

I.A.B.S. and O.I.W.
IRON WORKERS LOCAL 22
Organized June 24th 1901. Affiliated with A.F. of L.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRONWORKERS

LOCAL 22



125th Anniversary
COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

1901 - 2026

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*Congratulations Local 22
on your 125th anniversary!*



***Iron Workers District Council
Of Southern Ohio & Vicinity***

Local 22	Indianapolis, IN	John Whitaker, BM
Local 44	Cincinnati, OH	Dave Baker, BM
Local 70	Louisville, KY	Jim Stiles, BM
Local 147	Fort Wayne, IN	Brian Carter, BM
Local 172	Columbus, OH	Rob Mullett, BM
Local 290	Dayton, OH	Rodd Shields, BM
Local 292	South Bend, IN	Bob Byers, BM
Local 769	Ashland, KY	Russ Montgomery, BM
Local 787	Parkersburg, WV	Brad Winans, BM

Ron Starkey - District Council President



Ironworkers Local 22 125th Anniversary Celebration & Summer Picnic at the Zoo!

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO

1200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, INDIANAPOLIS

2:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.



THE 125-YEAR LEGACY OF LOCAL 22 EXTENDS BEYOND JOBSITES

Brothers, Sisters and Friends:

On behalf of Ironworkers Local 22, we are proud to be able to celebrate the 125th charter anniversary of our great union local – a history that is documented in the pages of this book.

For generations, the members of Local 22 have helped build Indiana's skylines, bridges, schools, stadiums, power plants and infrastructure. Our work can be seen throughout Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Lafayette, and across our entire jurisdiction. Every project represents the skill, safety and hard work of the men and women who wear our union's name.

But Local 22 is about more than steel and construction. It is about community, mentorship and carrying forward the traditions of our trade while preparing the next generation of ironworkers through our apprenticeship and training programs. We take pride in the relationships built on the job and in the impact our members make both at work and in their local communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to share Local 22's story – a history that honors all union ironworkers, past and present, who helped build our communities and our industry.

In Solidarity,

John Whitaker, Business Manager
Ironworkers Local 22



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History of Ironworkers Local No. 22, Indianapolis

ERECTING A BE

TTER INDIANA *Across 125 Years*

“A union of architectural ironworkers was partially organized last night with a strong membership. A lively interest was shown in the proceedings.”

– *The Indianapolis Journal*, May 7, 1890



Nearly six years before the National Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America (which would become today's International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers) was established in February 1896, ironworkers in Indianapolis organized and the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) chartered them on May 16, 1890, as **Architectural Ironworkers Union No. 5043**. However, even though Indianapolis, the capital city of Indiana, was a growing industrial hub and rising “labor capital” with strong union activism, just seven years later the ironworkers local union there was disbanded in 1897.

But the continued rapid growth of the city's population and manufacturing sector in the new 20th Century fueled a surge in construction activity, including the development of iron

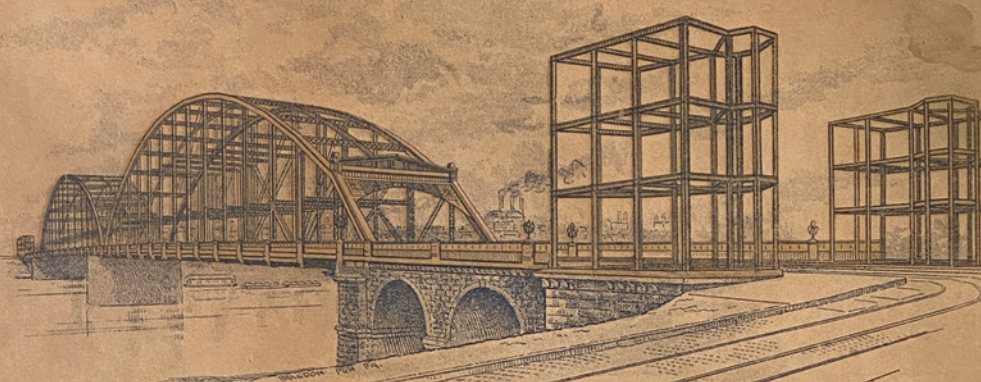
railroad bridges and steel-framed high-rise buildings in downtown Indianapolis during the early 1900s. Subsequently, on May 3, 1901, the A.F.L. issued a temporary charter for a new local union of ironworkers in the city.

The union ironworkers found immediate success, and by May 5 their local had grown to 63 members – more than half of the ironworkers in the city – while they were striking the prominent Haugh-Noelke Iron Works to gain a new wage and shorter workdays for employees erecting the extravagant new **Claypool Hotel** at Ohio and Pennsylvania streets in the city. After three days, the Indianapolis-based structural and ornamental iron manufacturer conceded to the striking workers' demands and signed a work agreement that put in place an immediate increased pay rate of 25 cents per hour that would be raised to 30 cents per hour beginning

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of

Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America

Organized



February 4, 1896.

DO TH GRANT THIS

CHARTER

To Local #22 Bridge and Structural Ironworkers

Located at Indianapolis County of Marion State of Ind

To constitute a Union to be known as Local Union No. 22 of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, for the purpose of effecting a thorough organization of the trade. And the said Union being duly formed, is hereby authorized and empowered to initiate into the Union any person or persons duly proposed and approved according to the Constitution of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, and to enact By-Laws for the government of their Union.

Provided always, that the said Union No. 22 conforms to the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, and provided also, that the said Union be located in Indianapolis State of Indiana and not removed therefrom without consent of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, and in default thereof, or any part, this Charter may be revoked or taken away by the decision of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, and should the said Union No. 22 be dissolved or forfeit this Charter, then all property, books, papers and moneys of the Union shall become the property of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION; and

Provided further, in consideration of the due performance of the above, the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS OF AMERICA do bind themselves to support the said Local No. 22 in the exercise of their rights and privileges as a subordinate Union.

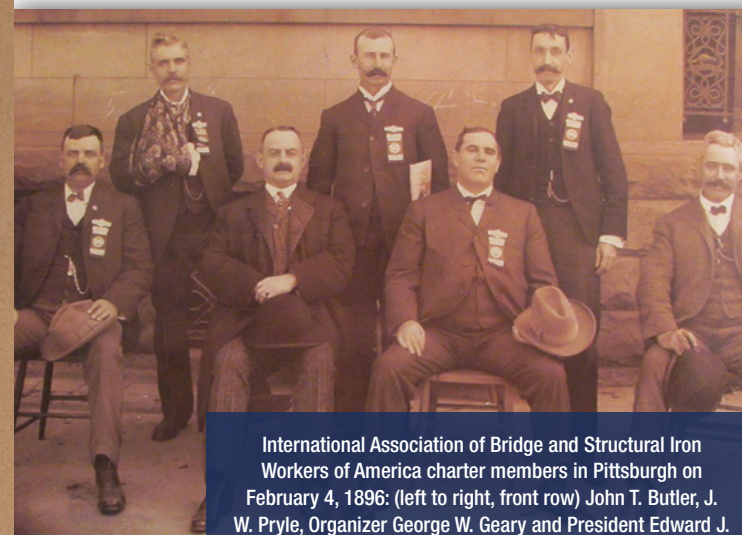
In Witness Whereof, we have subscribed our names and affixed the seal of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, this 24th day of June

One Thousand Nineteen Hundred and One



J. T. Butler
President.

J. M. Pryle
Secretary-Treasurer.



International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America charter members in Pittsburgh on February 4, 1896: (left to right, front row) John T. Butler, J. W. Pryle, Organizer George W. Geary and President Edward J. Ryan; and (back row) P. J. Dalton, Secretary-Treasurer James G. Crowley and Vice President John Brady.

INTERNATIONAL IRONWORKERS UNION WAS ESTABLISHED 130 YEARS AGO

As the use of steel in erecting buildings and other structures became more prevalent in the United States during the 1880s and into the 1890s, a new and dramatic increase in the demand for ironworkers arose. As those “sky cowboys” began to seek better pay and working conditions, they also started to unify.

Eventually, 16 delegates from six locals held a convention in Pittsburgh from February 4th to 7th, 1896, and established the **National Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America**. During its convention, the new union adopted a constitution and bylaws; elected Brother Edward J. Ryan as its first president along with a full set of officers; and chose Chicago as the city in which it would establish its headquarters.

The union would vote to change its name to the **International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America** during its convention from October 22 to 26, 1900, in anticipation of organizing locals in Canada.

Soon after it was first formed, the National Association affiliated with the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.). However, internal divisions led the International Association to disaffiliate in 1901, only to re-join two years later and become one of the charter members of the A.F.L.’s Building Trades Department, which was created in 1908.

In 1914 during its annual convention, the union changed its name to the **International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers and Pile Drivers**. Over the next four years, however, the ironworkers and carpenters union engaged in a contentious jurisdictional dispute over pile-driving, which resulted in the A.F.L. forcing the ironworkers union to drop “Pile Drivers” from its name and transfer members in the pile-driving jurisdiction into the carpenters union (which was completed by April 1, 1920) – although the ironworkers regained the reinforcing rod jurisdiction from the Lathers International Union.

September 1, 1901; time-and-one-half pay for overtime work and double-time for Sundays and legal holidays; and full recognition of the union that included employing only union members on the Claypool building.

By mid-June 1901, the ironworkers local union of Indianapolis had grown to about 100 members. A.F.L. organizer John Blue then organized them into the recently renamed **International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America**, which chartered them on **June 24, 1901**, as bridge and structural ironworkers **Local No. 22** of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana.

SETTING UP THE FLEDGLING LOCAL FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

Even before they were charted by the International Association (I.A.), the soon-to-be members of the forthcoming Local 22 had presented formal demands to the Hetherington-Berner and the Brown-Ketcham iron works companies for the new wage scale for its union ironworker employees,

with the threat of striking if the requests were not granted. Then in August 1901, 14 of the new local’s members struck the American Bridge Company, halting construction of a new iron bridge over the White River at the Indianapolis neighborhood of Broad Ripple to protest the use of common laborers for iron work on the bridge.

With its continued activism, by early November of that year Local 22 had made substantial gains,

LOCAL 22 OFFICES AND UNION HALL LOCATIONS

Bricklayers Union Hall
247 East Washington Street
1901 – 1902

Biser's Saloon Hall
18 South Delaware Street
1902 – 1904

Union Block
119 North Maryland Street
1904 – 1905

Bricklayers Union Hall
247 East Washington Street
1905 – 1907

Ironworkers Union Hall
247 East Washington Street
1907 – 1910

Local 22 Union Hall
18 South Delaware Street, 3rd Floor
1910 – 1912

Local 22 Union Hall
30-1/2 North Delaware Street
1912

Local 22 Union Hall
49 South Delaware Street
1912 – 1913

Local 22 Union Hall
138 West Washington Street
1913 – 1920

Indianapolis Labor Temple
41 West Pearl Street
1920 – 1924

Local 22 Union Hall
1002 East Washington Street
1924 – 1925

Local 22 Union Hall
637-1/2 East Washington Street
1925 – 1930

Local 22 Union Hall
Transportation Building
213 East South Street
1930 – 1950

Local 22 Union Hall
1050 North Delaware Street
1950 – 1968

Local 22 Union Hall
2915 Lafayette Road
1968 – 2007

Local 22 Union Hall
5600 Dividend Road
2007 - current

In 2008, Local 22 established its **Lafayette Suboffice** and **Terre Haute Suboffice** to serve those areas after they were added to the local's jurisdiction when Local No. 379 of Lafayette and Local No. 439 of Terre Haute were merged into Local 22 that year.

as reported in a November 12, 1901, article in *The Indianapolis News* newspaper:

“With the settlement of their differences with the foundries, the Structural Ironworkers’ Union is now on a firm footing and in less than six months the men belonging to this union have organized, established a wage scale and practically control the trade in this city.”

