local 44 marked the 100th anniversary since it was chartered in 1905, the local's members in 2005 were earning \$24 per hour in wages. What's more, they were receiving \$5.50 per hour into their Health and Welfare Fund and \$4.45 into their Pension Fund.

Then in March 2008, Local 44 iron workers helped build a true architectural marvel in Covington, Kentucky: the **Ascent at Roebbling's Bridge** residential building. Completed in March 2008 at a cost of about \$50 million, the distinctive, 22-story structure of 70 condominiums slopes outward from its base up to a spiral roof, giving it a truly one-of-a-kind look.

The following year, Local 44 apprentices were starting at about \$16 an hour while a journeyman's hourly wage was about \$26.

One of the most significant – and impressive – projects on which Local 44 members have ever worked began in July 2008 with the start of the **Great American Tower at Queen City Square**, a 41-story skyscraper in downtown Cincinnati. Iron workers employed by Runyon Erectors helped build the \$322 million building, which became the third-tallest building in the State of Ohio when it opened in January 2011.

At 110 years old in 2015, Local 44's 600 iron workers each have spent or are currently spending four years in the local's apprenticeship



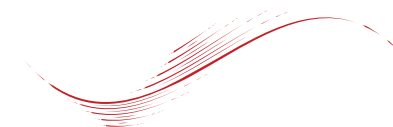
program to master the ironworking trade, obtaining the necessary skills to provide the local's contractors and their customers with the knowledge, safety and craftsmanship to help develop and maintain the Greater Cincinnati region.

Over the years, Local 44 iron workers have built the skeletal framework of both everyday buildings and tall skyscrapers within its jurisdiction. They have installed the glasswork and ornamental panels that decorate the interior and exterior of shopping malls and hospitals, and they have installed the heavy ornate panels of concrete and glass that cover towering buildings, while they also erect warehouses and mini-marts.

Meanwhile, the Local 44 membership has built and maintained the region's power plants while working on the many vital bridges in and around Cincinnati, in addition to schools, churches, the local amusement park, office buildings, stores, factories and countless residential structures.

Indeed, Local 44 has built its hometown over the past 110 years, for as **Brother Riely Thompson** proclaimed in a December 19, 2009, *Cincinnati Enquirer* article entitled "**Ironworkers Perfect High-Wire Act:**"

***"Ironworkers are the kings of the building trades. No one else would be here without us."***



Local 44 members volunteered their time and skills to help build the Northern Kentucky 9/11 Memorial in the Crescent Springs Community Park, which was dedicated on September 11, 2015. Local 44 hosted the dedication reception for the memorial, which is a likeness of the twin World Trade Center towers in New York City that were destroyed in a terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.



Local 44's current union hall at 1125 Victory Place in Hebron, Kentucky, where the local moved in 2009.

