



IRONWORKERS LOCAL 263

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

DALLAS - FORT WORTH - ARLINGTON, TEXAS



COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY AND PROGRAM

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL 263
ON YOUR
100TH ANNIVERSARY

A Century of Excellence.

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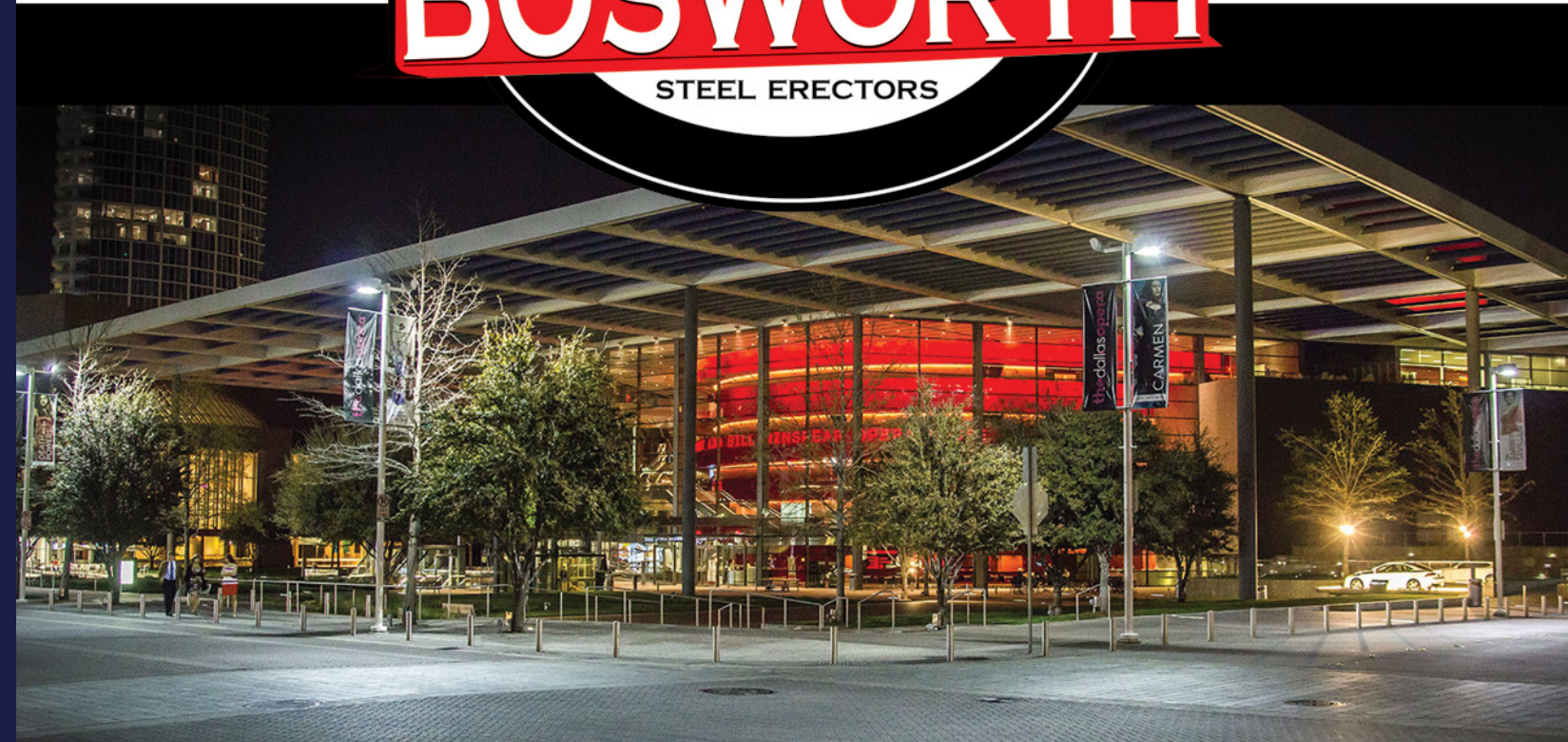
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FORT WORTH

A stylized silhouette of a longhorn, rendered in a golden-brown color, positioned below the 'FORT WORTH' text. The silhouette is centered and has a white outline, giving it a glowing appearance.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL 263

ON THEIR

100TH ANNIVERSARY

ON BEHALF OF THE FORT WORTH BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

IN BUILDING THE DFW AREA.

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Ironworkers Local 263 100-Year Anniversary.



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**From the Officers & Members
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**International Union of Operating Engineers Local 178
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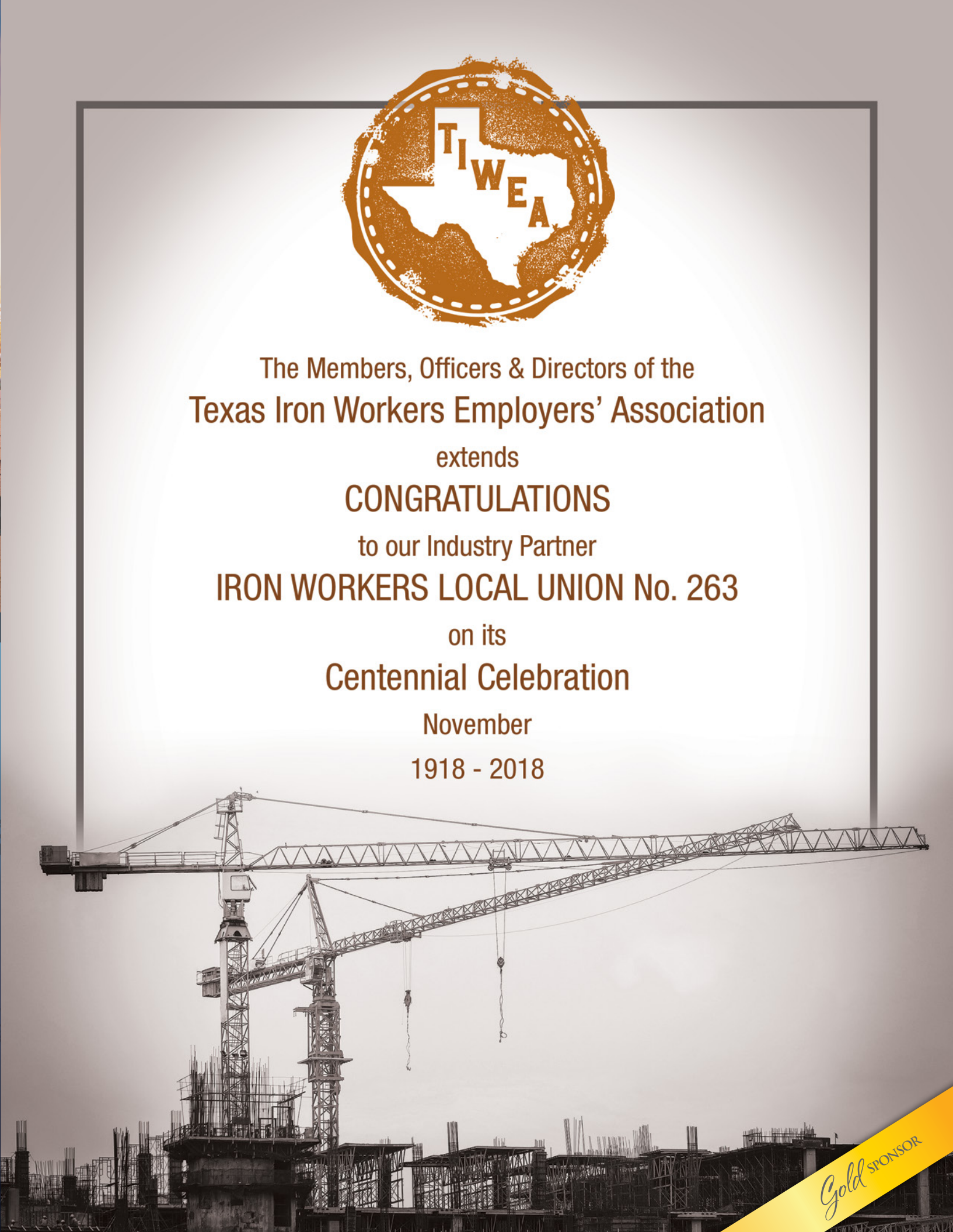
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On behalf of the
Texas Building Trades and its Affiliates...
WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE
IRON WORKERS LOCAL 263 ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY!



The Members, Officers & Directors of the
Texas Iron Workers Employers' Association
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CONGRATULATIONS
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IRON WORKERS LOCAL UNION No. 263
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**TO THE MEMBERS AND STAFF OF
IRONWORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 263**

FOR YOUR FIRST 100 YEARS



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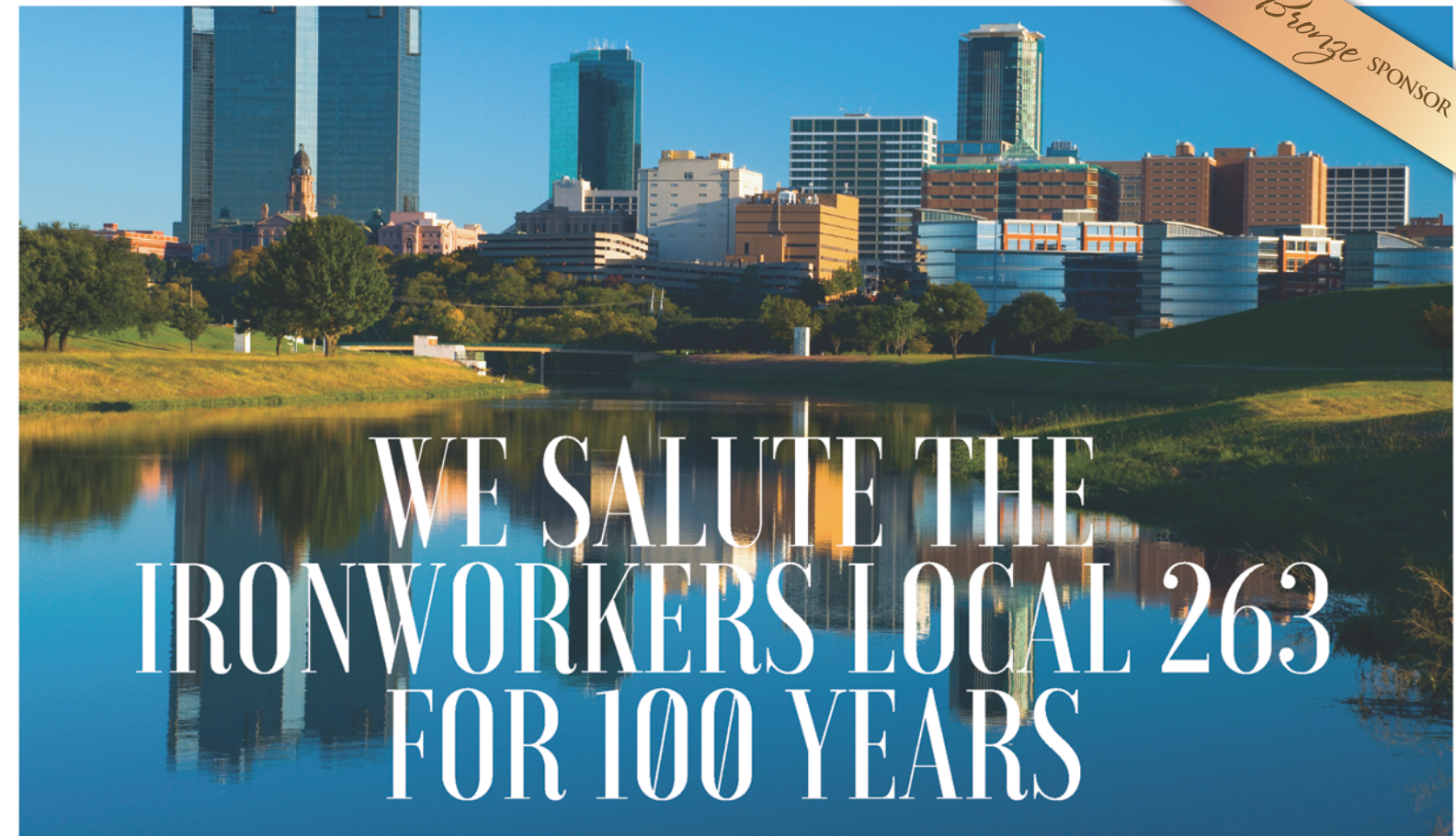
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The International Association of Bridge, Structural,
Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers

Congratulates
Local 263
on their amazing milestone!



Bill Dean
General Treasurer

Eric Dean
General President

Ronald Piksa
General Secretary

Joseph J. Hunt
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Walter W. Wise
General President Emeritus

Marvin Ragsdale, 1st General Vice President
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James Mahoney, 8th General Vice President
Steve Pendergrass, 9th General Vice President

The State of Texas



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Proud members of Iron Workers Local 263 are celebrating their union's 100th anniversary on November 3, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Organized by William J. McCain, vice president of the International Iron Workers Union, Local 263 was chartered in Fort Worth on November 20, 1918; originally made up of 30 members, the group merged with two other locals representing Dallas and West Texas in 1996, and today it consists of more than 1,000 members in 143 counties and in communities such as Amarillo, El Paso, Midland, Odessa, Lubbock, Texarkana, and Wichita Falls; and


WHEREAS, Members of Local 263 have helped to construct some of the most iconic buildings in the Lone Star State, including AT&T Stadium, Globe Life Park, the American Airlines Center, Dickies Arena, the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, the General Motors plant expansion in Arlington, the Veterans Administration hospital at Fort Bliss, and the headquarters buildings of Liberty Mutual and Toyota's North American division; as part of its community service, the union awards two \$2,500 college scholarships each year to children of members; and

WHEREAS, Today, Local 263 is led by president Julio Gonzalez Jr., vice president Michael Salceda, financial secretary and treasurer Ronnie Smitherman, recording secretary Mark Fritts, sergeant at arms Antonio Luquis, and conductor Genaro Aviles; the organization also benefits from the vital contributions of trustees Douglas Kerss, Robert Scroggins, and James Smith Sr., as well as from the efforts of executive board members Justin Daniels, Raymond Dodd, Terry Myers, Christopher Ybarra, and Mr. Luquis; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of a century, Local 263 has made a positive difference in the lives of countless ironworkers and their families, and its members are indeed deserving of special recognition during this milestone year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the centennial of Iron Workers Local 263 be commemorated and that all those associated with the organization be extended sincere best wishes for the future.




Chris Turner
State Representative
District 101

18R3538

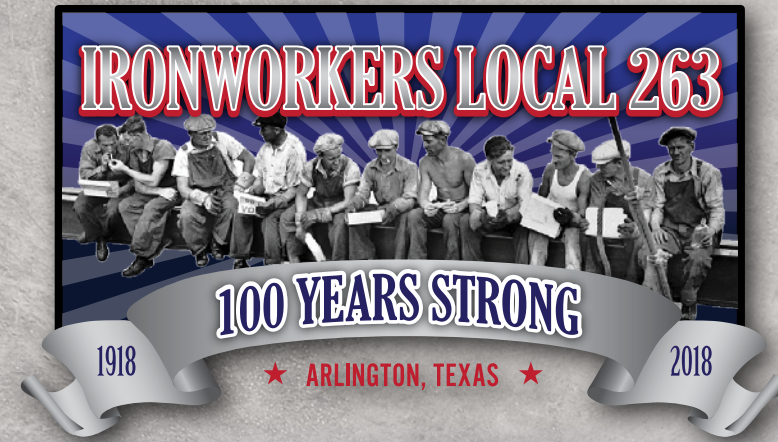
International Association of
Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers
 Local Union No. 263
 Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

OFFICE: METRO (817) 640-0202 FAX: (817) 649-4157

604 N. GREAT SOUTHWEST PARKWAY
 ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-5425

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS
 OF IRONWORKERS LOCAL 263 ON YOUR
 100TH ANNIVERSARY
 WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT
 WITHOUT YOU!**

PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT	FINANCIAL SECRETARY-T/BM
JULIO GONZALEZ	MICHAEL SALCEDA	RONNIE SMITHERMAN
RECORDING SECRETARY	SEARGENT-AT-ARMS	CONDUCTOR
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ANTONIO LUQUIS,	TERRY MYERS,	CHRISTOPHER YBARRA



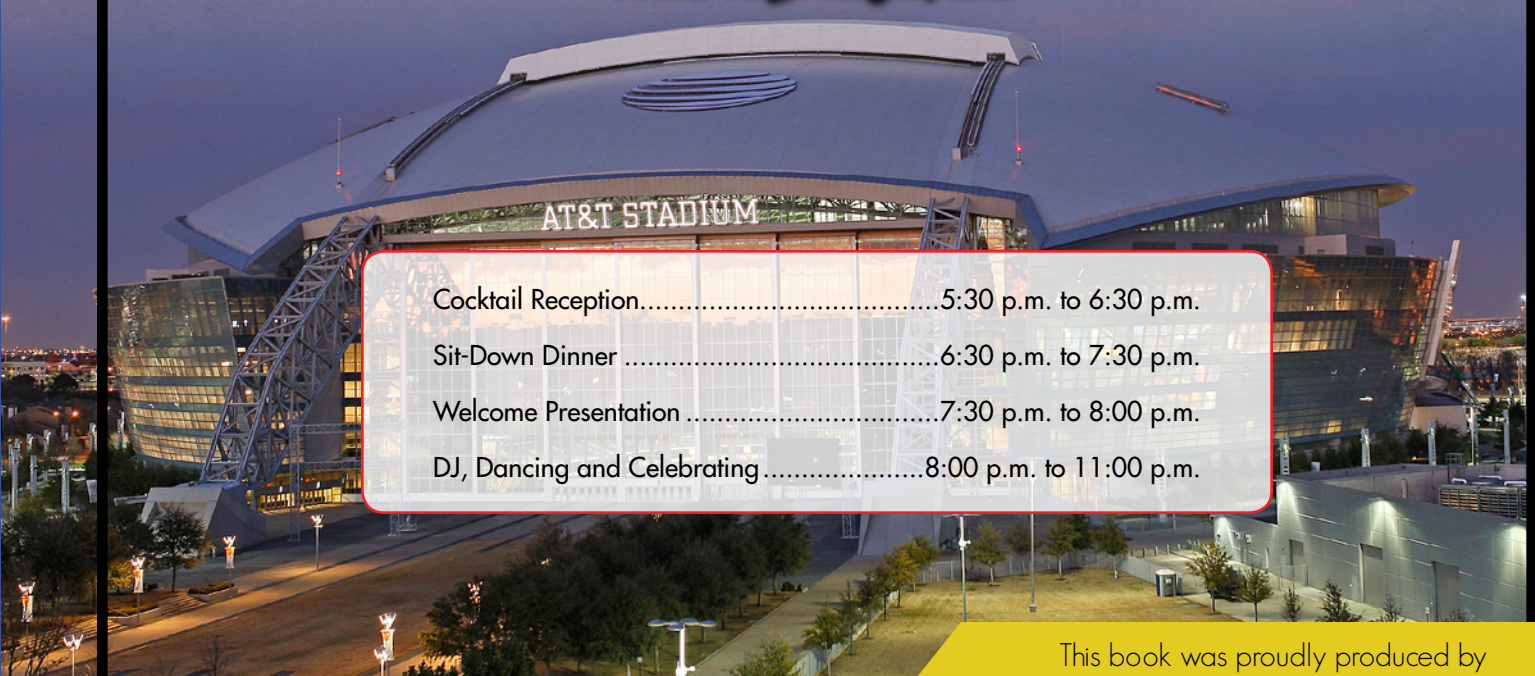
IRONWORKERS LOCAL 263 - 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 3, 2018

5:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

AT&T Stadium—Main Club North

1 AT&T Way, Arlington, Texas



Cocktail Reception.....	5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sit-Down Dinner	6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Welcome Presentation	7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
DJ, Dancing and Celebrating	8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

This book was proudly produced by

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Ironworkers Local 263 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:
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 Ironworkers International Office, Jan Howell and Sara Schuttloffel
 Local 263 Retiree Brother Steve Anthony

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

Works cited: "A History of Ironworkers Locals 59 and 481" and "Fort Worth Ironmen: 75 Years of Ironworkers Local 263," Dr. George Green and Jose A. Delgado



HISTORY OF THE UNION IRONWORKERS OF NORTH TEXAS: DALLAS-FORT WORTH LOCAL NO. 263 AT 100 YEARS SERVING AND ERECTING THE METRO

PLEX REGION FOR OVER A CENTURY



While Ironworkers Local No. 263 was organized and chartered in 1918 and 100 years later in 2018 represents all union ironworkers of North Texas, its lineage can actually be traced back to August 19, 1909, when the **International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers of America** chartered **Ironworkers Local No. 59** in Dallas. International Representative T. A. Crawford organized 21 charter members into the new local, whose jurisdiction ran roughly north to the Red River, west halfway to El Paso, south to the Waco area and south and east halfway to Houston.