Local 22 then gained an improved wage scale for its members in a new work agreement with its employers in March 1902 that called for a pay increase to 40 cents per hour beginning April 1 of that year and shortened workdays from 10 to eight hours. An article in the March 22 issue of *The Indianapolis News* reporting on the new

contract duly noted, “In this city, the union has been organized less than a year and has increased wages 50 percent and lowered hours.”

Meanwhile, significant projects employing the local's members during that time included ongoing construction of the nine-story, 450-room Claypool Hotel, which when completed in 1903 featured the largest hotel lobby in the country. (*The Claypool would be closed following a fire in June 1967 and was demolished two years later.*) Elsewhere, the city's union ironworkers remained gainfully employed on such jobs as expansion of the **Atlas Engine Works**, a major manufacturer of steam engines and boilers, and construction of the new, 540-foot-long **West Washington Street Bridge** over the White River in Indianapolis (which would be destroyed by a flood and replaced in 1913).



The Claypool Hotel under construction in 1902 with Local 22 members erecting its modern steel frame before it opened in 1904. (Photo of the Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society.)



Local 22 Union Hall on Dividend Road in Indianapolis, where the union has been headquartered since 2007.

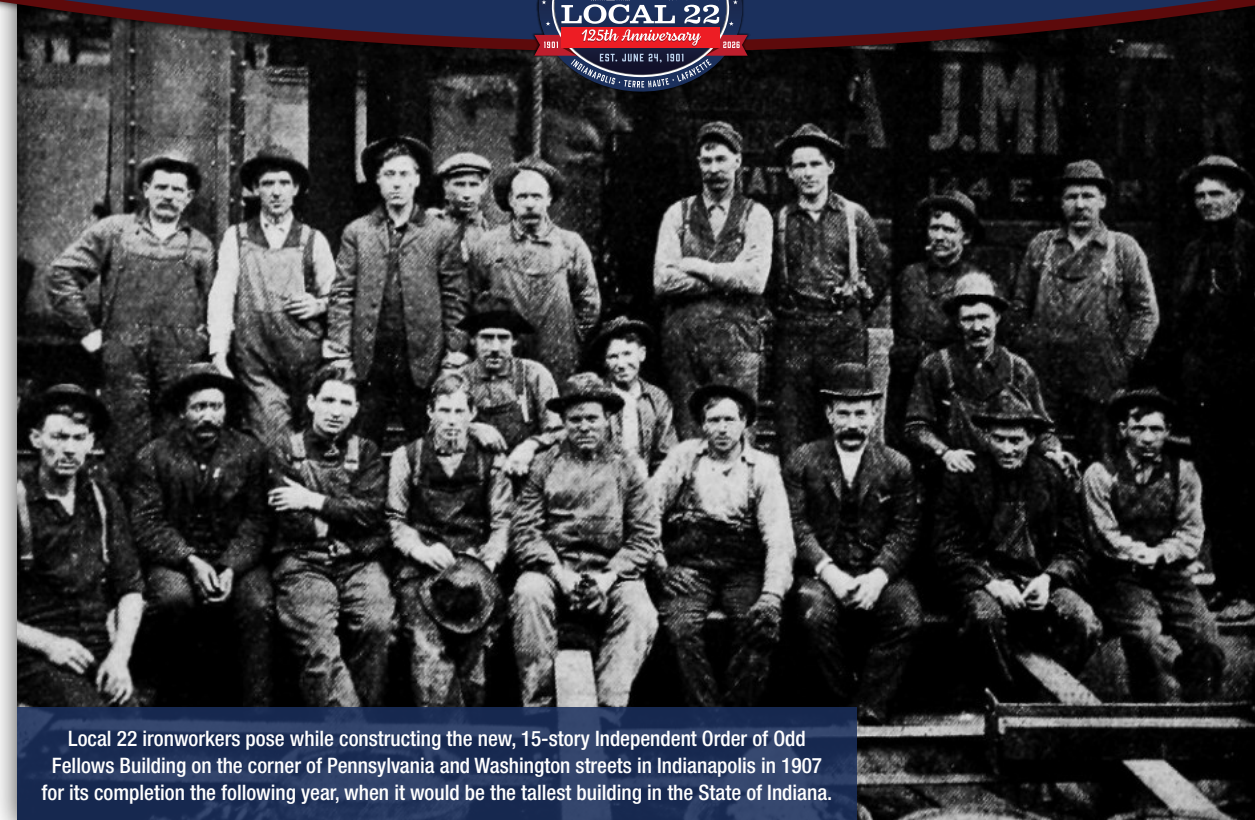


However, the local went on strike again beginning May 1, 1902, to enforce its request for a 10-cent raise to its 30-cents-per-hour wage scale for the coming year, which was being granted to other I.A. locals across the country through an agreement put in place by the international union. Local 22 **Business Agent Charles Covert** declared in the next day's *Indianapolis News* that the local would stand its ground and "the men would stay out until their demands were granted" – but its local agreement stipulated the international increase would not apply to Local 22 and, therefore, the local was forced to continue working at its former scale throughout the remainder of the year.

Even as the strike continued, the local worked to increase its jurisdictional reach beyond greater Indianapolis. As such, on May 19, 1902, the



Local 22 members pose while erecting the 2,200-foot-long Tulip Viaduct over Richland Creek in Bloomfield, Indiana, for the Indianapolis Southern Railroad in 1906.



Local 22 ironworkers pose while constructing the new, 15-story Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building on the corner of Pennsylvania and Washington streets in Indianapolis in 1907 for its completion the following year, when it would be the tallest building in the State of Indiana.

local took in 15 new members from Anderson and Muncie, Indiana, both of which are located more than 50 miles from the capital city.

With an ongoing abundance of work in and around Indianapolis as the year progressed, Local 22 **Secretary John McLaughlin** was able to report in the October 1902 issue of *The Bridgemen's Magazine*, the international union's monthly member periodical, that **Business Agent Dennis Meaney** "has got all outside structural and ornamental iron work under control." In addition to smaller jobs, the sizable projects that kept the local's members working well into 1903 included erecting the new **U.S. Federal Building** (now the Birch Bayh Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse and listed on the National Register of Historic Places) in downtown Indianapolis that would be completed in 1905; a new **William L. Piel & Company starch works plant** on the west bank of the White River; the **Big Four Railroad Bridge** over the same river; and the **Eagle Creek Railroad Bridge** over Big Eagle Creek in Pike Township to the northwest of Indianapolis.

About 40 Local 22 ironworkers also worked on construction of the new, nine-story

Indianapolis Traction Terminal at Market and Illinois streets beginning in July 1903. The massive office building and train station required the union members to perform both cast- and ornamental-iron work before it opened in 1904 as the world's largest interurban station (after which it was demolished in 1972).

The local was able to display its growing impact after the I.A. international office in November 1903 ordered all union ironworkers to stop working for the Brown-Ketcham Iron Company as it was employing non-union labor across the country. After the West Washington Street Bridge collapsed into the White River after union ironworkers walked off the job and the company employed non-union labor to complete it, on March 21, 1904, Brown-Ketcham signed the new Local 22 work agreement that went into effect April 1 with a wage scale of 45 cents per hour for journeyman members.

Many of the local's members then worked for the company on construction of a new power and light plant for the **Indianapolis and Northwestern Traction Company**, a major interurban rail line connecting Indianapolis with Lafayette and Crawfordsville, Indiana.



LOCAL 22 ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP

Local 22 combined its positions of business agent (later business manager beginning in 1987) and financial secretary in 1904 and then separated the offices into two positions in 1917; and the local combined the positions again in 1922 and then separated the offices into two positions permanently in 1955, with the local's treasurer taking on financial secretary duties.

Now one of the few International Association of Ironworkers locals with a stand-alone financial secretary/treasurer, the Local 22 membership voted in early 2020 by a 3-to-1 margin in one of the largest voting turnouts in the local's history to retain the separate positions of business manager and financial secretary/treasurer.

Business Agents

Charles E. Covert

1901 – 1902

Dennis Meaney

1902 – 1903

Samuel D. Ray

1903 – 1904

Charles E. Covert

1904

<Combined with Financial Secretary office 1904 – 1917>

John D. Booth

1917 – 1919

Howard M. Robbins

1919 – 1920

Amos Remler

1920 – 1921

H. D. Dickson

1921 – 1922

John J. McNamara

1922

Business Agent/Financial Secretaries

<Two separate offices from 1901 – 1904>

Patrick Dugan

1904 – 1907

Thaddeus J. Gillespie

1907 – 1908

John N. Coble

1908 – 1909

Ernest Basey

1909 – 1910

Fred J. Sherman

1910 – 1912

John D. Booth

1912 – 1913

Ernest Basey

1913 – 1914

Al Munde

1914

Fred J. Sherman

1914 – 1916

Ernest Basey

1916 – 1917

<Two separate offices from 1917 – 1922>

John J. McNamara

1922 – 1927

John D. Booth

1927 – 1930

Samuel Roseberry

1930 – 1931

Bert W. Aley

1931 – 1932

John J. Roney

1932 – 1933

Carl Ambrose

1933 – 1935

Carl Vestal

1935 – 1944

Samuel Roseberry

1944 – 1945

Arthur C. Hoyt

1945 – 1947

William N. Hazelwood

1947 – 1955

Business Agents/Business Managers

Charles Hayman

1955 – 1959

Creighton Harrington

1959 – 1961

Curtis L. Wooten

1961 – 1969

William B. Starlin Sr.

1969 – 1970

Robert O. Richardson

1970 – 1972

Curtis L. Wooten

1972 – 1978



Carl Vestal



Fred J. Sherman



Vestal Stinson

1978 – 1984

Raymond Bymaster

1984 – 1990

Harold L. Stinson

1990 – 1999

Jeff Stinson

1999 – 2015

Ralph Copley Jr.

2015 – 2020

John Whitaker

2020 – current

Financial Secretaries

<none listed>

1901 – 1903

Edward Hewitt

1903 – 1904

Daniel Valentine

1904

<Combined with Business Agent office 1904 – 1917>

Howard M. Robbins

1917 – 1920

Amos Remler

1920 – 1922

Financial Secretary/Treasurers

Thomas F. Mason Jr.

1955 – 1957

Harold V. Reath

1957 – 1978

Harold L. Stinson

1978 – 1990

Erwin C. Erb

1990 – 1995

Thomas G. McConnell

1995 – 1998

Larry R. Stinson

1998 – 2006

Ellis Hinkle

2006 – 2007

Thomas Mauser

2007 – 2014

Richard Crum

2014 – 2020

Cody Bates

2020 – current

When completed later that year, the facility was the largest of its kind in the state.

A two-week strike against Indianapolis iron firms in 1905 gained Local 22 a new work agreement with a 5-cent pay increase to 50 cents per hour beginning January 1, 1906. Meanwhile, the local was capturing more work, including the 2,200-foot-long **Tulip Viaduct**, one of the largest railroad bridges in the United States at the time, being built in Bloomfield, Indiana, by a non-union Chicago company from which the local “took” 42 employees into the union and completed the job in December 1906 in what **Recording Secretary John “J.J.” McLaughlin** in that month’s *Bridgemen’s Magazine* called “one of the greatest victories of any local in the country.”

Work in and around Indianapolis remained steady for the local’s members into the second half of the decade, as well, with numerous large jobs that included erecting the new, seven-floor **Hotel Edward** in 1907 and the new 14-story **Independent Order of Odd Fellows Building** as the national headquarters for its namesake fraternal organization that same year. Although construction and employment significantly slowed in 1908 and 1909, before the end of the latter the local’s entire membership was again fully working.