Great American Tower





# Iron Workers Local 44 Officers

## Business Managers

**Lawrence E. Oberding**  
1/1/14 - Present

**Jason Mullins**  
1/1/11 - 12/31/13

**Lawrence E. Oberding**  
10/1/09 - 12/31/10

**Charles Tremper Jr.**  
1/1/05 - 9/30/09

**Ronnie Miller**  
1/1/02 - 12/31/04

**Leroy Oberding**  
1/1/78 - 12/31/01

**Ivan Jess Chandler**  
1/1/75 - 12/31/77

**Elmer Schwarz**  
1/1/72 - 12/31/74

**Bud Dooley**  
1/1/67 - 12/31/71

**Milt Davis**  
1/1/65 - 12/31/66

**Bud Dooley**  
1/1/61 - 12/31/64

**Milt Davis**  
1/1/49 - 12/31/60

**Lon Shrader**  
1/1/44 - 12/31/48

**Walter Lindquist**  
1/1/39 - 12/31/43

**John J. “Jack” Dempsey Jr.**  
1/1/30 - 12/31/38

**William Knox**  
1/1/29 - 12/31/29

## Business Agents

**David R. Baker**  
1/1/14 - Present

**Thomas Weingartner**  
1/1/11 - 12/31/13

**Lawrence E. Oberding**  
10/1/06 - 12/31/10

**Albert “Sonny” Mullins**  
1/1/02 - 9/30/06

**Ray Shinkle**  
1/1/84 - 12/31/01

**Bud Dooley**  
1/1/75 - 12/31/83

**Don Bright**  
1/1/72 - 12/31/74

**Ivan Jess Chandler**  
1/1/65 - 12/31/71

**(None) 1/1/63 - 12/31/64**  
Robert Tosella

**1/1/61 - 12/31/62**  
(None) 1930 - 1960

**John J. “Jack” Dempsey Jr.**  
7/26 – 12/29

**William Knox**  
6/25 - 6/26

**John Luchsinger**  
10/22 - 6/25

**John Hayhurst**  
7/22 - 10/22

**Harry Smith Sr.**  
7/21 - 6/22

**John Luchsinger**  
1/18 - 7/21

**Thomas McEwen**  
1/17 - 12/17

**Edward Clark**  
1/08 - (unknown)

**Lew Wilson**  
6/06 - 12/07

**Edward Clark**  
11/05 - 6/06

**Charles Bray**  
3/1905 - 11/05

**Harry Smith**  
2/2/1905 - 3/1905

## Financial Secretaries

**Lawrence E. Oberding**  
1/1/14 - Present

**Jason Mullins**  
1/1/11 - 12/31/13

**Darryl Clarke**  
10/1/09 to 12/31/10

**Phillip Russo**  
1/1/08 - 9/30/09

**Arthur “Jack” Baker**  
1/1/84 - 12/31/07

**Arthur J. Baker Sr.**  
1/1/61 - 12/31/83

**Charles Junker**  
1/1/59 - 12/31/60

**Frank Gall**  
1/1/49 - 12/1/58

**J. A. Anslinger**  
1/23 - 12/1/48

**George H. Keller**  
1/18 - 12/22

**Charles Mueller**  
7/17 - 12/17

**Bert Wagner**  
1/15 - 7/17

**Charles Mueller**  
1/13 - 12/14

**Edward Clark**  
1/10 - 12/12

**William Bernhardt**  
1/07 - 12/09

