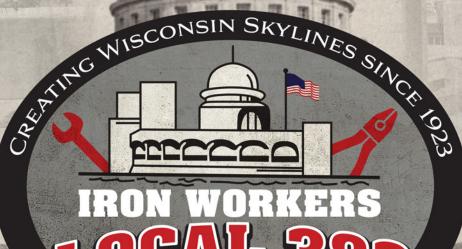
#### IRON WORKERS LOCAL No. 383

MADISON, WISCONSIN



100TH ANNIVERSARY

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Centennial Celebration

HISTORY & PROGRAM

## UNION HISTORIES TO

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Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions

Union Histories hails Ironworkers Local 383 for 100 Years of Service to Your Members, Contractors, Industry and Community!

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





# Congratulations Iron Workers Local 383 on 100 Years of Service!

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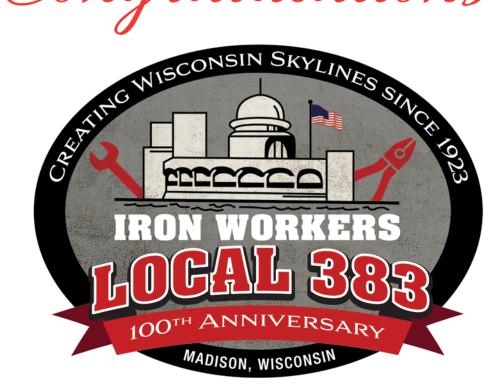
VICE PRESIDENT

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Platinum sponso

# Congratulations



#### **ON YOUR 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!**



FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE NORTH CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL 8, 21, 67, 89, 383 & 512



As a proud supporter of the Iron Workers Local 383, we congratulate you on your 100th centennial anniversary!





#### Iron Workers Local 383

100-Year Anniversary Celebration Dinner/Dance Gala

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**Ho-Chunk Casino - Wisconsin Dells** 

S3214 County Road BD Baraboo, Wisconsin

Cocktail Reception	5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Seating and Welcome	6:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Dinner and Dessert	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Speakers	7:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Group Photo	8:00 to 8:15 p.m.
Festivities and Dancing	8:15 to 11:00 p.m.

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS

Iron Workers Local 383 sincerely appreciates the Sponsors and Advertisers who have supported our 100th Anniversary Celebration and History Book, and especially our Platinum Sponsors: BeneSys, Iron Workers North Central States District Council and Boldt.

Thank You!



#### MANY, ESPECIALLY PAST MEMBERS, GET CREDIT FOR LOCAL 383'S 100 YEARS

Brothers, Sisters and Special Guests,

On behalf of Iron Workers Local 383's officers, members and staff, we thank you for being with us as we celebrate our 100th anniversary. Our local was chartered on August 17, 1923, and has been creating Wisconsin skylines ever since.

We honor our past officers and retired members who worked so hard to make Local 383 what it is today. We also honor our current officers and members who will continue our legacy of being the most productive workforce in the field for years hereafter.

We thank our contractors for their relationship and partnership, our sponsors and vendors for all of your support, and Union Histories for all their hard work putting together our history book and coordinating our 100th anniversary event.



It is truly humbling to be serving as the business manager of Local 383 in such a historical moment. Please be safe, watch out for one another, and do your part to make sure every iron worker at the end of their shift gets home safely to their families.

Fraternally,

Tim DeMinter, Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer Iron Workers Local 383

This book was proudly produced by

#### UNION HISTORIES

Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions

Iron Workers Local 383 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:

International Association of Iron Workers, International Office

Wisconsin Historical Society

Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson Art Direction: Andy Taucher Layout & Design: Steven Demanett





Iron Workers Local No. 383, Madison

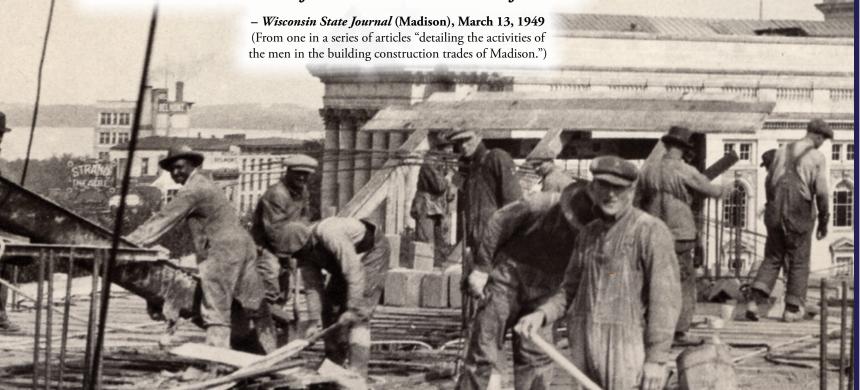
# A STANDARD OF IN WISCONSIN

"There are some men in this city who put up the structural steel, men who go high into the air as new buildings stretch their way upward, bolting and riveting the steel together, walking from one column to another along 6-inch-wide paths of steel from one to a dozen stories in the air.

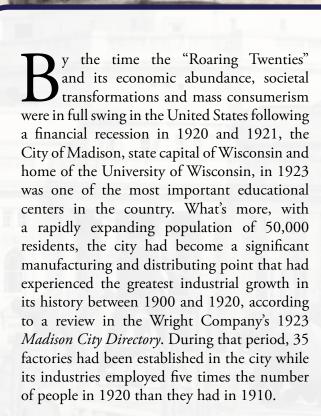
They lay the steel reinforcing rods in the floors and walls of buildings, later to be encased in and give strength to concrete.

They do the ornamental iron work and put in the bars in bank and jail windows.

They are the iron workers, members of Local 383 of the Bridge Structural, and Ornamental Iron Workers, of the American Federation of Labor."

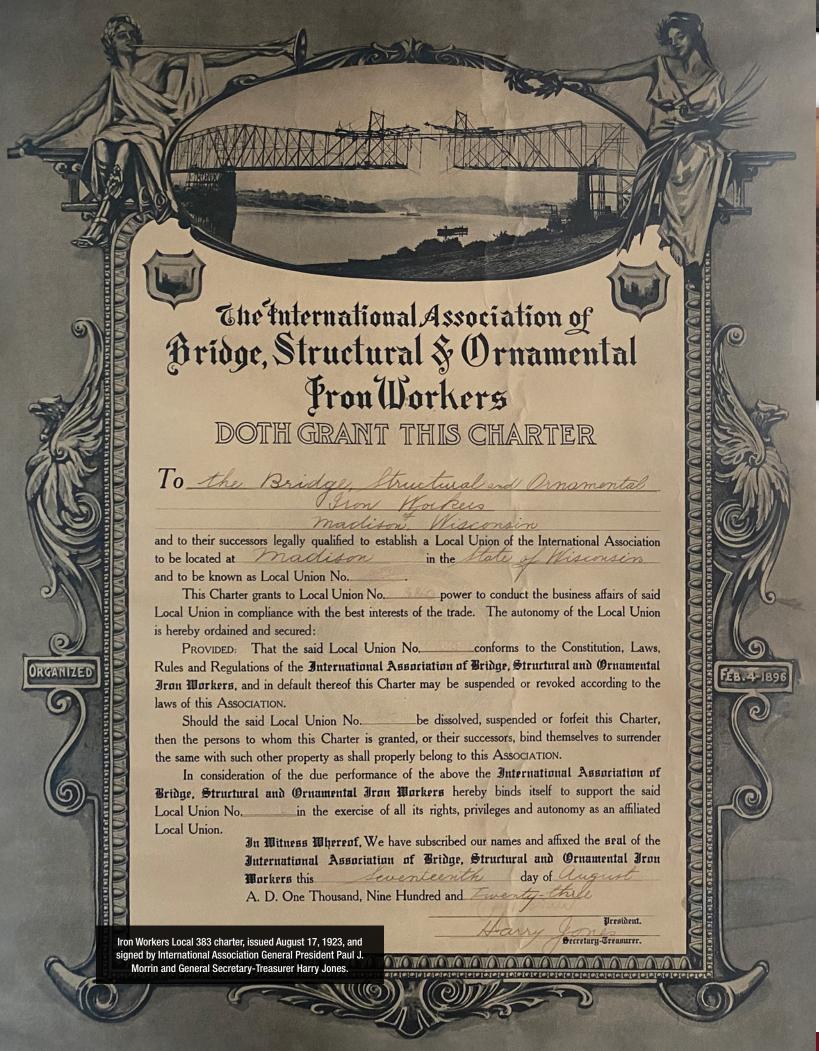


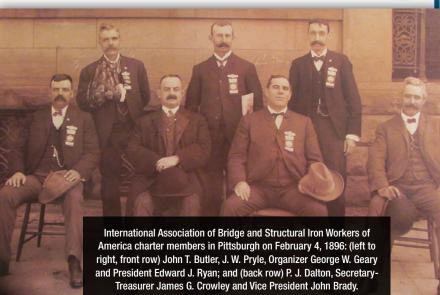
# EXCELLENCE FOR IOO YEARS



In that environment of escalating prosperity, International Organizer Joseph F. Burns of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers organized iron workers in and around Madison into a local branch of the union. Ultimately, the International Association issued a charter to 11 initial members of "mixed" structural, ornamental and reinforcing iron workers Local No. 383 on August 17, 1923.

Brother Burns subsequently installed the new local during a meeting on August 30 at the Madison Labor Temple, by which time the fledgling organization already had 30 members enrolled. That evening, the Local 383 membership elected Brother Richard W. Amick as its first president and Brother Emil A. Walden as its first secretary and treasurer,





and it set general membership meeting dates for the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at the Labor Temple – where the local would continue to meet for the next 35 years.

After securing its charter, the Local 383 wage rate for its journeyman-level iron workers was set at \$1 per hour, where it would remain into 1926. Among the very first projects on which members of the local worked during that time was construction of the now-historic, 10-story, 250-room upscale **Hotel Loraine**, which opened by the State Capitol in June 1924 and would serve as the city's premiere hotel for the next four decades, and the 12-story **Belmont Hotel** that also opened that year as the tallest building on Capitol Square.

However, early on, the presence of Local 383 was not welcomed by most in the city's construction circles, including the iron workers' sister union trades. In fact, an article in the March 21, 1954, issue of the *Wisconsin State Journal* even noted, "There was a time when the iron workers union was something of a blister on the heel of construction unions in jurisdictional arguments. When Iron Workers Local 383 was organized here in 1923, it was received unhappily by contractors. But its biggest quarrel was with construction-trades unions used to doing iron workers work."

#### INTERNATIONAL IRONWORKERS UNION WAS FORMED OVER 125 YEARS AGO

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

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

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

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

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



Eventually, those jurisdictional conflicts would play out largely in Local 383's favor. As the article went on to declare, "The iron workers set about educating other unions to realizing iron work was for iron workers."