By that time, Local 22 had also successfully organized iron-reinforced concrete work and controlled most of those jobs in its jurisdiction. As a result, members in 1909 were employed on the largest reinforced structure ever erected in the city at the time, the eight-story **Indianapolis Masonic Temple** office building on North Illinois Street, as well as installing the flooring and seating of the city’s new **Colonial Theater**, which were fastened to the reinforced-concrete floor with expansion bolts – the first such job of its kind for the local.

Brother McNamara was then able to inform the I.A.’ 13th Annual Convention, held in October 1909 in Minneapolis, while serving

FUTURE BUSINESS AGENT INVOLVED IN INFAMOUS BOMBING CAMPAIGN

Originally a member of Ironworkers Local No. 17 of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1905 **John "J.J." McNamara** became international secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Ironworkers, which was headquartered in Indianapolis, and also transferred into Local 22 and served as its recording secretary. It has been claimed that from his position, in 1908 he developed a policy of carrying out dynamite attacks on non-union businesses as part of a campaign to intimidate bosses who refused to employ union workers.

The bombing operation against anti-union institutions and concerns involved as many as 70 explosions at job sites between February 1908 and April 1911. Those included the bombing of the Los Angeles Times Building on October 1, 1910, that killed 21 people and injured more than 100 others – which the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper called, "The crime of the century."

J.J. McNamara and several other International Association officers and members were tried on charges connected to the bombings during the so-called "Dynamite Conspiracy Trial" in Indianapolis, during which he pled guilty to dynamiting the Llewellyn Iron Works in Los Angeles and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. His brother, James "J.B." McNamara, admitted to setting the deadly explosive at the Times Building and was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Following his release from prison after serving nine years and five months of his sentence, J. J. McNamara rejoined Local 22 and soon after became business agent of the local in 1922. However, his tenure in that position and his membership in the union came to an end in 1927 after he was put on trial in July 1925 on charges of blackmail in connection with vandalism at the construction site of a new Elks Club and threatening personnel at other sites to persuade them to hire union labor.

Although J.J. McNamara was convicted of the charges, in June 1926 the Local 22 membership reelected him as business agent while he was appealing the ruling. The Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the conviction in June 1932.

as a Local 22 delegate, "The membership is increasing, as is the treasury of the local union, and there is a move on to ask for an increase in wages. Practically all the work in the city is unionized, and the indications are that this



John "J.J." McNamara

condition of affairs will continue to exist for some time."

Effective strikes on various projects during that time, including the theater and the new **Murat Temple** stage house (now the Old National Centre) in Indianapolis that would be completed in 1910, in support of the Indianapolis Building and Construction Trades Council likewise gained work for the city's union locals. Reflecting on those successful actions, Local 22 **Business Agent Ernest Basey** announced in a December 30, 1909, letter that appeared in the January 1910 *Bridgemen's Magazine*, "We have better conditions here now than we ever had before and hope that all affiliated locals will join the Building Trades Council and help one another to get what belongs to the different crafts."

GROWING BESIDE ITS CITY, MAKING SIGNIFICANT GAINS

Although employment slowed into and during early 1910, on January 1 of that year Local 22 received an increased wage scale of 60 cents per hour in a new work agreement with its employing contractors. What's more, as work quickly returned, before the end of the year the local was enjoying strong employment conditions while continuing to control most of the work in its jurisdiction, including all reinforced-concrete jobs – with 65 of its 85 total members performing reinforcing-rod work at one point during the second half of the year.

Local 22 **Business Agent Fred. J. Sherman** was then compelled to report in the October 1910 issue of *The Bridgemen's Magazine*, "At

the present time there is only one non-union job of any consequence in the Indianapolis district, and that is located seven miles outside of the city at Beech Grove, where the Big Four Railway is erecting shops."

Aside from an occasional slack period, the Local 22 membership remained busy with work throughout the balance of the first half of the decade, during which few jobs employed non-union ironworkers. Abundant manhours were provided by a range of projects that included a large addition to the **French Lick Hotel** major resort in French Lick, Indiana, which began with non-union labor but was "adjusted" so that only union tradesmen worked on the project until it was completed in 1911.

As it was enjoying favorable conditions even when work was periodically scarce, on January 1, 1912, the local demanded a pay raise for its member journeymen to 65 cents per hour. After receiving the increase from its employing contractors and with its members remaining busy throughout that year, Recording Secretary McLaughlin reported in the January 1913 *Bridgemen's Magazine*, "We are doing business with all the old firms and getting on with the new ones starting in. There seems to be a good understanding with all contractors, and our business agent has less trouble in settling disputes."

Among jobs erected by the local's ironworkers in 1913, members built a new powerhouse for the **Fort Wayne & Northern Indiana Traction Company**, a major electric interurban railway and streetcar operator based in Fort Wayne that connected the city to surrounding areas. A large addition that doubled the size of the flagship department store of the prominent **L. S. Ayres and Company** in downtown Indianapolis also employed many members until it was completed in 1915.

Despite a nationwide economic recession that curbed work in late 1914 and early 1915 and a new Marion County ordinance stipulating

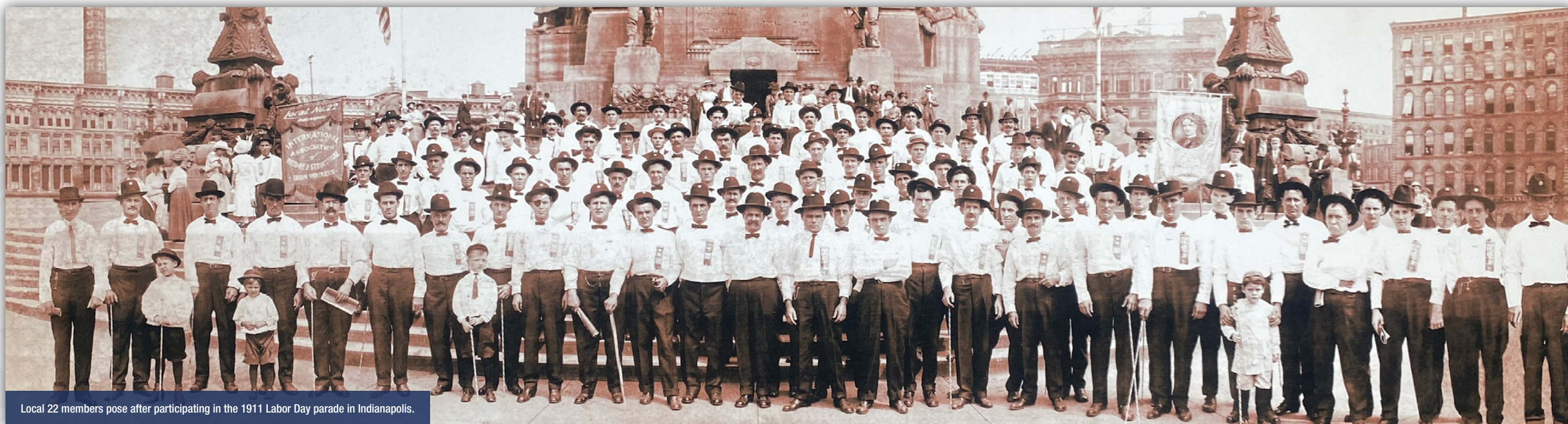
that all city and county public projects were to be awarded to the "lowest bidder," Local 22 continued to make progress during the second half of the decade. In particular, the local's wage scale increased to 70 cents per hour in 1915 and again to 75 cents per hour in 1917, while the local's roughly 185 members enjoyed strong employment conditions driven by the materiel manufacturing demands of World War I, which had started in 1914 before the United States militarily entered the global conflict in April 1917.

Projects that kept the Local 22 membership fully employed throughout most all of the late 1910s were dominated by a massive, multi-year **railroad track elevation project** by the City of Indianapolis that began in 1915 and would not be completed until 1924. Aimed at eliminating dangerous street-level crossings in the city's south side and downtown areas, the intense work involving the construction of multiple underpasses and bridges provided an abundance of workhours for the local's members during those years.

With the strong employment conditions, the Employers' Association of Indianapolis, which at the time was representing the local's employing iron contractors, granted its union ironworkers a new wage scale of 85 cents per hour beginning May 1, 1919. Meanwhile, as the city and central Indiana continued to expand and flourish, having grown from a population of just over 233,000 in 1910 to more than 314,000 by the end of 1919, Local 22 would correspondingly continue to prosper as it entered the next decade.

BATTLING NEW CHALLENGES AND AN HISTORIC DEPRESSION

"Indianapolis is regarded by our organization as being one of the best-organized cities of our craft."



When International Association of Ironworkers General Secretary-Treasurer Harry Jones wrote that assessment in a June 1923 A.F.L. report on unionism in the city, by that time Local 22 had increased its journeyman ironworker pay rate to \$1.15 per hour in 1921 and then to \$1.25 per hour in 1923. At the time, that was the highest wage being paid to any of the union's locals in the country.

Local 22 was also still reaping the benefits of the ongoing industrial and concurrent construction booms in and around the city. Subsequently, the rapid manufacturing growth that would continue during the early 1920s – particularly in automobile, food products and pharmaceuticals production – and the city's continuing massive infrastructure expansion kept the local's membership consistently working throughout that period.

But the local was forced to go on strike beginning April 1, 1925, after the Building Contractors Association of Indianapolis, which was then representing the local's employing iron

firms, refused to grant a 25-cent-per-hour pay raise to the union ironworkers during contract negotiations. After five weeks, the strike ended on May 6 when the two sides approved a new work agreement that called for a 10-cent wage increase to \$1.30-per-hour for the local's journeymen beginning that July 1.

After receiving another pay increase to \$1.35 per hour in 1936, the local's nearly 150 members went on strike again beginning April 1, 1927, when their former work agreement expired and 13 contractors rejected the local's new \$1.40-per-hour scale that 29 contractors were already paying to their union ironworkers. As the strike endured, by May 12 all contractors had ultimately accepted the new contract, which provided the new \$1.40 hourly rate and also put in place another 10-cent increase on January 1, 1928.

The local also had to cope with a troubling internal issue as well during that time after Business Agent J.J. McNamara, who had ascended to that position in 1922, was indicted

in 1924 and convicted in September 1925 on charges of blackmail in relation to vandalism on the non-union construction site of a new Indianapolis Elks Club headquarters and threats of violence made on other jobs to intimidate personnel into hiring union labor. *(Brother McNamara had already served nine years and five months in prison for his part in a deadly nationwide bombing campaign against anti-union concerns while he was international secretary-treasurer of the I.A.)* Although the Local 22 membership reelected him as business manager on June 17, 1926, while he was appealing a court's guilty verdict in the case, Brother McNamara was ultimately replaced by new **Business Manager John D. Booth** in 1927 (while McNamara's conviction would eventually be overturned by the Indiana Supreme Court in June 1932.)

But Local 22 was afflicted by an even more-devastating catastrophe after the **Great Depression**, the most disastrous economic downturn in the history of the industrialized world, began when the U.S. stock market

crashed on October 29, 1929. In the throes of the decade-long Depression, construction in Indianapolis was devastated, with building activity dropping roughly 90 percent below pre-Depression levels by May 1933, according to *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, while new record lows in the city's employment and business activity were reported for 22 straight months beginning July 1931.