**W. R. McLean**  
12/05 - 12/06

**William Bernhardt**  
2/2/1905 - 12/05

## Presidents

**Timothy E. Holt**  
1/1/14 - Present

**John Baugh**  
10/1/09 - 12/31/13

**Daniel Krebs**  
1/1/08 - 9/30/09

**Lawrence E. Oberding**  
1/1/02 - 9/30/06

**Charles Tremper Jr.**  
1/1/96 - 12/31/01

**Earl “Blue” McDonald**  
1/1/93 - 12/31/95

**John Hensley**  
1/1/84 - 12/31/92

**William Warf**  
1/1/81 - 12/31/83

**Arthur “Jack” Baker**  
1/1/78 - 12/31/80

**Nelson Tilley**  
1/1/75 - 12/31/77

**Leroy Oberding**  
1/1/72 - 12/31/74

**Robert Tosella**  
1/1/67 - 12/31/71

**Wheeler Crabtree Sr.**  
1/1/65 - 12/31/66

**Ivan Jess Chandler**  
1/1/63 - 12/31/64

**Lee Buckley**  
1/1/61 - 12/31/62

**Ivan Jess Chandler**  
1/1/60 - 12/31/60

**Lee Buckley**  
1/1/57 - 12/31/59

**“Art” Schwarz**  
1/1/55 - 12/31/56

**Irvan McCormick**  
1/1/52 - 12/31/54

**Lee Buckley**  
1/1/49 - 12/31/51

**John Luchsinger**  
1/1/48 - 12/31/48

**Thomas Bealey**  
1/1/47 - 12/31/47

**John Tagert**  
1/1/46 - 12/31/46

**Ray Willoughby**  
1/1/44 - 12/31/45

**Thomas Gearn**s  
1/1/34 - 12/31/43

**J. McCoullough**  
1/1/30 - 12/31/33

**John J. “Jack” Dempsey Jr.**  
7/26 - 12/31/29

**Thomas Gearn**s  
1/25 - 7/26

**Joseph Coombs**  
1/24 - 12/24

**Jason McCollough**  
1/23 - 12/23

**William Bauer**  
7/22 - 12/23

**John Luchsinger**  
7/21 - 6/22

**Charles Stephens**  
4/21 - 7/21

**John Kraft**  
1/21 - 4/21

**Thomas McEwen**  
10/19 - 12/20

**George P. Stockton**  
1/19 - 10/19

**Harry Smith**  
7/17 - 12/18

**Jason McCollough**  
1/17 - 7/17

**Woodford Riley**  
8/16 - 12/16

**Jason McCollough**  
1/16 - 8/16

**Thomas Gearn**s  
1/15 - 12/15

**Harry Smith**  
1/13 - 12/14

**James Davis**  
1/12 - 12/12

**Edward Clark**  
1/08 - 12/11

**Thomas Galloway**  
1/07 -12/07

**James Malone**  
6/06 - 12/06

**John Donohue**  
10/05 - 6/06

**Edward McClain**  
7/05 - 10/05

**M. J. Moore**  
4/05 - 7/05

**Henry Womboldt**  
3/05 - 4/05

**Thomas Sine**  
2/2/1905 - 3/05

## Vice Presidents

**Rick Tibbits**  
1/1/14 - Present

**Mitch Oberding**  
1/1/11 - 12/31/13

**Darryl Clarke**  
1/1/08 - 12/31/10

**Gary Solar**  
1/1/99 - 12/31/07