## MAINTAINING THE LOCAL IN HISTORICALLY DIFFICULT TIMES

s the 1920s progressed, Local 383 iron workers worked on many of the Lonstruction projects that changed the face of Madison, such as the 10-story Tenney Building (now Tenney Plaza), the city's first steel-frame high-rise when it was built in 1929 and 1930 at the corner of Pinckney and Main streets on Capitol Square. Other key jobs on which the local's members were employed during that time included construction of the now-iconic, 2,400-seat Orpheum Theatre, which when opened one block from the Capitol on State Street in 1926 was the first building in Wisconsin to have air conditioning; and the Capitol Theatre (now part of the Overture Center for the Arts), which opened in January 1928. Elsewhere as the decade was coming to a close, Local 383 members also erected the 8,000-seat Wisconsin Field House multipurpose arena on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the city's new U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse (now the Madison Municipal Building), and the structural-steel-frame Madison Power & Light Company Building and Union Bus Station that was built into it on West Washington Avenue, each of which was completed in 1929.

But the flourishing times of the 1920s were categorically snuffed after the U.S. stock market crash on October 29, 1929 – history's "Black Tuesday" – ushered in the Great Depression, the worst economic downturn ever experienced by the industrialized world. With the catastrophe continuing into and throughout the next decade, eventually at one point in the early 1930s, work was so difficult

to find that Local 383's treasury was down to 60 cents and Brother Herbert Tiedeman and Brother Russell "Tiny" Oxnem were the only two members who were able to pay their union dues.

Initially, however, the Depression had little impact on the employment of union iron workers around the country. To the contrary, from July 1, 1929, to June 30, 1930, the International Association added 3,440 new members to its ranks, and while other international unions experienced wage reductions of up to 50 percent, the average wage reduction for iron workers locals was 15.9 percent, according to the International Association.

But the mass unemployment caused by the Great Depression "finally caught up with the iron workers within two years after the crash as building construction nearly came to a halt," according to the International. During that time, the union lost almost 50 percent of its paid membership nationwide – but despite that, nearly every iron-worker local remained intact as the International Association officers "were leaders in 'New Deal' (federal assistance) efforts to get labor back on its feet again."

As the Depression and its mounting unemployment continued into the early 1930s in Madison and around the country, in 1932 Local 383 accepted a reduction in its wage scale from \$1.25 per hour, where it had been since 1929, to \$1.12-1/2 per hour. The local took another pay cut the following year to \$1.05 per hour for its structural and ornamental iron workers and 90 cents per hour for its reinforcing rodmen, where the scales would remain into 1936, while also negotiating a shorter workweek from 44 hours to 40 hours.

The labor-friendly reforms of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" federal-government funded public-work projects, programs and regulations beginning in 1933 helped curb the Great Depression's damaging impact on employment through



#### **LOCAL 383 UNION HALLS AND MEETING LOCATIONS**



The building that housed the original Madison Labor Temple on West Johnson Street, shown here when it was Kehl's Dancing Academy before the Labor Temple moved into the building in January 1922, which Local 383 used as its first headquarters and meeting hall after it was chartered in August 1923. (Photo from Wisconsin Historical Society, WHI-38065.)

#### Madison Labor Temple (Offices and Meetings)

(Offices and Meetings) 309 West Johnson Street 1923 into 1943

#### **Local 383 Offices**

(Meetings at Labor Temple) Kenney Building, Madison 115 West Main Street 1943 into 1958

#### **Madison Labor Temple**

(Offices and Meetings) 1602 South Park Street 1958 into March 2017

#### **Local 383 Union Hall**

(Offices and Meetings)
5501 Manufacturer's Drive, Madison *March 2017 to current* 







#### LOCAL 383 CHARTER MEMBERS

These 11 men signed the charter issued by the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers for Local No. 383 in Madison, Wisconsin, on August 17, 1923.

**Richard W. Amick** 

**Dewey Dilley** 

**Harold J. Fish** 

Ira F. Gadd

**Fred Gunville** 

**Steve Gvoich** 

**Adolph Lang** 

Frank A. Lutz

**Al Matthias** 

Matt L. Poeschi

**Emil A. Walden** 

its federally sponsored work programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration and the Public Works Administration. A "second phase" of the New Deal, which President Roosevelt launched in 1935, included legislation that guaranteed workers the right to unionize and bargain for better working conditions and higher wages, such as the National Labor Relations Act that created a National Labor Relations Board to oversee union elections and supervise businesses' treatment of their workers, effectively ending a nationwide iron contractors' anti-union, open-shop campaign that had been ongoing since 1906.

Adding to the relief for iron workers across the country, on July 10, 1933, the International renewed the **Bridge Erectors' Agreement** it had secured in the early 1930s to cover the nationwide jobs of "fair" union contractors in the Structural Steel and Bridge Erectors' Association, for which iron workers

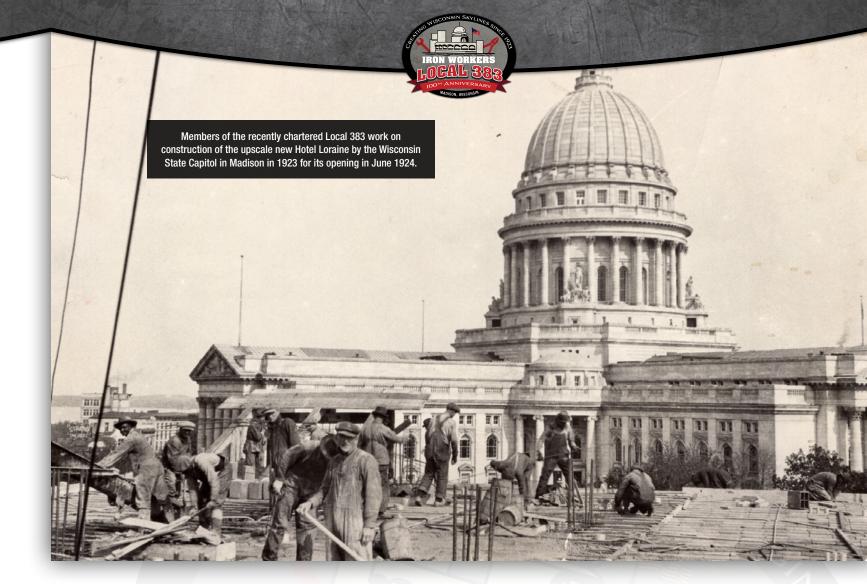
took a wage reduction and worked six days per week so that those employers "could compete with unfair contractors." Before resigning the pact, the two parties also revised it to cover building construction and other forms of iron and steel erection to further assist the union's membership.

The limited but improving work that did employ members of Local 383 in its jurisdiction during the second half of the decade included an addition to the Madison Power & Light Company Building in 1935.

Also during that time, Local 383 joined the new Building and Construction Trades Council of Madison and Vicinity almost immediately after it had been formed in April 1938 with the primary purpose of establishing "a policy of having all union labor on building jobs." With Local 383 member Brother John King serving on its initial Executive Board, at the time it was organized the council signed a closed-shop agreement with Jacobson Bros. Construction Chicago for union labor to be used for constructing the third wing of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Memorial Union student center that would open on October 5, 1928.

#### GAINING MOMENTUM DURING A WORLD WAR AND THE 1940S

S. defense- and military-production spending increased into the 1940s after World War II erupted in Europe and Asia in September 1939, creating additional work for union iron workers nationwide. Strengthening that source of jobs, the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.), of which the International Association of Iron Workers was an affiliate, entered into an agreement with various government agencies engaged in defense construction work in order to help stabilize the building industry during the "national emergency" declared by



President Roosevelt as the country's allies were fighting the expanding conflict.

Work opportunities likewise grew in and around Madison, helping to finally put an end to the effects of the Great Depression in the region. "The outbreak of the Second World War ushered in a period of great prosperity and unity in Wisconsin," Wisconsin Historical Society literature explains. "The depression years receded into the background as defense spending and military preparedness resulted in defense contracts for Wisconsin businesses. Rather than the dismal unemployment that had plagued the 1930s, labor was in high demand and wages and prices rose accordingly."

Consequently, by October 1940 the wages of Local 383 members had been increased to \$1.37-1/2 per hour for structural and ornamental iron workers and \$1.25 per hour for reinforcing rodmen.

After the United States officially entered World War II following the Imperial Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, the local's members were active on various battlefields and on the homefront, where facilities were built and converted to manufacture military materiel and train military personnel. Vital wartime projects throughout the Local 383 jurisdiction on which its members were employed included construction of the Badger Ordnance Works at the Village of Merrimac, Wisconsin, beginning in March 1942, for which the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor had secured a stabilization agreement calling for no strikes and giving the work to union locals affiliated with the Madison Building and Construction Council.

When the plant was complete, it contained smokeless powder and rocket grain production





facilities, housing for up to 8,000 production workers and their families, a school, a recreation center, a childcare facility, a hospital, cafeterias and a transportation system. While plans for the Badger ordnance Works originally called for production lines to make smokeless powder, diphenylamine and sulfuric acid, the facility ultimately produced smokeless powder, acid, sulfuric acid, rocket propellant and Ball Powder over the course of 33 years making munitions for World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Local 383 members also helped erect an expansion of **U.S. Army Fort McCoy** in Monroe County that was concluded in August 1942 and the **Army Air Force Training Command** training school at Madison's Truax Field municipal airport that same year. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society, "Many Wisconsin men received basic training at Camp McCoy, while Madison's airport (now

named Truax Field) was an important center for radio communication training."

During World War II, as its membership simultaneously grew, in 1943 the local relocated its offices from the Madison Labor Temple, in which they had been located since the local was organized in 1923, to the **Kenney Building** on West Main Street in Madison. (While the local continued to hold its general membership meetings at the labor temple, its headquarters would remain at the Kenney Building into 1958.)

The local's wage scale also increased during that time, although it was subjected to oversight of the National War Labor Board, as were all construction-related wages. Regardless, by September 1944, the local's structural and ornamental iron workers were being paid \$1.50 per hour and its reinforcing rodmen were earning \$1.37-1/2 per hour.

Following the war's end on September 2, 1945, after Japan surrendered (Nazi Germany having capitulated on May 8, 1945) and throughout the balance of the decade, most Local 383 iron workers remained busy within the local's jurisdiction. By that time, that territory stretched from Madison to the towns of La Crosse, Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point, encompassing about one-third of the state.

However, many members traveled (or "boomed out") to the jurisdictions of other International Association locals across the country to work on a myriad of larger jobs that provided abundant manhours — especially the construction of new power, nuclear and defense facilities — and were under the jurisdictions of sister locals. By March 13, 1949, according to an article about the local in that day's *Wisconsin State Journal*, about 50 of its roughly 180 members were booming out.