Initially, the Depression had little impact on the employment of union ironworkers around the country, including Local 22's members. Conversely, from July 1, 1929, to June 30, 1930, the I.A. added 3,440 new members to its ranks, and while other international unions experienced wage reductions of up to 50 percent, the average wage reduction for ironworkers locals was 15.9 percent, according to the I.A.'s *Informal History of the Ironworkers* that appeared in parts in 1971 and 1972 *Bridgemen's Magazines*.

But mass unemployment caused by the Great Depression "finally caught up with

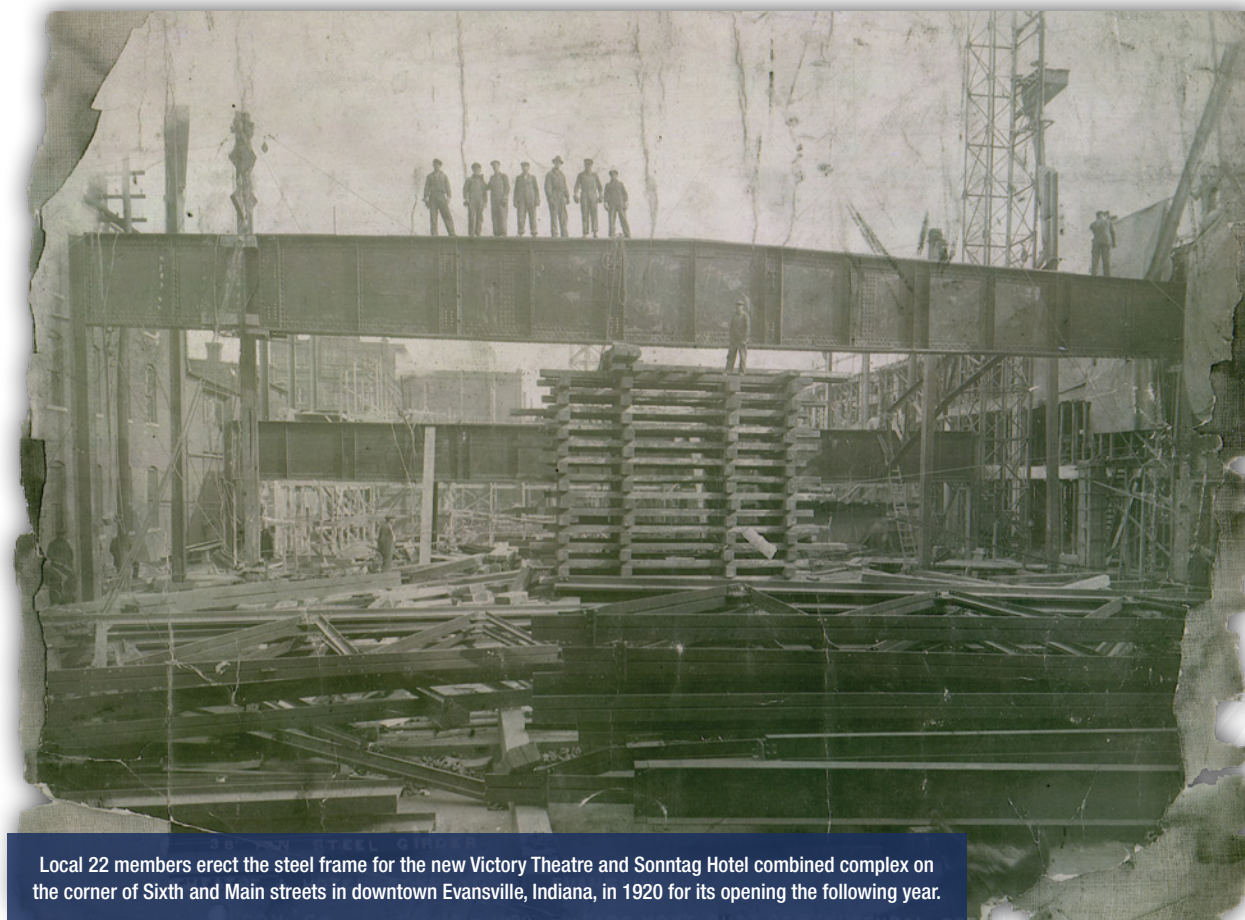
The International Association of Ironworkers chartered **shopmen Local No. 529** in Indianapolis on May 7, 1937, after Local 22 member **John J. Roney** had organized the local with 68 charter members, most of whom were Local 22 shopmen. The union moved the Local 529 charter from Indianapolis to Muncie, Indiana, in May 1999, after which on December 1, 2004, the union merged Local 529 into the now-former **Local No. 726** of Fort Wayne, Indiana (whose charter would be terminated in 2019).

the ironworkers within two years after the crash as building construction nearly came to a halt,” the I.A. history states. During that time, the union lost almost 50 percent of its paid membership nationwide, while in Indianapolis, Local 22 structural, ornamental and reinforcing ironworkers had their wages severely reduced to \$1.23 per hour in 1932, after which reinforcing members saw another cut to \$1.17-1/2 in 1936.

Despite the heavy toll on the I.A. and its members, nearly every ironworkers local remained intact during the Depression as I.A.

officers “were leaders in ‘New Deal’ (federal assistance) efforts to get labor back on its feet again,” as the I.A. history notes. Indeed, the labor-friendly reforms of the U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt administration’s “New Deal” federal-government funded public-work projects, programs and regulations beginning in 1933 helped curb the Great Depression’s damaging impact on employment.

“The construction sector in Indianapolis only began to recover through federal New Deal projects that provided jobs for infrastructure,” *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* states. As such, many union members, including the ironworkers of Local 22, were employed through federally sponsored work programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration, while those New Deal agencies created building-trades jobs in Indianapolis that included construction of annexes to the Federal Building and development of the Indiana State Fairgrounds including construction of the State Fairgrounds Coliseum (now Corteva Coliseum).



Local 22 members erect the steel frame for the new Victory Theatre and Sonntag Hotel combined complex on the corner of Sixth and Main streets in downtown Evansville, Indiana, in 1920 for its opening the following year.

Adding to the relief for ironworkers across the country, during the early 1930s the I.A. secured two working agreements, one of which was the **Bridge Erectors’ Agreement** that covered the nationwide jobs of “fair” union contractors in the Structural Steel and Bridge Erectors’ Association. As part of that contract, ironworkers took a wage reduction and worked six days per week so that those employers “could compete with unfair contractors.”

The “second phase” of the New Deal, which President Roosevelt launched in 1935, included legislation that guaranteed workers the right to unionize and bargain for better working conditions and higher wages, such as the **National Labor Relations Act** that created a **National Labor Relations Board** to oversee union elections and supervise businesses’ treatment of their workers. With this, the program also effectively ended the nationwide

iron contractors’ anti-union, open-shop campaign that had been ongoing since 1906.

While Local 22, Indianapolis, the state and the entire country slowly recovered from the Great Depression during the late 1930s, the local’s pay rate remained below pre-Depression levels. In fact, the local’s employment and wages would not fully progress until the following decade and the onset of another historic tragedy.

WINNING A GLOBAL WAR AND VITAL MEMBER BENEFITS

With Greater Indianapolis serving as a critical defense manufacturing center after **World War II** began in Europe and Asia beginning in 1939, Local 22 members provided vital skills and workhours that enabled



Local 22 members erect the New York Street bridge in Indianapolis in 1916.



Local 22 members pose after participating in the 1937 Labor Day parade in Indianapolis.

the region's industry to pivot from making civilian goods to defense production for the United States-led Allied countries. Additionally, the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.), of which the International Association of Ironworkers was an affiliate, entered into an agreement with various government agencies engaged in defense construction work in order to help stabilize the building industry during the "national emergency" declared by President Roosevelt as the country's allies were fighting the spreading conflict.

The increased nationwide defense spending into the 1940s and especially after the United States officially entered the fight following the Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, effectively ended the Great Depression and created ample work for union members across the country. Local 22 ironworkers likewise experienced escalating employment

as the war rapidly generated industrial and infrastructure construction in Central Indiana, and while the local's wages – and those of all other construction-trade unions – were controlled by U.S. government-imposed policies, the Local 22 journeyman wage scale increased from \$1.55 per hour in 1940 to \$1.65 per hour in 1944.

Strong employment conditions remained following the war's end with the surrenders of Nazi Germany in May 1945 and Japan that September to the U.S.-led Allies, as Indianapolis experienced another industrial surge, swift suburbanization and extensive highway construction. As a result, Local 22's wages continued to rise and in 1948 its ironworkers were earning \$2.32-1/2 per hour.

Before the end of the decade, however, the local conducted a 10-day-long strike against the Contractors Association beginning June 4,

1949, before gaining a new work agreement with an improved \$2.45-per-hour wage scale. Reporting the new contract the following day, an article in *The Indianapolis News* also noted:

"The ironworkers are considered the key union in big construction."

As Indianapolis remained an active industrial hub into and throughout the 1950s, Local 22 workhours continued to peak throughout the decade as post-war economic prosperity driven by automotive and machinery production transformed the city from a dense urban center into a sprawling metropolitan area with growing suburban neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the local's membership simultaneously surged to more than 300 ironworkers in 1951 and its wages continued to climb to \$2.79-1/2 per hour that year and then to \$2.84-1/2 per hour in 1952.

The local's work agreement with the Contractors Association that year also

AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF ITS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local 22 was one of the 13 founding affiliates of the **Ironworkers District Council of Southern Ohio and Vicinity** when the International Association of Ironworkers chartered the council on November 14, 1951. Local 22 **Business Agent William N. Hazelwood** served as the council's first-ever vice president after it was formed.

Other original members were locals 44, 372 and 522 of Cincinnati; Local 301 of Charleston, West Virginia; Local 689 of Covington, Kentucky; Local 290 of Dayton, Ohio; locals 70 and 682 of Louisville; locals 172 and 626 of Columbus, Ohio; Local 529 of Indianapolis; and Local 439 of Terre Haute, Indiana. In 2026, the District Council consists of locals 22; 44; 70; 147 of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; 172; 290; 292 of South Bend, Indiana; 769 of Ashland, Kentucky; and 787 of Parkersburg, West Virginia.

LOCAL 22 JOURNEYMEN'S WAGES AND BENEFITS, DECADE-TO-DECADE

1901

Base Journeyman Wages: 25 cents to 30 cents per hour
Benefits Contributions: <none>
Total Compensation Package: 25 to 30 cents per hour

1910

Base Journeyman Wages: 60 cents per hour
Benefits Contributions: <none>
Total Compensation Package: 60 cents per hour

1920

Base Journeyman Wages: 85 cents per hour
Benefits Contributions: <none>
Total Compensation Package: 85 cents per hour

1930

Base Journeyman Wages: \$1.55 per hour
Benefits Contributions: <none>
Total Compensation Package: \$1.45 per hour

1940

Base Journeyman Wages: \$1.55 per hour
Benefits Contributions: <none>
Total Compensation Package: \$1.55 per hour

1950

Base Journeyman Wages: \$2.45 per hour
Benefits Contributions: <none>
Total Compensation Package: \$2.45 per hour

1960

Base Journeyman Wages: \$3.65 per hour
Benefits Contributions: 10 cents per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$3.75 per hour

1970

Base Journeyman Wages: \$6.55 per hour
Fringe Benefits Contributions: 70 cents per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$7.25 per hour

1980

Base Journeyman Wages: \$12.10 per hour
Fringe Benefits Contributions: \$2.95 per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$15.05 per hour

1990

Base Journeyman Wages: \$18.50 per hour
Fringe Benefits Contributions: \$4.63 per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$23.13 per hour

2000

Base Journeyman Wages: \$21.30 per hour
Fringe Benefits Contributions: \$10.05 per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$31.35 per hour

2010

Base Journeyman Wages: \$26.20 per hour
Fringe Benefits Contributions: \$16.80 per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$43.00 per hour

2020

Base Journeyman Wages: \$32.54 per hour
Fringe Benefits Contributions: \$22.50 per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$55.04 per hour

2026

Base Journeyman Wages: \$38.00 per hour
Fringe Benefits Contributions: \$25.00 per hour
Total Compensation Package: \$63.00 per hour

included the local's first-ever employer-funded fringe benefit in a provision that established a **Health & Welfare Plan Fund** to help pay for hospitalization for members and their dependents; surgical, sickness and accident benefits; and life insurance. Initially, contractors paid 7-1/2 cents for each hour worked by the local's members into the fund, which would be administered by the **Ironworkers District Council of Southern Ohio and Vicinity**, in which Local 22 was an associated local along with 12 other I.A. locals.