Local 59 initially held its membership meetings every Thursday at different locations around the city before moving its meetings to the new **Dallas Labor Temple** in 1916. But well before that, the local's 15 members announced in the May 1910 *Bridgemen's Magazine* (the International Association's monthly journal) that they were doing "just fine" while working on the one large job in town.

However, when the **Fair Park Coliseum** (which is now The Women's Museum) was declared an open job in the spring of 1910, "all of the boys walked out," the local reported in the June 1910 *Bridgemen's*. After an arbitrating committee settled the issue in four days, the union ironworkers finished the job and declared in the magazine, "The contractors saw their mistake in employing non-union men in a few days, for every rivet they drove cost them about \$1.75 apiece."

The union ironworkers also helped erect the 22-story **Amicable Life Insurance (ALICO) Building** in Waco in 1910 and 1911, one of the first steel-framed buildings in the south. When completed, it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi River and south of the Mason-Dixon Line until 1929.

Wages for Local 59's journeyman ironworkers from September 1912 until mid-1919 remained at 62-1/2 cents per hour. Pay was



Ironworkers Local No. 263 charter, dated November 20, 1918.



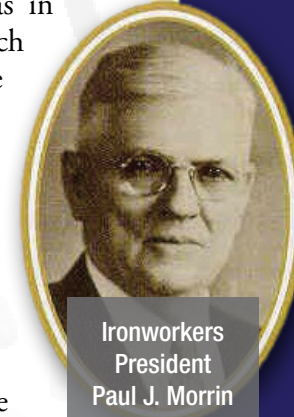
finally increased in August 1918 to 75 cents per hour.

Meanwhile, the union ironworkers built some of the most important structures at the time, although much of their work was in housing. Significant projects on which Local 59 members worked included the 12-story State National Bank Building (now the Burk Burnett Building), the first skyscraper in Fort Worth, in 1913; the Sears Roebuck Building in Dallas; facilities at Southern Methodist University; and the Dallas City Hall that same year.

The local also helped build a powerhouse in Waco in 1914 and a suspension bridge in that city in 1915, although those years were "the worst slack times" of the local's first decade, according to historian Dr. George Green. Regardless, Local 59 averaged 88 members from July 1915 through June 1916.

As the nation began ramping up production for World War I that year (*the war had begun in Europe in July 1914 and the United States would enter as a combatant in April 1917*), union labor became more valued, as the union movement

INTERNATIONAL IRONWORKERS UNION WAS FORMED OVER 120 YEARS AGO



Ironworkers President Paul J. Morrin

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 *International 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.

Soon after, the International Association affiliated with the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.). However, internal divisions led the union 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 1915 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.



Brother George W. Livingston of Dallas Ironworkers Local No. 59, who served as president or business agent of the local from 1913 through 1921.

"received a boost with wartime production and the need for an immediate, skilled workforce," according to Dr. Green. In fact, *Mosher Manufacturing Company*, which for 25 years have been manufacturing and erecting steel without ever agreeing to a contract with the ironworkers union, signed an agreement with Local 59 on February 1, 1916.

Unfortunately, 1916 was a deadly year for the



IRONWORKERS LOCAL 263 CHARTER APPLICANTS

These 16 men applied for the original charter for Local 263 from the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers in 1918.

John Burtleson
W. S. Calhoun
S. A. Cragger
J. R. Estes
E. L. Ferguson
A. G. Gonzalez
B. F. Haskey
C. E. Kidd
R. L. Parker
E. B. Raley
Clyde Sanders
Hassell Starkes
Wilfred Stephenson
Joseph Stover
C. R. Welsh
A. J. Wright

(The Local 263 charter was signed by International President Paul J. "Paddy" Morrin, who served in that position from 1918 to 1948, and International Vice President and General Secretary William J. McCain.)

local out on jobsites. Two members, **Brother John Jeter** and **Brother L. M. Pratt**, were killed while working on a Commerce Street viaduct project, and two others, **Brother John Tribble** and **Brother C. L. White**, died after falling while on jobs.

FORT WORTH IRONWORKERS ORGANIZE

As early as February 1917, the recently re-named **International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers and Pile Drivers** was making plans to form a local in Fort Worth, in which about 10 members of Local 59 were living. International First Vice President W. J. McCain had been in the city "in conference with local leaders in regard to the proposed organization," the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported on February 11, 1917. While

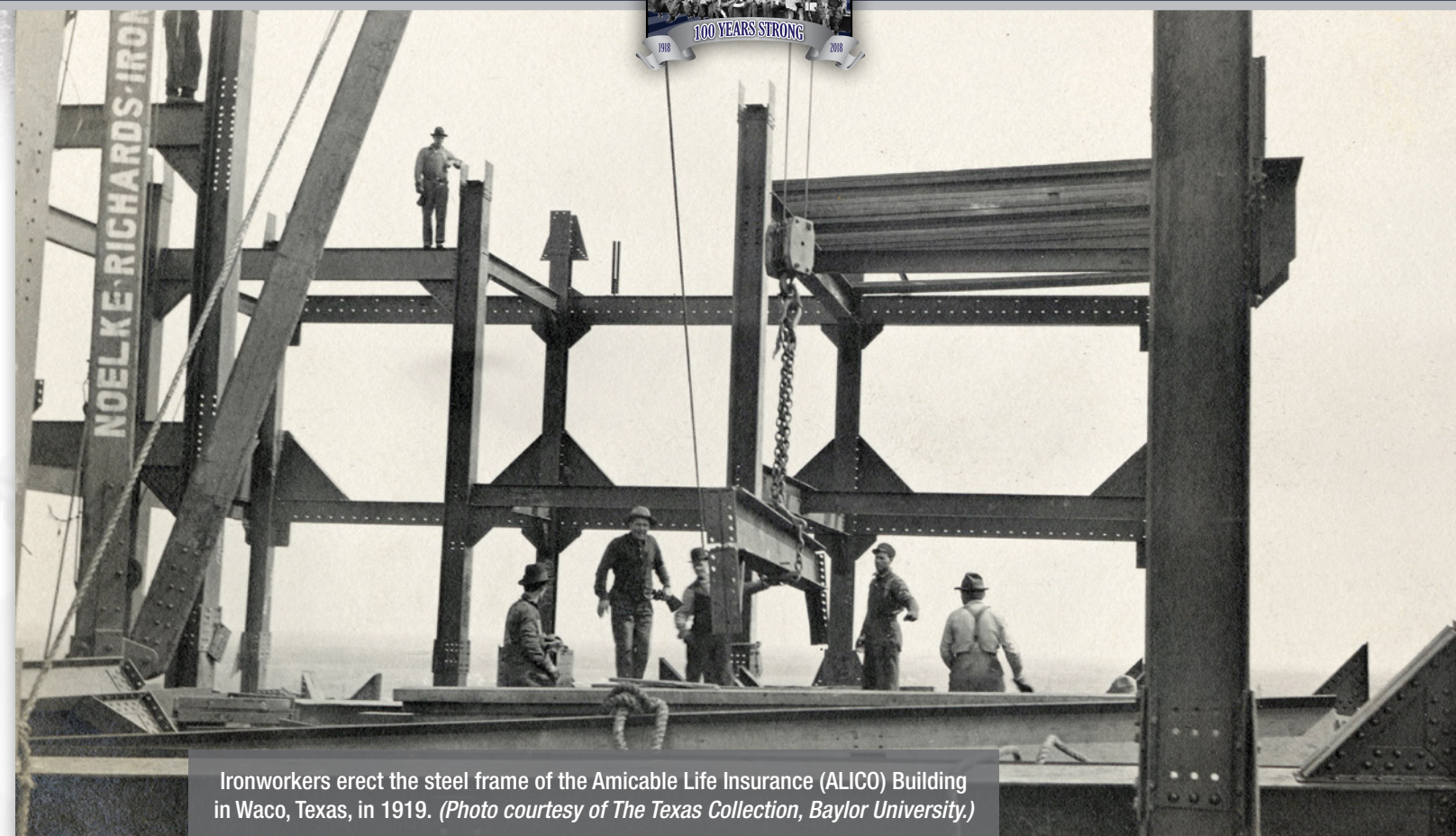
there was suggestion that a new local affiliate with the local in Dallas, the Fort Worth men "considered it would be much better to establish a separate local in Fort Worth."

Just two month later, plans for an ironworkers local in Fort Worth were discussed during a meeting of the city's Building Trades Council on April 13. Labor leaders believed that one of the advantages of establishing a new local would be to eliminate jurisdictional controversies between the building trades, like one that had taken place during construction of the new Tarrant County jail in Fort Worth in 1917 and 1918.

After Brother McCain directed 16 ironworkers to apply to the union, the **International Association** chartered "shopmen and outside men" Local No. 263 in Fort Worth on November 20, 1918. With an initial membership of approximately 30 ironworkers, the new local held its first meetings on Wednesday evenings at 306-1/2 Throckmorton Street, with **Brother S.A. Cragger** serving as president, **Brother J. R. Estes** as recording secretary and **Brother I. B. Raley** as financial secretary and treasurer.

In the months following the end of World War I in November 1918, there was not much work for the union ironworkers of Fort Worth, a situation that was exacerbated by a shortage of construction materials on projects such as the 20-story **W. T. Waggoner Building**, which would be completed in 1920. As such, Brother McCain noted in the April 1919 *Bridgemen's*, "I would not advise anyone to go there, as there are plenty of men in that city to take care of the situation."

There were also jurisdictional issues between Local 263 and Local 59 in early 1919. After direct "friendly discussions" between the organizations, a mutually acceptable agreement was reached, but while the agreement did not settle the jurisdictional issue once and for all, it did "establish precedents for solving this type of



Ironworkers erect the steel frame of the Amicable Life Insurance (ALICO) Building in Waco, Texas, in 1919. (Photo courtesy of The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)

problem in future occasions," according to Dr. Green. (Therefore, when the economy of the Metroplex – as the Dallas-Fort Worth region is referred – grew, the locals found themselves facing jurisdictional issues again; but "drawing on the experience of the past, they readily fell back to the proven face-to-face discussions to settle the issues amicably," he noted.)

Following a brief national recession after the war, which momentarily throttled employment in the Metroplex, work was plentiful for Fort Worth's union ironworkers by mid-1919. In fact, with all members working in June of that year, the local's officers declared that the demand for additional ironworkers in its jurisdiction "considerably exceeded" the supply, the *Star-Telegram* reported on June 29, 1919.

With the amount of work surpassing the number of ironworkers available, Local 263 in June adopted a new minimum wage for its journeymen of \$1 per hour and 50 cents per

hour for apprentices, which was to go into effect on August 1, 1919. "Contractors are paying double wages for overtime and still they are unable to get a sufficient number of men for the many big jobs now going on in this city," **Business Agent W. L. McCandless** announced in the July 13 *Star-Telegram*.

He went on to declare, "The ironworkers union is one of the strongest in the city."

However, **Local 263 went on strike beginning August 1, 1919**, after contractors refused to grant the increase from \$7 to \$8 per day for an eight-hour day, halting work on the Waggoner Building and several other sizable projects throughout Fort Worth. The strike was settled just six days later when the employers agreed to pay the \$1-per-hour scale and double-time for all overtime work, as well as have all future disputes settled through a "board of arbitration."

As the building boom in Fort Worth and the resultant demand for ironworkers continued





IRONWORKERS LOCAL NO. 263 OFFICES & MEETING LOCATIONS

306-1/2 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth
November 1918 into 1930

Cooks' and Waiters' Hall, Fort Worth
1930 into 1931

Fort Worth Labor Temple
211 West Second Street, Fort Worth
1931 into 1937

Union Labor Hall
211-1/2 West 13th Street, Fort Worth
1937 into 1947

Meat Cutters' Union Hall
1400-1/2 Main Street, Fort Worth
1947 into 1955

1306 May Street, Fort Worth
1955 into 1961

2914 East Rosedale Street, Fort Worth
1961 into 1969

Local 263 Union Hall
908 South Sylvania Avenue, Fort Worth
1969 into 1997

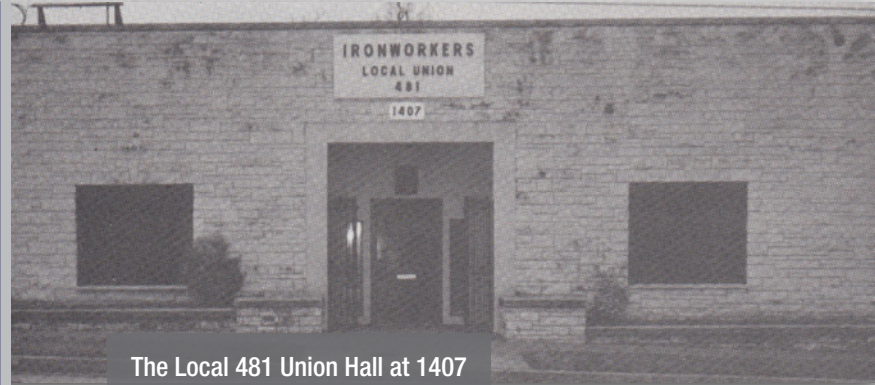
Local 263 Union Hall
604 North Great Southwest Parkway, Arlington
1997 to present

IRONWORKERS LOCAL NO. 481 OFFICES & MEETING LOCATIONS

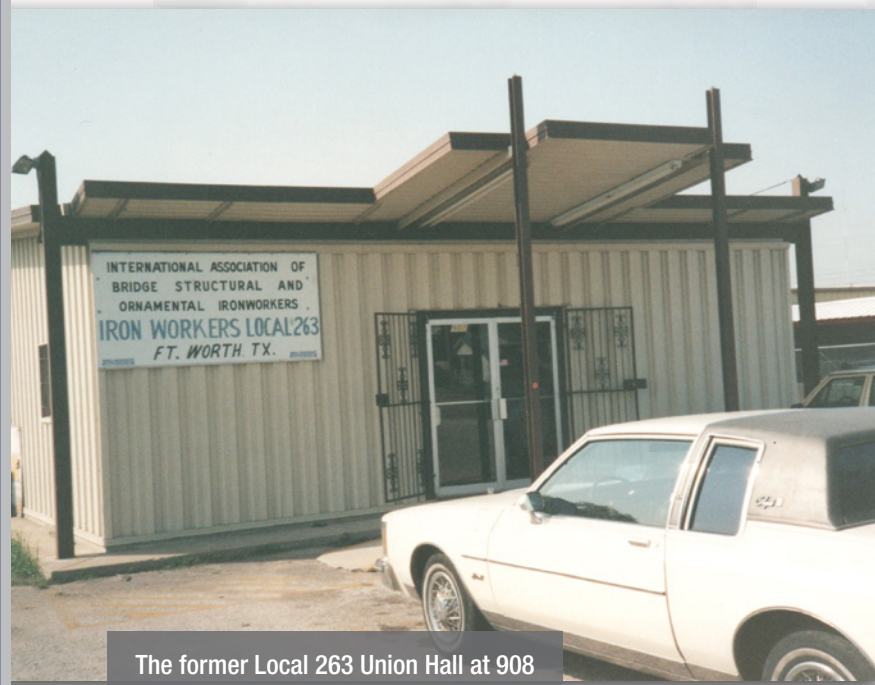
Dallas Labor Temple
1727 Young Street, Dallas
November 1934 into 1972

7940 Northaven Road, Dallas
1972 into 1981

Local 481 Union Hall
1407 South Akard Street, Dallas
1981 to October 1996



The Local 481 Union Hall at 1407 South Akard Street in Dallas.



The former Local 263 Union Hall at 908 South Sylvania Avenue in Fort Worth.



The current Local 263 Union Hall at 604 North Great Southwest Parkway in Arlington.



through August, by the end of the month Local 263 had increased its membership by about 50 percent over the previous 60 days. By November 1919, membership had grown to 140, up from 65 members just a year earlier, a surge that Brother McCandless attributed to the large amount of construction in the city – including a planned 24-story bank building that would be erected by an all-union crew of ironworkers.

In Dallas during that period, Local 59 and the **Dallas Builders Association**, which was the contractor on most all construction in the city, signed an agreement on July 1, 1919, that provided the union ironworkers with a \$7-per-day wage for an eight-hour day. However, soon after, the local notified the builders that it would seek a raise to \$8 per day for its 250 members, “many of whom were younger men who were willing to travel to nearby oil fields and other southwestern cities that were paying \$8,” according to Dr. Green.

After contractors refused to implement the increase, 62 members of Local 59 walked off various jobs being built by the Builders Association on October 13, 1919, and four other crafts walked off work in support of the ironworkers. Angered by the stoppage on \$8-million worth of construction, the contractors and ironworks owners called a meeting of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce on November 18 at the Adolphus Hotel, during which the Chamber overwhelmingly voted to declare Dallas an “open-shop,” non-union city.

Subsequently, some 250 firms formed the **Dallas Open Shop Association**, which maintained its office in the Chamber’s building. The association went on to wage an “anti-union propaganda campaign” and even opened its own training school in Dallas, according to Dr. Green, who also noted, “The (open-shop) movement, which peaked early in the decade, triggered bitter struggles in many cities, and nowhere more so than in Dallas.”

But **Business Agent George Livingston** would be able to report to the International Association in January 1920 that the “open-shoppers are not having much luck and most of the jobs are being done under strictly union conditions.” At that time, in fact, all Local 59 members were working and more union ironworkers were needed in the city.

Back in Fort Worth (*which had earned its nickname “Cowtown” in the 1860s when it ruled the cattle industry*), construction on the Waggoner Building and other projects slowed during the winter of 1919-1920, but that was the result of shortages of steel and cement rather than belligerent labor relations. In fact, as Dr. Green noted, “Cowtown’s labor climate was quite different from Dallas’ and there were no strikes or lockouts.”

ROAR TO WHIMPER IN THE TWENTIES

Into the 1920s, work and employment were strong for Local 263 in Fort Worth, as several new buildings were being built in the city, including the 24-story **Farmers & Mechanics National Bank Building** (now known as 714 Main) that would be completed in 1921, at which time and for a short time after it was the tallest building in Texas. But as was the case throughout the nation and the state, Local 263 and organized labor in general struggled during much of the decade through hard times caused by a number of social, political and economic factors, Dr. Green explained.

The Fort Worth local was further throttled when in January 1920, following an audit of the local’s finances, the International Association fined Brother McCandless \$250 and revoked his union card. The union announced in the April 1920 *Bridgemen’s* that the business agent was being penalized for “misappropriation of the funds of Local 263, wronging and defrauding this local, endeavoring to create dissension among members, discrimination and willfully neglecting his office.”