At home during the second half of the 1940s, Local 383's wage scale continued to improve through new contracts negotiated with its employing contractors. As such, by October 1948 the local's pay for all of its members, regardless of classification, had reached \$2.05 per hour after the local received a new working agreement that for the first time provided the same wages to its structural and ornamental iron workers and reinforcing rodmen.

From there, the local's journeyman wage scale rose to \$2.15 per hour in 1949 and to \$2.25 per hour into the 1950s.

Meanwhile, among jobs they erected in south and central Wisconsin, Local 383 union iron workers built the new Wisconsin River Bridge to carry U.S. Highway 14 across the river near the Village of Spring Green that opened in August 1949. Construction of the 1,554-foot span, which replaced a 41-year-old bridge that collapsed during the fall of 1948, required the erection of 1,265 tons of steel.

Some 50 members also worked on construction of the power-producing hydroelectric Petenwell Dam and its four generators across the Wisconsin River near Necedah in 1947 and 1949, while another roughly 50 Local 383 iron workers were building the larger hydroelectric Castle Rock Dam and its five generators about 15 miles down the river near Germantown from 1948 into 1950. According to the Wisconsin River Power Company, its "sister" concrete dams were the first such structures to be built on sand in the United States and required "imbedded cutoff walls that penetrate deep into the glacial sands, permanently anchoring them" for the "floating-type construction."

With those jobs and more providing steady employment to the Local 383 membership, the article in the March 13, 1949, issue of the *Wisconsin State Journal* highlighting the local announced, "At present, there is work near home for the 'home guard' (those members not traveling) and the prospects look good for another year or so."

#### ATTAINING ESCALATED GAINS IN WAGES AND ON JOBSITES

hrough a series of new, collectively bargained contracts with its employers, Local 383 steadily increased the wages of its journeyman members throughout the 1950s. Entering the decade with a scale of \$2.25 per hour across all classifications, on April 1, 1955, the hourly pay for the local's structural and ornamental iron workers reached \$2.90.

Those improved agreements and wages were not gained without a fight, however, as the local went on a five-week-long strike beginning April 2, 1952, after contractors refused to grant its request for a 15-cent-per-hour raise and a 7-1/2-cent hourly contribution to establish a welfare fund for members health insurance in a new contract. The local's roughly 130 iron

Continued after spread.





#### IRON WORKERS LOCAL 383 LEADERSHIP/OFFICERS

During the initial years after Iron Workers Local 383 was chartered on August 17, 1923, the local's primary officers were its president, financial secretary and business agent. The local combined its positions of business manager and financial secretary/ treasurer into one office in 1938 to administer all of its daily functions.

#### **Presidents**

**Richard Amick** 1923

**Adolph Lang** 1923 into 1924

**Herbert C. Tiedeman** 1924 into 1928

**George Duquette** 1928 into 1930

**Fred Dotater** 1930 into 1933

**Russell Oxnem** 1933 into 1938

**John Ulrich** 1938 into 1939

**Russell Oxnem** 1939 into 1948

**Dewey Dilley** 1948 into 1949 **John Ulrich** 1949 into 1950

**Vincent Hildebrandt** 1950 into 1952

**Sydney Erstad** 1952 into 1957

**William Arnold** 1957 into 1959

**Homer W. Ingram** 1959 into 1965

**Robert Harker** 1965 into 1967

**William Arnold** 1967 into 1969

**Robert Benton** 1969 into 1972

**William Arnold** 1972 into 1975

**James B. Norman** 1975 into 1978

**Charles L. Thompson** 1978 into 1997

**Charles M. Meinholz** 1997 into 2002

**Thomas Mabin** 2002 into 2005

Colin J. Millard 2005 into 2007

Wayde "Jake" Kraft 2007 into 2008

**Tim DeMinter** 2008 into 2011

**Anthony Anastasi** 2011 to current

#### **Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurers**

Orla V. Coleman

1938 into 1965

**Homer W. Ingram** 1965 into 1969

**Vincent Hildebrandt** 1969 into 1972

**Homer W. Ingram** 1972 into 1978

Leo H. Luther 1978 into 1990

**Samuel Wilcox** 1990 into 2005

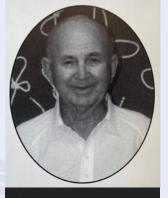
**Charles Meinholz** 2005 into 2008

**Michael Grimslid** 2008 into 2011

**Tim DeMinter** 2011 to current



Brother Orla V. Coleman



Brother Homer W. Ingram



Brother Herbert C. Tideman



Brother Leo H. Luther

#### **Business Agents/Business Managers**

William Forrest 1923 into 1924

**Dewey Dilley** 1924

J. P. Butler 1924 into 1925

<none> 1925 into 1927

**Herbert C. Tiedeman** 1927 into 1928

**Dewey Dilley** 

1928

Herbert C. Tiedeman 1928 into 1929

L. P. Brown 1929

<none> 1929 into 1932

**George Duquette** 1932 into 1935

**Herbert C. Tiedeman** 1935 into 1938





Brother Samuel S. Wilcox



workers returned to their jobs after they reached an agreement with employers on May 5 that called for a wage increase of 12-1/2 cents per hour, taking their hourly pay scale to \$2.60 – although it did not establish a welfare program.

After that contract expired on April 1 the following year, the local and its six employing contractors settled on a new agreement on April 3 that provided a 10-cent hourly pay increase for about 125 iron workers to \$2.70 per hour. Again on March 26, 1954, the two sides negotiated a new contract – this time before the current pact expired on April 1 of that year – for another 10-cent hourly wage increase to \$2.80 per hour, which would remain in effect until March 31, 1955, for the local's nearly 200 iron workers.

Also included in those negotiations was International Association of Iron Workers **Shop Local No. 665**, which had recently affiliated with Local 383. At the time, the shop local represented workers at the Theodore Kupfer Foundry and Iron Company, while Local 383 members were working with the

### MADISON SHOP LOCAL WAS AFFILIATED WITH LOCAL 383

Chartered by the International Association of Iron Workers on July 2, 1942, Shop Local No. 665 represented members employed at the Theodore Kupfer Foundry and Iron Company in Madison.

During at least the early- and mid-1950s, Local 665 was a subsidiary or branch local of Local 383.

The International Association merged Local 665 into Local No. 811 in 2015. Three years later in 2018, the union formed Midwest Regional Shop Local No. 853 with the consolidation of Local 811 and locals 473 of Chicago; 493 of Des Moines; 518 of St. Louis; 535 of Minneapolis; 553 of Omaha; and 590 of Aurora, Illinois.

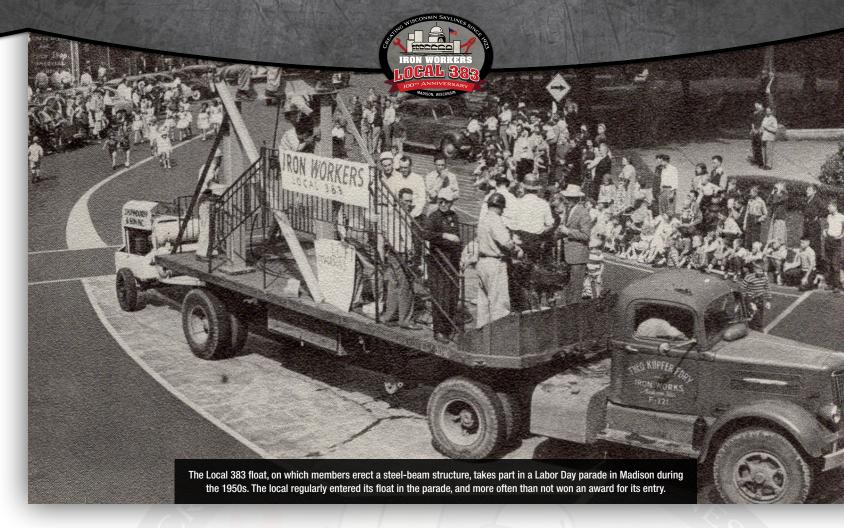
Fritz, Findorff, Vogel and Nelson building and construction companies.

Significant projects that employed Local 383 members during the mid-1950s included construction of the new Madison City Hall and Dane County Courthouse beginning in 1955. The seven-story, \$8.6-million city/county building in downtown Madison on Monona Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) would open in June 1957. (The building was later expanded with a rooftop addition before the offices of both the City of Madison and Dane County eventually moved to the new Madison Municipal Building and Dane County Courthouse in 2005.)

Local 383 closed a new work agreement with the Madison Employers' Council, which represented about 90 construction contractors that included the local's signatory steel employers, on March 23, 1955, that granted the local a 10-cent hourly wage raise for its 200 members, increasing their pay to \$2.90 per hour beginning April 1. The contract also carried a clause providing for the opening of talks on an employer-contributed welfare fund at a later date; however, no insurance benefit would be established during the life of the pact.

But the local, its contractors and the Employers' Council continued to find common ground in their contract negotiations throughout the remainder of the decade. As a result, by the end of 1959, the wage scale for the local's journeyman members was \$3.40 per hour, although they were still not being supplied with any fringe benefits.

During that period, Local 383 also moved its offices and meeting location to the newly constructed **Madison Labor Temple** on South Park Street in late 1958. After the city's union organizations had built the \$300,000 facility, they dedicated it on Labor Day of that year.



#### TAKING ACTION TO ACQUIRE NEW BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

ocal 383 continued to improve the wages of its members throughout the 1960s in new collectively bargained agreements with the Employers' Council. What's more, after securing pay raises from \$3.55 per hour in 1960 to \$3.70 in 1961, \$3.85 in 1962 and \$3.95 in 1963, the local gained a first-ever three-year contract in March 1964 that would begin on April 1 and provide an immediate 15-cent hourly wage boost, 20 cents more the following year and an additional 15 cents in 1966. As part of that agreement, those increases could be applied to a fringe-benefit welfare fund should the local form an insurance plan for its members (which did not transpire until the local's next contract).

The year after securing that contract, however, the local was shaken when its longtime business manager and financial secretary-treasurer, **Brother Orla V. Coleman**, died suddenly on November 5, 1965. Brother

Coleman, who had been in that newly combined position for nearly 27 years since 1938 after having served as the local's financial secretary-treasurer since 1935, was 61 years old at the time of his passing.

Out in the field into and during the mid-1960s, the local member iron workers remained busy on scores of projects in its jurisdiction, including construction of the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor nuclear power plant located in the Village of Genoa in Vernon County, Wisconsin. Operated by the Dairyland Power Cooperative, the reactor was built from 1963 to 1967 as part of a federal project to demonstrate the viability of peacetime nuclear power. It was shut down in April 1987 as it was not economically practical because of its small size.