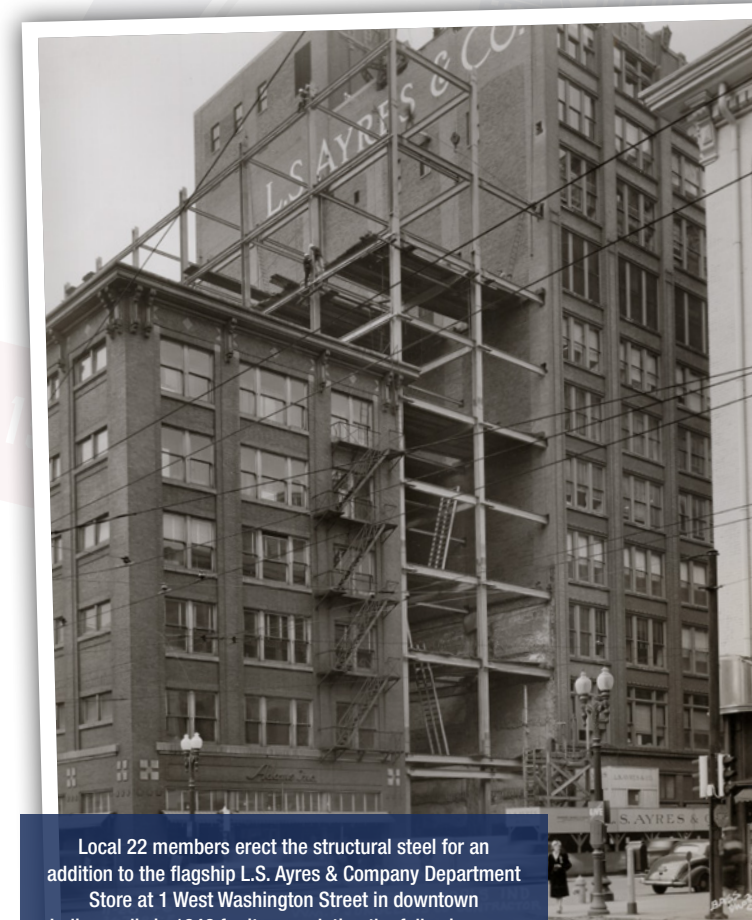
Subsequent new working agreements negotiated by the local increased its journeyman wage scale to \$3.05 per hour in 1955 as members continued to enjoy favorable employment conditions in the mid-1950s as its city's industrial and construction sectors continued to boom, highlighted by work on the new **interstate highway system**. The local's members were also still receiving 7-1/2-cents-per-hour worked into the welfare fund during that period.

With the consistent work and several larger projects in its jurisdiction, the local's membership surpassed 450 ironworkers, reinforcing rodmen and apprentices in 1955. In response to its growth, that year the local elected to make its appointed, part-time office of assistant business manager, who at the time was **Brother John Kelley**, into an elected position to provide additional support to its business manager, who at the time was **Brother Charles Hayman**.

Abundant work persisted throughout the second half of the 1950s, driven by rapidly expanding highway construction with its numerous bridges as well as strong growth of manufacturing sectors in automotive parts, pharmaceuticals and agricultural machinery. Among the key jobs providing

workhours, many of the local's members erected the 1.6-million-square-foot **Ford Indianapolis Steering Gear Plant** on English Avenue that opened in 1957 to specifically manufacture steering gear assemblies and other automotive components (after which it was a major employer for the area before being closed in 2011 and demolished).

Maintaining steady when not robust employment of its membership, the local's wages concurrently increased during that time. New agreements with the Contractors Association that were gained without strikes provided upgraded wage scales of \$3.40 per hour in 1957; \$3.47-1/2 per hour in 1958; and \$3.65 per hour in 1959, by which time the local's members were also receiving 10 cents per hour worked into the district council's Health & Welfare Plan Fund.



Local 22 members erect the structural steel for an addition to the flagship L.S. Ayres & Company Department Store at 1 West Washington Street in downtown Indianapolis in 1946 for its completion the following year.

ENABLING REGIONAL GROWTH, MEMBERS' RETIREMENT PLAN

Local 22 and its ironworkers played key roles in the intense construction activity in and around Indianapolis that marked the 1960s, which was still heavily impacted by the construction of the Interstate-65 and Interstate-70 highways that would run through the city and surrounding residential areas. The local's members also began erecting the city's new skyline with construction of the 28-story **City-County Building** municipal office tower from 1960 until it was completed in 1962 as the tallest building in Indianapolis – a distinction it would hold until 1970.

Elsewhere, among other major jobs that were employing the local's union ironworkers was construction of the new **Warner Auditorium** in Anderson, Indiana, in 1961 and 1962. The project featured the largest circular dome ever lifted when the facility was crowned with a 3-million-pound dome resting on 36 steel posts around the perimeter of the auditorium, for which members performed the erecting, welding and concrete iron-reinforcing work.

But after a new work agreements with the Building Contractors Association of Indianapolis increased the local's journeyman wages from \$3.77-1/2 per hour in 1960 to \$4.12-1/2 in 1962 and provided Health & Welfare Plan benefit contributions of 10 cents per hour, the local's more than 500 ironworkers went on strike beginning May 1, 1963, to gain a new contract. After 10 days, the local and 150 Indiana contracting firms reached an agreement that increased pay by 37-1/2 cent per hour over a two-year period,

ultimately boosting the local's wage scale to \$4.50 per hour in 1965.

The new pact also established a first-ever employer-funded **Pension Plan Fund** to provide retirement subsidies for the local's members. The new fringe benefit called for initial payments of 10-cents-per-hour worked

by the local's members into the pension fund, in addition to the 10 cents being paid for healthcare benefits.

Subsequent agreements pushed the local's journeyman wage scale to \$4.65 per hour in 1966 and then to \$5.15 per hour in 1967. That year, fringe-benefit contributions were also escalated to 20 cents per hour for health and welfare and 25 cents per hour for retirement pensions.

As Local 22 ironworkers continued the transformation of the downtown Indianapolis skyline, they erected the new **Indiana National Bank Building** (now Regions Tower) beginning in 1968. When completed in 1970, the modern, 36-story office tower took over as the tallest building in the city.

During that time, the local gained another new two-year work agreement that went into effect on June 1, 1968, and eventually increased journeyman pay to \$6.55 per hour in 1969 and benefit contributions to 25 cents per hour for the local's Health & Welfare Plan and 45 cents per hour for its Pension Plan. However, just two weeks after the local signed the contract, its approximately 700 union ironworkers went on a brief strike against its contractors beginning June 17 to protest working conditions on jobsites.



The dues stamp book of Local 22 member Thomas E. Campbell from 1954.



Local 22 J.A.T.C. apprenticeship graduates (left to right, front row) John Mitchell, Robert Ferrand, Larry Lester, Mark Manners, Douglas Marcum and Jesse Lindsey Jr.; and (back row) Apprentice Coordinator Vestal Stinson; contractor representatives William Farwell, Larry Boyd and Gaylon Lathrop; graduates Michael Artman and William Knight; Local 22 President Harry L. Fryar Jr.; graduates Stephen Burgan, William Bravard, Jacques Newerth, Charles Koch, James Cathcart, Jeffrey Smith and Daniel Sprague; Local 22 Business Agent Curtis Wooten; contractor representative William Caldwell; and Local 22 Assistant Business Agent Jack Muir pose together during the J.A.T.C. graduation ceremony in 1976.

BUILDING THE FRAMEWORK FOR SWEEPING EXPANSIONS

Local 22 continued to contribute to the transformation of Indianapolis and Central Indiana as significant downtown redevelopment and interstate construction persisted well into the 1970s, during which the expansions of I-65 and I-70 in the region would be completed in 1974. Other significant projects during the decade included erecting the multimillion-dollar **Indiana Convention Center** that opened in 1972 and ongoing development of the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis campus that changed the landscape of the city's westside downtown area.

But the decade also began for the local with a two-week-long strike against the Building Contractors Association beginning June 1, 1970, after their agreement expired and no new contract was in place as the association's 120 contractors rejected the local's request for a new, three-year pact with a total wage increase of \$4.85 per year and fringe-benefit increases of 55 cents per hour. The local's 785 members returned to work on June 15 after the two sides signed a three-year work agreement

providing total wage-and-benefit increases that immediately raised the local's journeymen scale to \$7.35 per hour in 1970 and would eventually boost it to \$8.55 per hour and fringe-benefit hourly contributions to 50 cents for healthcare and 60 cents for pensions in 1972.

The local and the Contractors Association entered into another type of agreement on September 18, 1970, when they signed the **Indianapolis Plan for Equal Employment**, which was also signed by all other building trades unions in the city. Sponsored by federal and local government agencies, the program provided for a number of minority workers to enter the ironworking trade as trainees and receive job-related education and on-the-job training through apprenticeships with the local so they could become union ironworkers.

Back out in the field, favorable employment conditions persisted as Local 22 members worked on major downtown Indianapolis projects such as the 17-story **Blue-Cross Blue-Shield Building** headquarters that was completed in 1971 (and is now the Hilton Indianapolis Hotel) and the new **Market Square Arena** sports facility that, when completed in 1974 as the new home for the Indiana Pacers of the National Basketball Association,



Local 22 J.A.T.C. apprenticeship graduates (left to right, seated) Kelly Macken, Earnest Thompson, Michael Orr, Kerry Ledbetter, Kevin Schulz and Mike Bartholomew; (standing, first row) Indiana State Director of Apprentice Training Ken Gibson; Local 22 Assistant Business Agent William McConnell; Local 22 Business Agent Raymond Bymaster; J.A.T.C. Chairman Don Sichting; graduates Mark Schulz, Steve Campbell and Timothy Jones; and Training Coordinator Earl V. Byrne; and (standing, back row) Local 22 Financial Secretary Harold Stinson, Local 22 President Harry L. Fryar Jr., graduate James Joslin and training instructors James Blackburn and Robert Orr pose together during the J.A.T.C. graduation ceremony on July 9, 1988.

could host more than 16,500 attendees for games (but was demolished in 2001). Among numerous other new edifices that redefined the city during the first half of the 1970s, members also erected the **Minton-Capehart Federal Building**, the 20-floor **Market Square Center** office high-rise, and the 20-story **Indiana Bell Telephone Company** modern office building, each of which was completed in 1975, as well as major expansion of the pharmaceuticals manufacturing facilities at the **Eli Lilly & Company** campus on Kentucky Avenue.

With 1,200 ironworkers working through Local 22 on 130 projects in the area, the 350 members employed by firms represented by the newly formed Construction League of Indianapolis went on strike for six-days beginning June 1, 1974, to secure their demands for a wage increase of \$1.25 per hour while contractors were only offering 95 cents. The settlement instead provided an 85-cent hourly increase retroactive to June 1 and another 20-cent raise on November 1 that boosted the local's wage scale to \$9.50 per hour and benefits to 55 cents per hour each for healthcare and retirement funds and 25 cents for the apprentice training fund.