North Texas union ironworkers from the 1950s included (left to right, front row) L. E. Dilley, Ray Springer, Mickey Rosen, H. H. Hartzler, L. B. "Blackie" Bates and Johnny Moon; (middle row) Dave Keller, Lawrence "Frenchie" Cole, Elbert "Slim" Wickham, Joe Hart, Sam Garvin, Jack Bates, Arlis Motley, Bobby Jenkins and Malcolm Fuller; and (back row) George Terrell and Hugh Williamson.

Regardless, the more than 100 Cowtown union ironworkers remained busy on the many large buildings going up in the city throughout 1920 and into 1921. **Business Agent R. B. Ames** even declared in the June 6, 1920, *Star-Telegram* that "he could have used 60 more men if they had been here" over the previous weeks.

Then on August 1, 1920, the nearly 160 journeyman ironworkers of Local 263 received a new pay scale of \$1.25 per hour for eight-hour days, up from \$1 per hour. Later that year, even though construction of several of the new skyscrapers in Fort Worth had been completed, the local reported in the newspaper that few of its members were idle as many were employed on construction of a new hotel or were "drifting to the oil towns where much work of this kind is in progress."

The following year, however, during which Local 263 was re-designated in June as a "mixed" iron-trades local of outside ironworkers and reinforcing-rodmen, work decreased significantly. Subsequently, the local's

membership voted on September 16, 1921, to take a voluntary reduction in wages back to \$1 per hour for journeymen.

The slack times continued into 1922, when Local 263 **Secretary R. E. Green** reported in the March 1922 *Bridgemen's*, "As far as work is concerned around this section, there is not any to speak of, and our membership is not very large." However, he also declared that although conditions were "very dull, our members have been very faithful to our cause."

Work remained scarce for Local 263 in 1923, during which the local's membership fell to just 23 ironworkers at one point. As the unfavorable conditions continued, membership sank to 18 by 1924.

But during the Twenties, the open-shop movement had a much more direct impact on organized workers in Dallas than Fort Worth, as Dr. Green pointed out. While Local 263's membership decreased 40 percent during that time, Local 59 experienced an 88-percent drop



LOCAL 263 LEADERSHIP



Brother Clifton Brignac

S. A. Crager (President)
November to December 1918

Business Agents
W. L. McCanless
January 1919 to April 1920

R. B. Ames
April 1920 to August 1920

Jason McDonnell
August 1920 to September 1921

Frank E. DeWees
September 1921 to February 1922

R. E. Green
February 1922 to August 1923

C. L. Garrett
August 1923 to May 1924

J. J. Phillips
May 1924 to August 1924

R. T. Noonkester
August 1924 to January 1926

C. A. Perkins
January 1926 to July 1926

O. Harris
July 1926 to February 1927

J. R. Garrett
February 1927 to January 1928

Clifton Brignac
January 1928 to September 1929

R. E. Green
September 1929 to March 1930

<none>
March 1930 to May 1930

W. L. McCanless
May 1930 to June 1932

Clifton Brignac
June 1932 to January 1940

Art E. Sard
January 1940 to August 1941

Louis R. Robinson
August 1941 to March 1949

R. K. S. Reynolds
March 1949 to January 1955

J. D. Holmes
January 1955 to February 1958

O. C. Yancy
February 1958 to August 1965

**Business Managers-
Financial Secretaries**
Charles B. Lowery
August 1965 to June 1984

Mike A. Gravette
June 1984 to June 1988

Mike A. Vaughn
June 1988 to June 1994

Steve Anthony
June 1994 to October 1996

(New Local 263 under International Association supervision, October 1996 to December 1998.)

Ronnie Smitherman
December 1998 to present

LOCAL 481 LEADERSHIP

Sam Hatfield (President)
1934 through 1935

F. B. Lamb (President)
1936

Business Agents
Sam McGregor
1937 through 1940

L. E. Dilley
1941 through 1952

George Terrell
1953 through 1955

Dave Keeler
1956 into 1963

Marvin Allen
1963

George Terrell
1964 through 1965

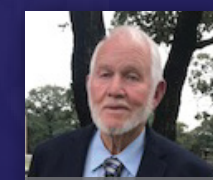
**Business Managers-
Financial Secretaries**
Malcolm Fuller
1966 into 1972

Bobby Jenkins
1972 into 1985

Bill Hawkins
1985 to October 1996



Brother Mike A. Vaughn



Brother Steve Anthony



Brother Ronnie Smitherman



Brother Bill Hawkins, who served as the last business manager of Ironworkers Local 481 of Dallas from 1985 until the local was merged with Local 263 of Fort Worth in 1996, shown here at his retirement party.



from 250 members in 1919 to just 29 in 1924.

What's more, wages for all union Metroplex ironworkers remained at \$1 per hour until 1925 – below the average for ironworkers in many other areas around the nation, according to Dr. Green. In 1925, wages in both Fort Worth and Dallas were reinstated to \$1.25 per hour for structural and ornamental ironworkers, although they remained at \$1 for rodmen, and they would stay at those levels until 1933.

Regardless, Dallas union ironworkers did erect some sizable jobs during the decade, including the **Magnolia Building** in 1921, the **Trinity River Bridge** at Trinidad in 1922, a bridge at Breckenridge in 1923, the **Dallas National Bank Building** (now The Joule Hotel) in 1926 and 1927 and the **Southwestern Bell Telephone Building** in 1927. While work was also scarce throughout the remainder of the

decade for Fort Worth union ironworkers, they assembled the steel for the new, 18-story, 200-room **Worth Hotel** at Seventh and Taylor streets for its opening in September 1927.

AMID DEPRESSION, A NEW LOCAL

By the fall of 1929, Dallas Local 59's membership had slowly increased to 55 ironworkers and its wages had held at the 1925 level of \$1.25 per hour. But Local 59 would not survive the economic and human catastrophe that would come to define the 1930s.

Initially, the **Great Depression** that began with the stock market crash of late October 1929 had little overall impact on the employment of ironworkers throughout the United States. 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 ironworkers locals amounted to 15.9 percent, according to the International's records.

The International Association secured two working agreements during the decade, as well, one of which was the **Bridge Erectors' Agreement** that covered the nation-wide jobs of "fair" contractors in the **Structural Steel and Bridge Erectors' Association**. As part of the contract, ironworkers took a wage reduction and worked six days per week so that those employers "could compete with unfair contractors."

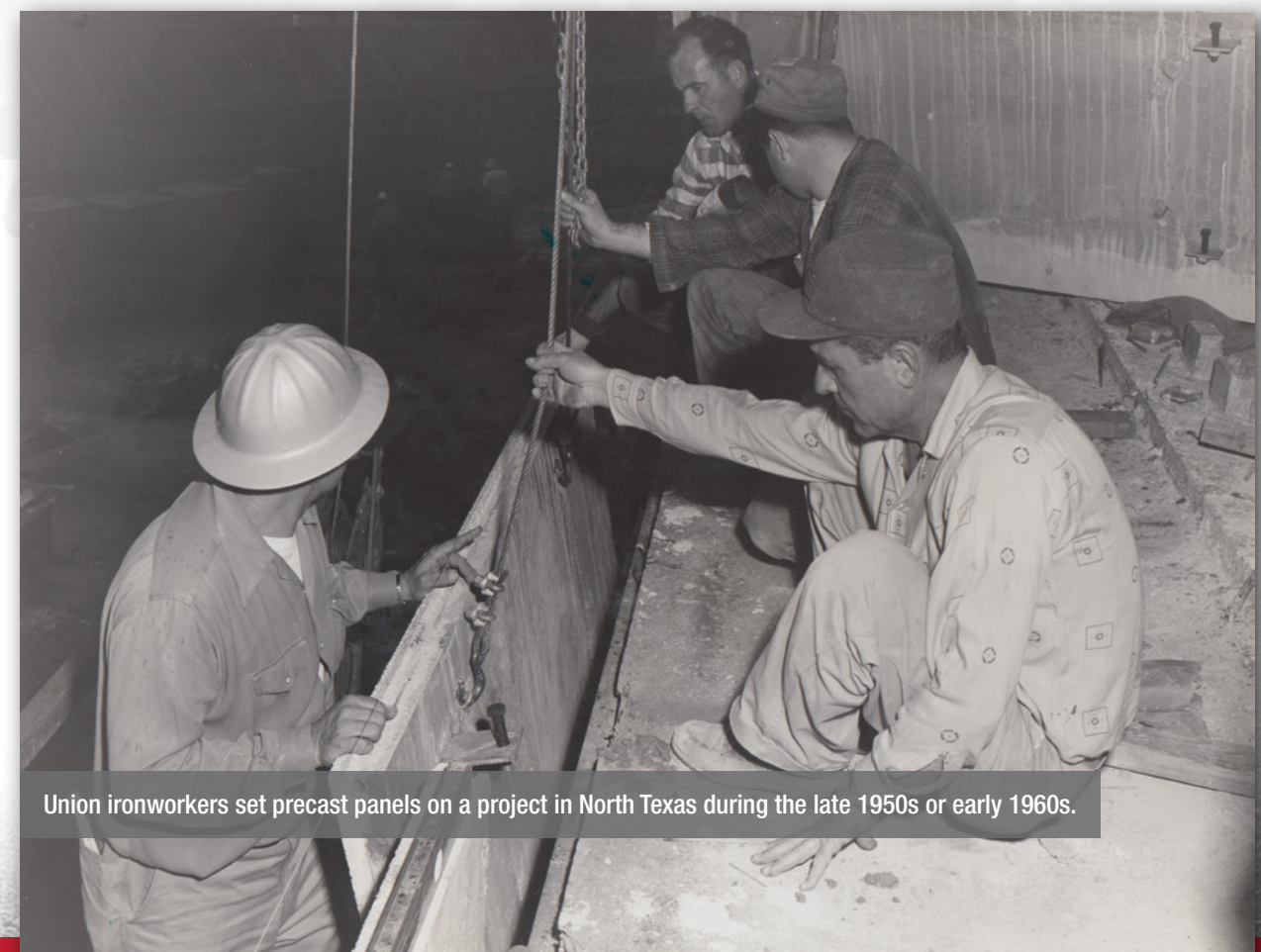
The Depression and unemployment "finally caught up with the ironworkers within two years after the crash as building construction nearly came to a halt," according to the International. During that time, the union lost almost 50 percent of its paid membership nationwide – but despite that, nearly every ironworkers local remained intact as the International Association

officers "were leaders in New Deal efforts to get labor back on its feet again."

Additionally, 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, both locally and nationally.

In Fort Worth, like many other union locals across the nation, Local 263 struggled to endure the effects of the Depression – although there was some work on projects such as the **Texas and Pacific Railroad Building** in 1930. But by April 1932, the International Association was handling the local's books and collecting the dues from its members since, as Dr. Green explained, "Most of the time securing any job opportunities became the primary consideration and wage issues had to be pragmatically deemphasized."

As such, by December 1933, the local's pay scale was reduced to \$1 per hour for a 44-hour



Union ironworkers set precast panels on a project in North Texas during the late 1950s or early 1960s.



work week – where it would remain until 1936 as the lack of work opportunities continued to severely restrain the union’s bargaining power.

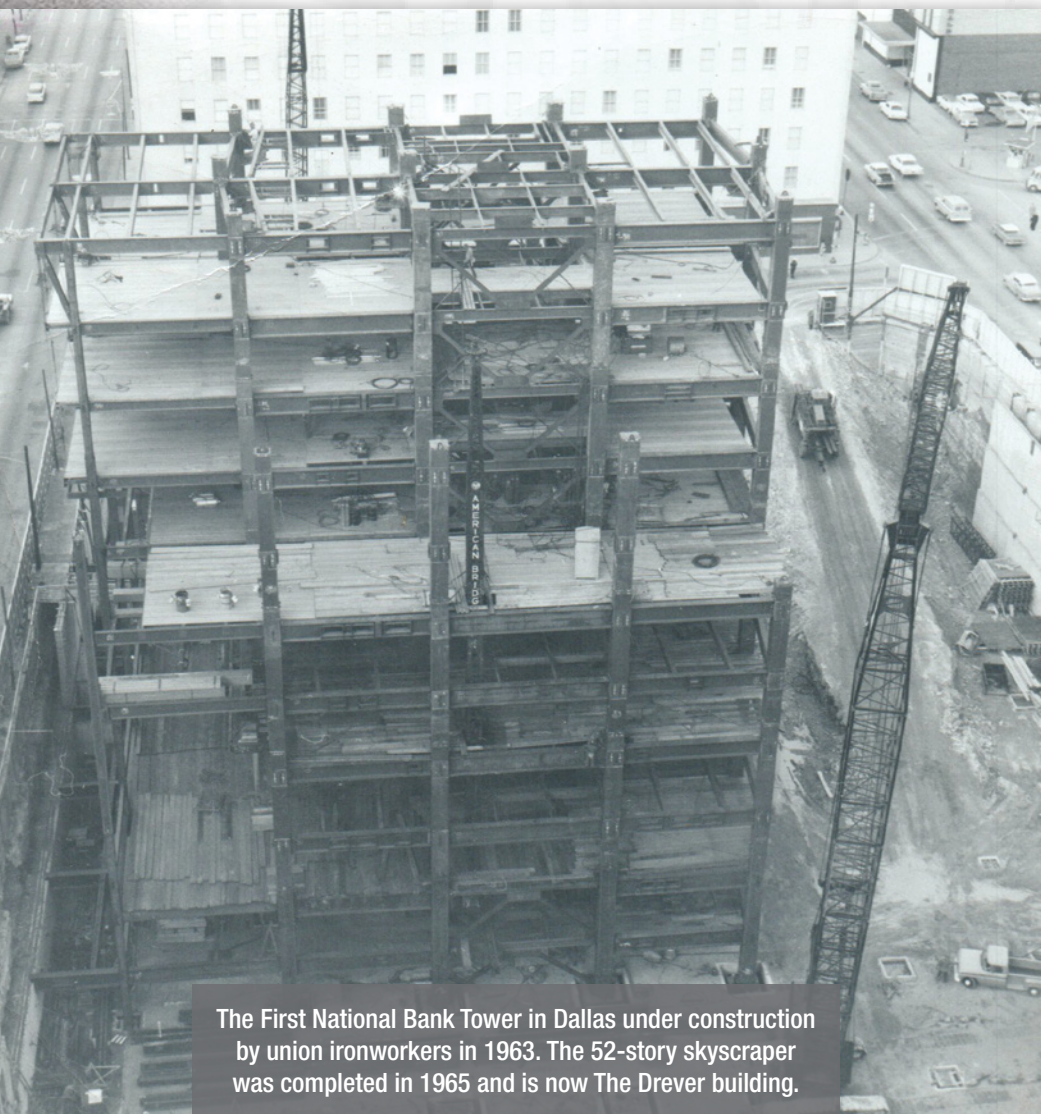
Meanwhile, during the first years of the decade, Local 59 members had worked on several important construction projects in and around Dallas, despite the hard times and the continued actions of the Open Shop Association. Those jobs including the **Dallas Power and Light Building** and the Texas and Pacific Railroad Building in Fort Worth in 1930 and the **Post Office** building in Dallas in 1931.

However, because of a lack of dues-paying members and debt owed to the International

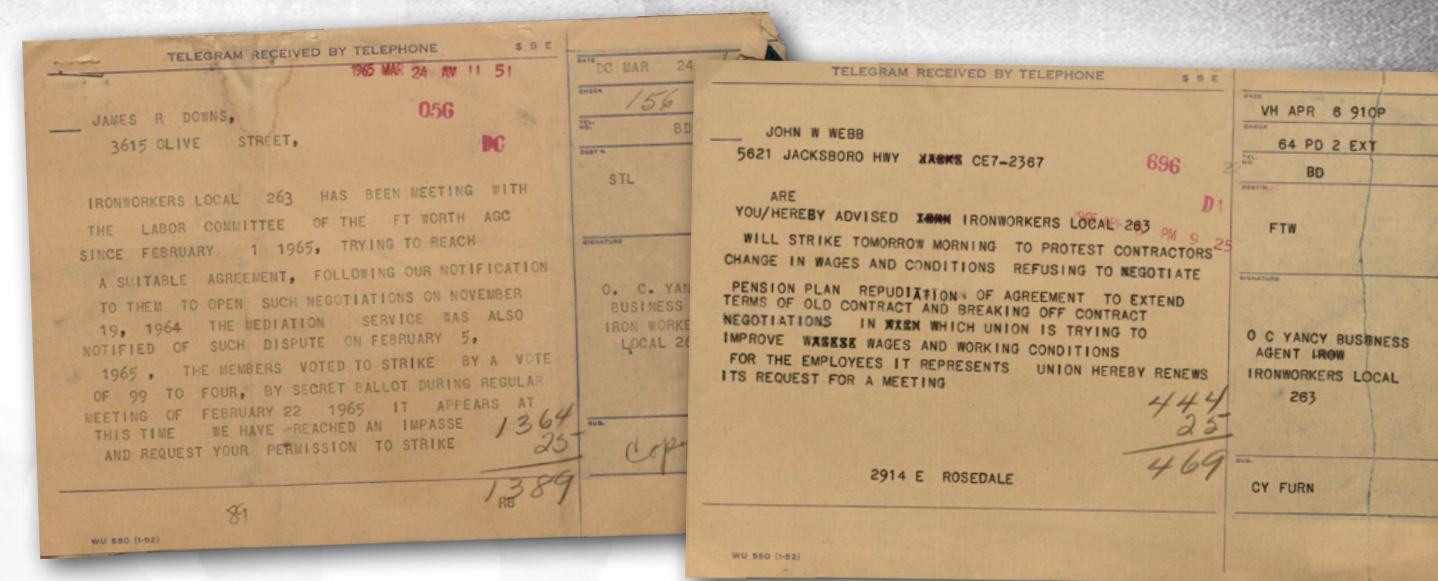
Association, **Local 59’s charter was revoked on July 31, 1934**. As Dr. Green described the local’s final demise, “President Sam McGregor was unable to produce the dues money he collected from the members and consequently was unable to order more dues stamps from the International. With no money and no stamps, the local was asked to forfeit its charter.”

Just four-and-a-half months later, the **International Association chartered the new “mixed” Local No. 481 on December 14, 1934**, to serve Dallas. (Former members of Local 59 had decided not to resurrect their old local, as it would be less costly to re-charter than to pay back dues to the International, according to Dr. Green.) Organized by International Vice President B. C. Pitts with 29 charter members – 22 of whom had been members of Local 59 – the new local continued to meet at the Dallas Labor Temple. It could not afford a business agent, however, until 1937, when **Brother Sam McGregor** took the position, which he would hold until 1940.

While work in the Metroplex remained extremely slow into 1935, public-works projects created through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s federally funded “New Deal” job-creation programs beginning in 1933 gave a measure of relief to the Local 263 and Local 481 memberships. Work-relief programs initiated by the New Deal, such as the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), stimulated construction



The First National Bank Tower in Dallas under construction by union ironworkers in 1963. The 52-story skyscraper was completed in 1965 and is now The Drever building.



in Fort Worth and Dallas and aided the recovery of both locals.

New Deal jobs that provided employment to the union ironworkers of Local 263 and Local 481 included many of the more than 50 buildings erected in nine months for the **Texas Centennial Exposition**, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Texas independence from Mexico, held at Fair Park in Dallas from June 6 to November 29, 1936.

Other federally funded projects on which Local 263 members were put to work included Fort Worth’s **Frontier Centennial** in 1936; the **Post Office** in Fort Worth; and several public housing projects. The local was also provided with work on W.P.A. jobs such as the **Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum** in 1936, several buildings at the **North Texas Agricultural College** (now the University of Texas at Arlington), the replacement of all of Tarrant County’s wooden bridges in 1938 and the erection of many public schools.