**Clarence “Babo” Pruitt**  
1/1/96 - 12/31/98

**Gary Solar**  
1/1/81 - 12/31/95

**Richard Seybold**  
1/1/78 - 12/31/80

**(None) 1/1/72 - 12/31/77**  
Richard Herdtner

**1/1/69 - 12/31/71**  
Patrick McLaughlin

**1/1/67 - 12/31/68**  
Eugene Oberding Sr.

**1/1/65 - 12/31/66**  
Ken Collini Sr.

**1/1/63 - 12/31/64**  
(None) 1/1/60 - 12/31/62

**Arthur J. Baker Sr.**  
1/1/57 - 12/31-59

**Clyde Arnold**  
1/1/55 - 12/31/56

**Ivan Jess Chandler**  
1/1/52 - 12/31/54

**Charles Dell**  
1/1/51 - 12/31/51

**Ernie Hurst**  
1/1/50 - 12/31/50

**Thomas Gearn**s  
1/1/46 - 12/31/49

**Frank Edwards**  
1/1/44 - 12/31/45

**John Zoller**  
1/1/42 - 12/31/43

**M. Hurghel**  
1/1/39 - 12/31/41

**A.S. Morgan**  
1/1/35 - 1/1/38

**George Chambers**  
1/1/29 - 1/1/34

## Recording Secretaries

**Vicki Bunner**  
1/1/14 - Present

**Richard Tibbits**  
1/1/05 - 12/31/13

**Roger Oberding**  
1/1/93 - 12/31/04

**Earl “Blue” McDonald**  
1/1/87 - 12/31/92

**Craig Barth**  
1/1/81 - 12/31/86

**Robert Tosella**  
1/1/78 - 12/31/80

**Carlton Crisler**  
1/1/72 - 12/31/77

**Earl Adams**  
1/1/69 - 12/31/71

**Carlton Crisler**  
1/1/61 - 12/31/68

**Robert Tosella**  
1/1/60 - 12/31-60

**Charles Junker**  
1/1/57 - 12/31/59

**Ed Tuccinardi**  
1/1/53 - 12/31/56

**Charles Junker**  
1/1/50 - 12/31/52

**Charles Rapp**  
1/1/30 - 12/31/49

**William Baldrick**  
7/29 - 12/31/29

**C. N. Stringfellow**  
6/25 - 7/29

**Joseph Coombs**  
1/25 - 6/25

**William B. Carver**  
1/23 - 12/24

**Joe Anslinger**  
7/22 - 12/22

**Tip Younger**  
1/18 - 6/22

**Joe Anslinger**  
8/16 - 12/17

**George Stockton**  
1/16 - 8/16

**Joe Anslinger**  
1/15 - 12/15

**Bert Wagner**  
1/14 -12/14

**Woodford Riley**  
01/10 - 12/13

**Jason McCoulough**  
1/08 - 12/09

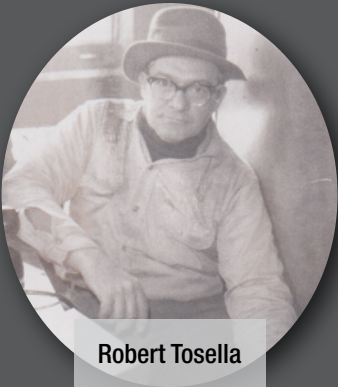
**R. C. Whiteford**  
1/07 - 12/07

**R. B. Ames**  
6/06 - 12/06

**Dan Scully**  
10/05 - 6/06

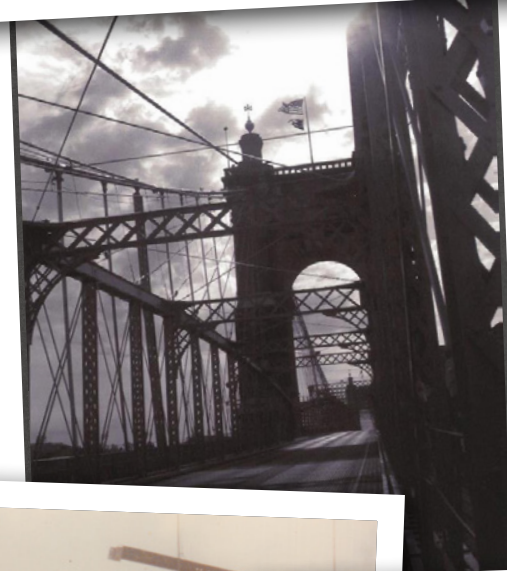
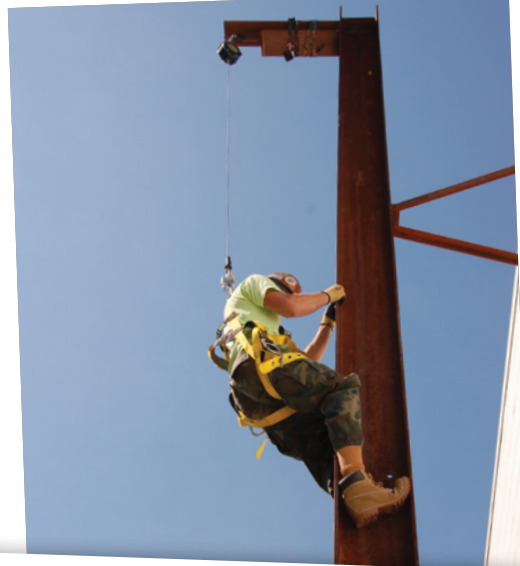
**Frank Rusche**  
7/05 - 10/05

**Dan Scully**  
2/2/1905 - 7/05



Robert Tosella







# IRON WORKERS LOCAL 721



TORONTO, CANADA  
*Chartered July 21, 1949*

Congratulations Local 44!