However, when that agreement expired and again no new contract was in place, the local's members went back on strike beginning June 2, 1975, shutting down virtually all major construction projects in Indianapolis and Central Indiana. After 17 days, the strike ended when the local and the Construction League reached a deal on annual 75-cent-per-hour increases to their wage-and-benefits package over a two-year period, which would ultimately raise the local's journeyman base pay on June 1, 1976, for the ensuing year to \$10.75 per hour and total additional benefit contributions to \$1.60 per hour.

By the second half of the 1970s, however, construction in the Local 22 jurisdiction had begun to dramatically decline as large jobs were completed and few new substantial projects were being started. Consequently, at one point before the end of 1975, the unemployment in Central Indiana reached upwards of 45 percent.

To counter the high joblessness in their industry, the building trades in Central Indiana, including the union ironworkers, and 21 major employing contractors signed a historic "memorandum of understanding"

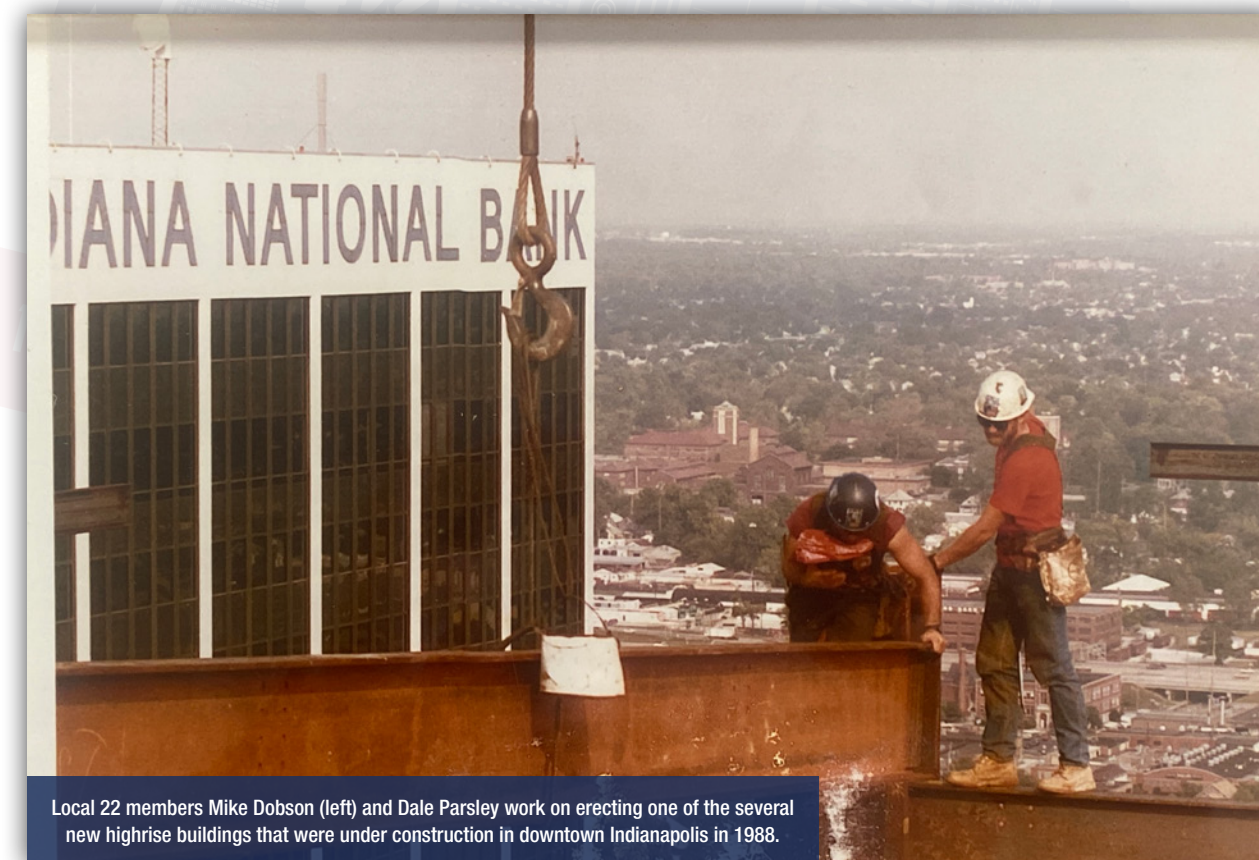
on November 25, 1975, aimed at eliminating picketing and strikes to settle jurisdictional quarrels between trades and labor-management disputes. Believed to be the first of its kind that was meant to be permanent, by providing diplomatic solutions to disagreements the **"Operation Top Notch" Agreement** would, according to an article in the November 30 *Indianapolis Star* newspaper, "keep construction jobs running smoothly and efficiently to maintain time schedules and hold down costs" – and, therefore, reduce the high rate of unemployment in the construction industry.

Hailing the agreement during the November 25 meeting at which it was signed (although in the end it would not endure), Local 22 **Assistant Business Agent Samuel "Jack" Muir**, who was spokesman for the unions, told those in attendance:

"Maybe it is vested interest that brings us together this afternoon. But let's not lose sight

of the fact that the public interest is being served in the long run. In helping to make Indianapolis a better place for new business to develop, we are helping to create more jobs and a better life for everybody."

Subsequently, Local 22 gained a new, two-year work agreement with the Construction League on June 1, 1977, that increased the journeyman wage scale by 85 cents to \$11 per hour the first year and another 80 cents to \$11.80 the second year. A succeeding contract that went into effect on June 1, 1979, pushed the local's base pay rate to \$12.10 per hour and provided fringe benefit hourly contributions of \$1 for the Health & Welfare Plan, \$1.45 for the Pension Plan and a total of 50 cents for a Training Fund and retirement Annuity Fund – giving the local's journeyman ironworkers a total compensation package at the end of the decade of **\$15.05 per hour**.



Local 22 members Mike Dobson (left) and Dale Parsley work on erecting one of the several new highrise buildings that were under construction in downtown Indianapolis in 1988.

TAKING THE CITY HIGHER AS IT REACHES SKYWARD

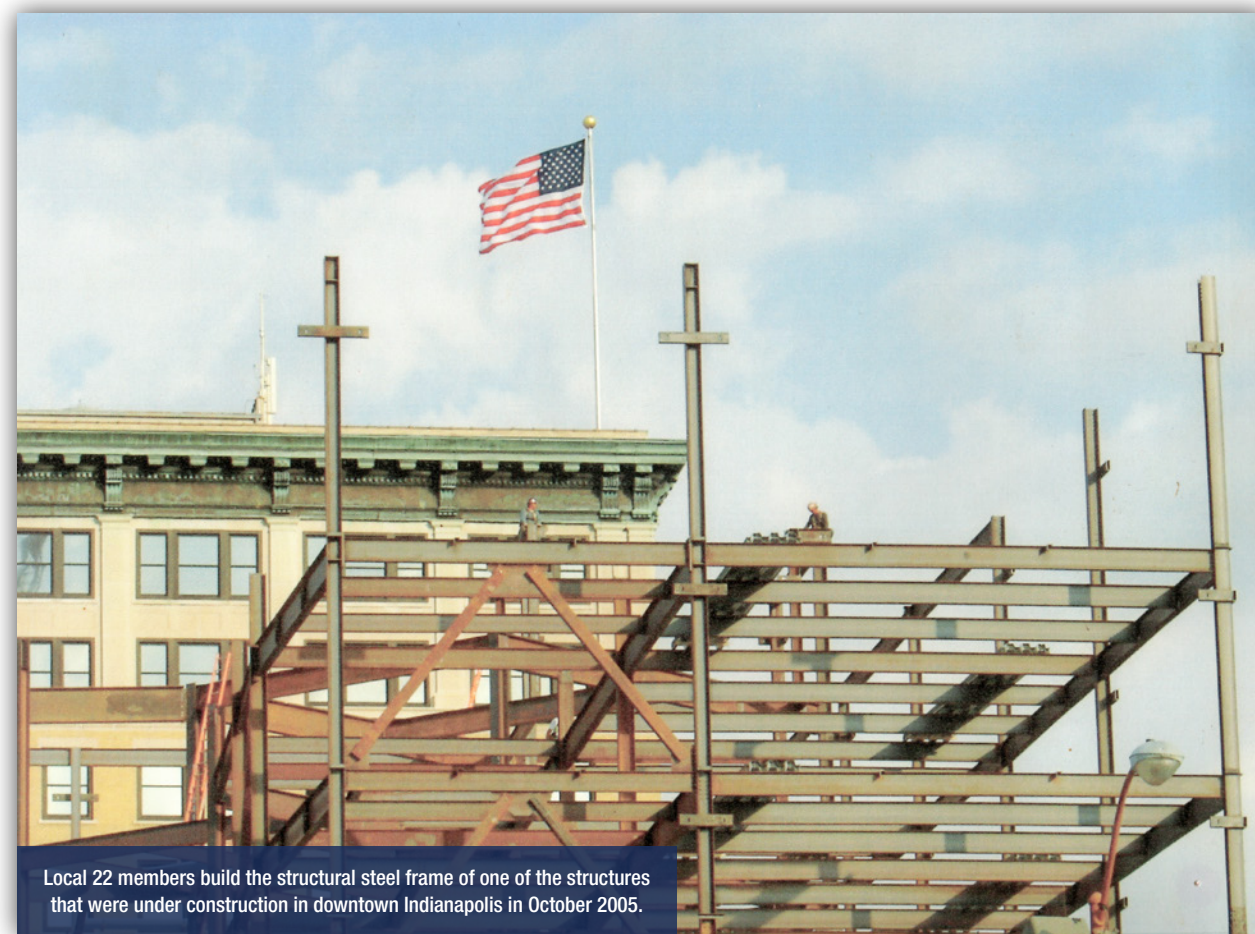
The improved labor-management relations between Local 22 and its employers with the Construction League of Indianapolis initially allowed union ironworkers to flourish along with Indianapolis in the early 1980s as major downtown revitalization accelerated again. As such, despite growing pressure from non-union competition, union ironworkers, as well as other union building trades, were heavily involved in the unprecedented urban development that took place during that period.

Those city renaissance projects on which the local's members worked included construction of the 38-story **American United Life Tower** (now OneAmerica Tower) that when completed in 1982 after union ironworkers placed its 5,000 tons of structural and 4,000 tons of reinforcing steel was the tallest building in Indiana for the next eight years. Members also helped expand the Indiana Convention Center and simultaneously erected the adjoining 60,500-seat **Hoosier Dome** (later

the RCA Dome) for its opening in 1984 as the home of the new Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League and to host an array of large events (before it was closed and demolished in 2008).

At the same time, the local continued to improve its work agreements through collective bargaining with the Construction League. As a result, into 1982 its journeyman wage scale was set at \$14.15 per hour and employers were making fringe-benefit hourly contributions of \$1 for healthcare insurance, \$1.85 for retirement pensions, 50 cents for annuities and 5 cents for apprentice training – a total compensation package of \$17.55 per hour.

But Local 22 and its 500 working members went on strike for one day beginning June 1, 1982, when contract negotiations with its contractors, which had been taking place since April, broke down and their former work agreement had expired at midnight. The two sides settled on a new, three-year pact on June 2 that contained almost all of the local's requests and called for increased total hourly wage-and-benefits scales for journeymen of \$19.05 for the first year, \$20.55 the second year and \$21.85 the final year before expiring on May 31, 1985.