A new, \$7.3-million, 10-story Chemistry Building at the University of Wisconsin-Madison also employed the local's members beginning in 1965 and through to its completion in early 1967. Also in 1965, members began erecting the 3,314 tons of



structural steel, 1,009 tons of reinforcing steel and 400 six-ton precast concrete slabs used for the new, \$6-million Employers Mutuals Insurance Company Building in Wausau, Wisconsin, that would open in early 1967 as that company's home-office complex.

Elsewhere, other key jobs employing Local 383 members included construction of the 10,231-seat Veterans Memorial Coliseum multi-purpose arena (which is now part of the multi-building Alliant Energy Center) at the Dane County Fairgrounds in 1966 and 1967 and the Elvehjem Art Center (now the Chazen Museum of Art) that would open in 1970 on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Approximately 30 union iron workers also worked on the new, \$28-million Kraft Division pulp mill at Consolidated Papers in Wisconsin

Rapids beginning in 1966 until the paper-making facility began production in 1968.

But after its three-year working pact with the Employers' Council expired on April 1, 1967, Local 383 went on strike on April 3 and halted work on those projects and others after the two organizations failed to come to terms on a new contract and the local's membership – as did those of five other trade unions negotiating with the council – voted overwhelmingly for a strike. At the core of the stalled negotiations were impasses over wage increases and funding for new healthcare and pension fringe benefits in a proposed new three-year agreement.

Three-and-a-half weeks later, Local 383's nearly 300 members returned to their jobs on April 28 after the local and the Employers' Council settled on a new, three-year contract the previous evening. The agreement, which was backdated to April 1 and would expire on March 31, 1970, provided a retroactive wage of \$4.75 per hour and subsequent raises that would ultimately take the local's journeyman iron worker and rodman scale to \$6 per hour beginning April 1, 1969.



Perhaps even more notably, the contract established a first-ever payment from Local 383 employing contractors of 12-1/2 cents for each hour worked by the local's members that would be placed into a new Health and Welfare Fund. The fringe-benefit would finance the local's participation in the Iron Workers Tri-State Welfare Plan of Chicago, which began providing healthcare insurance to members and their families.

Also as part of the contract, on November 1, 1967, contractors began contributing 12-1/2 cents per each hour worked by members into a first-ever **Pension Fund** (while the Health and Welfare Fund contribution was increased to 17-1/2 cents). The new benefit likewise financed the local's participation in the **Mid-America Pension Plan of Chicago**, which would provide payments to retired members.

More work for the local's members at the end of the 1960s included erecting the coal-fired **Genoa Generating Station** directly adjacent to the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor. When

the new power plant was put online in 1969, it could produce 345.6 megawatts of electricity for consumption in the region until it was retired on June 1, 2021.

Closing out the active decade, Local 383 stood at 280 members in 1969.

#### BATTLING TO FURTHER GROW ITS ORGANIZATION AND CITY

ocal 383 iron workers placed the last iron girder on the new, 12-story, \$6-million Wisconsin Telephone Company building on West Washington Avenue in Madison during a "topping-out" ceremony on July 1, 1970, after having erected the twin tower's steel frame with 1,800 tons of iron over the previous six months. Meanwhile, members were also working on the new, \$3-mllion Berlin Memorial Hospital that would open in June 1971; a \$1.5-million addition and remodel for the Clintonville Community Hospital; the new, \$2.6-million La Crosse City Hall; and a new warehouse for the G. Heileman Brewing





#### AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF ITS DISTRICT COUNCIL

While Local 383 was affiliated beginning in 1958 with the Iron Workers District Council of Chicago and Vicinity (which had been established in 1915), the local became a charter member of the new Iron Workers North Central States District Council when it was established in 1976.

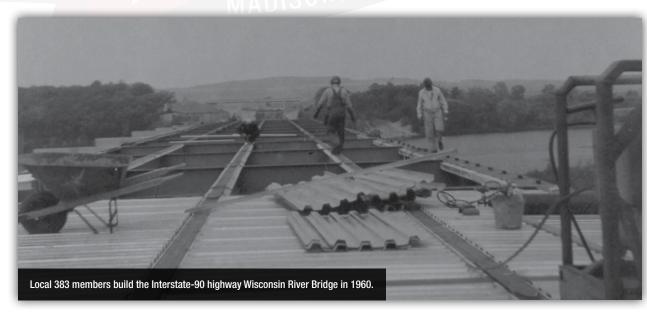
Comprised of International Association locals from Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, the North Central States District Council originally consisted of affiliated locals 383, 8, 471, 512, 535, 558, 563, 611, 665, 680, 783, 793, 811, 814 and 825. In 2023, locals affiliated with the council are Local 383, Local 8 of North Michigan and Eastern Wisconsin, including Milwaukee; Local 21 of Nebraska, South Dakota and Western Iowa; Local 67 of Central Iowa; Local 89 of Eastern Iowa; and Local 512 of North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Assisting each other through the district council, those locals supply leading signatory contractors and industry employers with skilled and trained employees, while representing their memberships so they are provided with competitive wages and benefits. The council, with more than 6,500 member iron workers, also focuses on recruiting and organizing to increase membership and employment opportunities.

Company (which operated in La Crosse from 1858 until it was acquired by Stroh Brewing Company in 1996).

But before they were completed, more than 400 Local 383 members walked off those jobs and others on April 1 after their previous working contract with the Madison Employers' Council expired that day and no new agreement had been reached. The ensuing seven-weeklong strike ended on May 19 when the two sides agreed on a new, three-year contract retroactive to April 1, 1970, and expiring on March 31, 1973.

The deal provided an immediate new wage of \$6.32-1/2 per hour for the local's members and then increases to \$6.57-1/2 per hour on October 1; \$7.20 per hour on April 1, 1971; \$7.42 per hour on October 1, 1971; and \$7.92 per hour on April 1, 1972. It also instantly raised contractors' Health and Welfare contributions to 25 cents per hour and Pension Fund payments to 25 cents per hour on October 1, 1971. What's more, the agreement further created a new Vacation Savings Fund for members that held 25-cents-per-hour worked in individual accounts after it was put into effect October 1, 1970, and a new Apprentice Training and Journeyman Retraining Fund



for the local that was established on April 1, 1971, with a 2-1/2-cent-per-hour payment by contractors, which was increased to 3 cents that October 1.

After the strike, Local 383 members continued to play a substantial part in the accelerated growth of Madison, erecting multiple significant structures in the city that also included the new Madison Bank and Trust Company Building in the 200 block of West Washington Avenue. After the union iron workers set the final piece of steel for the \$8-million, 10-story tower in a topping-out ceremony on October 22, 1971, it was completed during the spring of 1972 to house the general offices of the bank (which shortly after became United Bank & Trust) and the Wisconsin Power and Light Company.

The following year, Local 383 and the Employers' Council closed negotiations on a new, two-year contract before the previous agreement expired on March 31, 1937, that increased the local's wage scale to \$8.47 per hour on April 1 of that year and to \$8.92 per hour on April 1, 1974, until the pact ended on the extended date of April 30, 1975. The contract also boosted hourly fringe-benefit contributions for its duration at 40 cents for health and welfare, 25 cents for pensions and 3 cents for training.

With that agreement in hand, in 1973 Local 383 celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since being chartered by the International Association on August 17, 1923. With more than 400 members by that time, the local's jurisdiction had grown to comprise an area as far as the Mississippi River on the west; to La Crosse, Wisconsin Rapids, Wausau and Antigo on the north; half-way to Milwaukee on the east; and part of the Illinois border on the south.

As the local entered its second half century, in the field several of its members were building









EN WORKERS

LOCAL 303

JOHN ANNIVERSARY

MARGON, MISCORIST

the Columbia Energy Center in Columbia County just south of Portage in the Town of Pacific for Wisconsin Power and Light. The coal-fired power station's 512-megawatt Unit 1 and 511-megawatt Unit 2 generators would go online in 1975 and 1978, respectively.

During construction, in July 1973 the Dane County Circuit Court issued a temporary injunction against Local 383 that was brought by contractor J. P. Cullen and Son Construction of Janesville, Wisconsin, which was building the plant, after the local caused a work stoppage while embroiled in a jurisdictional dispute over work assignments with other unions. A judge lifted the order, *The Capitol Times* reported on July 23, after "the parties had agreed that the union will submit the jurisdictional matter to its international union, and the question will be resolved by the Joint Board for Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes."

However, employment began to slacken for Local 383 members as the second half of



the decade approached as non-union became more prominent in its jurisdiction, especially on smaller jobs. Regardless, additional major projects on which the union's iron workers were obtaining manhours during that time included construction of **Jefferson Elementary School** in Merrill, Wisconsin, in 1973 and 1974, a new post office in La Crosse in 1975 and 1976 and expansion work at the Kraft Division paper mills of Consolidated Papers.

The local also signed a new, four-year-long working contract with the Employers' Council that provided a total wage-and-benefits package of \$10.40 per hour when it went into effect on May 1, 1975, and \$11 per hour beginning May 1, 1976. The agreement also included a "reopener" clause by which after the second year the local and its contractors could renegotiate its wage and benefit terms for the third and fourth years.

But when the two organizations could not come to an agreement on a new wage scale and benefit contributions when negotiations were reopened, Local 383 went on strike on May 5, 1977, idling its 450 iron workers as well as another 1,500 building-trades workers on jobs throughout its jurisdiction. Three weeks later, the local and its contractors reached agreement on a two-year package on May 24 that called for a pair of 80-cent-per-hour increases in wages and benefits over the next two years, retroactive to May 1, ending the work stoppage - and ultimately increasing the local's wage scale to \$11.27 per hour and hourly contributions for welfare and pension funds to 75 cents each and the training fund to 7 cents before the contract expired on April 30, 1979.

During that time, Local 383 members beginning in 1975 began erecting the largest building project in the history of the University of Wisconsin-Madison: the \$100-million **Clinical Science Center**. When opened in March 1979, replacing the outdated University Hospital, the six-story center's 1.5-million



square feet of space housed the university's hospitals and clinics, the clinical programs of its Medical School, its School of Nursing and the Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center.

Meanwhile, members were also working in the late 1970s on key jobs elsewhere such as the new Wisconsin Rapids City Hall; a \$5-million renovation of the Capitol Concourse around the State Capitol building; the new Wausau Hospital Center; the 112-apartment Forest Park high-rise for the La Crosse Housing Authority; and the Valley View Mall enclosed shopping center in La Crosse that opened in July 1980 with four anchor stores and more than 40 additional retailers. Iron workers from the local also helped erect the \$25-million, 70acre Ore-Ida Foods potato-processing plant on Highway 54 between Plover and Wisconsin Rapids, which when completed in February 1979 began turning 1.2-million pounds of Russet Burbank potatoes into French fries, hash browns and other products on a daily basis.

