

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS

LOCAL 71



100th Anniversary
COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY



*This Commemorative Book
and Centennial History within
are dedicated to all Local 71
members who, over the previous
100 years, built and maintained
the enduring local we have today.*



The officers and staff of the International Union of Elevator Constructors congratulate the officers and members of Local 71 on 100 years as a local union in our great International.

Over the past century, Local 71 has grown, evolved and proven itself to be a leader within our International, within the labor movement, and within the South Florida community. Local 71 has always had great vision in electing dedicated union leaders and welcoming talented members into your union fold. The success of Local 71 is certainly rooted in the brothers and sisters who call this local home.

To all of our Local 71 brothers, sisters and families, be proud of the local union you have built and enjoy the fruits of your labor. The IUEC wishes all of you even more success to come in the years ahead. Best of wishes on this most special occasion!

In Solidarity,

Frank J. Christensen, General President
James K. Bender, II, Assistant General President
Larry J. McGann, General Secretary-Treasurer

Congratulations Local No. 71 on your 100th Anniversary Celebration

***Local One, New York & New Jersey
International Union of Elevator Constructors***

**President and Business Manager
Lenny Legotte**

**Vice President and Business Agents
Stephen Mazza
Denis Kilduff
Thomas Whooley
Andrew Schrettner**

**Secretary-Treasurer
Michael G. Riegger**

**Day Secretary
Lee Pirone**

**Board of Trustees
William Bulger
John Hook
Dave Dambreville
Jonathan Sadel
Brendan McCarrick**

**Recording Secretary
Phil Ducatelli**

**Examining Board
Brendan Loftus
Matthew McElduff
Constatine Kazis**

**Organizer
Brian Houser**

**Correspondent
Jonathan Anderson**

**Warden
Tom Falconer**

We Are the First – Organized June 7th, 1894

Platinum SPONSOR



Congratulations to

IUEC Local 71

on your

100th Anniversary
Celebration!

from

the Officers, Members, and
Staff

of

IUEC Local 4 Boston

President -Doug Cullington **VP** - Jim Jimenez

Business Manager - Tim Morgan

Business Rep/Fin Sec – Patrick Sampson **Business Rep** – Mike Caron

Business Agent – Bob Schoen

Recording Secretary – Ryan Allen **Treasurer** – Pete Langer

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Rob Barrows

Andrew Klempa

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Robert Reed

Jack Hayes

Correspondent

Bob Stone

Sergeant-at-Arms

Bill Kennedy

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Union Histories hails I.U.E.C. Local 71 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.



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ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS LOCAL NO. 71 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER/DANCE

Saturday, January 20, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The Diplomat Beach Resort & Hotel
3555 South Ocean Drive, Hollywood, Florida

Registration, Photo Op, Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres..... 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Welcoming Remarks, National Anthem, Invocation7:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Seated Dinner.....7:15 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Remarks, Dessert and Coffee8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Dancing, Celebrating and Photo Op8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

I.U.E.C. 71



100th Anniversary

OUR LOCAL'S PAST DICTATES ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE SUCCESS

Greetings to all, and welcome to the 100th anniversary of International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 71. As the local's business manager, it is truly an honor and privilege to serve the membership and to celebrate this momentous occasion with you all.

I myself am very proud of our rich heritage; I am a second-generation elevator constructor out of Local 1. I would like to thank our forefathers – including my father, who served Local 1 for 35 years – for helping bring this union to where it is today. Without the pride and commitment passed down from our founders and those who came before us, we would not have the opportunities that we have to pass along to the next generation.

I would like to take a moment to address the future of our organization. Each and every member has the ability to make themselves better, in the classroom and on the jobsites, so we must continue to challenge ourselves in this trade. As our trade changes and progresses, we must adapt. Solid leadership will also be essential in all areas of our trade, so we will need strong officers to represent our local union.

Let's continue to work on strengthening our union, which has allowed us to provide so much for our families. All of our families benefit from solidarity, because we are only as strong as our weakest member. It is our responsibility to ensure that the spark ignited here 100 years ago continues to light the way for our future generations as it has for us all.

Thanks to all Local 71 members, active, retired and those no longer with us; and our brothers and sisters in the I.U.E.C and the entire labor movement. I also thank our contractors and all of our sponsors who have helped I.U.E.C Local 71 achieve this incredible milestone. And a special "thank you" to the Local 71 committee that helped make our 100th anniversary celebration a success.