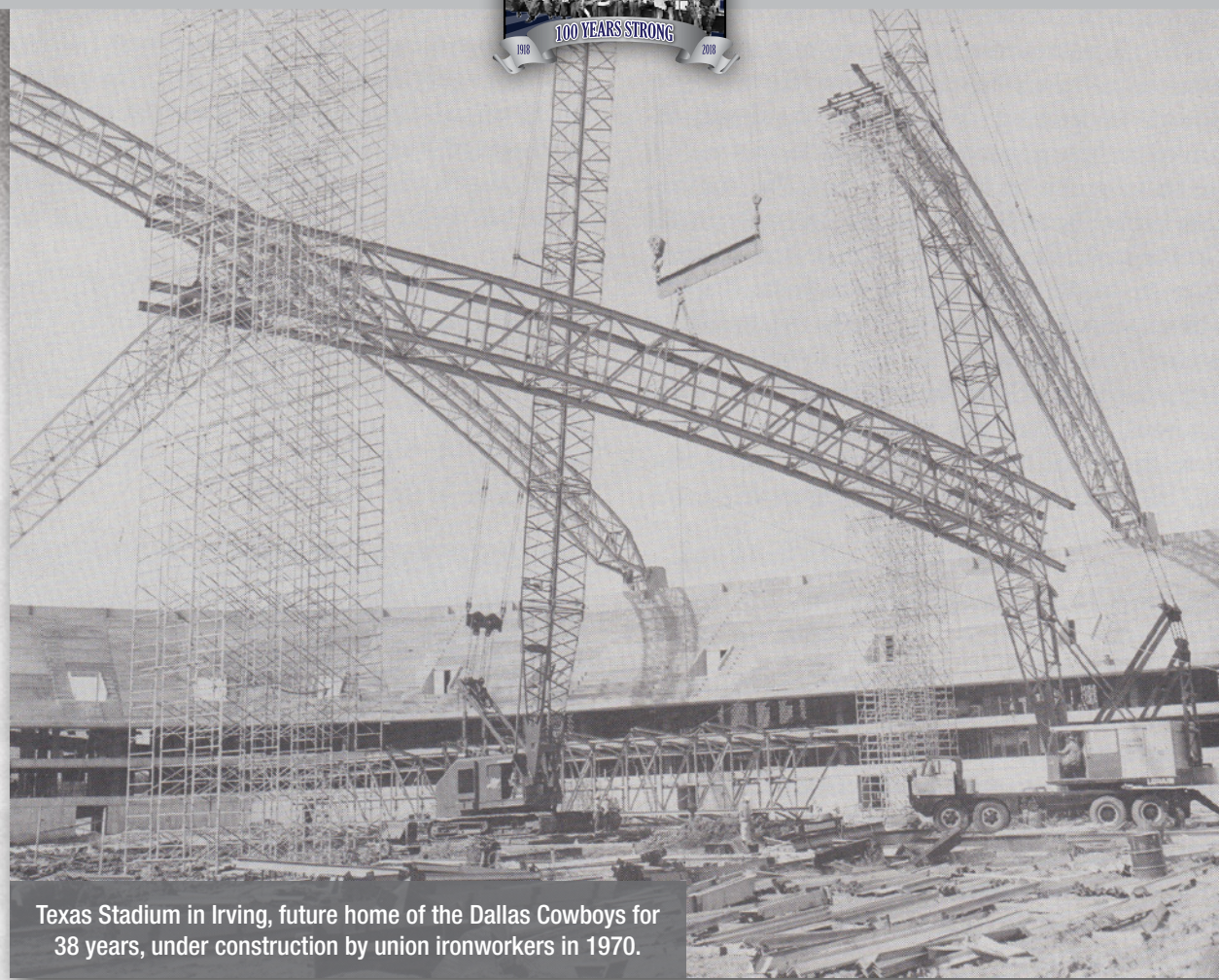
In Dallas, the economy and construction “turned around” in 1935, which was the best year for the city’s building trades in residential and commercial construction since 1931, according to Dr. Green. Then in 1936, among several projects on which its members worked,

Local 481 helped build the W.P.A.-administered **Triple Underpass**, where six railroad tracks converge into four above the conjunction of Elm, Main and Commerce streets on the west edge of Dealey Plaza (*where President John F. Kennedy would be assassinated 27 years later*).

By that time, **retirement, disability and death benefits** were well-established in the ironworkers union. With those, at age 60 with 20 years of continuous service, a retiree of the International Association would receive \$25 per month, according to Dr. Green.

Local 263 and Local 481 also became part of an International-wide effort to organize ironworking shopmen during the 1930s. 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, Local 481 organized **Shopmen’s Local No. 536** for Dallas, which was chartered



Texas Stadium in Irving, future home of the Dallas Cowboys for 38 years, under construction by union ironworkers in 1970.

on May 18, 1937, with 30 members. Local 263 then organized **Shopmen's Local No. 543** for Fort Worth, which was chartered on May 28, 1937, with 17 members. While Local 536 still serves Wichita Falls, Texas, in 2018, Local 543 went defunct on August 31, 1942.

Local 481 successfully lobbied to have the City of Dallas raise its pay for rodmen working on public projects from 50 cents to \$1 per hour in the spring of 1938, when the state's deputy labor commissioner also forced the city to begin paying other union ironworkers \$1.25 per hour. Wage rates remained at those levels throughout the remainder of the decade.

Meanwhile, Local 263 in Fort Worth was still breathing as the Depression and the 1930s came to a close. "Thanks to the personal dedication of individuals such as **(Brother) Clifton Brignac**, who single-handedly manned

most of Local 263's leadership positions from 1932 into 1937," Dr. Green noted, "the local survived those difficult years."

FLOURISHING WITH THE WAR EFFORT

As the economies of the Metroplex and the nation were recovering from the 1930s, by 1940 Europe and Asia were already embroiled in **World War II**, which would reinvigorate construction in the United States and, in particular, the North Texas ironworking trades. Even before the country entered the war following the Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, the United States had begun a large-scale military-rearmament program.

The resultant "dramatic increase in construction work," as Dr. Green described it, put most Local 263 and Local 481 members

to work at defense plants that would build jeeps, tanks, planes and military parts in the Dallas and Fort Worth areas. "One of the first results in rearmament and one that continued undiminished throughout the first half of the decade was a dramatic increase in construction work," Dr. Green declared. "Almost all the construction work in the 1940s was done by union members and there was a relatively harmonious environment enjoyed by labor and management, though there were still some jurisdictional fights."

Among the significant military construction projects in North Texas on which union ironworkers worked were the major airfields and air bases built in Fort Worth, Dallas, Mineral Wells, Waco, Abilene and Wichita Falls, as well as many other auxiliary fields established throughout the area. The members of Local 263 and Local 481 also helped build Army training and encampment facilities at Fort Worth and Killeen and several new industrial plants that would produce military materiel.

In particular, Local 263 members and their union brothers erected a massive **B-24 bomber production facility** at Fort Worth, operated by Consolidated Vultee Aircraft (now Lockheed), and a **fighter-plane construction facility** at Grand Prairie, operated by North American Aviation (now LTV). According to Dr. Green, the ironworker crews building the bomber plant would race each other for 10 or 12 hours a day to set the most iron or drive the most rivets. Once completed, thousands of workers came to Fort Worth in the spring of 1941 to work in the factory.

But with a membership of fewer than 300 in 1942, Local 263 was unable to man all of the wartime jobs in Tarrant County. To help alleviate that situation, the local sent out letters and telegrams urging union ironworkers to come to Fort Worth – and hundreds did, according to Dr. Green.

During the war, the A.F.L. Building and



By 1943, as **World War II** waged in the European and Pacific theaters, 31 members of Local 263 had enlisted for military service.

Construction Trades Unions, representing 1.5 million members, including union ironworkers, signed a pact with the government agreeing to stabilize wages to help prevent inflation while also establishing a National Wage Adjustment Board to rule on wage requests. The agreement kept hourly wages for Fort Worth ironworkers at \$1.25 for structural and ornamental and \$1.12-1/2 for rodmen until 1944, when they were increased to \$1.50 and \$1.25, respectively.

Local 481 also prospered with the war's growing production needs, as Dallas in 1941 experienced its best year of construction since 1926, according to Dr. Green. That summer, the local even raised the salary of **Business Agent L. E. Dilley** from \$200 to \$300 per month, while by November 1941 the pay scales for the local's structural and ornamental ironworkers was up to \$1.50 per hour and for its rodmen was up to \$1.25 per hour – where they would remain through 1944.

Meanwhile, membership in Local 481 rose to about 350 ironworkers during the war.

The local's members also worked on several other large projects throughout the first half of 1940s, including construction of the **Mercantile National Bank Building** – which when completed in 1942 was the only major skyscraper constructed during World War II in the United States. Dallas union ironworkers also erected the **North American Aviation plant**, the **Naval Air Base in Grand Prairie** and the **Denison Dam** on the Red River between Texas and Oklahoma, which when completed in 1943 was the largest rolled-earth fill dam in the world, according to "History & Heritage of Civil Engineering: Denison Dam."



The improved working conditions and employment also fostered good relations between the Dallas Building Trades Council and the **Dallas County Construction Employers Association**, which would result in pay raises (after mandated wartime wage freezes) and no-strike agreements. The union's prosperity also "broke the back of the Open Shop Association in the construction industry," Dr. Green noted.

Following the war, agreements between the council and the employers association continued, with Local 481 gaining a new wage of \$1.62-1/2 per hour for ironworkers and \$1.37-1/2 per hour for rodmen into 1946. That October, another new, two-year pact covering 8,000 Building Trades Council construction workers in 21 crafts raised the Dallas ironworkers rate to \$2 per hour and the rodmen rate to \$1.75 per hour for the coming year.

As the decade progressed, the local "was in a strong economic position," Dr. Green stated. "It maintained an unfair list of open

shop contractors and subcontractors and fined members who worked on such jobs."

In Fort Worth after the war, Local 263 wage gains were offset by inflation in the city. Those rising costs for goods and labor and a shortage of building materials also stalled Fort Worth's \$100-million public and private building plan in 1945 and 1946, Dr. Green pointed out.

But harmonious relations between the Fort Worth Building and Construction Trades Council and the **Fort Worth Chapter of Associated General Contractors (A.G.C.)** prevailed during the second half of the decade. As such, by 1948 when the city's construction "boom" was well under way, a large number of union ironworkers were employed on major expansions at **Boswell Dairies** and department stores for retailers such as **R. E. Cox** and **Leonard Brothers**.

Meanwhile, Local 263 organized a group of Fort Worth ironworkers who were employed



Officers elected during the first meeting of the new Women's Auxiliary to Ironworkers Local 263 in November 1959 were (left to right, seated) Mrs. Dan L. Noonkester, vice president; Mrs. C. B. Rains, president; Mrs. F. B. Bentley, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. L. A. Adamson; and (standing) trustees Mrs. H. R. Spillman, Mrs. W. E. LaMance and Mrs. Tim Baughman; Mrs. C. H. Livingston, historian; and Mrs. J. R. Garrett, chaplain.

In November 1959, 30 wives of Local 263 members established the **Women's Auxiliary to Ironworkers Local 263**, the first ironworkers' auxiliary to be established in the State of Texas. It was organized by Mrs. W. J. Still of Fort Worth, who was vice president of the State Federation of Labor and secretary-treasurer of the Fort Worth Trades Assembly.

Mrs. C. B. Rains was the auxiliary's first president and Mrs. F. B. Bentley was its first secretary-treasurer. The group held its charter meeting in the Texas Hotel.

The auxiliary would go on to play an active role in the Fort Worth community, while also supporting the interests of the city's ironworkers and their families.

in the city's iron shops, and the International Association chartered those 14 men as **Shopmen's Local No. 699** on March 25, 1946. Before that local went defunct just 10 years later on June 20, 1956, it won an election to represent workers at North Texas Steel in 1947 (although it apparently never won a contract) and signed an agreement with the Cyclone Fence Division of American Wire and Steel in February 1949. Local 699 also negotiated grievance and arbitration procedures; overtime pay for work over 40 hours; six paid legal holidays; and a pay increase that took its top wage to \$1.75 per hour.

Even though labor-management relations in the mid-1940s had basically stabilized in the Metroplex with the strong construction industry, "long negotiations and occasional job actions were still vital," Dr. Green noted. In one such parlay, the Dallas union ironworkers, along with their carpenter and cement-finishing counterparts, staged work stoppages on expansion projects for the **M & W Tower Building** and the **Cotton Bowl Stadium** in Dallas in 1948, after which they won a 25-cent-per-hour wage increase to \$2.25 per hour for ironworkers and \$2 per hour for rodmen.

That year, pay for Fort Worth's Local 263

journeyman ironworkers was up to \$2.12-1/2 per hour, and the union rodmen of the local were being paid \$1.87-1/2 per hour. By that time, the workweek had been stabilized to 40 hours per week.

To further spur development of the region's union ironworking industry, the International Association then formed the **Ironworkers District Council of Texas** in 1948. Although it would be another year or so before the council was chartered and became involved in collective bargaining on behalf of ironworkers locals in Texas, the council would go on over the next six decades to "advance standards of excellence, productivity, performance and profitability within the construction industry." (*In 2018, the District Council of Texas and the Mid-South States now represents 5,000 union ironworkers in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana and New Mexico and along the Gulf Coast.*)

By that time, Metroplex union ironworkers had also found that political action was an effective tool in gaining concessions from contractors on wages, benefits and working conditions. Case in point, in January 1949 the Dallas craft unions, including Local 481, threatened to oppose a city bond issue unless the city agreed to change its method of setting wage rates on city and county public-works projects.



Then in Fort Worth in 1949, **Brother Tommy Robinson**, who had just become an international representative for the ironworkers union, reached a precedent-setting agreement with the Fort Worth A.G.C. that established a joint labor-management, binding-arbitration board to settle disputes at construction sites in Local 263's jurisdiction.

GOOD TIMES FOR METROPLEX LOCALS

The North Texas union ironworkers of Local 263 and Local 481 enjoyed consistently improved working conditions, increased wages and expanded health and welfare benefits during the 1950s. As construction employment remained strong throughout the decade, Local 263 journeyman wages jumped from \$2.37-1/2 per hour for ironworkers and \$2.21-1/2 per hour for rodmen in 1950 to \$3.42-1/2 and \$3.17-1/2 per hour, respectively, in 1959. In Dallas, Local 481's wages were the highest in the state for ironworkers, increasing from \$2.27-1/2 per hour in 1950 to \$3.42-1/2 per hour by the end of the decade.

Even during the good times of the 1940s and 1950s, ironworkers were subjected to strong anti-union forces in Texas. For example, the **O'Daniel Anti-Violence Act**, inspired by Governor W. Lee O'Daniel in 1941, provided that picketers who assaulted scabs were committing a felony, while scabs who attacked picketers were committing only a misdemeanor.

While Local 481 was on organizational strike against the Weaver Ironworks in Dallas in January 1951, a non-union worker attacked a man who was on the picket line before other strikers separated the pair. On the following work day, the same scab attacked the same picket, but another ironworker, **Brother Grady Ivey**, joined the fight.

Ivey was subsequently indicted under the O'Daniel law and was convicted and sent to prison for one year, while the scab was fined \$25 for fighting and was released from police custody. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld Ivey's conviction.

In 1952, Local 481 gave Ivey \$110 for his dedication to the union cause.

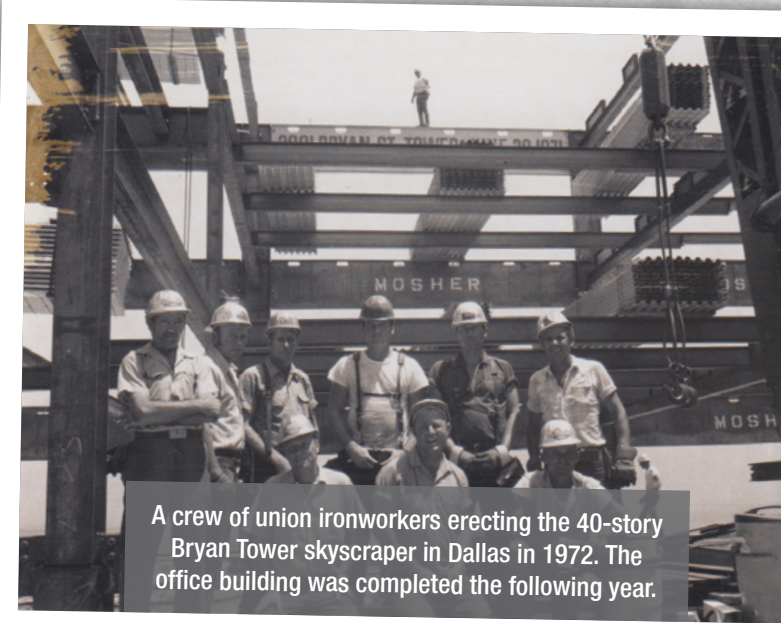
With Local 481 thriving, it made its office of financial secretary and treasurer a full-time, salaried position in the summer of 1950. During the ensuing 10 years, as the local's membership increased dramatically, it would be among the first to be supplemented by an employer contribution to a fringe-benefit fund for health-and-welfare insurance – soon after which Local 263 would also gain the same benefit.

Among the many significant projects on which Metroplex union ironworkers were employed early in the 1950s was construction of the **Grapevine Dam and Reservoir** on Denton Creek, spanning both Tarrant and Denton counties. Completed in June 1952, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had awarded jurisdiction on the project to Local 263, but after Local 481 hired an aerial surveyor who reported that the Grapevine site was an equal 19 miles from both the Tarrant County and Dallas courthouses, the two locals agreed to split the work.

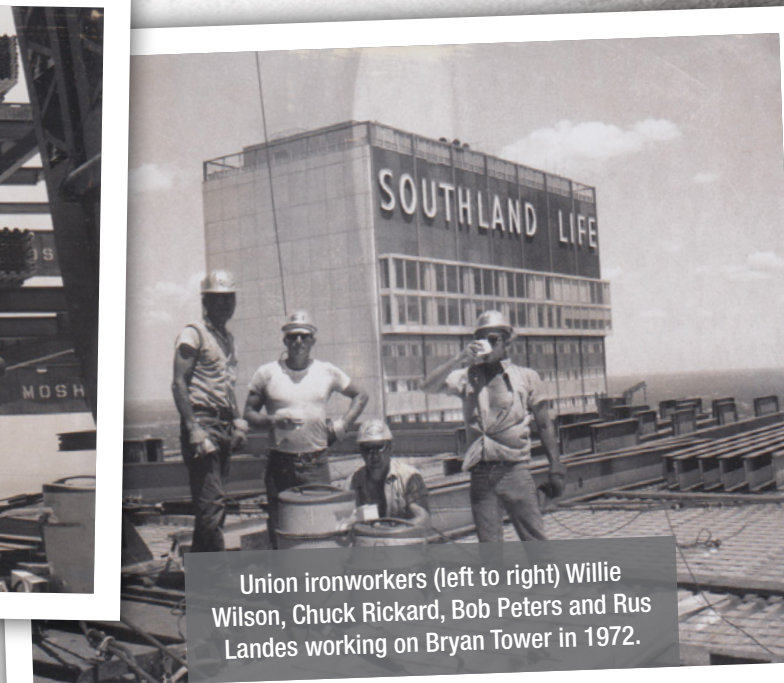
During that time, Local 263 members also constructed the 16-story **Fort Worth National Bank** (now the Oncor Building), which was completed in 1952. They also erected the **Bell Telephone Company** building in downtown Fort Worth and the Handley natural-gas-powered power plant.

In Dallas, Local 481 members built the 36-story **Republic National Bank Building** (later known as Republic Center Tower I and now Gables Republic Tower), which became the tallest building in Dallas and west of the Mississippi River when it was completed in 1954.