## Ontario Iron Workers District Council

Local 700 - 721 - 736 - 759 - 765 - 786 - 834

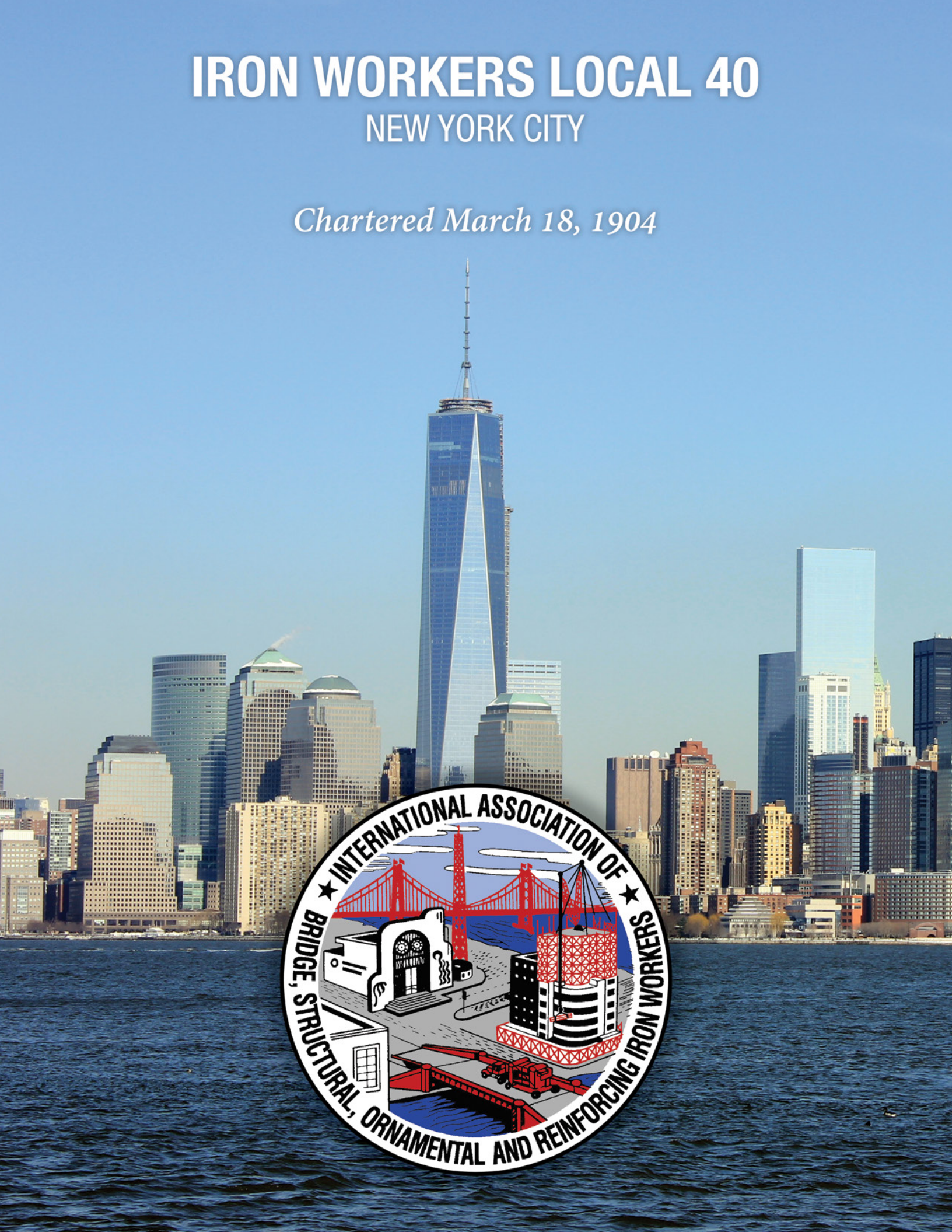
<u>President</u> Kevin Bryenton	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</u> Gaetan Sigouin	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</u> Armand Charbonneau	<u>Financial Secretary-Treasurer</u> Aaron Murphy
<u>Recording Secretary</u> Jason Roe	<u>Trustees</u> James Hannah Wayne Thibault	<u>Sergeant-at-Arms</u> Duncan Smith	
Rob Schaafsma Mike Dix Dean Smith Phil White Steve Pratt	<u>Delegates</u> John Garry Darren Mahoney Nigel Hare Don Melvin Jr.	Marc Cardinal Jamie Morris Joe Zeleny Charlie Giglia Dan Smees	



# IRON WORKERS LOCAL 40

## NEW YORK CITY

*Chartered March 18, 1904*



Since 1937  
**ECKERT ERECTORS**

2015

Congratulations Local 44!

INITIATION  
Renewal  
Stamp  
STAMP

THIS IS TO CERTIFY  
that in consideration of  
Initiation fee of \$ 1.50 00  
duly paid as transfer of  
Local Union No. 44

N.B.—This book is not valid  
without regular Initiation Stamp.

PERRY THOMAS ECKERT  
JOURNEYMAN  
IRONWORKER 659245  
(Classification) (Number)

is hereby granted membership in the  
International Association of Bridge,  
Structural and Ornamental  
Iron Workers  
Affiliated with AFL-CIO

By Local Union No. 44 of  
CINCINNATI, OHIO  
SEPTEMBER 20, 1963  
Robert Losella  
(President)  
Arthur J. Baker  
(Financial Secretary)  
IRON WORKERS LOCM 44  
(Secretary's Address)  
504 E. 12th ST.