Fraternally,

John Herbert, Business Manager
I.U.E.C. Local 71, South Florida



This book was proudly produced by

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Local 71 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to the history contained within this book:

Local 71 Office Administrator Dawn Matthews (who has been working at the local for nearly 22 years since taking the position on January 29, 2002)

Local 71 retirees Mike "Salty" Stella, John Petite, William Grubb, E. P. Roberts, Greg "Randy" Sentell, Robert Stoops and Jeff Aronson

I.U.E.C. International Office; Anita Richards, General Executive Assistant

Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson
Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson

Art Direction: Andy Taucher
Layout & Design: Steven Demanett
Research Assistant: Jason D'Addario



The 100-Year History of Elevator Constructors Local 71

MOVING MIAMI AND SOUTH FLORIDA FORWARD



With Miami on the verge of a population surge and a boom in construction that would see an immense number of residential, commercial and public buildings and hotels erected throughout the city beginning in 1921, the **International Union of Elevator Constructors** (I.U.E.C.) organized a local union based in Jacksonville to oversee and expand the union elevator-construction industry throughout the State of Florida. Shortly after it chartered **Local No. 49** on June 28, 1919, the union in 1921 assigned **Brother William Wearer**, a mechanic working for Otis Elevator Company, as an assistant business agent to manage Miami and the surrounding area.

Meanwhile, the effects of the “Roaring Twenties,” a period of extraordinary economic growth and prosperity in the United States that generated a dramatic rise in construction

around the country from 1920 to late 1929, helped propel Miami’s rapid development. As such, the city’s population nearly doubled from the beginning of the decade to 1923 to nearly 60,000, and in 1925, according to the *R. L. Polk Miami City Directory*, Miami had 136 hotels and 665 apartment houses while during the first 10 months of that year, more than \$30-million (equivalent to more than \$540-million in 2024) was “poured into construction of this type.”

Also during that time, the I.U.E.C. and its employers across the country signed their first national agreement in 1922 after representatives of the union met with elevator manufacturers in Atlantic City. The pact, known as the **Atlantic City Agreement**, and ratified by delegates to the 12th I.U.E.C. Convention that year, set a wage scale for union elevator constructors based on those of the seven primary trades in the building industry: bricklayers, plasterers,

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE I.U.E.C.

"They were unanimous in their resolve and solidarity."

— From "History of the I.U.E.C.," 2001

Eleven men representing six unaffiliated elevator-constructor local unions from six different cities (including New York City) met on July 15, 1901, at the Griswold Hotel in Pittsburgh to bring together the various independent locals across the country into one national union. That very day, those delegates officially formed the **National Union of Elevator Constructors**, and by July 18, they had also adopted the new union's bylaws and elected its first slate of officers, including **President F. W. Doyle** of St. Louis.

Just two years later in 1903, the union became the **International Union of Elevator Constructors** after it committed funds to the Ottawa Defense Fund on behalf of striking constructors in Canada.

Although an agreement between the I.U.E.C. and the elevator manufacturers that stated only the union would construct elevators was recognized when the American Federation of Labor granted the I.U.E.C. a charter in June 1903, contentious jurisdictional disputes with other trade unions persisted throughout the following decades. Most notably or at first, ongoing clashes with the Association of Mechanics were not resolved until 1914 at the A.F.L. National Convention. Then in 1920, the elevator contractors again successfully protected their jurisdiction over electrical work on elevator construction from a major challenge by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Then in 1922, the I.U.E.C. and its employers signed their first national agreement. Known as the **Atlantic City**

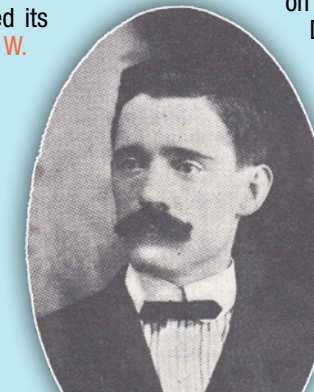
Agreement after the city in which it was agreed upon, it set a wage scale for elevator constructors based on those of the seven primary trades in the building industry: bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, electricians, sheet metal workers, plumbers, steamfitters and ironworkers.

Among the countless benefits the union would go on to attain for its membership, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, it worked with elevator manufacturers to put a plan in place to create more work to counter the rampant unemployment of the membership across the country. As part of the strategy, the manufacturers made agreements with building owners by which repair work on elevators would be handled through the installing company, while the I.U.E.C. accepted a reduction in wages for the new maintenance work, which created a large amount of new jobs.