In addition to many other skyscrapers and larger projects, Metroplex union ironworkers were also kept busy building dozens of drive-in theaters, which was another constant source of jobs through the 1950s and into the 1960s, according to Dr. Green. Many schools, hospitals and churches; the new **Casa Manana Theatre** in Fort Worth; several freeways; the **Texas Christian University Student Center**; and



A crew of union ironworkers erecting the 40-story Bryan Tower skyscraper in Dallas in 1972. The office building was completed the following year.



Union ironworkers (left to right) Willie Wilson, Chuck Rickard, Bob Peters and Rus Landes working on Bryan Tower in 1972.

numerous shopping centers throughout the suburbs of Tarrant County were additional jobs that provided work for Local 263 during the decade.

In July 1952, the Texas ironworkers, meeting in Amarillo, agreed to organize the **Texas State Ironworkers Council**, which would work with the State Federation of Labor (an affiliate of the A.F.L.) in "furthering the ironworkers interests," according to Dr. Green.

However, Local 481 was forced to go on a 19-day-long strike beginning March 2, 1953, after the Dallas County Construction Employers Association refused the local's request for a 25-cent-per-hour wage increase and a 7-1/2-cent-per-hour contribution for a health-and-welfare benefit. Working under old wage rates since the previous, one-year contract had expired January 16, the walkout halted construction on major projects in Dallas such as the Republic Bank Building, the **City-County Memorial Hospital**, the **Veterans Administration Hospital**, **Southwestern Medical School** at the University of Texas and additions to the **Neiman-Marcus** and **Titche-Goettinger** department stores.

The union ironworkers returned to work on March 21 after employers granted a 12-1/2-cent-per-hour raise for ironworkers to \$2.75 and a 15-cent-per-hour raise to \$2.50 for rodmen. But Local 481 did not win the health-and-welfare benefit concession from the employers.

During the strike, the local's Executive Board served as its negotiating committee, and one member – contrary to local policy – wanted to be paid for his work on the board, Dr. Green recounted. An International Association representative subsequently ruled that all executive board members were to be paid for their work during the strike, a ruling that nearly depleted the local's treasury, prompting **Business Agent L. E. Dilley** to quit his office.

Another issue arose when Local 481 President Dave Keeler "insisted on an election to decide the permanent replacement (for the business manager), while many members demanded that Keeler appoint a replacement," according to Dr. Green. Ultimately, **Brother George Terrell** won a spirited runoff election by one vote.



Then in Fort Worth, Local 263 members working without a contract after their agreement expired January 15 waged a two-day strike on April 7 and 8, 1953, against the A.G.C. After picketing 10 major construction jobs in the city, the ironworkers won hourly wage increases of 12-1/2 cents for structural work and 15 cents for rod work. The new scale, which would provide \$2.75 per hour for structural men and \$2.50 for rodmen, would remain in effect until March 31, 1954.

That year, Local 263 raised the 16-story **Oil and Gas Building** on the corner of 7th and Taylor streets in Fort Worth, in addition to work on many other construction projects.

The state's ironworkers locals, including Local 263 and Local 481, staged a 71-day walkout beginning April 6, 1954, after contractors refused to negotiate through the State Council, although Local 481 agreed not to put up picket lines on jobs to allow work to continue if the contractors did not let others do the ironwork, the April 15 *Star-Telegram* reported. Contractors ultimately agreed to wage increases and to recognize the Council as the union's bargaining agent; however, they did not address the issue of contributions to the employee welfare fund.

Local 263 ironworkers "maintained a bit of a rough image into the postwar years," according to historian Dr. George Green. Case in point, at the local's Main Street union hall and Jerome's Cafe beneath it, ironworkers "were known to drink, play poker, shoot dice and fight" — even after the local's Executive Board resolved in 1956 that all gamblers on the premises of the union hall would be fined \$25.

In another instance of Local 263 exuberance, just two years after the local rejoined the Building Trades Council in 1954 after having been unaffiliated from the council for many years, the local was expelled when **Brother O. C. Yancy** threw another council delegate through a window. Local 263 and the other delegate's local were involved in a jurisdictional dispute at the time.

Throughout the mid-1950s, work remained plentiful and employment stayed strong for union ironworkers throughout the Metroplex. When Local 263 **Business Agent J. D. Holmes** told the membership during a meeting in 1956 that work was "very good," he was echoing a statement consistently found in meeting minutes from 1954, 1955 and that year.

During that time, Local 263 enjoyed "harmonious" negotiations with contractors, as **Secretary Louis R. Robinson** described in the April 28, 1955, *Fort Worth Labor News*, and gained a total of 12-1/2-cent-per-hour in raises in a new contract in 1955. With the agreement, the local's ironworkers were paid \$2.95 per hour and rodmen were paid 2.57-1/2 per hour beginning April 1, and then on October 1, hourly wages were raised to \$3 for ironworkers and 2.72-1/2 for rodmen.

Then in 1956, Local 263 joined Local 481 and other ironworker locals in the state in requiring workers to pay 7-1/2 cents per hour into a union-administered **Welfare Fund**. Statewide leverage helped accomplish the workers' levy, according to Dr. Green, although many younger members in Fort Worth and elsewhere "resisted welfare deductions" from their paychecks.

(Before that time, Dr. Green noted, workers' compensation benefits, either from the union or the government, were "rather limited." Veteran Local 263 members he interviewed recalled that in order to help seriously injured workers and to take care of widows and orphans in cases of workers' deaths, the union repeatedly had to "put out a letter" asking for voluntary contributions from the union brothers.)

Jobs in the Local 263 jurisdiction that were employing its members at the time included a shopping center and a rubber plant in Waco. In Dallas, Local 481 members were working on jobs that included the \$16-million **Statler-Hilton Hotel**, which was the first major hotel built in Dallas in nearly three decades and was



Union ironworkers install reinforcing rods for the parking area of the new Air Mail facilities during construction of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in May 1973.

hailed as the first modern American hotel when it opened in 1956.

That year, Local 481 negotiated a 7-1/2-cent contribution from employers for a **Health and Welfare Plan** for its members, to go into effect with a new contract in May 1957. Soon after, Local 263 also gained a 7-1/2 contribution for its Health and Welfare Fund that went into effect in November.

Local 263 ironworkers also helped raise the 30-story **Continental National Bank Building** skyscraper in Fort Worth in 1956 and 1957. When completed that year, the tower was the tallest building in the city until 1974 (when it would be surpassed by another Local 263-erected building, The Fort Worth Tower).

Strong employment in Dallas was enhanced by construction of the **Dallas Memorial Auditorium** and its 9,816-seat arena in 1957; an expansion of the **Ford plant** in the city; and work at power-plant stations. Union ironworkers also erected hangars at **Carswell Air Force Base** for the B-52 Stratofortress

heavy bombers, one of the largest construction projects in the area in the late 1950s.

During that time, the Dallas union ironworkers began negotiating additional benefits into contracts; as a result, in 1957 Local 481 became one of the first locals in the nation to adopt the uniform **reciprocal Pension Plan**, which would allow members to put pension payments into the local's fund when they traveled to other jurisdictions for work. What's more, according to Dr. Green, by that time, "every (ironworkers) local was covered by a group insurance plan, and the ironworkers had one of the best pension plans in the Texas construction industry."

The union would continue to use its growing strength to gain concessions from contractors during the late 1950s, as seen during a two-day strike by 500 Dallas-area ironworkers beginning April 1, 1958, that resulted in "satisfactory" terms, the April 3 *Dallas Morning News* reported. In November of that year, Local 481 held up work on the new **Livestock Coliseum** at

(Continued after following spread.)



Training and Education

PREPARING THE SKILLED IRONWORKERS NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE

In both Dallas and – soon after – Fort Worth, the training of apprentices by Ironworkers Local 481 and Local 263, respectively, during the first half of the 1900s was performed almost exclusively on-the-job. During that period, apprentices were educated (and paid) while working alongside journeymen on job sites for several years before they could reach journeyman status.

Local 481 established its formal Apprenticeship Training Program, which consisted of standardized classroom work in addition to paid, on-the-job training, in June 1953. Financed by equal contributions from the local and the Dallas County Construction Employers Association, the program was administered by a six-member Dallas Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (J.A.T.C.), with three members each from Local 481 and the local's employers.

Although 12 apprentices enrolled in the first class and eight of them graduated in 1957, the program initially struggled because of inadequate financing. But in 1959, the local's negotiating committee and Ironworkers International General Organizer Hugh Williamson persuaded the Employers Association to contribute 1/2-cent per hour to a trust fund to keep it functioning.

The employers helped to improve the program considerably in 1963 when they increased their contribution to 1-1/2 cents per hour, allowing the apprentice committee to hire Brother Gordon Adams as full-time coordinator and head instructor, positions in which he served from 1965 until 1977.

In Fort Worth, Local 263 started its first, formal apprenticeship



Local 263 Apprenticeship Coordinator Jim Wilson demonstrates techniques of the ironworking trade at an apprenticeship show sometime during the 1960s.

school in September 1965, which was supported by an Ironworkers Apprentice Fund. Administered by a four-member J.A.T.C. of two contractor representatives and two delegates from the union, Business Manager Charles Lowery and Brother A. L. Crane, the three-year, paid program held its first classes in late 1966 at the Fort Worth Technical Institute.

Classes were initially held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7 to 10 p.m. Instructors were Brother Ken Heifner and Brother E. A. Trefger.

Meanwhile, the James Connally Technical Institute at Texas

A&M University in Waco also provided related instruction for the Local 263 apprenticeship program.

Local 263 graduated its first official class of apprentices to journeymen in June 1970. A dinner and program were held in honor of the 16 graduates on June 11 at the Old Swiss House on Camp Bowie Boulevard in Fort Worth.

Brother Alvin Lough and Brother John Leggett were named as the top two apprentices in that first class. The other graduates were brothers Eddie Trefger, Eddie Martinez, Douglas Reynolds, Fred Taylor, Roy Tipton, Jerrell Martinez, Gary Brown, Jim Smith, Johnny Burton, Gary Woods, Steve Antony, Bill Rollins, A. L. Crane and E. A. Trefger Jr.

With the merger of Local 263, Local 481 and Local 840 of Lubbock in October 1996 to form a new Local 263 to cover all of North Texas, the apprentice training programs of each local were also merged. The new, singular, three-year Ironworkers Local 263 Apprenticeship Training Program was moved into the newly formed local's union hall at 604 North Great Southwest Parkway in Arlington beginning in March 1997.

The J.A.T.C. was then comprised of six members, three from labor and three from management (as it is in 2018).

Classes and training to supplement paid, on-the-job experience continued to be provided two nights per week September through May, while safety remained a focus and included CPR and first aid as part of the curriculum. In a sign of its quick growth, in 2004 the Local 263 J.A.T.C. received 310 applicants but only accepted 121.

Among the continued improvements and advancements made to the program, in 2010 it added one of the nation's first Wind Turbine Training classes, the first of which some Local 263 members completed on August 13 of that year.

The J.A.T.C. moved the program into a new facility it purchased and renovated at 616 North Great Southwest Parkway in Arlington in December 2015. The new, state-of-the-art Ironworkers Local 263 Apprenticeship Training Center was fully furnished with all new equipment and includes 15 indoor Lincoln welding booths, electric welding machines and suitcase fluxcore wire machines, as well as a new ventilation system. Its large classrooms are equipped with overhead projectors and flat screen televisions, and the facility also has two conference rooms, a break room and a multi-purpose room.

In order to meet the high demand for skilled welders at the time and in the future, Local 263 used funding from the Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT), a joint labor-management effort, to purchase the welding booths for the new apprenticeship school. IMPACT also awarded the local \$13,100 to purchase new tables and chairs for the center.

The apprentice curriculum includes Introduction to Ironworking; OSHA 30-Hour Training in health and safety awareness; Subpart R Training; Scaffolding Erection and Dismantlement; Forklift Safety Training; First Aid and CPR Training; Structural Steel Erection; Architectural and Ornamental Erection, Rigging and Cranes; Blueprint Reading; Welding; Foreman Training; History of the Ironworkers; Precast Concrete Erection and Safety; Pre-Engineered Metal Building Erection; Mathematics for Ironworkers; and Reinforcing placement.

The J.A.T.C. further provides upgrade training for Local 263 journeymen so that they are up-to-date on all industry trades and techniques. Journeyman upgrading classes are scheduled on an as-needed basis for safety and welding.

The J.A.T.C. also offers training classes in El Paso for apprentices and journeymen.



Local 263 members participate in a course on lead safety at the Local 263 Training Center in 1994.



The state-of-the-art Ironworkers Local 263 Apprenticeship Training Center at 616 North Great Southwest Parkway in Arlington.



the state fairgrounds until employers addressed the use of non-union men to unload steel for the project.

Even the Dallas local's threat of a walkout by its 600 members in late May 1959 resulted in a new agreement with contractors. Indeed, a strike was subsequently avoided when the local and its employers signed a new, two-year contract that went into effect on April 1.

PROSPERITY PERSISTS IN THE SIXTIES

Both Local 263 and Local 481 continued to grow during the 1960s, and wages for their members climbed steadily during the decade – and rapidly over the final three years – while the majority of commercial and government construction in the Metroplex region remained union. The Sixties were also very active years for organizing, as Dr. Green pointed out, with Local 263's business agents constantly traveling throughout the jurisdiction and all the way south to Waco, where in 1961 the local had 45 members.

“Organizing efforts were reflected in the local's membership figures, which showed a steady growth,” Dr. Green noted. Indeed, from about 320 members at the start of the decade, Local 263 grew to 350 members in 1961 and then to 400 in 1965.

As a result, on May 4, 1961, the local moved its offices to a larger facility on **East Rosedale**

The leaders of Local 263 played a key role in organizing and improving the **Fort Worth Building and Construction Trades Council**. For example, Local 263 **Business Manager O. C. Yancy** was elected president of the council in January 1961, and during his several years in that position, he “transformed (the council) into an effective instrument for resolving jurisdictional disputes as well as for presenting a united front to the contractors,” according to historian Dr. George Green.

Street in Fort Worth. Just eight years later, the local would move again into a bigger union hall it built for itself on **South Sylvania Avenue**.

Among the several large projects during the 1960s that would employ a number of Local 263 members were jobs at **Tarrant County Junior College**, the construction of new dormitories at **North Texas State University** (now University of North Texas) in Denton and a building at the **University of Texas at Arlington**. The union ironworkers also helped build the **Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike** (part of Interstate 30) during the decade and three major shopping malls.

But after having worked without a new contract for 90 days, the Fort Worth local approved a strike action in July 1961 before receiving wage increases from contractors.

In Dallas, union ironworkers were also busy on abundant work that included the downtown **Cotton Exchange Building** in 1962, for which Local 481 members erected the curtain wall facade of aluminum and steel screens that surround the 17-story tower. During the early 1960s, members also helped build a **Nike Missile site** for the U.S. Army in Abilene.

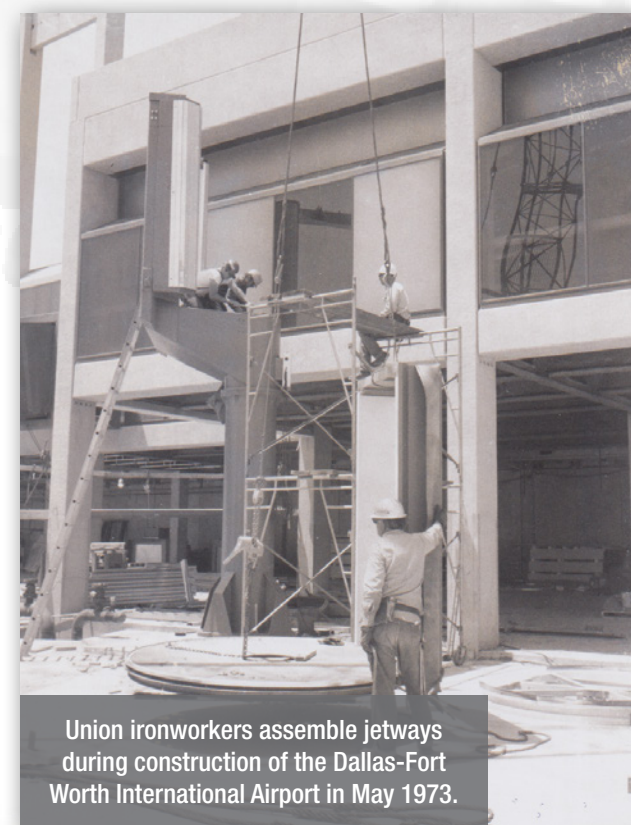
Local 481 averted a strike by its 650 members when it reached agreement with the Dallas County Construction Employers Association on April 2, 1962, on a new, three-year contract. During the final year of the pact beginning May 1965, the local's ironworkers would receive \$4.22-1/2 per hour and its rodmen would receive \$4.02-1/2 per hour.

The Dallas local's prosperity continued into the mid-1960s, during which its members raised numerous, prominent buildings in its jurisdiction. Among those was the 50-story **Republic National Bank Building II** in downtown Dallas, which contained 12,000 tons of structural steel when it was completed as a companion to the adjacent Republic Center I in 1964.



Local 481 also worked on the new, \$13-million **Dallas County Courthouse** building in 1965, although labor negotiators had to settle a “simmering” jurisdictional dispute, as the June 29 *Morning News* described it, between the ironworkers and Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 100. The plumbers had briefly walked off the job to protest ironworkers being assigned the job of cutting 14 holes in the metal sheets in each of the jail's 365 cells, the newspaper reported.

In Fort Worth, Local 263 began a concentrated membership organizing drive in late 1964, during which it hired an assistant business manager. By January 1, 1965, the local had signed contracts with two building contractors and had 40 members in Waco. (However, later in the decade, shops in that city were struggling for contacts, according to Dr. Green, and were also calling for a boycott of some shops' products, leading Local 263 to release its Waco shop members to **Local No. 482** in Austin.)



Union ironworkers assemble jetways during construction of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in May 1973.

During the racially charge 1960s, Local 263 was “open to accepting black members” and even specifically attempted to recruit them from local high schools in 1968, but with no results, according to historian Dr. George Green. In 1971, the local also followed the lead of the International Association of Ironworkers and embarked on a three- to four-year-long program to recruit and train blacks.

Then in late 1965, after Local 263 had called a strike to gain a new pension benefit and pay raises, Local 263 **Business Manager Charlie Lowery** suggested that workers' wives might walk the informational picket lines to help convince contractors to submit to the pension demands of the union, according to Dr. Green. As he further described the ensuing events, “Dozens of women volunteered to walk the line, and several were assigned to different job sites. ... Within three days, with some *Star-Telegram* publicity, the local won a 45-cent-per-hour raise with a 10-cent deduction for pensions.”

Local 481 participated in the **Ironworkers Pension Fund** along with their brothers in Fort Worth. While some Local 263 members ridiculed Brother Lowery for taking money out of their pockets for the local's new Pension Fund, for the first time ever, “ironworkers had a system that allowed them to draw full retirement benefits,” Dr. Green recounted.

At the time in Dallas, among their many projects, union ironworkers were building the 52-story **First National Bank Tower** (now The Drever), which contained 25,000 tons of steel and a curtain wall when completed in 1967.

In Fort Worth, work began on a new **City Hall Building**, which would be completed in 1971, while union ironworkers were also erecting the **Fritz Lanham Federal Building** in 1966. The following year, Local 263 would begin work on the new **Tarrant County Convention Center**



(now the Fort Worth Convention Center) in the city's Sundance Square, which would open on September 30, 1968.

With the surge in construction in Fort Worth, building trades leaders in the city met in September 1966 to address a growing manpower shortage. "This is a problem all the crafts are having," Business Manager Lowery told the September 1 *Labor News*. "It is a problem caused by the increase in work in general."

As such, several unions, including the ironworkers, pledged to expand their apprenticeship programs "to turn out more future journeymen for the construction crafts." Local 263 aimed to double the size of its program "because of the need," the newspaper reported.