Local 22 members build the structural steel frame of one of the structures that were under construction in downtown Indianapolis in October 2005.

When the local and the Construction League again failed to come to terms on a new agreement when that previous contract expired, the local's more than 600 members went on strike on June 3, 1985, picketing about 20 construction sites as well as the offices of various construction companies two days later. However, with construction work slumping and non-union competition continuing to infiltrate the local's jurisdiction, it accepted a new two-year agreement with a wage freeze the first year and a 50-cent pay increase the second year, which raised its journeyman scale to \$18.05 per hour while maintaining fringe benefits at \$2.25 per hour for healthcare, \$2 per hour for pensions and 8 cents per hour for training through May 31, 1987.

However, the Marion County construction surge that "transformed empty lots into mazes of concrete and glass," as an October 23, 1986,

Indianapolis Star article described, continued to employ most all of Local 22's 500-plus members as well as a number of "boomers" (union ironworkers who travel from other International Association locals for work). "I get calls every day from people from all parts of the country who want to work here," Local 22 **Business Manager Raymond Bymaster** told the newspaper. "I've had people working here this summer from as far away as Canada."

With members – two of whom were females by that time – also working on several developments at **Indianapolis International Airport** and the **U.S. Army Soldier Support Center** at Fort Benjamin Harrison, the newspaper also paid homage to the union craftspeople:

"As construction continues to mushroom, the skies will be filled with ironworkers, the glint of metal and the din of their machinery."



Local 22 retirees pose together while attending the annual Local 22 picnic in 1993.



Local 22 ironworkers erect Lucas Oil Stadium, the new home of the Indianapolis Colts, from September 2005 until it was completed and opened on August 16, 2008.

As the decade continued to progress, among major projects that employed union ironworkers during the ongoing Indianapolis building boom, which was primarily driven by significant downtown corporate investment, was construction of the 28-story **First Indiana Plaza** (now BMO Plaza) office tower that was completed in early 1988. Nearby, Local 22 members also erected the 32-story, reinforced-concrete **Market Tower** office building that was finished later that year.

Perhaps their “crown jewel” of the decade, the local’s ironworkers then set the steel-beam frame of the new, 48-story **Bank One Center** (now Salesforce Tower) office complex in downtown Indianapolis beginning in mid-1987. When completed in 1990 after the local’s members also bolted 160 1,400-pound granite panels around the exterior of *each* of the building’s floors, the skyscraper became the tallest building in Indiana, a title it still holds in 2026.

With employment conditions prosperous once again, the local’s wage scales in new agreements likewise escalated. As such, by the end of the decade its journeyman base pay reached \$18.50 per hour while added contributions for healthcare, pensions and training benefits set the local’s total ironworker compensation package entering the 1990s at **\$23.13 per hour**.

COUNTERING A NEMESIS TO MAINTAIN ITS PROGRESS

The persistent momentum of the reconstruction of downtown Indianapolis continued to create steady when not strong employment conditions for the Local 22 membership throughout much of the 1990s. Characterized by a shift from a manufacturing-based economy toward a diverse, service-oriented, professional-sports hub, the city’s transformation and the

mass construction of commercial plazas and expanding highways in growing suburban areas provided an influx of manhours for the local’s union ironworkers.

Among the more-prolific jobs on which Local 22 members were employed during the first half of the decade were major expansions at the Indianapolis hub of the **FedEx Corporation** (formerly known as Federal Express). The additions included new buildings and hangars for the shipping company, which would expand again just a few years later with the local’s members again on the job.

They erected yet another high-profile facility during that period with construction of the new **Victory Field** minor-league baseball park in the city’s White River State Park to replace the former Bush Stadium as the home field of the Indianapolis Indians of the International League. Opened on July 11, 1996, after ground was broken for the project one-and-a-half years earlier, *Sports Illustrated* called the 13,300-seat stadium “the best new minor league ballpark in America.”

Meanwhile, new agreements increased the local’s journeyman base wage scale to \$19.10 per hour in 1990 and eventually to \$19.85 in 1995. Members’ fringe benefits likewise improved from hourly contributions of \$2.25 for healthcare, \$2.35 for pensions and 18 cents for training in 1990 to \$2.60 for healthcare, \$3.20 for pensions, 22 cents for training and \$2 for a new Annuity Fund in 1995 – providing ironworkers with a total compensation package that year and into 1996 of \$27.87 per hour.

But by the mid-1990s, Local 22 as well as the entire union construction industry of Indiana was facing such intense non-union competition that in May 1995 the local’s membership approved a plan to create and finance a “market-recovery program” to promote the union construction industry within its jurisdiction through advertising, educational programs, productivity studies

and related activities. The **Ironworkers Local Union 22 Target Program** also included a provision calling for “the financing of wage supplements to employees on targeted jobs” to help lower project bids for the local’s signatory contractors so they could better compete with non-union bidders who could exploit labor by paying substandard wages and benefits during down economic times.

“This program was created to compete against the unfair or non-union contractors,” Business Manager Jeff Stinson wrote in a letter to the membership that accompanied the resolution calling for the creation of the Target Program. “In areas where other trades have lesser scales,

we are able to jointly give the contractor in that area a chance to obtain work for ironworkers and, in some cases, for other trades.”

“It also puts the member in position of not having to take a cut in wages,” Business Manager Stinson continued. “My feeling is that the cut in wages only causes people to become disgruntled and not perform to their highest level of production. The program also spreads the cost throughout the entire membership so that one member or a small group of members are not financing the Target Program.”

The following year, the local’s June 1, 1996, collectively bargained work agreement with the **Associated General Contractors of Indiana** (A.G.C.), the negotiating representative of the local’s employers, called for the establishment of the program. It set an initial per-member assessment of 10-cents-per-hour worked to fund its activities.

That three-year contract also provided wage increases of 85 cents for both its first two years of the agreement and another 90 cents for its third year. Those provisions boosted the local’s journeyman scale to \$20.60 per hour and total fringe-benefit hourly payments of \$9.85 for the year before the contract expired on May 31, 1999.

Out in the field as the second half of the decade advanced, the local’s membership was provided with improving employment opportunities that included construction

of the **Qualitech Steel “mini-mill”** in Pittsboro, Indiana, which went online in 1998 to process scrap metal using an electric arc furnace before it went bankrupt in 2000. Elsewhere, construction at Indianapolis International Airport that was dominated by the major 1998 expansion of the FedEx hub, making it the second-largest such facility in the nation, further provided a rush of workhours to union ironworkers.

The local’s members also placed a total of 2,600 tons of steel while erecting the new **Conseco Fieldhouse** (now Gainbridge Fieldhouse) arena in downtown Indianapolis beginning in 1997, including its arched-steel truss system that covers roughly six acres. When completed and opened in November 1999, the then-18,345-seat sports and entertainment facility replaced the aging Market Square Arena as the home of the Pacers and the Indiana Fever of the Women’s National Basketball Association.

As Local 22 also continued to confront its non-union opposition, on June 1, 1997, it joined the **Ironworkers Political Education Fund** of its parent International Association of Ironworkers in order to better support and promote labor-friendly politicians and legislation. Ironworkers employed within the local’s jurisdiction were initially assessed 5 cents per hour from their wages to subsidize the political fund.

By the close of the decade, those wages had advanced through the local’s collective bargaining agreement to \$21.30 per hour. With employers’ hourly fringe-benefit contributions of \$3.05 into the Health & Welfare Fund, \$3.70 into the Pension Fund, \$3.05 into the Annuity Fund and 25 cents into the Training Fund, Local 22 journeyman ironworkers ended the decade, the century and the millennium earning a total wage-and-benefits package of **\$31.35 per hour.**

A STADIUM AND MERGERS ENHANCE LOCAL’S LEGACY

The 21st Century and “Y2K” (Year 2000) Millennium together brought with them more progress and challenges for Local 22 as Indianapolis and Central Indiana continued to transform and evolve. With the city’s downtown still experiencing steady, long-term residential and commercial growth, including the addition of numerous hotels, and the metropolitan area continuing to develop and expand with substantial urban sprawl, the local’s member ironworkers remained gainfully employed for much of the early 2000s while the vibrant region was also able to quickly recover from a relatively mild but disruptive nationwide economic recession in 2001.

Sustained in large part by active downtown construction that was supported with heavy investment in capital projects, positive employment conditions rapidly swelled the workhours of the Local 22 membership. As a result, in 2003 the local hired its first-ever fulltime business agent/organizer, member **Brother John M. Haggard**, to help grow its workforce of union ironworkers.

Meanwhile, the local’s work agreements with the A.G.C. produced improved wages and benefits that began in 2000 with a \$21.90 per hour base pay rate and fringe-benefit hourly contributions of \$3.40 for healthcare insurance, \$3.70 for pensions, \$2.70 for annuities and 35 cents for training. Successive contract improvements ultimately set the local’s base journeyman wage in 2005 at \$23.75 per hour and hourly benefit payments at \$6 for healthcare, \$5.70 for pensions, \$2.70 for annuities and 30 cents for training – a total wage-and-benefits increase from \$32.05 to \$38.45 per hour over the first half of the decade.

The ensuing construction boom of the latter half of the 2000s essentially got underway



Local 22 ironworkers Chris Marchino (left) and Nehemiah Coon erect the new James T. Morris Arena multi-purpose athletic facility at Indiana University Indianapolis in 2025 for its planned opening in late 2026.



Local 22 Member Training

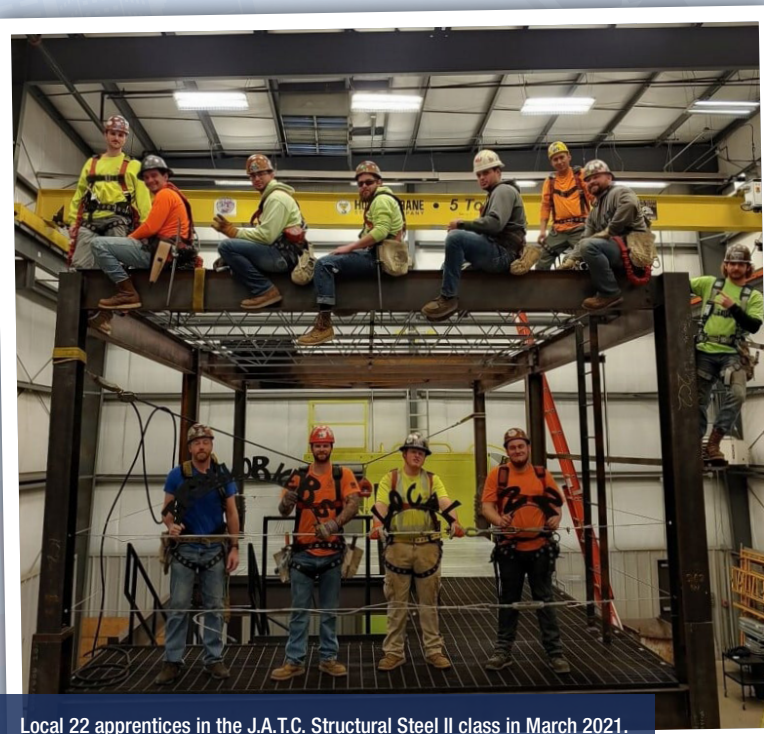
EDUCATING AN INDUSTRY-LEADING WORKFORCE

Local 22 has trained new recruits to become journeyman ironworkers through the time-tested system of apprenticeship ever since it was chartered by the International Association of Ironworkers in 1901. Through this training, Local 22 apprentices learn the trade while working side-by-side with experienced journeymen on active jobsites while receiving pay and benefits through the local and its employing contractors.