Before the decade ended, Local 383 gained a new, four-year contract with the Employers' Council that went into effect on May 1, 1979, which initially set the local's journeyman wage scale at \$12.04 per hour and hourly employer contributions for the Health and Welfare Fund and the Pension Fund at 75 cents each and the training fund at 7 cents. The deal then provided increases that eventually took member wages to \$14.08 per hour and payments for healthcare to \$1.50 per hour, retirement to \$1.25 per hour and training to 10 cents per hour beginning May 1, 1981, to constitute a total compensation package of \$16.93 per hour through April 30, 1983.

#### MEETING MORE CHALLENGES WITH MORE NEW SOLUTIONS

Steady work for Local 383 members became increasingly more scarce into the 1980s and throughout the early years of the decade as non-union competition and anti-union sentiment intensified. What's more, recessions from January to July 1980 and from





July 1981 to November 1982, which at the time was the worst economic downturn in the United States since the Great Depression, stifled construction in the local's jurisdiction.

Subsequently, during those early years of the decade many Local 383 iron workers boomed out to sister International Association locals across the country for employment.

The Madison-based iron-workers local also rigorously increased its picketing activity throughout the 1980s to combat the use of non-union labor within its territory. In one such instance, a "pushing match," as an article in the December 10, 1987, *La Crosse Tribune* described it, broke out between Local 383 picketers and employees of a non-union contractor at a Norplex Oak, Inc., construction site in La Crosse on December 7 while the local was picketing the site for more than a week.

Members who remained with their home local during the early 1980s worked on projects that included construction of a third generating unit at the Weston Generating Station in the villages of Rothschild and Kronenwetter in Marathon County. The new 350.5-megawatt generator for the coal-fired electrical power station, which was originally built in the early 1950s, went online in 1981.

Also in 1980, Local 383 iron workers finished erecting the Marquette-Joliet Memorial Bridge to carry U.S. Highway 18 across the Mississippi River between Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and Marquette, Iowa. The local's members had to return to the cable-supported, tied-arch span in January 1981 to repair its faulty steel, which they completed that August.

Member iron workers then constructed the new Federal Courthouse and Office



Building at the corner of North Henry and West Dayton streets in downtown Madison beginning in 1983 for its opening in June of 1984. The five-story, \$6-million structure became known for its blue-painted exterior metal panels (and was renamed in 1992 after former U.S. Representative Robert William Kastenmeier, who served as a congressman from 1959 to 1991).

With employment stagnant, a new, one-year contract with the Employers' Council for June 1, 1983, through May 31, 1984, held the local's wage scale at the previous level of \$14.08 per hour and contractor contributions to its training fund at 10 cents per hour. However, it did increase Health and Welfare Fund payments by 10 cents to \$1.60 per hour and Pension Fund contributions by 5 cents to \$1.30 per hour.

A three-year agreement that began on June 1, 1984, provided no raises to the local's pay or fringe benefits for its first year. For the second and third years, annual increases were spread between in-pocket pay and benefits as decided upon by the membership at the beginning of each of those years; as a result, when the contract expired on May 31, 1987, the local's scale had increased to \$14.85 per hour and employer contributions to the welfare, pension and training funds totaled \$3.48 per hour.

Work in the local's jurisdiction that provided its members with jobs during the second half of the decade included construction of a \$16-million softwood digester that "cooks" wood chips and mixes them with chemicals for paper production at Consolidated Papers' Kraft Division in Wisconsin Rapids, which was completed in 1985. Among other projects, members also erected a new indoor practice field house at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a \$3.5-million expansion to the Wood County Jail in 1987 and 1988, and they put up the steel frame for a \$135-million expansion for the No. 34 light-weight paper machine at Consolidated Papers' Stevens Point **Division** in 1989 for its late-1990 start up.

The local's final three fiscal years of the 1980s were covered by a new, three-year contract with the Employers' Council that provided no increases the first year beginning June 29, 1987, and then 50-cent hourly wage raises for each of the following two years before it expired



on May 31, 1990. The increases boosted base journeyman wages to \$15.85 per hour for the third and final year, which began June 1, 1989, while fringe-benefit contributions remained at \$1.60 per hour for the Health and Welfare Fund, \$1.76 per hour for the Pension Fund and 12 cents per hour for the Training and Retraining Fund. However, contractors only agreed to the pay raises after obtaining contract changes that included the elimination of a \$10-per-day travel allowance for the local's members.

## BUILDING MOMENTUM INTO THE TURN OF THE MILLENNIUM

wisconsin counties that encompassed the Local 383 jurisdiction as it headed into the 1990s, those utilizing the skilled craftsmanship of the local's iron workers and rodmen included construction of Consolidated Papers' No. 16 paper machine at its Wisconsin Rapids facility beginning in 1990. While also employing a large number of travelers from other International Association locals, Local 383 members topped-out the \$495-million expansion's steel frame on December 20 of that year, after which the unit would go online in 1992 as the one of the world's largest heavier-weight coated printing-paper machines.

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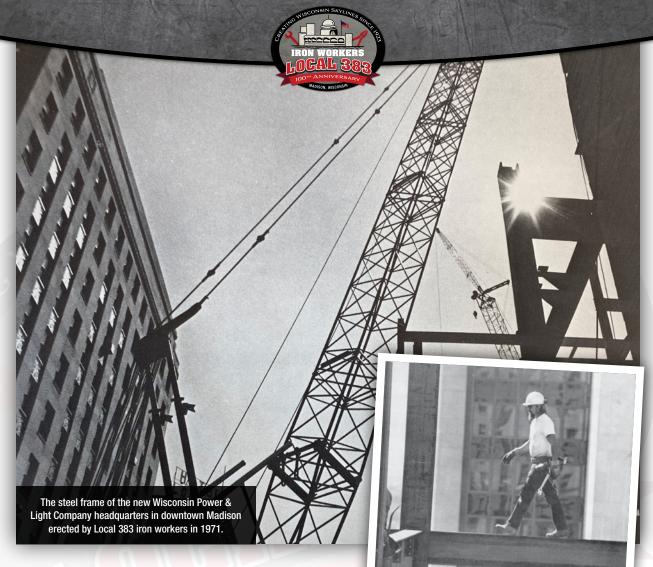


#### **ERECTING THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK**

The House on The Rock is a tourist attraction located between the cities of Dodgeville and Spring Green, Wisconsin, that opened in 1960 and features architecturally distinct rooms, streets, gardens and shops designed by Alex Jordan Jr.







Beginning in 1990 as well, Local 383 members erected the new American Family Life Insurance Company national headquarters complex, which was the largest construction project in Madison at the time. Iron workers from the local put the 600-pound, 24-foot final topping-out steel beam in place on May 9, 1991, for the \$80-million, 800,000-square-foot facility, which union labor completed ontime and on-budget for its opening in 1992.

Simultaneously, Local 383 secured a new, three-year working contract with its contractors that went into effect on June 1, 1990 – without the use of a strike, which beginning in the 1980s had become the standard for negotiations that would continue throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s. The latest agreement provided an initial new journeyman wage scale of \$16.14 per hour and employer hourly contributions of \$1.70 for healthcare, \$2.20 for pensions and 19 cents for training. By the time it expired on

May 31, 1993, those figures had been boosted to \$16.84 per hour for wages, \$2.20 per hour for healthcare, \$2.70 per hour for pensions and

Local 383 member Brother Dave Worzalla walks across a beam

while constructing the Wisconsin Power & Light Company

headquarters in Madison in 1971.

17 cents per hour for training, comprising a total pay package of \$21.91 per hour for the local's journeyman structural and ornamental iron workers and reinforcing rodmen.

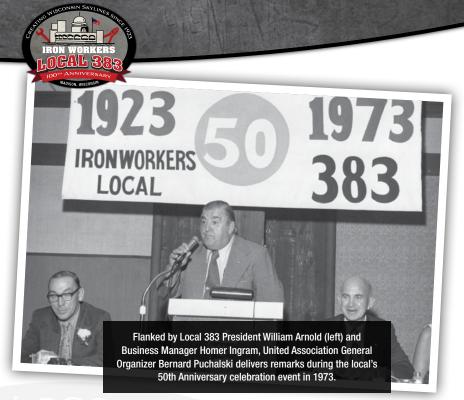
Construction of the **Grainger Hall of Business Administration** on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus was among the additional projects on which the local's members worked as the decade progressed. Beginning in 1991, the union iron workers topped-out the five-story, \$31-million building's frame on October 13, 1992, after which it was completed in August 1993 as the home base for the Wisconsin School of Business.

That year, another three-year, work-stoppage-free contract provided a total \$1 hourly raise on June 1 that lifted the local's wage scale to \$17.23 per hour, welfare fund payments to \$2.45 per hour and retirement fund contributions to \$3.06 per hour. Subsequent total pay increases of \$1.10 the second year and \$1.15 the third year eventually raised journeyman wages to \$18.13 per hour and hourly contributions to the Health and Welfare Fund to \$2.75, the Pension Fund to \$4.11 and the Training and Retraining Fund to

17 cents to give the local's journeymen a total wage-and-benefits package of \$25.16 per hour until the agreement ended on May 31, 1996.

Local 383 apprentices (top to bottom) George Desnoyer,
Marshall Hanes and Frank Hommema; Iron Workers Local 563,
Duluth, Minnesota, apprentices Don Vehrs, Paul Fields and

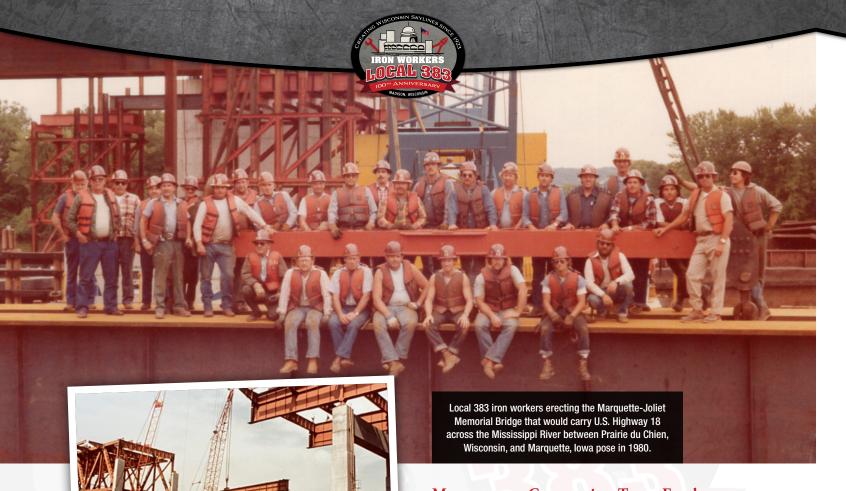
Local 383 apprentices (top to bottom) George Desnoyer,
Marshall Hanes and Frank Hommema; Iron Workers Local 563,
Duluth, Minnesota, apprentices Don Vehrs, Paul Fields and
John Donovan; and Local 383 Assistant Business Agent Tom Powers
and Instructor Leo H. Luther display the metal spiral staircase
fabricated and erected by the trainees at the Wausau, Wisconsin,
Technical School in 1979.