The Fort Worth and Dallas ironworkers locals then simultaneously went on strike on April 1, 1968, for 52 days after two months of

negotiations with Metroplex contractors failed to produce new wage and benefits contracts. In Cowtown, work stopped on all construction projects "except those directly related to the (Vietnam) war effort" as a result of the strike, the *Star-Telegram* reported that day, including the convention center and the northeast campus of **Tarrant County Junior College**. In Dallas, work was halted on many large jobs, including the new **Callier Hearing and Speech Center's Pilot School for the Deaf**, the 33-floor **One Main Place** skyscraper that would be completed later that year and work at **Dallas Love Field airport**.

The strike was settled on May 22 with assistance from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, after which construction work in the two cities resumed immediately. The settlement included wage increases of \$1.50 per hour in increments over three years for both locals.



According to Dr. Green, the resulting settlement "set a (wage) pattern for other local crafts and may have inspired some contractors to rethink their labor relations as they wanted 'smoother relations' for the upcoming construction of a regional airport."

As the decade was coming to a close, both locals were still busy with work and were still growing. With its membership expanding, Local 263 on June 19, 1969, shortly after its 50th anniversary, opened its own, custom-built union hall on South Sylvania Street in Fort Worth.

FACING MOUNTING OPEN-SHOP GAINS

By 1970, building-trades unions in North Texas, including Ironworkers Local 263 and Local 481, were facing a shortage of jobs – whereas just a year earlier they had been dealing with a lack of workers. Many labor leaders blamed the employment slump on President Richard Nixon's 75-percent reduction in federally financed construction that he announced in 1969 as part of a package to reduce the national budget deficit, the November 27, 1969, *Labor News* reported.

ALWAYS GOOD BROTHERS, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

North Texas union ironworkers have a long history of answering the call when asked to donate services, goods or funding to charitable organizations and causes. They have also always been committed to taking care of their own and their communities.

From its earliest days, Local 481 in Dallas would often organize committees to visit sick and injured members and to donate funds from its treasury to the Scottish Rite Hospital for crippled children, the Community Chest or the Salvation Army. More specifically, in 1951, the local's members donated their labor to install all rod work, set all windows and erect the steel for construction of a hospital building for children with cerebral palsy.

Fort Worth Local 263 members were also consistent contributors to worthy causes, from donating \$100 (equivalent to about \$1,300 in 2018) to the city's Milk Fund for needy children in August 1920 to volunteering their time to erect the scaffolding needed to paint the Union Gospel Church in May 1963 to kick off that year's city-wide "Fix-Up, Paint-Up, Clean-Up" campaign. Perhaps the local's most generous efforts came following the tornado that struck Waco, Texas, on May 11, 1953, when 250 members donated about 12,000 total man hours of labor to help clean up in the wake of the deadliest tornado in Texas history.

After locals 481 and 263 were combined into a new Local 263 in October 1996, the kindness and compassion of its collective membership continued. For example, Local 263 members created a statue of a boy and a girl pulling on a wishbone for the new A Wish With Wings headquarters in 1998, and members repaired some of the badly worn-out wheelchairs used in "wheelchair rugby" games operated by the nonprofit RISE Adventures in 2009.

Most recently, Local 263 has remained involved in a host of charitable and community activities, including *Project Phoenix*, the *Community Learning Center*, *Cowtown Brush Up*, the *Union Sportsmen's Alliance*, *United Way* and career days for schools in Dallas and Fort Worth. What's more, Business Manager *Ronnie Smitherman* represents labor on the board of *Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas*.

With conditions rapidly deteriorating, in July 1970 roughly 40 percent of Local 263's approximately 440 members were unemployed. As the tough times persisted, mention of a dues increase during the local's April 26, 1971, general membership meeting caused "an eruption in the body," meeting minutes recorded. But while



Local 263 members who received their 25-year service pins during a ceremony in 1976 were (left to right, front row) John Spillman, Arlin Rogers, Ed Boorman and Jim Wilson; (second row) O. C. Yancy, Marvin G. Steele, Frank Henderson, M. L. Harwell and John Hammons; and (third row) R. C. Carter, J. Lee Butler, J. D. Mitchell, R. E. Higlin and Ben Crowe (with International General Vice President Hugh Williamson and Local 263 Business Manager Charles B. Lowery).



Union ironworkers erect the 24-story Bank of America Building in Midland, Texas, in 1977 for its opening the following year.



members seemed more inclined to cut expenses, according to Dr. Green, they ultimately voted in June for a dues increase.

Nonetheless, union ironworkers did erect several major projects during the early 1970s, including **Texas Stadium**, which employed a peak force of 50 ironworkers on erection work and 20 more on sheeting work. The 65,675-seat football stadium located in Irving would open in October 1971 and serve as the home field of the Dallas Cowboys for 38 seasons. (It was demolished on April 11, 2010, after the Cowboys built a new stadium in Arlington.)

Meanwhile in March 1970, 115 contractors concerned about union jurisdictional disagreements, walkouts and dealing with two sets of wage rates in Dallas and Fort Worth formed the **North Texas Contractors Association**, “the nation’s first construction-industry organization with broad powers of collective bargaining on a regional scale,” according to Dr. Green. At the time, contractors were especially focused on ensuring labor stability for upcoming construction of the \$700-million **Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport** (which would become the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in 1985), as well as other large commercial projects.



The following year, 20 of the 26 local construction-trades unions in North Texas and the Contractors Association ratified a two-year agreement on March 31, 1971, that “equalized” wage raises at \$1.40 per hour for almost all crafts over the next two years, the April 1 *Morning News* reported. The contract covered some 18,000 building-trades craftsmen and 166 contractors in 36 counties, according to the newspaper.

Local 481, with about 850 members, was the first craft union to agree to the contract, which brought the local’s hourly wages to \$7.55 at the end of the two years. Additionally, “wage differentials among ironworkers were finally abolished,” Dr. Green pointed out.

As work on the Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport moved forward with Local 263 and Local 481 members on site, North Texas Contractors Association President Dee Brown stated in the *Morning News*, “There has never been a project in the United States as large as the Regional Airport that has had fewer work stoppages.” The four-terminal airport held an open house and dedication ceremony in September 1973 before it opened for commercial service on January 13, 1974.

Even in the depressed-employment climate of the progressing decade, sizable jobs in Fort Worth – more so than in Dallas – remained union, according to Dr. Green. But union ironworkers did work on several key projects in Dallas, including construction of the 40-floor **Bryan Tower** skyscraper, which was completed in 1973, and the \$70-million, I. M. Pei-designed **Dallas City Hall** from 1972 to 1977. Other jobs manned during the mid-1970s by the still-growing Local 481 included the **Grand Prairie Hospital**, the **City of Mesquite Municipal Building** and many area campuses and shopping malls.

Meanwhile in 1973, 17 craft locals, including the Dallas and Fort Worth union ironworkers, renewed their agreement with the North Texas Contractors Association, with wages and benefits increasing in increments by a total of 84 cents per hour. However, throughout much of the mid-1970s and the balance of the decade, the construction industry would be consistently stifled by a recession and high costs of materials.

Large projects on which Local 263 ironworkers were employed during that time included construction of the **Tandy Center**



Ironworkers crew working for John J. Beasley on construction of the Hyatt Regency Dallas in January 1977.



Union ironworkers, including Local 481 Business Manager Bobby Jenkins (in front, holding sign) and business agents Charlie Pepper and Johnny Goodman (kneeling), join an A.F.L.-C.I.O. demonstration in Dallas sometime around the early 1980s.

(now City Place), a mixed-use facility featuring two 20-story buildings in central Fort Worth, beginning in 1974. Built to serve as the corporate headquarters for RadioShack (formerly Tandy Corporation) for many years, the complex included a mall and an ice-skating rink.

The local's members also erected **Texas Health Huguley Hospital Fort Worth South**, which opened in 1977. Other sources of work were the perpetual shopping-mall construction projects, whose size by the mid- and late-1970s had increased dramatically, according to Dr. Green.

But in the spring of 1975, after negotiations with the Contractors Association for a new contract failed, the ensuing strike by the unions and lockout by the contractors resulted in **the biggest construction shutdown in the state's history**. The unions were seeking raises of \$3.45 for three years or \$2.30 for two years, while the contractors had offered \$1.65 in proposed wage increases over a three-year period.

The divide kept some 26,000 union workers and 200 construction projects worth \$150 million largely idle for 113 days from May through August 1975, although open-shop labor completed some jobs, according to Dr. Green. In the end, most of the construction crafts settled for raises totaling \$2.40 per hour for three years, but the Dallas and Fort Worth ironworkers held out for a \$2.52-1/2-per-hour increase and a higher immediate raise and settled on August 21, halting the longest work stoppage in Local 263's history.

However, the strike had been so long and heated that many locals had urged their members to work for the growing number of open-shop contractors, according to Dr. Green. Ultimately, as he further noted, "It may have been the work stoppage that nobody won, since open-shop contractors were already growing in size and number in the Metroplex and were spurred onward by this event."

Then the following summer of 1976, Local 481 picketed the 20-story Campbell Tower

office building that was being built in Dallas – the largest building of its kind ever constructed in Texas without any union contract, according to Dr. Green. Local 481 **Business Manager Bobby Jenkins** even declared in the July 25, 1976, *Morning News* that non-union ironworkers on the project were making \$5 per hour, while the union's wage rate was \$8.29 per hour plus 31 cents in fringe benefits.

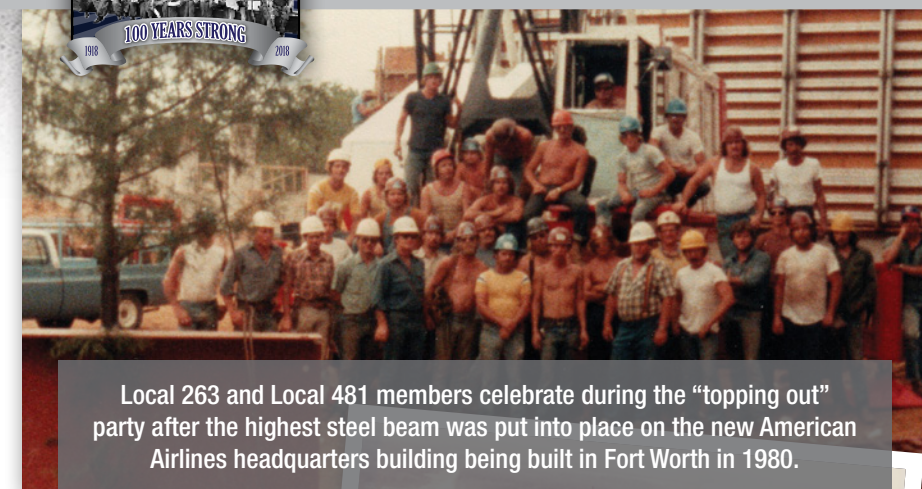
As the end of the decade approached, Brown and Root, a non-union contractor, won the Comanche Peak Power Plant project in Somervell County, which would be plagued by massive cost overruns and construction problems, according to Dr. Green. But it was the first power plant in Local 263's jurisdiction built by non-union "scab" labor, he noted – an ominous sign of the times to come.

But first, in 1979, wages for union rodmen in the Metroplex were finally equaled with those of ironworkers, as a new contract set hourly pay for all Local 263 and Local 481 members at \$9.93 per hour. The agreement also gave the union ironworkers 55 cents per hour toward their welfare fund, while Local 263 received an additional \$1.15 and Local 481 received an additional \$1.30 for pensions.

A STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE THE '80s

Fort Worth's union craftsmen would fare better in the 1980s than they did the decade before. However, anti-union national policies under the President Ronald Reagan administration, a regressing Texas economy beginning in 1982 and commercial overbuild throughout the Metroplex all contributed to a sharp spike in open-shop activity in the Dallas construction industry.

Regardless, most big jobs in Fort Worth Local

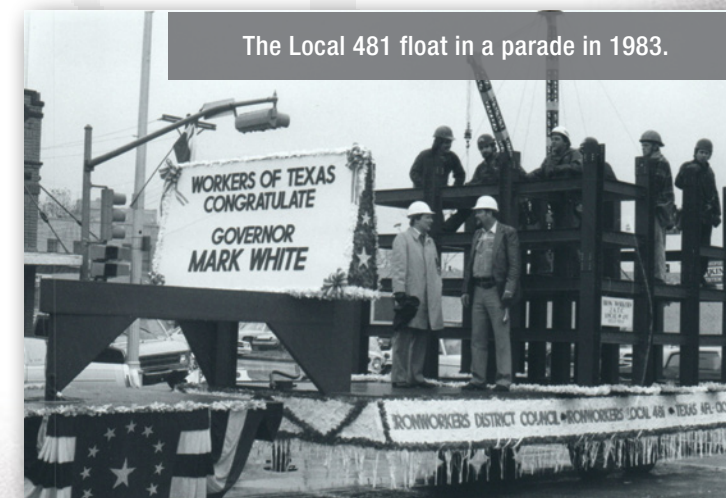


Local 263 and Local 481 members celebrate during the "topping out" party after the highest steel beam was put into place on the new American Airlines headquarters building being built in Fort Worth in 1980.



The steel frame erected by union ironworkers for the new American Airlines headquarters building under construction in Fort Worth in 1980.

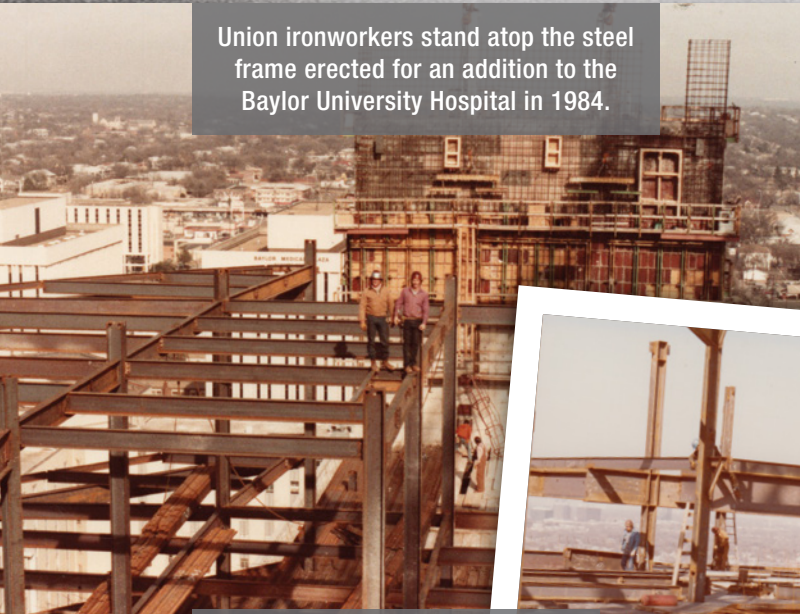
263's jurisdiction during the early 1980s were completely or at least partially erected by union ironworkers, including the 13-floor **Americana Hotel** (now The Renaissance Worthington Hotel) that was completed in 1981 and launched the revitalization of the downtown area. More work came with erection of the 40-story **Continental Plaza** office building in the city that was completed in 1983 (and is now known as 777 Main Street); construction of the **Sundance Square** 35-block shopping and entertainment district in downtown Fort Worth; and jobs at the **Village Creek Wastewater**



The Local 481 float in a parade in 1983.



Union ironworkers stand atop the steel frame erected for an addition to the Baylor University Hospital in 1984.



Union ironworkers erect the steel for an addition to the Baylor University Hospital in 1984.



and non-union labor – while projects such as the Fort Worth city jail and city library renovations were completely open shop. What’s more, the city, then Tarrant County and then the State of Texas “went open shop” during that time, according to Dr. Green. “Part of the problem was the cost-of-living contracts of the early 1980s that drove wages up,” he noted.

Subsequently, the ironworkers union lost bridge work to the non-union sector, rendering rod and reinforcing bar (rebar) work scarce for Local 263 and Local 481 rodmen.

Crews totaling 45 members of Local 481 union ironworkers did complete a \$32-million, two-story, 189,000-square-foot expansion of the **Dallas Convention Center** in December 1983 on schedule. Working for union contractors on the structural, rebar and other miscellaneous ironwork, union ironworkers handled some 2,800 tons of structural, joist and decking iron for the job, while three dozen Local 481 members installed 3,000 tons of rebar and 400,000 square feet of wire mesh.

However, in 1984 as work continued to diminish, **Local 263 and Local 481 had no other choice but to take severe pay cuts** from \$15.59 per hour for journeyman in 1983 down to a uniform \$12.88 per hour. Local 263

Treatment Plant in Arlington.

Wages also continued to rise in the first years of the decade, as base pay for journeyman members of locals 263 and 481 increased from \$10.53 per hour in early 1980 to \$13.63 per hour in late 1981. That year, Local 263 also received a new 7-cent-per-hour contribution into a training fund, in addition to 55 cents for welfare and \$1.45 for retirement benefits.

But many construction jobs in and around Fort Worth during the 1980s were “double-breasted” – erected with both union

Union ironworkers build the 11-story Stone Tower office building on Noel Road in Dallas in 1984.



Union ironworkers work on a project at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in 1988.



Business Manager Mike Gravette would later state in the July 20, 1986, *Star-Telegram*, “It’s something they did to survive.”

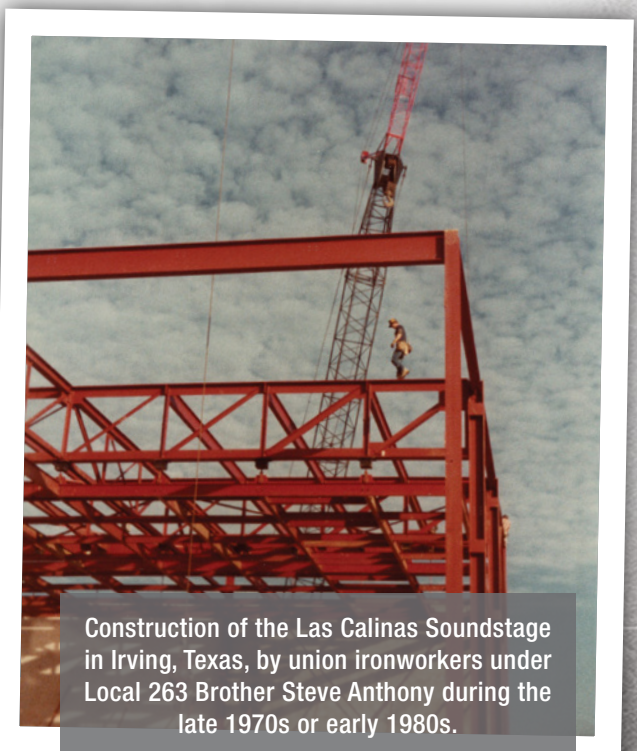
That same newspaper article would also point out that during the mid-1980s, construction jobs were becoming more and more “jeopardized by a large and expanding pool of non-union skilled and unskilled labor willing to work at lower wages.” What’s more, as Harold Gross of the Center of Enterprising at Southern Methodist University explained in the article, by that time, construction unions “no longer had the threat of a strike for bargaining power because of the non-union labor pool.”

Moreover, Dr. Green further declared that union contracts were also being undermined by the “emigration of skilled union hands from the northern states” and the “growth of skills among illegal aliens – trained in housing and gradually able to take on large-scale jobs.”

Those factors all helped to erode ongoing cooperative efforts between locals 263 and 481 and their contractors, including **Top Hand**, a grassroots campaign launched in 1979 to promote cooperation between the Dallas and Fort Worth Building and Construction Trades unions and the North Texas Contractors Association. Established by the ironworkers, laborers and carpenters local unions, some 17 craft locals and a district council also joined with the contractors in pledging to increase productivity, “with the emphasis placed on the importance of each workman’s role in producing high-quality construction projects,” according to Dr. Green.