But it was not until September 6, 1941, that the local and its employing contractors put in place their first **apprentice training agreement** to regulate the education of ironworking-industry apprentices in Central Indiana. The first such agreement among all the building trades in the region, the ironworkers apprenticeship standards were jointly formulated by a committee of three labor representatives, including Local 22 **Business Agent Carl Vestal**, and three management representatives of the Steel and Iron Fabricators' and Erectors' Division of the Building Contractors' Association of Marion County.

Approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, the agreement established the **Ironworkers Local 22 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** (J.A.T.C.) of an equal number of labor and management representatives to oversee the Local 22 training program. It also put in

With the demand for wind-turbine erectors booming across the State of Indiana and North America, in 2012 Local 22 and its J.A.T.C. became one of six training locations to sponsor **Ironworker Wind Turbine Training** courses funded by U.S. Department of Labor grants through the International Association of Ironworkers National Training Fund. Even after the grant ended, Local 22 indicated it was willing to set up its own training with the guidance of the National Training Fund.



Local 22 apprentices in the J.A.T.C. Structural Steel II class in March 2021.

place a program of work experience for apprentices and supplemental "related instruction" through 144 hours per year of required classroom and laboratory instruction at **Arsenal Technical High School** in the Indianapolis Public Schools system.

The agreement also set up standard qualifications for apprentices, including the specific courses of instruction to prepare them to become journeymen and continuity of employment while learning the trade. It further set wages for apprentices to "earn while they learn" on jobsites as percentages of the journeyman pay scale that increased as trainees advanced through the program – systems that continue in 2026 as Local 22 marks its 125th charter anniversary.

The local and the J.A.T.C. moved its training program to **Ivy Tech Community College**, the State of Indiana's public community college system, after it was established in 1963. Graduates of the Local 22 apprenticeship still earn an associate's degree from the college.

When the local moved into its new Union Hall on Dividend Road in Indianapolis in 2007, the local and J.A.T.C. built and opened their own new **Ironworkers Local 22 Training Center** and relocated its training into the modern and fully equipped facility before merging training in Lafayette and Terre Haute the following year. From the 11,000-square-foot facility, which was expanded in 2012, Local 22 has continued to provide apprentices with the latest training to coincide with the evolving construction industry and its technology.

In fulfilling a mission to develop apprentices and members so that its ironworkers stand apart as the most qualified in the workforce, the Local 22 apprenticeship has developed into a four-year, Department of Labor registered program that has continued to emphasize its "earn-while-you-learn" approach. The Local 22 J.A.T.C. program and its related classroom instruction includes training in structural steel erection, welding, rigging and iron reinforcing so that students can develop valuable skillsets and gain certifications that will differentiate them in the workforce – all while being paid and without accumulating debt.

As Local 22 celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2026, its J.A.T.C. training program is educating 289 apprentices in



16 active apprentice classes spread across four years. Its Training Center also now features 17 practice welding booths and 10 test welding booths, while it has enhanced its training curriculum to accommodate Spanish-speaking apprentices.

The Local 22 Training Center is also available to the local's experienced journey-level members so they can upgrade their skills in the latest industry techniques and equipment. They can also utilize the facility to renew industry certifications.





MERGERS THAT SHAPED LOCAL 22

The International Association of Ironworkers has merged two other locals into Local 22:

Mixed structural, ornamental and reinforcing ironworkers **Local No. 379** of Lafayette, Indiana, was merged into Local 22 in 2008. The union had chartered Local 379 on November 25, 1921.

Mixed structural, ornamental and reinforcing ironworkers **Local No. 439** of Terre Haute, Indiana, was merged into Local 22 in 2008. The union had chartered Local 439 on September 11, 1929.

with the start of work on the new **Lucas Oil Stadium** in Indianapolis in September 2005, for which Local 22 members would erect approximately 16,000 tons of structural steel to form its massive frame, retractable roof and structural-support systems, as well as place vast quantities of iron rebar for its reinforced-concrete infrastructure. The multi-purpose facility would replace the soon-to-be-demolished RCA Dome as the home field of the Colts when it opened on August 16, 2008.

Elsewhere, the building surge, driven by massive public-private partnerships, put members to work on several other major projects at the time that included numerous infrastructure jobs and construction of a new, \$1.1-billion international airport midfield terminal. The local's ironworkers also erected the new **Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center** on the school's downtown Indianapolis medical campus, a 405,000-square-foot facility that centralized inpatient and outpatient cancer care when it was completed in 2008.

Still more work for the local came with ongoing expansion of the university's medical education and care facilities, including construction of the six-story **Fairbanks Hall – Clarian Education and Resource Center** that began in 2006. The 182,000-square-foot building would house educational and administrative offices for the

university's School of Medicine and School of Nursing and Clarian Health (now Indiana University Health), which partners with the schools, when it was completed in the summer of 2008.

The start of construction on the new **Edwardsport Generating Station** in 2008 for Duke Energy Indiana, the state's largest electric utility provider, in Vigo Township near the town of Edwardsport, Indiana, to replace the plant's older generating units furnished Central Indiana's union ironworkers, including members of Local 22 and International Association **Local No. 439** of Terre Haute and **Local No. 379** of Lafayette, with another significant source of employment. The union ironworkers would subsequently erect 24,500 tons of structural steel for the 618-megawatt *integrated gasification combined cycle* power plant, which would produce cleaner-burning "syngas" from coal, before it began commercial operations in June 2013 as one of the cleanest and most efficient coal-fired plants in the world.

However, Local 22's thriving conditions were eventually disrupted by the Great Recession, a period of severe economic decline from late-2007 to mid-2009 that at the time was considered the most severe financial collapse since the Great Depression of the 1930s. With the end of large Indianapolis-area construction projects in 2008, the local experienced a significant slowdown in employment during that time.

A watershed chapter in the local's history and those of

Local 379 and Local 439 then took place in 2008 when the I.A. merged the three locals together under the Local 22 charter. Following its practice of consolidating its regional locals to pool resources and benefits, the union's international office had the Indianapolis local absorb the memberships and territorial jurisdictions of Local 379 and Local 439 – which was busy at the time with work that included jobs at the **Newton Power Station**, the **Merom Generating Station** and the Eli Lilly manufacturing plant that its members had built, as well as several bridge projects.

Following the mergers, Local 22 had an expanded membership of about 1,500 ironworkers and apprentices across 56 counties. To provide



Local 22 members work on construction of the new \$206-million Westin Indianapolis Airport hotel in May 2026.

2026



LOCAL 22 OFFICERS, 2026

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Central Business Agent Tim Klepper
Northern Business Agent Ernie Shepard
Western Business Agent Jon Brian
Financial Secretary/Treasurer Cody Bates
President Scott Hirtzel
Vice President Jeremiah Walters
Organizer Lucas Grabbe
Recording Secretary Thomas James
Sergeant at Arms Scott Hollen

services and representation to those new outlying areas, the local immediately established suboffices in Lafayette and Terre Haute.

The local then closed the first decade of the millennium with work agreement provisions improved through its collective bargaining. With those, the local's journeyman wage scale climbed from \$24.85 per hour in 2008 to \$26.20 per hour in 2009 with total benefit contributions of \$16.80 per hour, providing the local's ironworkers with a total wage-and-benefits package at the end of the decade of **\$43 per hour**.

CONTINUING TO ASSERT ITS IMPACT INTO YEAR 125

Collective bargaining negotiations with the A.G.C. during the 2010s advanced Local 22's journeyman base wage scale from \$26.20 per hour to \$27.50 per hour in 2011 and ultimately to \$32.54 per hour in 2019. By decade's end, with the local's employing contractors also providing hourly fringe-benefit payments of \$8.45 into the union's Health & Welfare Fund, \$9.50 into its Pension Fund, \$4 into its Annuity Fund and 55 cents into its Training Fund, Local 22

ironworkers would be earning total wage-and-benefits compensation of **\$55.04 per hour** as they entered 2020.

After the effects of the late 2000s recession subsided in the early 2010s, Local 22 workhours escalated during the balance of the decade. Key to those favorable employment conditions was increased demand for green energy projects in the region, including the 414-turbine **Meadow Lake Wind Farm** that the local's members erected in White, Benton and Jasper counties throughout the decade.

A rising amount of construction work in and around Central Indiana likewise put members to work on projects such as the new **Wishard Hospital** in Indianapolis, for which union ironworkers installed multiple curtain-wall systems while performing numerous critical lift picks among their more than 100,000 workhours with no lost-time incidents. Elsewhere, the start in 2015 on multi-year, \$400-million work at Duke Energy's **Cayuga Generating Station** in Vermillion County, Indiana, to install environmental control equipment to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide, which included erecting two catalytic reduction system structures, was also among a range of additional jobs that provided steady when not profuse employment for the local's membership.

But as strong employment for the local's membership regularly held into the 2020s, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which first appeared in the United States early that year and would claim the lives of more than 1-million Americans over the next three years, slowed Local 22 as jobsites were reduced or completely shut down to help stop the spread of the disease. Prioritizing the health of its members and staff and their families, the local practiced social distancing at its union hall and training facility; canceled meetings and training; and also ensured that active jobsites were safe so that members could continue

to work on key projects for which they were deemed "essential workers."

With the pandemic slowly receding, the local regained more employment opportunities as the decade progressed. Approaching the local's 125th charter anniversary in 2026, those projects have included erecting the new **James T. Morris Arena** multi-purpose athletic facility at Indiana University Indianapolis in 2025 for its planned opening in late 2026 and also the new, \$206-million **Westin Indianapolis Airport** hotel that year.

Entering its 125th anniversary year, in early 2026 the local's work agreement with the A.G.C. provided a journeyman wage scale of \$38 per hour and hourly benefit contributions by employers of \$9.75 for healthcare, \$9.50 for pensions, \$6 for annuities and 74 cents for training. With those rates, the local's total wage-and-benefits package for its ironworkers was **\$66.99 per hour** – a far cry from the *25 cents per hour for 10-hour workdays* for which the local's members first toiled shortly after it was chartered in 1901.

Now more than 1,300-members strong as it celebrates 125 years of commitment

to excellence in craftsmanship, safety and professionalism across a jurisdiction that covers the regions of Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Lafayette and Effingham, Illinois, Local 22 maintains its headquarters in Indianapolis and satellite offices in Lafayette and Terre Haute that each has its own area organizer. Building upon a legacy erected through work on projects such as Lucas Oil Stadium, the **Indianapolis Motor Speedway** and many other iconic landmarks as well as vital infrastructure across Central Indiana, Local 22 continues to impact and shape the landscape of its communities while proudly constructing a better Indiana for generations to come. ♦



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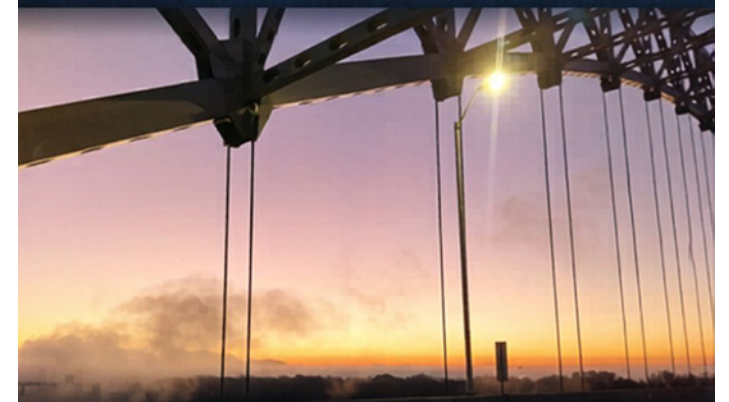
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