Larger projects that continued to provide manhours to the local's members included a \$16.1-million addition and renovation to the **University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School** that began in 1994. With the additional 93,000-square-feet of space, the school would house several new and renovated classrooms, two mock courtrooms, remodeled office and administrative space, an expanded law library, and a four-story glass atrium that links two older Law School buildings when it was completed in April 1997.

Member iron workers also helped build the \$67.1-million Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in downtown Madison on the shore of Lake Monona beginning in 1994. Originally designed in 1938 by Wisconsin native and internationally renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the multilevel structure featuring public promenades, meeting rooms and the attached Hilton Madison Monona Terrace opened in July 1997.

The 325-member Local 383 and its 130 employing contractors, who by then had become affiliated with the **Associated General Contractors (A.G.C.) of Wisconsin**, agreed on a new, three-year contract on June 10, 1996,



Management Cooperative Trust Fund to promote the union industry – for a wage-and-benefits package of \$30.20 per hour.

During that time, members continued to work on a range of significant projects, such as construction in 1997 and 1998 of the \$76.4-million, 17,000-seat Kohl Center, a state-of-the-art sports and entertainment arena on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus that is home for the school's men's and women's basketball and men's hockey teams. Members also erected the new, \$9.7-million Sonderegger Science Center on the shared campus of Edgewood College, High School and Grade School in Madison for its opening in early 1999.

The decade, the century and the millennium ended for Local 383's nearly 400 members with another new, three-year working contract that was settled on June 24, 1999, but backdated to June 1, when an initial increase pushed the base wage rate for journeymen to \$22.50 per hour and total compensation including benefits to \$31.66 per hour. After working for three weeks under the provisions of their former

agreement that expired on May 31, the union iron workers gained those and further raises in the second and third years of the new pact that boosted their base scale to \$24.05 per hour and total fringe-benefit contributions to \$10.65 per hour before it expired on May 31, 2002.

Also in 1999, the local opened branch offices in Wisconsin Rapids and La Crosse to better serve its members in northern and western Wisconsin, respectively.

Notably, the year before, Local 383 marked its 75<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary in August 1998 with a dinner-dance celebration, the program for which unequivocally declared:

"On August 17, 1923, the International granted a charter to Local 383. And 75 years later, here we are, celebrating Local 383's 75th anniversary, still united, still strong and still committed to a better way of life for our members and their families."

#### WELCOMING GOOD FORTUNES THAT CAME WITH THE 2000S

he dawn of the new "Y2K" (Year-2000) millennium ushered in a more-than two-decade period of primarily escalating prosperity for Local 383 that continued through to its 100th charter anniversary in 2023. As a symbol of the local's success during that time, its total wage-and-benefits journeyman pay increased by 129 percent from January 2020 to its April 2023 level of \$72.50 per hour.

Kicking off the run of consistently improving employment and financial conditions, a number of the local's members worked on one of the more iconic structures in the region when they took part in a large-scale, \$100-million reconstruction project for **Camp Randall Stadium** on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison beginning in February 2002. When completed before the start of the *Continued after spread*.

Posing during construction of the new Federal Courthouse and Office Building in Madison in 1983 for its opening in June 1984 are (kneeling, left to right) Local 383 Business Manager Leo Luther and members Roger Runk, Ronald Eichorst, Byron Becker and David Weger, (standing) Ronald Johnson of Iron Workers Local 498, Rockford, Illinois, Local 383 members Everette Testad, Dennis Haack, Milo Berce, Donald Wigdal, Roger Schultz and Wesley Roscoe, Brian Koebler of Local 498, and Local 383 members Jack Boaman and Norman Brown; and (seated on machine in back) Local 383 member Alvin Powell and the operating engineer.

to replace the former agreement that expired May 31. Retroactive to June 1, the contract called for an initial \$1.75 per hour increase, \$1.42 of which was allocated to wages, raising the journeyman scale to \$19.55 per hour and total compensation to \$26.91 per hour – a 6.8-percent increase.

On June 1, 1997, the total compensation was increased by \$1.75 per hour, or 6.5 percent, to \$28.66 per hour, \$2.25 of which was put into a new **Annuity Fund** the local established to supplement its retirement pensions. Then on June 1, 1998, total compensation went up \$1.50 per hour, or 5.2 percent, for a gross hourly wage of \$21.75 and hourly payments of \$2.75 to the Health and Welfare Fund, \$2.86 to the Pension Fund, \$2.50 to the Annuity Fund, 30 cents to the Training and Retraining Fund and 4 cents to a **Labor-**





#### Local 383 Training and Education

#### Ensuring Its Supply of We LL-Prepared Iron Workers

After it was chartered on August 17, 1923, Iron Workers Local 383 indentured Brother Orla V. Coleman (who would go on to serve as the local's business manager for 27 years) on December 20, 1925, as its first apprentice. Since that time, the local has educated its new recruits into the ironworkings trades through the system of apprenticeship, by which apprentices learn the craft through "on-the-job" training on active construction sites while working alongside experienced journeyman iron workers — and receiving pay while they learn.

But the Local 383 training program remained relatively informal over the next 25 years. In fact, as late as 1949, the local did not incorporate regular classroom instruction into its training, and its apprenticeships were only two years in length as opposed to the conventional four years of other building trades in Madison.

During the 1950s, however, as the local recognized the need to improve its training, the Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (J.A.T.C.) with which it is affiliated with its employing contractors set new standards for apprentice training that included classroom lessons related to iron working. By 1959, in order to graduate, the Local 383 apprenticeship required its trainees to complete 6,000 hours of "reasonable continuous employment in an approved schedule of work experience" and attend classes in related instruction at Madison Vocational School (which in 1968 was renamed Madison Area Technical College) for a minimum of 144 hours per year during a three-year apprenticeship.

In 2019, the Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT) invested \$48,500 to have the two-story structural-steel mockup for training in the parking lot of the Local 383 Training Center. Formed in 2003, IMPACT is a joint, labormanagement, non-profit trust that develops, funds and implements programs to address the challenges faced in the union iron working industry with the goal of expanding job opportunities for International Association iron workers and their signatory contractors.



By the 1970s, the Iron Workers J.A.T.C. program had expanded to provide training for its apprentices in the western part of its jurisdiction in and around La Crosse, Wisconsin, at the Western Wisconsin Technical Institute, as well.

To further enhance the education of its trainees, the Local 383 three-year contract with its contractors that went into effect on April 1, 1970, included a first-ever employer contribution of 2-1/2 cents per hour worked by the local's members to a new Apprentice Training and Journeyman Retraining Fund. The new payments began on April 1, 1973, and since that time the contributions have increased to 81 cents per hour in the local's contract that went into effect on June 1, 2023.

After changes to the technical-college system made it difficult for the local to schedule training at the level its members and contractors expected, the local further bolstered its ability to prepare its apprentices when it built its own, new Local 383 Training Center onto its new Local 383 Union Hall in 2017.

Over the years, the J.A.T.C. program itself has likewise continued to evolve. As such, in 2023 the Local 383 apprenticeship consists of 208 classroom hours and 1,500 hours of on-the-job training each year.

What's more, the Local 383 Training Center is also available to Local 383 journeyman ironworkers to upgrade their skills in the latest industry techniques and equipment. They can also utilize the facility to renew industry certifications.





Local 383 apprentices (kneeling, left to right) Gino Nelson and Tim Hespe, and (back row) Frank DiDomenico, Kyle Gipper, Alan Bengston, John Mead, Derek Schenk, Hunter Holty and Shane Seager and Instructor John Meister pose after completing welding instruction as part of their training in November 2017.

#### APPRENTICESHIP PAYS ITS STUDENTS

Local 383 apprentices "earn while they learn" as they are paid wages by contractors during their apprenticeships that are stepped percentages of the local's journeyman pay scale, with those percentages increasing as an apprentice advances through the training program.

In 1949, for example, new Local 383 apprentices earned 50 percent of journeymen's pay, or \$1.02-1/2 per hour, and second-year apprentices earned 66-2/3 percent, or \$1.37 per hour. In 1970, by which time the apprenticeship program had been increased to three years with a total of 1,000 working hours every six months, new apprentices earned 60 percent of journeymen's wages, or \$3.40 per hour, and final-six-month apprentices earned 90 percent, or \$5.15 per hour.

The local's current contract with the Associated General Contractors of America that went into effect on June 1,2023, set the apprentice wage percentages at 60 percent for apprentices with up to 1,000 hours of work; 65 percent for up to 2,000 hours; 70 percent for up to 3,000 hours; 75 percent for up to 4,000 hours; 80 percent for up to 5,000 hours; 90 percent for up to 5,760 hours; and 95 percent for up to 6,500 hours. The journeyman base wage scale for the first year of the contract is \$41 per hour.

Local 383 completed the International Association's Ironworker Apprenticeship Certification Program in 2013. The union's Apprenticeship and Training Department implemented the program in late 2005 to certify local apprenticeship programs in order to improve and standardize the quality of apprenticeship training offered by locals.

Certification is a method of ensuring an ironworker apprenticeship program meets or exceeds all established standards and requirements in related areas, such as implementing a core curriculum, ensuring instructors have appropriate credentials, maintaining appropriate training facilities, providing access to current tools and equipment, ensuring safety of apprentices, and providing on-the-job training to prepare skilled ironworkers.

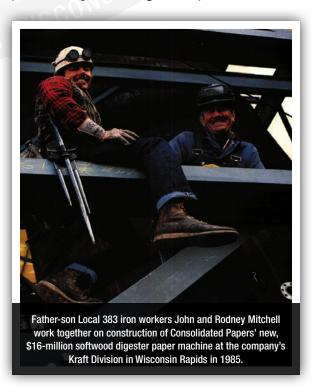


2004 college football season, the 85-year-old home of the university's football team had been improved and expanded with 9,000 new seats, including 700 club and private seats in luxury boxes; a five-story office building; separate football program offices; new scoreboards; and a host of other infrastructure improvements.