Seven decades later when the I.U.E.C. marked its 100th anniversary in July 2001, it was more than 25,000 members strong. As the union's centennial history states:

"There could be no skyscrapers without elevators. Technology created the need, and members of the I.U.E.C. filled that need, becoming the most qualified and trained constructors of elevators in the world. This need for qualified elevator constructors to make higher rises possible gave the I.U.E.C. its strength."

(Abridged from "History of the I.U.E.C.")



First I.U.E.C. General President F. W. Doyle

carpenters, electricians, sheet metal workers, plumbers, steamfitters and ironworkers.

In that setting, the international union chartered **Local No. 71** on **January 9, 1924**, to represent its members and the organized elevator-construction industry in the burgeoning City of Miami and the South Florida region. With 12 charter members, the local subsequently announced in the March 1924 issue of *The Elevator Constructor*, the union's monthly member journal:

"The fact of us being unorganized until now has handicapped us somewhat, from now on we naturally expect better results."

EXPANDING THE NEW LOCAL

Initially meeting on the first and third Mondays of each month at 253 Southwest 7th Street in Miami under the leadership of **President Rudolph M. Dannenfelser**, the fledgling Local 71 immediately enjoyed strong employment conditions. "Things continue to move at a pretty good pace in this neck-of-the- woods," Local 71 correspondent **Brother Edward G. Moss** even wrote in a letter in the April 1924 *Elevator Constructor*. "Quite a lot of new hotels and office buildings of large size are under construction and planned to be started in the immediate future. The business outlook is very good, in fact better than ever."



To Whom It May Concern Greeting:

This Charter, issued by the authority of the Executive Council of the International Union of Elevator Constructors, does grant to the herein named organization and to its successors power to establish and hold a Local Union of this International Union, to be located at MIAMI, in the STATE of FLORIDA and to be known and hailed as MIAMI Local Union, No. 71, of the International Union of Elevator Constructors.

THIS CHARTER grants to said Local Union all powers delegated by the Constitution. The conditions of this Charter are such that it may be retained so long as TEN MEMBERS in good standing desire and so long as this Local Union promptly pays its dues and is not reclaimed by the Executive Council of the International Union.

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and the seal of this International Union of Elevator Constructors, this NINTH day of JANUARY, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Four

Joseph Murphy
General Secretary-Treasurer



Frank Feeney
General President

The I.U.E.C. Local 71 charter, dated January 9, 1924, and signed by I.U.E.C. General President Frank Feeney (who served in that position from 1916 until his death in 1938) and General Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Murphy.



Local 71 members pose during a fishing outing in the fall of 1924.

Steady when not abundant employment for the local's members continued throughout the balance of the first half of decade. In fact, Brother Moss even noted in the July 1924 *Constructor* that while elevator constructors in South Florida "generally have a few weeks of slack time" before their "rush season," that year those "weeks dwindle to days; our regular six months of rush season has started in with an enormous stride and things look fair to give us not less than nine months to a year of one of the largest seasons experienced in this locality."

As the Miami construction industry prepared later that year for what all signs indicated would be its most prosperous building season in 1924-1925, with many new hotels, apartment houses and office buildings already going up, the local's correspondent further declared in the October 1924 *Constructor*:

"Our local is increasing as Miami grows, and say, it sure is growing some. And we don't mean 'maybe.'"

Among the projects on which the local's members were employed during that time was

construction of the new, 28-story **Dade County Courthouse** (which became the Miami-Dade County Courthouse) in Miami from 1925 through 1928. When completed that year, the \$4-million, 361-foot-tall building would be the tallest in Florida.

However, non-union construction firms remained prevalent within the Local 71 jurisdiction during that time. In particular, the structural steel for the courthouse was erected by a non-union, "open-shop" contractor, despite the efforts of other building-trades crafts including the elevator constructors to have the contractor changed, which included all union craftsmen on the project walking off the job in protest in April 1927.

Regardless, as *The Miami Herald* would later report on December 1, 1935, members of the **Miami Building Trades Council**, which included the elevator constructors, "built all the massive buildings in Miami with one exception." The article went on to attest, "It was found that only one building in the Metropolitan Miami area more than two stories in height was constructed by mechanics other than those of the organization."

Indeed, well into the spring of 1926, the local's members remained busy throughout its jurisdiction on the "tremendous amount of work that has been going on," as correspondent **Brother Troy E. Daniels** described in that year's May *Constructor*. By September of that year, those union elevator constructors were earning \$14 per day in wages.