I. A. B. S. & O. I. W.

Identification Sheet

1985

From Eckert Welding & Erectors ...

One of Cincinnati's Oldest  
Iron Workers.



## IRON WORKERS DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN OHIO & VICINITY



**WILLIAM A. WOODWARD**, PRESIDENT  
**RON STARKEY**, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
**KEVIN LIBBY**, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
**JEFFREY S. BUSH, SR.**, FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER  
**ROBERT J. KARA**, RECORDING SECRETARY  
**BRADLEY C. WINANS, ROBERT A. BARKER, JOHN H. BURNS II**, TRUSTEES  
**RALPH COPLEY, JR.**, SERGEANT – AT – ARMS

*Congratulations Local #44  
on your 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

### AFFILIATED LOCAL UNIONS

22 Indianapolis, Indiana	292 South Bend, Indiana
44 Cincinnati, Ohio	301 Charleston, West Virginia
70 Louisville, Kentucky	372 Cincinnati, Ohio
147 Fort Wayne, Indiana	726 Fort Wayne, Indiana
172 Columbus, Ohio	769 Ashland, Kentucky
290 Dayton, Ohio	787 Parkersburg, West Virginia



## IRONWORKERS' LOCAL UNION NO. 401 PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

### Business Representatives

**CHARLES J. ROBERTS**  
*Business Representative*

**STEVEN V. ALEXANDER**  
*Business Representative*

**KEVIN C. BOYLE**  
*Business Representative*

**PAUL E. SHEPHERDSON**  
*Business Representative*

210



**Congratulations!**  
From Your Friends at  
Boilermakers Local No. 242

## INSULATORS LOCAL 8



**CINCINNATI, OHIO**  
*Chartered December 6, 1910*

Congratulations on 110 years of dedication to the  
working class



Ohio Kentucky Administrative District Council  
of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers  
5171 Hudson Drive  
Hudson, OH 44236  
(330) 463-5419 or (800) 442-0479

Kenneth Kudela – Director





**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
★ BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS**

*Congratulations Local 44  
on achieving 110 years of success!*

On behalf of the District Council of Western Canada  
Locals 97, 643, 712, 720, 725, 728, 771, 805, 838



Darrell LaBoucan - President  
James Leland - Vice President  
Robert Kozubski - Secretary Treasurer  
Eric Bohne - Recording Secretary

★ Segal Rogerscasey  
Consultants and Actuaries to Collectively Bargained Plans


**Congratulations to the newly  
apprenticed Graduates!**



Segal Rogerscasey  
is proud to support the  
110th Anniversary  
Celebration of the  
Iron Workers Local No. 44

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Offices throughout the United States and Canada

**Congratulations!**




**From your Brothers in  
Toledo, Ohio.**

**UNIONHISTORIES**  
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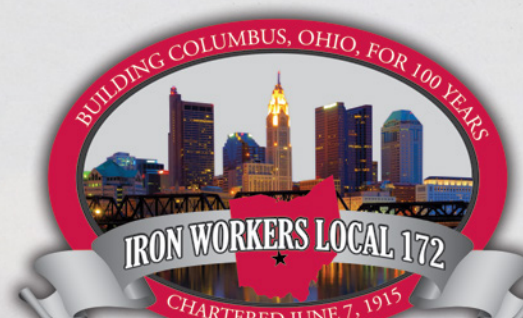

*Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions*

Union Histories hails  
Iron Workers Local 44 for  
110 Years of Service to  
Your Members,  
Contractors, Industry  
and Community!

We were honored to serve you  
in producing this book for your  
anniversary celebration.



www.unionhistories.com

**CONGRATULATIONS! From Iron  
Workers Local 172, Columbus.**

**I.B.E.W. Local 212  
Cincinnati**



*Proud to be Union!*

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Iron Workers Local 44 on 110 Years!



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BUILDING OUR HOMETOWN SINCE 1905



IRON WORKERS LOCAL 44

CINCINNATI, OH

KNOWLEDGE - SAFETY - CRAFTSMANSHIP

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