To meet those goals, labor pledged that it would not stage work stoppages, strikes, sick-outs or slowdowns. However, as the decade progressed, Top Hand “did not prove sufficient to stave off a deteriorating situation,” Dr. Green declared.

Union ironworkers did help erect the 60-story **Allied Bank Tower** (now Fountain Place) in downtown Dallas from 1984 to 1986. When the late-modernist skyscraper opened that year, it was the second tallest building in the city.



Construction of the Las Calinas Soundstage in Irving, Texas, by union ironworkers under Local 263 Brother Steve Anthony during the late 1970s or early 1980s.





Also in North Texas at that time, the **International Association chartered Ironworkers Local No. 840 in Lubbock, Texas, on February 1, 1986.** The new local was formed by the amalgamation of Ironworkers **Local No. 408** of Amarillo (which had been chartered September 11, 1926); **Local No. 592** of Wichita Falls (which had been chartered August 5, 1938); **Local No. 775** of El Paso (which had been chartered February 15, 1957); and **Local No. 789** of Midland (which had been chartered February 6, 1959).

While high unemployment persisted into June 1987, that month members of Local 263 and Local 481 employed by Baten Steel Erectors raised the steel and installed miscellaneous iron for seven post-office substations projects in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The union ironworkers finished all of the jobs on stations in Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Bedford, Irving and Carrollton on schedule.

The reduced wage scale for the ironworkers remained in place through the end of the decade and the first year of the 1990s. Finally in 1991, the Metroplex locals gained a new contract with a pay increase for journeyman members to \$13.36 per hour,



Union ironworkers install a brace beam during construction of a hangar at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

plus \$1.30 for welfare, \$2 for pensions and 14 cents for training.

Just a year later, however, Local 263 membership was down to just 310 member journeyman and apprentice ironworkers.

But the union did work on perhaps the most notable and significant new construction project in North Texas during the early- and mid-1990s: **The Ballpark in Arlington** (now Globe Life Park and in its next-to-last year of use in 2018). Erection of the state-of-the-art baseball stadium, which is home to the Texas Rangers, began in April 1992, and the park was completed and opened in April 1994.



Local 263 Treasurer Mike Vaughn, Brother Jim Wilson and President Larry Morrow stand outside the old Local 263 Union Hall on South Sylvania Avenue in 1993.

NORTH TEXAS IRONWORKERS GALVANIZE

Into the early 1990s, the dogged and still-mounting anti-union tide took a severe toll on Local 481. Consequently, by August 1992 Local 481's membership and its income from dues were steadily decreasing, causing severe financial burdens on the local. What's more, the local's general fund had significantly diminished from \$850,000 in 1986 to less than \$20,000 in 1992, and the International Association estimated in a letter to the local on August 11 that the fund would be "totally insolvent" by September 1 of that year.

Given Local 481's precarious position, International officials "unanimously decided" to place the local under International supervision and control beginning August 31, 1992. As such, all offices of the local were declared vacant and all of its business affairs were to be administered by **International General Vice President James Martin**, who was designated administrator of Local 481.

After nearly three years, the General Executive Board of the International Association restored full autonomy to Local 481, effective April 11, 1995. Subsequently, an election of local officers was held May 1, 1995, with **Brother Bill Hawkins** being re-elected the local's business manager.

However, Local 481 and Local 263 continued to lose market share to non-union labor into the mid-1990s. As a result, Local 263 membership plummeted to about 170 ironworkers in 1995 and 1996.

In a dramatic – and drastic – move to reverse and stabilize the condition of the North Texas union-ironworking industry, **the International Association merged Local 263, Local 481 and Local 840 of Lubbock on October 31, 1996, into a single ironworkers local to serve North Texas and assigned it as Local No. 263.** (*The Fort Worth's local number was retained because it was the lower of the numbers of the merged locals.*)



Union ironworkers work on a project at the new Fort Worth Alliance Airport in February 1991.

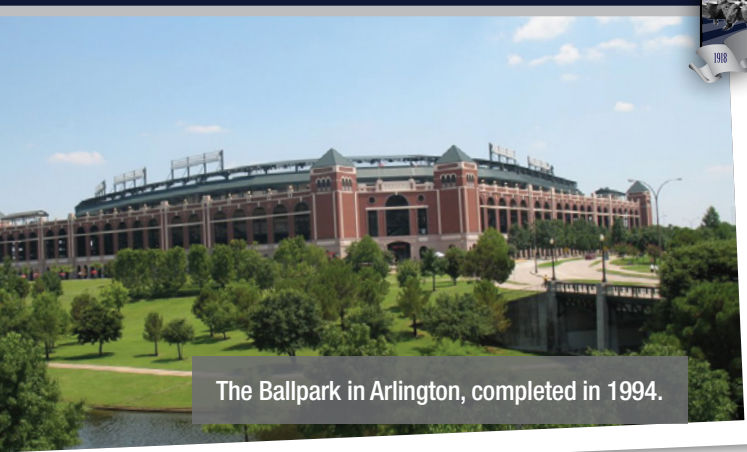


Union ironworkers construct the bleachers of the new Ballpark in Arlington in 1993.



Union ironworkers including brothers Billy Mangrum, Mitch Riner, Bill Gross and Mike Vaughn flank Texas Rangers baseball players Juan Gonzalez (left) and Rafael Palmeiro after the first steel column was installed for construction of The Ballpark in Arlington in 1993.





The Ballpark in Arlington, completed in 1994.

Following the amalgamation, the new Local 263 was kept under International supervision and administration for the next year and a half.

At the time of the merger, Dallas and Fort Worth ironworkers were being paid a base wage of \$14.46 per hour. They were also receiving an additional \$3.75 per hour in welfare,

Local 263 **President Ricky Dale Harvick**, who had been elected to the post just four months earlier, was shot and killed on October 17, 1994, in the driveway of his home in the Summerfields neighborhood of far north Fort Worth when he interrupted would-be thieves attempting to steal a family car. Brother Harvick was married and had a two-year-old son, and his wife, who was seven months pregnant at the time, gave birth to a baby girl six weeks later.

pension, vacation and training benefits. Union ironworkers in Lubbock were receiving \$14.50 in hourly wages and an additional \$3.05 for welfare, pension and training.

The new North Texas ironworkers local moved into the 5,500-square-foot **Local 263 Union Hall** on North Great Southwest Parkway in Arlington and began operations there on March 24, 1997. The following month, the local began



Local 263 honored these 50-year members during a banquet in 1999: (left to right, seated) Bill Woolard, Jack Marshburn, Bill Long, Garland Patterson, Ed Boorman, K. V. Sneed, Jake Harwell, J. W. Fitzgerald and Leslie Biggs; and (standing) Don Brown, E. E. Swinford, Jack Hall, Charlie Lowery and retired District Council President James Martin (with Local 263 business agents Steve Anthony and Bill Hawkins, District Council President Marvin Ragsdale and Business Manager Mike Gravette).

moving its apprentice training school into the building so that its administrative offices, meeting hall and training center would all be under one roof.

The International restored full autonomy to Local 263 on June 1, 1998, and the local subsequently held its first union meeting since the merger at its hall on July 13. The International also appointed a team of officers to lead the local for the next year, including **Business Manager Ronnie Smitherman**, a member and recording secretary of the former Fort Worth Local 263 who would go on to win re-election in June 1999 – and who has been elected to the position every three years since, including in June 2018.

After Local 263 found its footing and it began to gain traction, wages in 1999 were up to \$16.15 for journeymen. In addition to \$3.55 per hour for welfare, pension, vacation and training benefits, by that time the local also had a retirement annuity into which employers were contributing 50 cents per hour.

Before the end of the decade, the century and the millennium, the union ironworkers began erecting the \$20-million **American Airlines Center**, a multi-purpose arena in downtown Dallas, in late 1999. It opened in July 2001 to serve as home to the Dallas Mavericks of the

National Basketball Association and the Dallas Stars of the National Hockey League, while also hosting various events.

A boom in development and high-rise construction in the Metroplex during the first half of the 2000s helped put many of the local's 1,300 journeyman ironworkers and apprentices to work during that time. In 2002, the growing local began planning to move its union hall and training center into a new, larger 12,000-square-foot facility it would build on land it purchased at 450 109th Street in Arlington. However, those plans did not come to fruition.

By 2005, Local 263's journeyman wages had risen to \$18.35 per hour. The local's ironworkers were also receiving \$2.60 per hour into the local's Health and Welfare Fund, \$1 per hour into its Pension Fund, 20 cents per hour into the Vacation Fund and 20 cents per hour into the Training Fund.



Meanwhile, among the projects on which Local 263 members were employed was construction of the **Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge** to span the Trinity River in downtown Dallas beginning in 2005. The \$117-million bridge's signature, 40-story center-support arch was topped with a curved central span on June 26, 2010, before it opened in March 2012 to connect the downtown Woodall Rodgers Freeway to Singleton Boulevard in West Dallas.

Local 263 then took part in one of the most iconic and sizeable construction projects in the nation when its members erected the new, 80,000-seat **Dallas Cowboys Stadium** (now **AT&T Stadium**) in Arlington beginning in 2007 and through to its completion in 2009. With six different fair contractors working on the \$1-billion project, union ironworkers played a major role in just about every facet of the facility's construction.

Derr Construction of Eules, Texas, employed about 100 union ironworkers to erect the steel for the stadium beginning July 2007 until completion in November 2008. That work included the 14,500-ton roof structure, which is the longest-spanning roof structure in the



The new Cowboys Stadium in Arlington under construction by Local 263 ironworkers in 2007.



Local 263 members affix the new "AT&T Stadium" name to the roof of the former Cowboys Stadium in 2013 after its naming rights were sold to the company in July of that year.

world, with each of its arches weighing 3,500 tons and measuring 1,225 feet across.

C. N. Erectors of Fort Worth erected much of the miscellaneous iron using eight union ironworkers, including 264 stair stringers and landings; 9,250 feet of handrail and wall rail; and 7,875 feet of ramp rail. Azteca Steel of Dallas also employed a dozen union ironworkers to install several hundred tons of miscellaneous supports for counters, doors, walls and storefronts; over 11,000 feet of supports for the overhead-hung, suite-operable glazing system; and over 23,000 feet of cable handrails.

Glazing contractor Haley-Greer of Dallas used 16 union ironworkers for its work on the exterior skin of the building. Ironworkers working for Uni-Systems also helped install the drive system for the stadium's retractable roof, which weighs 260 tons.

Precast Erectors of Hurst, Texas, had 16 union ironworkers on site from April 2007 to July 2008 to erect the precast concrete units consisting of risers, tubs, stairs and walls. The stadium has approximately 3,000 pieces of precast weighing up to 60,000 pounds.

Thanks in large part to the skills and dedication of Local 263 members, "Jerry's World," as the stadium is sometimes referred in reference to Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, was completed for a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 27, 2009. The stadium's first event, a country music concert featuring George Strait, Reba McEntire, Blake Shelton and Lee Ann Womack, was then held June 6, 2009, before the Cowboys played their first official game there on September 20, 2009.

BUILDING TOWARD A STRONG FUTURE

Local 263 enjoyed strong employment from 2007 to early 2009, which was highlighted by construction of Cowboys Stadium. Business Manager Smitherman even quipped in the December 2009 issue of the *Union Craftsman* newspaper that with the volume of work the local had in 2007, 2008 and the first three quarters of 2009, "you could get fired or quit and have a new job the next day."

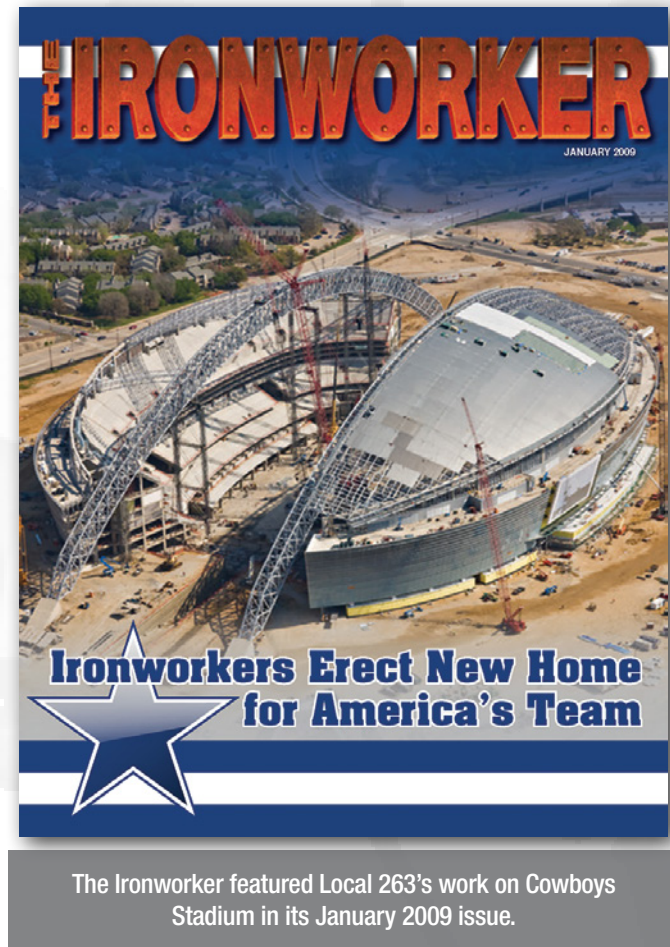
That year, Local 263 wages rose to \$21.60 per hour for journeymen members, and their fringe-benefit compensation totaled an additional \$4.60 per hour.

But the poor local and national economies beginning in late 2009 drastically slowed employment and growth for Local 263 into 2010. Into May of that year, the local's out-of-work list was averaging about 130 members per week – and there were few jobs coming up that would pull the local out of the slump.

The local was able to utilize its Market Recovery Fund to help some contractors pick up work, but many of those were not starting until later in 2010. As such, into July the local's job market remained "terrible," Brother Smitherman declared in that month's *Union Craftsman*.

In that poor work climate, Local 263 agreed to a wage freeze for 2010 during negotiations in June of that year. The resulting new, three-year contract would then give a wage raise of 50 cents per hour on June 1, 2011, to \$21.85 per hour; and then a 50-cent increase to benefits on June 1, 2012, to \$2.90 per hour.

Also in 2010, the North Texas union ironworkers benefited from a federal grant for green jobs and its own new focus on wind-energy projects. The U.S. Labor Department grant to the National Ironworkers and Employers Apprenticeship Training and Journeyman Upgrading Fund, announced on January 5, would help retrain workers within 400 miles of Arlington, as well as Bexar County, Texas, and areas of California, Illinois, New York and Utah. Specifically, the ironworkers grant "will place ironworkers on wind turbine erection projects," the *Star-Telegram* reported on January 6.



The Ironworker featured Local 263's work on Cowboys Stadium in its January 2009 issue.

To further help its members gain employment on wind-energy projects, Local 263 began a Turbine Training Program in 2010. (By 2013, the local was one of only five locals in the International Association with such a program in place.) Over the ensuing years, Local 263 members would work on several significant wind-turbine projects in West Texas and Oklahoma.



Construction employment continued to pick up into 2011, when union ironworkers began working on a \$331-million expansion of the **General Motors Arlington Assembly Plant** to make future Chevrolet Tahoes, Suburbans, GMC Yukons and Cadillac Escalades. That year, Local 263 members also began renovations to the Texas Christian University **Amon G. Carter Stadium**, which included a rebuild of the entire football stadium's above-ground level before the job was fully completed in 2012.

A veritable flood of projects into its jurisdiction kept the local's members busy over the next few years, including the **William P. Clements Jr. Medical Hospital**, part of the University of Texas Southwest Medical Center of Dallas, from 2012 through mid-2014. Working for curtain-wall contractor **Crown Corr Inc.**, the job consisted of 169,000 square feet of unitized curtain wall, 40,000 square feet of aluminum composite panels and 41,000 square feet of louvers, along with 360,000 pounds of support steel.

Crown Corr was also awarded the glazing contract for the **Fort Bliss V.A. Hospital** in El Paso, which started in late 2014 with union ironworkers performing all of the steel erection and miscellaneous iron and window work. The project included 139,000 square feet of blast-resistant unitized curtain wall; 47,000

square feet of blast-resistant and punched-ribbon windows; 64,000 square feet of painted shadow boxes in the curtain wall and windows; and 51,000 square feet of fixed and operable sun shades.

Local 263 members also worked for **Harmon Inc.**, the glazing contractor for **Parkland Hospital** in Dallas, which at the time was the largest healthcare construction job in the United States before it was completed in late 2014. The union ironworkers also worked for **Seele Inc.** on the curtain wall for the **Kimbell Art Museum's Piano Pavilion** in Fort Worth, which was started mid-2012 and finished in late 2013.

In 2014, Local 263 members working for **Bosworth Steel Erectors** of Dallas added the 43-foot-tall letters and logo to the roof of the newly renamed AT&T Stadium – the former Dallas Cowboy Stadium – with the help of a helicopter. That year, union ironworkers employed by Bosworth also erected the video board at **Texas Motor Speedway**; “Big Hoss,” as it is called, was the largest video board in the nation at the time.

Also that year, a new contract put Local 263 journeyman wages at \$23 per hour and total benefit contributions for Welfare, Pension, Vacation, Annuity and Training funds at \$5.55 per hour.

Local 263 ironworkers then began work on the new **Toyota North American Headquarters** in Plano, Texas, in 2014. The \$1 billion facility would open in July 2017.

Meanwhile, the local's members erected the new **Liberty Mutual Headquarters** in Plano from 2015 to late 2017. The state-of-the-art, \$325-million campus for more than 4,000 employees was built to meet U.S. government “LEED” (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program green-building certification requirements.

In 2016, the **Texas and Mid-South Ironworkers District Council**, which represents Ironworkers locals 263, 66, 84, 135 and 482, reached a new, three-year, collective-bargaining agreement with the **Texas Iron Workers Employers' Association**. Effective June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2019, the pact increased journeyman total hourly rates 50 cents each June 1st during its three-year term; therefore, the total wage and benefits package for the final year beginning June 1, 2018, was \$31.24 per hour.

Additionally, the contract requires that new apprentices complete a 16-hour pre-employment orientation program, which includes the OSHA 10-hour safety course.

As Local 263 approached the 100th anniversary of its namesake local in November 2018, work and employment for its members was strong in 2016, 2017 and 2018. In fact, one job within its jurisdiction in 2017 had only five local ironworkers and 40 traveling ironworkers from other locals. What's more, late that year, out-of-state contractors were calling for wages and bidding for jobs “all over our jurisdiction,” Business Manager Smitherman announced in the December 29, 2017, *Union Craftsman*.



Local 263 ironworkers help construct a new expansion to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth in 2011. Designed by the Renzo Piano, the Piano Pavilion opened to the public on November 27, 2013.



Local 263 members work on the expansion project at the GM Arlington Assembly plant in 2011.





project on June 25, 2018, with the project on schedule to open in November 2019.

In its continued effort to recapture some of the steel-erection market it had lost in its jurisdiction over the previous 10 years, Local 263 signed **Schuff Steel** to a contract in late 2017. Afterwards, more jobs that came with the new 2018 year included the **Facebook Data Center** for Bosworth and the **QTS Data Center** for Schuff.

Then Bosworth was named contactor for the **Globe Life Field** in Arlington, the future home of the Texas Rangers, and began erecting steel with Local 263 members in the spring of 2018. The new, \$1.1 billion ballpark is being built in the area adjacent to the current ballpark and Texas Live!, as well as AT&T Stadium, and is scheduled to open in 2020.

At 100 years old in November 2018, Ironworkers Local Union No. 263 now serves

143 of the 254 counties in Texas, including the major cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Amarillo, El Paso, Midland, Odessa, Lubbock, Texarkana and Wichita Falls. As it has been throughout the past century, the majority of the local's work is the erection of structural steel along with precast concrete erection, but it now also handles architectural and miscellaneous steel, as well as specialty work such as the erection of wind turbines and industrial maintenance projects.