But logistical shortcomings that would hinder the South Florida building boom over the next two years were already beginning to hamper construction in general and, more specifically, the employment of Local 71 constructors. The delays caused by overloaded material transportation systems was further

impeded on January 10, 1926, when a Danish warship on its way to becoming a floating hotel ran aground and blocked Miami Harbor for nearly a month.

Addressing the local's overall situation, Brother Daniels further wrote that May, "One can realize only to a small extent the hardships and inconveniences that have had to be faced when all incoming supplies have been held up by embargoes of every sort."

Adding to the collapse of the construction industry was the catastrophic "Great Miami Hurricane" that swept through the area on September 18, 1926, and ended the building boom for good. As a further result of the Category 4 storm, which was the 12th-costliest

hurricane to strike the United States during the 20th Century, "the City of Miami began experiencing the Great Depression ... three years earlier than the rest of the country," the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography declares on its *Hurricanes: Science and Society* website.

Indeed, in the aftermath, Local 71 regularly struggled for the remainder of the decade. "I will say all members ... are still on the waiting list for work," member **Brother Jason H. Brewerton** announced in the April 1927 *Constructor* during one particular down period. "We hope conditions will change in the next few weeks and to have all members again back at work."



The Dade County Courthouse in Miami under construction with Local 71 members in June 1927 (left) and September 1927 before it was completed and opened in May the following year. (Photos from the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory Program.)

LOCAL 71 UNION HALLS

(All locations are in Miami unless otherwise indicated.)

Otis Elevator Company
235 Northwest Second Avenue
1924 – 1925

Carpenters Union Hall
47 Northwest Third Street
1925 – 1932

Peterson Residence
836 Northwest 12th Street
(Home of Local 71 member George
F. Peterson, a mechanic's helper
with Otis Elevator Company)
1932 – 1935

Miami Labor Temple
925 Northeast First Avenue
1935 – 1942

Carpenters Union Hall
47 Northwest Third Street
1942 – 1964

Aviation Bldg., Rm. 432
3240 N.W. 27th Avenue
1964 – 1971

Local 71 Union Hall
336 Northeast 59th Street
1971 – 1974

Local 71 Union Hall
6501 Northwest 36th Street
1974 – 1976

Local 71 Union Hall
3500 Northwest 77th Court
1976 – 1978

Local 71 Union Hall
3800 Northwest 35th Avenue
1978 – 2021

Local 71 Union Offices
1909 Tyler Street, Suite 603
Hollywood, Florida
(Meetings held at the former Union
Hall and also at the local's Training
Center at 3805 Northwest 35th Avenue)
2021 – current

Local 71 also holds satellite meetings for members in
Naples and West Palm Beach.

Local 71 purchased the 12,500-square-foot property at
1771 State Road 7 in Fort Lauderdale in early 2023 in which
it is establishing its future Union Hall and Training Center.

SURVIVING HISTORIC TURMOIL

Following Miami's construction demise, Local 71 and the entire nation faced a more-devastating catastrophe with the onset of the **Great Depression**, the historic economic and human disaster that began after the U.S. stock market crashed on October 29, 1929 (history's "Black Tuesday"). During the decade-long turmoil, at one point more than 16,000 residents of the city of 110,000 were unemployed.

The depression was especially severe for elevator constructors around the country, and while assistance for some building-trades unions came from Federally funded "New Deal" programs, put in place by the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration to help boost employment, most of those projects "did nothing to help the elevator constructors," as the *History of the I.U.E.C.* notes. Conversely, according to the international history, elevator-manufacturing industry sales of elevators reached \$77 million in new sales for 1929 but by 1934, sales had dropped to only \$11 million – "and nearly all elevator constructors were out of work."

By March 1931, more than two-thirds of the Local 71 membership was unemployed. "Under normal conditions, we can fill all demands and give each brother a little work," Brother Brewerton remarked in that month's *Elevator Constructor*; however, the local was far from experiencing normal conditions.

Seeking to alleviate some of the damaging effects of the times on its membership, later that year the I.U.E.C. approved a new national agreement with employers for maintenance work that called for a slight reduction in wages. As a result, it created a considerable number of jobs to fix and upgrade existing elevators.

But by October, elevator constructors in Miami were receiving little more than five

working hours per week and the local was unable to provide any manhours for traveling brothers from other I.U.E.C. locals who were seeking jobs in the Local 71 jurisdiction. Subsequently, Brother Brewerton went so far as to announce in that month's *Constructor*, "We are unable to furnish our brothers with the work necessary to enable them to supply their families with the much-needed necessities of life."