More manhours were worked by the local's members on a variety of additional sizable projects that included the **Meriter-Main Gate** (now Capitol Lakes) retirement community in downtown Madison beginning in 2002. The \$19 million project consisted of 52 independent-living apartments, an assisted living facility and a nursing home when it was completed in the summer of 2004.

Local 383 also negotiated a new, three-year working contract with the A.G.C. of Wisconsin for June 1, 2002, and the following three years that provide a new journeyman iron-workers and rodmen wage scale of \$24.55 per hour and hourly employer contributions to the Health and Welfare Fund of \$4, the Pension Fund of \$3.96, the Annuity Fund of \$3.30 and

the Training and retraining Fund of 35 cents. Subsequent total increases of \$1.50 for 2003 and \$1.60 for 2004 raised that base scale to \$26.05 per hour and payments for healthcare to \$4.65, pensions to \$4.86, annuities to \$3.30 and training to 43 cents per hour for the final year of the pact ending on May 31, 2005.





More work on structures that were developing and improving Madison came during that time, as well, with members erecting the **Overture Center for the Arts** performing-arts center and art gallery beginning in 2003. During construction, Local 383 iron workers set some of the world's largest insulated glass units at the facility, which consisted of 17-foot by 9-foot insulated-glass thermal units that composed 25,000 square feet of structural glazed curtain wall suspended from roof beams — a difficult rigging job that the iron workers completed under budget and ahead of the time allotted for the project.

The Overture Center opened on September 19, 2004, to house several theaters, such as the 2,251-seat Overture Hall, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art.

Consequently, as a result of the work performed by union iron workers from Local 383 on the facility, as well as several other signature projects completed by the local and

Milwaukee Local No. 8 over the previous few years, the International Association continued to increase its market share in the curtain-wall industry throughout Wisconsin. "(Overture Center curtain-wall contractor Best Erectors') outstanding performance utilizing iron workers throughout the Wisconsin area has caused other contractors to take notice of our skills," International Association Department of Ornamental, Architectural and Miscellaneous Metals then-General Organizer (and current General President) Eric Dean reported in the September 2003 issue of the union's Ironworker magazine. "Both business managers, Sam Wilcox of Local 383 in Madison and Jim Jorgensen of Local 8 in Milwaukee, have made sure the best iron workers were available to do these projects, which has further resulted in increasing our market share in the curtainwall industry."

A host of other jobs also helped to keep Local 383 members busy in their jurisdiction into





and throughout much of the second half of the decade, as well, such as construction from 2005 to late 2006 of the \$14-million Monroe Commons, a five-story, 53-condominium development on Monroe Street with a market on the ground floor. Work for the University of Wisconsin (UW) likewise continued to provide manhours to iron workers, including erecting the \$78-million, 101-bed UW Health American Family Children's Hospital that opened on August 29, 2007, adjacent to UW Health University Hospital in Madison, and building a \$40.5-million, 131,416-square-foot, precast-concrete and glass addition to Grainger Hall that after completion in July 2008 provided a home for the career specializations of the university's new Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program.

But the Great Recession, a period of marked decline in the national economy from late 2007 to 2009 triggered primarily by the U.S. housing bubble burst when home prices fell

and homeowners abandoned their mortgages, slowed Local 383's momentum temporarily. The local's employment severely waned during that time when construction work faltered as "employment in both residential and nonresidential construction declined rapidly during the recession," the U.S. Department of Labor's *Monthly Labor Review* reported in its April 2011 issue.

Regardless, the Local 383 base journeyman wage scale grew from \$27.05 per hour in 2005 to \$30.90 per hour in 2009 while its fringe-benefits funding also obtained substantial improvements. Subsequently, when the decade ended, the local's journeyman iron workers entered 2010 earning the \$30.90-per-hour wage while also receiving \$6.10 per hour for their Health and Welfare Fund, \$7.01 per hour for their Pension Fund, \$3.60 per hour for their Annuity Fund and 42 cents per hour for the local's Training and Retraining Fund.





Local 383 iron workers posing while working on construction of the Grainger Hall of Business Administration on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus in 1991 for its completion in August 1993 are (front row, left to right) Ron Nash, Frank Schenk, Tracy Roth and Jack Mortenson; (middle row) Gerry Christian, Tom Royston, Bill Vivian, Jim Meixelsperger, Dale Holmen, Milo Mercer and Jim Haupt; and (back row) John DeGroot, Paul Cooper, Tom Alexander, <unknown>, <unknown>, Kyle Burns and Dick Frosch.

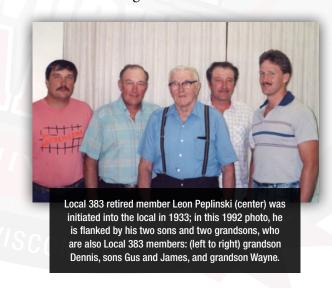
#### MAKING LABOR'S VOICE HEARD WHILE TAKING ON DEEP SPACE

he early 2010s were highlighted for Local 383, in part, by its impassioned – though unsuccessful – efforts to fend off governmental attacks on unionism at the state level. But in the end, the decade was punctuated with the local's construction of a new and modern union hall and training center of its own in addition to one of the more-interesting jobs on which its members have ever worked.

The local also continued to make strides in its working contracts, as well. For instance, while its \$30.90 hourly wage scale was not increased in 2010 or 2011, it did get significant boosts to fringe benefits, with Health and Welfare Fund contributions increasing to \$6.80 and Pension Fund payments to \$8.31 per hour in 2011.

But that year, Local 383 and all organized labor in the State of Wisconsin were confronted

with a direct assault on unionism with the introduction of Act 10 to the state legislature on February 11, 2011. Also called the "Wisconsin Budget Repair Bill," the measure would remove collective-bargaining rights for most of the state and local governments' 175,000 employees, allowing most workers to negotiate only over salary, as part of the state administration's attempt to address a projected \$3.6-billion budget deficit.



IRON WORKERS
1-0CAL 388

Local 383 members (left to right) Wayne Peplinski,

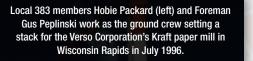
Dennis Peplinski, Waylon Dupee and Foreman

Gus Peplinski make up the connector and welding crew

working on erection of a stack for the Verso Corporation's

Kraft paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids in July 1996.

Mobilizing to lead efforts to fight the legislation, Local 383 was at the forefront of labor's unprecedented response, which culminated in a nearly month-long, peaceful mass protest inside and around the State Capitol beginning February 11, which included a nonviolent occupation of the building. "As public events developed, iron workers from Local 8 and Local 383 were clearly present and showing the same leadership iron workers always provide," a report in the December 2011 issue of *The Ironworker* asserted. "In one incredible sequence, teachers filmed an emotional scene showing the iron workers arriving at the Capitol to tremendous cheering. In virtually every media report, iron workers were shown present in photos and in the video."





Local 383 members Brother Paul Fauerbach (left) and Brother Curtis Bell work on construction of a Sub-Zero and Wolf companies appliances warehouse in Madison in 2000.

"Rank-and-file members accomplished amazing work setting up websites, interacting with social media, talking to iron workers from all over the country to organize support and to get the word out," *The Ironworker* article continued to report. "Outreach occurred to labor councils and to AFL-CIO; but most of all, outreach from iron workers went throughout the state, to working families of all walks of life."

Despite the best efforts of Local 383 and organized labor, however, Act 10 passed into law and became effective as of June 29, 2011, ending the ability of public-sector unions to negotiate

over any issues other than raises, which were capped at the rate of inflation. ("Act 10 delivered a blow to unions," the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel declared a decade later, while revealing in the related February 8, 2021, article, "The measure cut public workers' paychecks and siphoned off most of the strength of their unions.")

Four years after Act 10, even though Local 383 again took the mantle of leading highly mobilized, vehement opposition by organized labor throughout

the State of Wisconsin, the Republican-led state legislature approved an anti-union, so-called "right-to-work" law that limited the power of private-sector unions by prohibiting them from reaching labor deals with businesses that require membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment. The bill became state law on March 9, 2015, making Wisconsin a "right-to-work state."

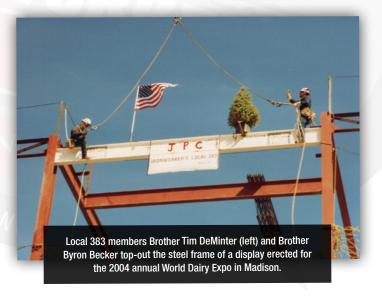
(In the aftermath of those two anti-union measures, between 2010 and 2019 Wisconsin lost about 137,000 union members, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

Juxtaposition to the local's political involvement, out in the field Local 383 iron workers continued to apply their skills on many of the most significant construction jobs in their jurisdiction. Perhaps no project in which the local's members were involved during that time was more esteemed than construction of the Epic Systems Corporation Deep Space Auditorium, a unique, 1.2-million-square-foot underground meeting and events facility on the Verona, Wisconsin, campus of the fast-growing, medical records-management company, built to blends with its surrounding rural landscape.



Beginning in May 2011, Local 383 iron workers erected 17,000 tons of steel - without a major accident – including custom, complex steel curtain wall for the facility's 11,400-seat auditorium, meeting rooms, pre-function space for events and Executive Conference Center with culinary space and staff offices. Structurally, the completely below-surface Deep Space consisted of eight seismically independent steel structures, the largest being a 285-foot clear-span truss structure for the auditorium, all of which were assembled in less than 24 months for the auditorium's completion on September 12, 2014 – with the last piece of steel set four months prior to its first hosted performance.

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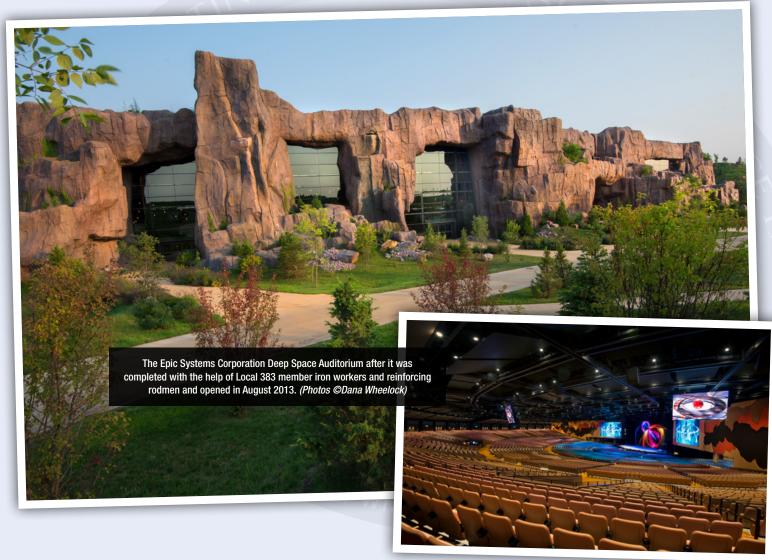




# Epic Systems Corporation DEEP SPACE AUDITORIUM











"For 3,500 construction professionals representing over 70 companies who worked here for more than three years, Deep Space will very likely be the most challenging, memorable and rewarding project we will ever encounter," the Contractor's Statement in a booklet detailing Deep Space after it was completed declared. "Construction professionals from all walks of life, trades and career paths united around this job and accomplished amazing and innovating feats."