Throughout its history, the local has taken pride in the skills and work ethic of its members. As such, it continues to work in partnership with its employing contractors to ensure projects are safe, completed on time and under budget. To that end, Local 263 also continues to focus on education and training of its members, which will remain the cornerstone of the local into its next 100 years.



IN MEMORY OF OUR BROTHERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE WORKING AT THE TRADE

(With Year Deceased)

Frank E. Evins
1946

William R. Brand
1949

Sid M. Beasley
1951

Andrew B. Hoops, Jr.
1953

M. H. Hudgins
1956

Lester M. Wofford
1956

O. L. Miller
1956

Oscar Lee Ritchie
1958

Garvin O. Williams
1958

Charles M. Allen
1959

Walter C. Russell
1959

C. E. Pelman
1959

William A. Allen
1961

Alvin J. "Shorty" West
1961

Karl Gann
1962

John B. Turnbull
1967

H. W. Williams
1967

Kenneth E. Allen
1968

James E. Stephenson
1969

Harry Paul Tiner
1970

Sherman R. Meadows
1971

John W. E. Hill
1971

Donald Ray Hover
1972

Melvin D. Wilson
1973

Gene Barnes
1974

James B. Buckley
1975

Daniel D. Bowser
1978

Andrew Parks
1978

James E. Floyd
1981

Robert W. Wright
1982

David Ruiz
1982

Gary L. Bailey
1982

Randy K. Nance
1984

Robert D. Withrow
1985

John L. Baggett
1990

Troy Fairbrother
2007

Darrell Carter
2008

Terry Weaver
2012

Jesus "Chuy" Moreno
2015





IRONWORKERS LOCAL NO. 263

(With Initiation Dates)

James Cliff C Adams
August 1, 1965

Daniel M. Aleman
May 1, 1978

Harold R. Alexander
September 1, 1960

William Ronny Allen
August 1, 1953

Ernesto Alvarado
June 1, 1957

Stephen C. Anthony
April 1, 1965

Alberto Armendariz
November 1, 1952

Gerald L. Armstrong
August 1, 1991

Turner J. Bannister
October 1, 1956

Harold E. Barnett
December 1, 1979

Kennie O. Bates
October 1, 1955

Roland F. Bergstrom
June 1, 1974

Roy Dave Bigley
September 1, 1963

Ronal L. Bohanan
August 1, 1964

Angus K. Bordeau
August 1, 1971

Herby Bordeau
April 1, 1971

Dennis C. Bowden
August 1, 1961

Kenneth Timothy Bradley
July 1, 1966

Gene J. Britton
November 1, 1969

Joe S. Bueno
November 1, 1966

Robert R. Bullard
December 1, 1974

Bobby G. Burgess
May 1, 1962

James D. Burgess
July 1, 1964

Jackson Campbell
October 1, 1964

Robert E. Casey
January 1, 1962

Everett Cash
October 1, 1961

Donald B. Clement
July 1, 1976

Robert A. Clement
March 1, 1975

C. W. Clifton
October 1, 1951

Leslie D. Cockerham
December 1, 1965

Lawrence P. Collier
May 1, 1968

Antonio Contreras
March 1, 1957

Paul Kenneth Dale
March 1, 1967

David L. Davis
November 1, 1970

Hilton L. Davis
July 1, 1962

Howard W. Davis
August 1, 1960

Larry R. Davis
April 1, 1975

Tommy G. Davis
January 1, 1977

James Dell
September 1, 1983

Wayne E. Dickerson
August 1, 1968

William David Donaldson
September 1, 1974

Tommy L. Dulworth
October 1, 1965

Terry E. Dunnam
January 1, 1963

Amos Ray Edwards
April 1, 1971

Francisco Esparza
April 1, 1979

Manuel Esparza
September 1, 1973

Jose D. Espinoza
January 1, 1953

Quincy O. Evans
September 1, 1978

Jimmy L. Farley
August 1, 1978

Mike O. Fernandez
November 1, 1968

Stephen A. Fernandez
September 1, 1983

Charles A. Fiore
September 1, 1981

John W. Fitzgerald
May 1, 1947

Charles V. Fletcher
June 1, 1956

Charles A. Fritts
December 1, 1974

Joe E. Gamboa
July 1, 1949

Ventura Garcia
February 1, 1981

Gene E. Gee
July 1, 1967

Donald A. Gibbons
August 1, 1966

Carter W. Gillespie
April 1, 1981

Jacinto O. Gomez
July 1, 1961

Julio R. Gonzalez
April 1, 1975

Michael A. Gravette
December 1, 1969

Quanah D. Gray
February 1, 1974



LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERS

David A. Griese
September 1, 1975

Ronald L. Halpin
October 1, 1974

Loyd E. Ham
September 1, 1975

J. W. Hammer
May 1, 1952

Frank P. Hand
October 1, 1953

Ace C. Harlow
February 1, 1973

Gary R. Harwell
May 1, 1970

Ed W. Henson
August 1, 1963

James Herron
October 1, 1973

Lawrence E. Hobbs
March 1, 1971

Francisco P. Holguin
June 1, 1964

Woodrow Hooks
July 1, 1948

Bobby R. Jenkins
May 1, 1961

H. Kenneth Jett
October 1, 1963

John W. Jett
July 1, 1964

Robert M. Kasper
April 12, 1982

Jerry D. Lafon
March 1, 1963

Jimmy M. Lafon
June 1, 1972

Clyde L. Lambert
March 1, 1975

Scotty J. Lane
April 1, 1969

Donald D. Lemaster
January 1, 1970

Jimmy D. Levins
January 1, 1970

Joel K. Lindsey
March 1, 1974

Gene M. Lynch
July 1, 1964

Billy C. Mangrum
October 1, 1963

Wayne Marshburn
February 1, 1959

Thomas E. Martin
April 1, 1964

Jimmy R. McBride
January 1, 1978

Griffin McCoy
August 1, 1981

Ramon J. Medlenka
June 1, 1977

Anthony R. Mitchell
July 2, 1984

Richard L. Morton
September 1, 1969



LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERS

Charles W. Nunley
August 1, 1971

Harold (Chick) E. Nutt
December 1, 1974

Charles E. Oliver
April 1, 1977

Regino Ortega
February 1, 1977

Wallace Homer Parsons
September 1, 1955

Joseph M. Payne
May 1, 1963

Hilton Peel
October 1, 1965

Kevin L. Pennington
December 1, 1974

Charles M. Pepper
November 1, 1976

William R. Perry
July 1, 1966

Robert G. Peters
October 1, 1957

Cloys L. Pierce
June 1, 1950

John H. Powers
October 1, 1951

Lonnie L. Price
July 1, 1963

Collin Puckett
January 1, 1973

Charles B. Rains
September 1, 1963

Raymond D. Randerson
February 1, 1975

Gordon F. Ray
September 1, 1951

Lonnie B. Ray
June 1, 1969

Charles R. Rice
September 1, 1970

David R. Riner
May 1, 1970

William R. Sando
January 1, 1981

Kenneth D. Scott
February 1, 1971

Frank E. Seelig
March 1, 1960

Jerreld C. Sibley
July 1, 1965

Melvin D. Sjolie
April 1, 1990

Johnny C. Smethers
March 2, 1987

Alton L. Smith
May 1, 1957

Danny M. Smyrl
December 1, 1974

John W. Sneed
August 1, 1964

Gale E. Spain
September 1, 1957

Wayne M. Spethman
November 1, 1970

James A. Springer
June 1, 1946

Don D. Stone
August 1, 1959

John R. Subia
May 1, 1988

Gerald W. Swedensky
September 1, 1959

Evan E. Swinford
November 1, 1947

Truman D. Taylor
November 1, 1946

Jimmy G. Thornton
March 1, 1975

George E. Tomlinson
March 1, 1972

Donald W. Trammell
January 1, 1972

Sigifredo R. Valdez
November 1, 1968

Ronald G. Waldron
September 1, 1962

Gary L. White
December 1, 1965

Donald A. Wiggins
July 1, 1964

Ronald L. Williams
November 2, 1989

E Barry B. Wilson
October 1, 1981

Garrett N. Wilson
February 6, 1990

Phil A. Yarberry
October 1, 1980



HONORARY MEMBERS

(With Initiation Dates)

William D. Bevers
April 1, 1977

Jose Rolando Charles
February 1, 1983

Lewis E. Collier
August 1, 1998

Robert T. Cothren
February 23, 1998

Calvin S. Dowling
November 13, 1984

Floyd S. Elliff
September 1, 1981

Brian K. Farmer
April 1, 2008

Patrick M. Fitzgerald
January 1, 1981

James W. Griggs
July 6, 1998

Richard Mike Grimes
December 1, 1976

William J. Groce
March 20, 1989

Donald D. Harris
July 1, 1982

Timothy C. Hewett
August 1, 1981

Harold S. Jamieson
April 1, 1972

Steven D. Jones
September 3, 1982

Jerry B. Mayberry
December 1, 1978

Charles A. Michele
January 1, 1980

David R. Norris
February 1, 1997

Sylvester Mike Pernell
May 1, 1977

Mark E. Raber
September 5, 1996

William J. Rector
March 1, 1998

Martin E. Rice
October 1, 1981

Robert E. Ruthstrom
May 1, 1975

Gabriel Sanchez
September 5, 1995

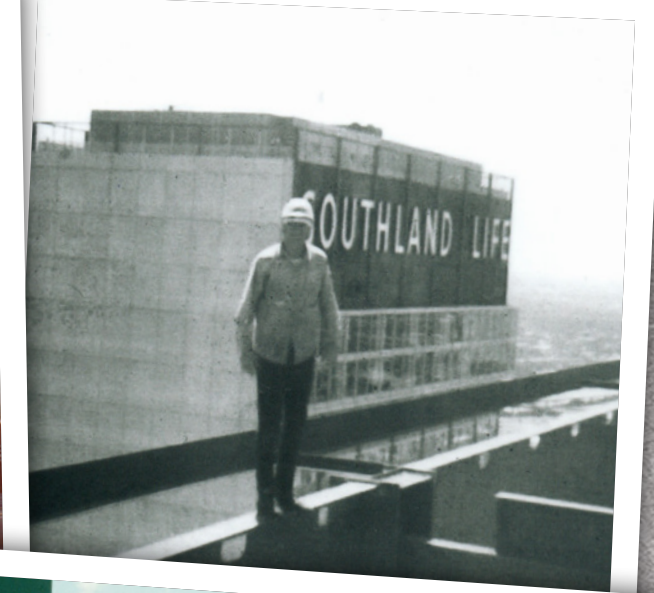
Clifford E. Stout
January 1, 1974

Lynn D. Taylor
September 15, 2008

Kenneth G. Thomason
January 1, 1978

Juan Trevino
December 9, 2004

Raymond H. White
September 4, 1997





Is proud to celebrate the

100th Anniversary of Ironworkers Local No. 263

Congratulations on this milestone anniversary
and the significant impact Ironworkers Local No. 263 has had
on the Dallas-Fort Worth region!

Steve Binder

1205 Westlakes Drive
Suite 100
Berwyn, PA 19312
610.296.1400
www.chartwellip.com

Iron Workers District Council Of New England



Bernie Evers, President

Jay Hurley, President Emeritus

Executive Vice-Presidents

Anthony Rosaci

James Doheny

Joseph Toner

David Langlais

Shawn Nehiley

William Hurley, Financial Secretary, Treasurer

Walter Belmonte, Recording Secretary

Kevin Collins, Sargent at Arms

Trustee's

Mark Buono Gammon Johnson Russ LaChance

Local 7

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Local 15

Hartford, CT

Local 37

Providence, RI

Local 424

New Haven, CT

Local 501

Boston, MA

Local 745

Portsmouth, NH

Local 807

Winslow, ME



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Garry Simmons, Assistant to the President

Gary Robb, Executive Vice President

Terrence Moore, First Vice President

Thomas Halligan, Second Vice President

Scott Brydges, Third Vice President

Matthew Chartrand, Financial Secretary

Peter Myers, Treasurer

Mike Gaydos, Recording Secretary

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6, 9, 12, 33, 40, 46-L, 60, 197, 361, 417, 440, 470, 576, 580 & 824

Congratulations Local 263!

Congratulations and Best Wishes Ironworkers Local 263

100th Anniversary



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General President

KEVIN D. SEXTON
General Secretary-Treasurer

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ROB MASON
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RICHARD WASSILL
Vice President/Canadian Consultant



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
IRONWORKERS' LOCAL UNION #263
ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY**



**FROM OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF
IRONWORKERS LOCAL UNION #135
216 GULF FWY. N.
TEXAS CITY, TX 77591**



*Best Wishes for a Successful Event
From Officers and Members of*

IRON WORKERS LOCAL 361

89-19 97th Avenue, Ozone Park, NY 11416
Phone (718) 322-1016 Fax (718) 322-1053

Email: unionhall@local361.com Website: www.local361.com

Matthew Chartrand
Business Manager
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Anthony DeBlasie
President/Business Agent
Assistant Apprentice Coordinator

John Cush
Vice President
Business Agent

John Delaney, Jr.
Recording Secretary

Executive Board
Joseph Casino
John Cavanagh
Francis DeBlasie
Vincent DiGiacomo
Alfred DiGuglielmo

Examining Board
Peder Foss
Darrin Lang
Ronald Towers

Trustees
Nicholas Appice
David Broderick
Daniel Cush

Sergeant-At-Arms
Randal J. Occhipinti

Conductor
Michael Isaac

Delegates to District Council of Iron Workers

Matthew Chartrand Anthony DeBlasie John Cush John Delaney, Jr.

Trustees to Union Security Funds

Matthew Chartrand Anthony DeBlasie John Cush

Business Manager Emeritus

Raymond Zinser

Happy 100th Anniversary!

The Ironworkers Local 40 Family Wishes Continued Solidarity
To Our Brothers and Sisters of Ironworkers Local No. 263!

For more than a century, the members of Local 40 have donated
our lives, through our union, to improving the everyday lives of
the people who built the great City of New York.



www.ironworkers40.org



**Ironworkers Local Union No. 482 Congratulates and Salutes
Current and Past Members of Ironworkers Local Union No. 263
In Recognition of Their 100th Anniversary**

Wishing You All the Best & Many More Years to Come!

From the Officers & Members of Local Union No. 482, Austin, Texas

Robin Drake – Fin. Sec., Treas., Business Manager

Jason Puckett – President

Chris Lahti – Vice President

Riley Drake – Recording Secretary

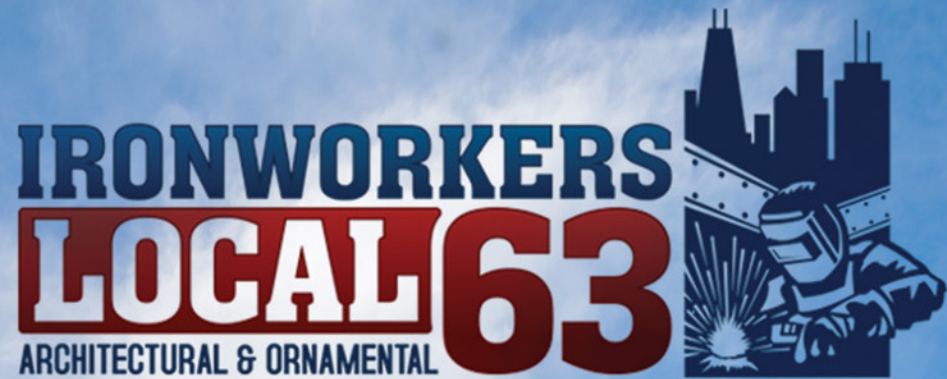
Shane Laguna – Trustee, Sergeant of Arms

Charles Cooper Jr. - Trustee

Artemio Lopez – Executive Board

Steven Rivera – Executive Board

Michelle Drake – Office Manager



CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 263 ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE!

From your friends at Local 63, Chicago:

Business Manager, Financial Secretary, Treasurer

Paul B. Wende

President/Business Agent

Paul Thompson
(Central Cook County)

Vice-President

Tim Williams

Business Agents

Jack Canniff (Northern Cook County)
John Hall (Lake and McHenry County)
David Murray (Southern Cook County)

Recording Secretary

Paul Goodrich

Executive Board

Lawrence Cosentino
Kenneth Heiden
David Garza
Jose Romo
Kenneth Warner

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**CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 263
ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY!**




**FROM ALL OF US AT
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OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Congratulations
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**Happy 100th Anniversary
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From all the members at Ironworkers LU 84
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Guadalupe "Wally" Garza - President

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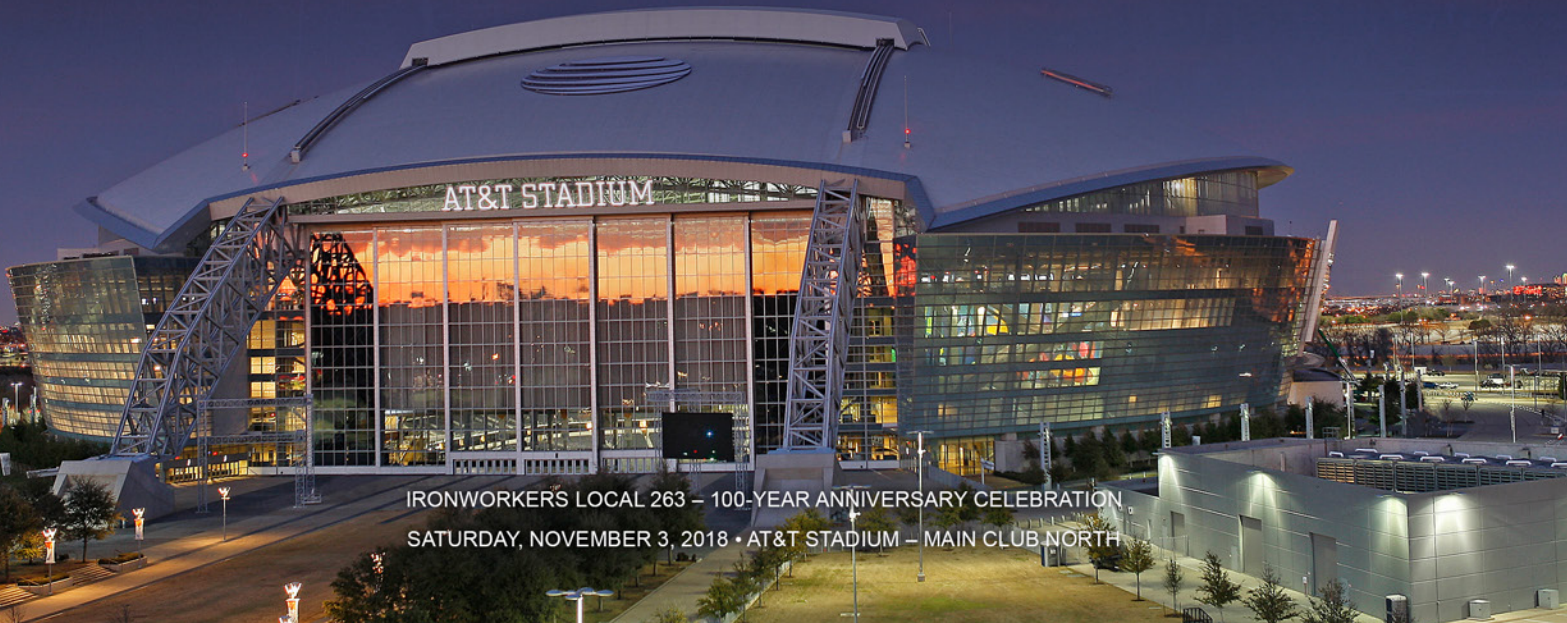
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