Local 383 members Brother Pete Stern (left) and John Stoll work

on erection of wind turbines in Brownsville, Wisconsin, in 2007.

Among other less-distinctive but just-as-vital sources of manhours for Local 383 members during the first half of the decade, several worked on construction of UW Health at The American Center (now the UW Health East Madison Hospital), the first new full-service hospital in Madison since 1979 when it opened in 2015.

#### **FLOURISHING TO ITS** 100TH YEAR WHILE IN **ITS OWN NEW HOME**

Indeterred by the recent statewide political setbacks, in early 2015 the membership of Local 383 voted to purchase 4.26 acres of land in the CIC Industrial Park on the northeast side of Madison on which the local would build its own training center and union hall. On July 9 of the year, the local completed the purchase, and with the wage-and-benefit package increase the local received on June 5, 2016, through its collective-bargaining work agreement with its contractors, members voted to allocate a portion of the raise toward building a new hall and training center on the property.

Local 383 broke ground on its new facility on July 18, 2016. Eight months later on March 10, 2017, the local and its training program officially moved into the new Local 383 Union Hall and Training Center at 5501 Manufacturers Drive.

Work for its members continued to escalate as the second half of the 2010s progressed, with key projects such as a new, nine-story tower built onto the Chemistry Building at the



center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus in June 2010 for its opening in April 2011

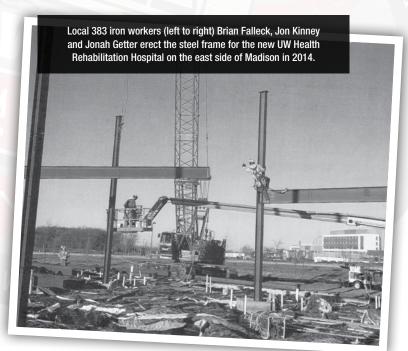


University of Wisconsin-Madison beginning in September 2018 providing employment for union iron workers. When completed in late January 2022 for the school's spring semester that year after Local 383 members and boomers from International Association Local 846 of Aiken, South Carolina; Local 847 of Phoenix; Local 512 of Minneapolis-St.-Paul; and Local 1 of Chicago placed an estimated 1,500 tons of rebar, the more than \$130-million addition housed lecture halls, an information commons area, offices, teaching laboratories and group write-up spaces for undergraduate teaching labs.

But progress on that project and many others on which the 351 journeyman members and 82 apprentices of Local 383 were working was throttled when the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic first appeared in the United States in early 2020, after which the disease would claim the lives of more than nearly 1-million Americans over the next two years and into 2022. During that time, the local practiced social distancing and other safety standards to help stop the spread of the disease, canceling

meetings and training while making certain jobsites were safe so that members could remain employed while manning projects as "essential workers" to keep key construction and maintenance jobs moving forward.

The local did, however, gain a new, threeyear working contract with the A.G.C. of Wisconsin for June 1, 2020, through May 31, 2023, that initially increased base wages for





the local's journeymen to \$37.10 per hour and hourly employer contributions for the Health and Welfare Fund to \$7.45, the Pension Fund to \$11.15, the Annuity Fund to \$7.65 and the Training and Retraining Fund to 81 cents. After the agreement added total \$2-per-hour raises to wages and benefits on June 6, 2021, and again on June 5, 2022, during its final year the local's

journeymen were earning \$39 per hour in wages and hourly payments of \$7.80 for healthcare, \$11.89 for pensions, \$8.65 for annuities and 81 cents for training.

After COVID-19 diminished into 2022, Local 383 and its membership enjoyed an exceptional year for work in its jurisdiction. Its 346 journeymen and 105 apprentices continued to experience steady employment throughout early 2003, as well, on projects in the Madison area that included jobs for Epic Systems, the Emmi Roth cheese production company in Monroe,

the University of Wisconsin, UW Health, the Madison Metropolitan School District, XPO freight-transportation company, Schreiber Foods, General Beverage wholesale distributor and Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals. In the local's Northern area, it maintained full employment on jobs such as the Wood County Jail, Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point, an





addition for McCain Foods in Plover; and in its La Crosse area, the local's members were busy with work that included jobs at Fort McCoy, Mile Bluff Medical Center in Mauston and the La Crosse Waste Water Treatment System and on the new six-floor, 70-bed Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare Hospital that will open in late 2024 – which, according to the Mayo Clinic, is the largest construction project in the history of its Health System.



Local 383 members Brother David Anderson and Brother
Dan Haas set the restored bell tower on city hall in Sun
Prairie, Wisconsin, in February 2021.

Local 383 also again came to terms on a new, three-year agreement with its employing contractors that went into effect on June 1, 2023, and carries through the local's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2023 before it is set to expire on May 31, 2026. The contract provided a new base wage of \$41 per hour and hourly fringe-benefit contributions of \$8.28 for health and welfare, \$12.14 for pensions, \$8.80 for annuities and 81 cents

for training, after which a \$2.80 total hourly increase will take effect on June 2, 2024, and a total \$2.75-per-hour raise will take effect on June 1, 2025.

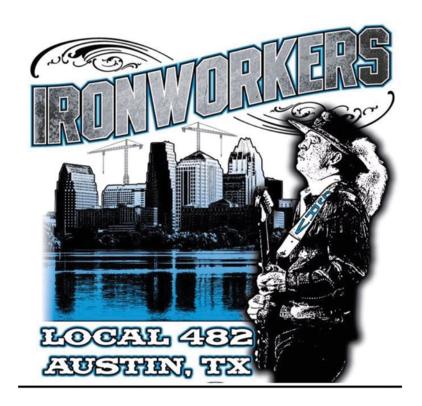
But before then, on August 17, 2023, Local 383 looks back over a 100-year history during which it has strived to not only meet but exceed the skilled-manpower needs of its signatory contractors while also representing its membership in negotiations and on jobsites. With that legacy intact, a solid contract in hand and a world-class training program preparing a workforce of iron workers and reinforcing rodmen to serve its 29-county jurisdiction in Wisconsin, Local 383 enters its next century dedicated to continuing to produce the highest quality of work worthy of its union.







The Officers & Members of Local Union No. 482 would like to congratulate Local No. 383 on another year of growth, success, and achievements. Wishing you a Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and all the best for the future.



#### Iron Workers Local Union No. 482 Officers 2023

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Douglas Owen Vice President

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Ascencion "Chon" Rodriguez Organizer/ Executive Board/ Examining Board

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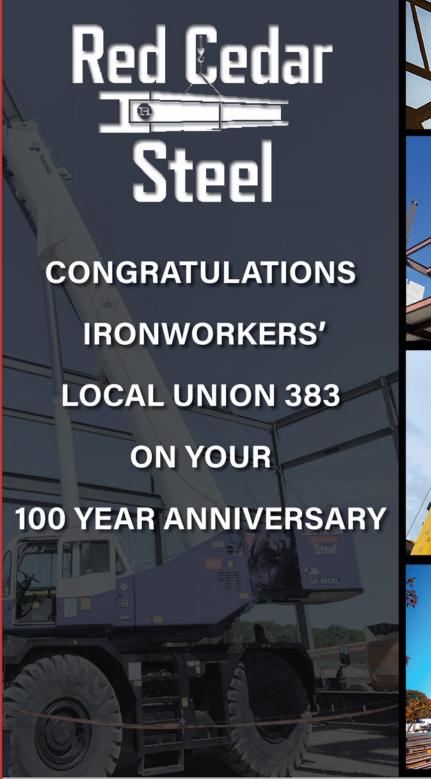






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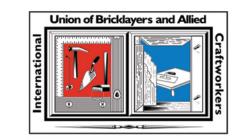




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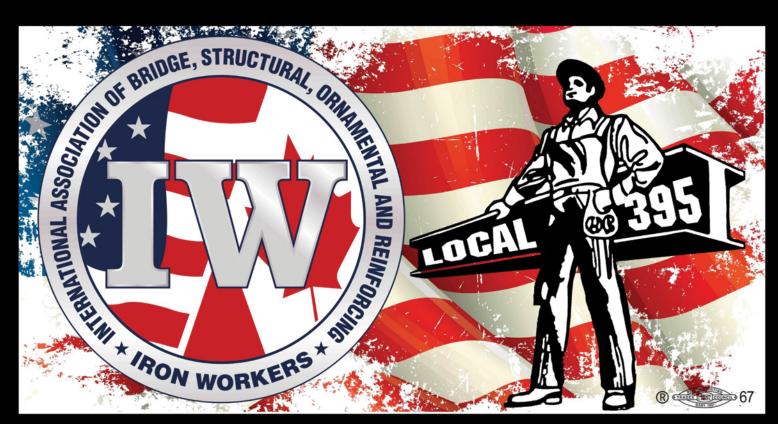




#### **CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS!** From **IRON WORKERS LOCAL 8**



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On Your
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The Officers and Members of Iron Workers Local #395

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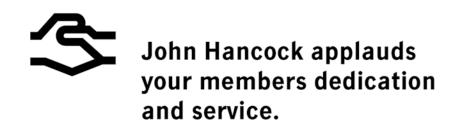
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#### Roofers Local 11 Congratulates Iron Workers Local 383

Best wishes on your continued success for the next 100 Years!





Gary Menzel, President/Business Manager



Rich Coluzzi—Business Representative
Robert Burch—Business Representative

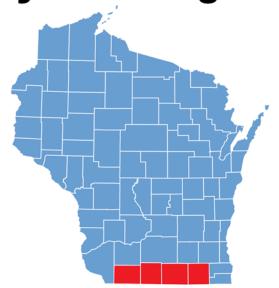
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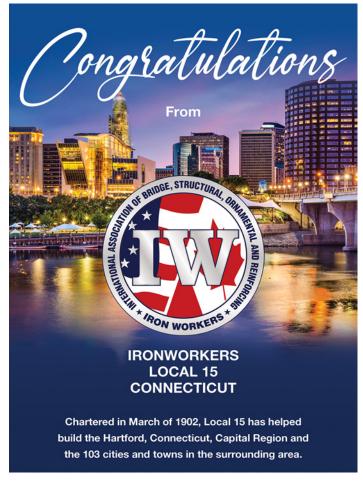
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