After nearly 10 years of economic distress, however, "South Florida began to show signs of economic recovery by 1936," the *Miami History Blog* notes. "Miami Beach saw a construction boom of apartment buildings and hotels which provided accommodations for the working class who were granted and took advantage of paid vacation for the first time during this era. The boom provided a vacation destination for Americans who were ready to start traveling after years of sacrifice during the depths of economic stagnation."

By 1939, while Local 71 members were benefiting from the newly flourishing building industry in and around Miami, I.U.E.C. locals across the country were "getting back on their feet and the unemployed were returning to work as jobs began to grow in the industry," according to *History of the I.U.E.C.*

MAKING SUBSTANTIAL GAINS

The Florida and national economies were dramatically boosted after the United States entered **World War II** on the side of the Allies following the attack by Imperial Japan on the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, and U.S. military spending soared. In particular, the area's "flat terrain, broad waters and mild weather" attracted the Armed Forces to Greater Miami, according to an essay in the November 9, 2020, *Biscayne Bay Tribune*, where the Army and Navy established large

training bases whose construction and maintenance helped keep Local 71 members not called to serve in the military busy throughout the global conflict.

Following the war's end after Nazi Germany officially surrendered to the Allies on May 7, 1945, and Japan then surrendered four months later on September 2, the construction industry received another boost when the Federal government in 1946 lifted economic controls put in place to protect costs during the war. "The economy began rampaging," the *History of the I.U.E.C.* states. "Prices soared and wages moved in unison."

In turn, another substantial building boom took hold in South Florida after the war, providing an abundance of manhours for the Local 71 membership throughout the second half of the 1940s.

During that time, to further support itself and organized labor, Local 71 remained active in the Miami Building Trades Council and the **Florida State Federation of Labor**, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor (a national alliance of labor unions that would merge with the rival Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955 to form the A.F.L.-C.I.O.). The local was also involved with the **United Labor Political Committee** as another way to support the union building trades through political action that supported labor-friendly candidates and legislation – as the local continues to do as it celebrates its 100th charter anniversary in 2024.

Meanwhile, the Federal Taft-Hartley Act, passed in 1947 primarily to inhibit the activities of building-trades unions, was having its intended effect. It "was a blow to solidarity and a setback to the unions," as the *History of the I.U.E.C.* notes, though it was "hardly a fatal setback as its sponsors hoped." What's more, Federal economic controls were put back in place in 1951 to again help curb escalating costs and wages in the booming U.S.



Local 71 Delegate Ernest L. Stevens (left), acting as temporary chairman of the I.U.E.C. Convention Election Committee, presents the gavel to I.U.E.C. General President R. Wayne Williams after he was reelected in 1971.

economy, when on July 26, the Construction Industry Stabilization Commission issued a basic regulation covering the payment of union construction workers that prohibited wage increases above 10 percent of the “area rate.”

“The restrictions were severe for the I.U.E.C.,” the union’s history states. “The Commission disallowed double time as overtime pay for elevator construction work, allowing only time and a half. No wage increases were approved for elevator constructors.”

But employment conditions remained favorable for Local 71 throughout the balance of the decade, during which its members worked on several significant projects such as the 125-bed first wing of the new **Mercy**

Hospital, which would open in December 1950 in the Coconut Grove neighborhood of Miami. Elevator constructors were also granted a wage increase from \$2.25 to \$2.50 per hour for journeymen and 17-1/2 cents to \$2.20 per hour for helpers.

A glut of other key jobs on which the local’s members worked into the 1950s included upgrades and maintenance at the **Hialeah Park Race Track** in Hialeah, Florida, that was originally built in 1922 for dog and horse racing. Elsewhere, union constructors also installed elevators in the new **Miami Memorial Public Library** that was built in 1951 at Bayfront Park (after which it came to be known as the “main library” because it served as the department’s central library until 1985.)

After the rigid economic controls were repealed in 1953, the I.U.E.C. returned to its national Atlantic City Agreement, which allowed for regular wage increases for its locals (except Local 1 of New York City, which maintained its own collectively bargained agreements with its employers). Meanwhile, the I.U.E.C. negotiated with the National Elevator Manufacturing Industry for the new **National Elevator Manufacturing Industry (NEMI) Welfare Insurance Plan** to be included in its national agreement effective October 1, 1952, for its locals, including Local 71.

With steady employment across the 1950s, Local 71 also established its own **Local 71 Retirement Fund** for members in 1958. It also implemented a **Jury Duty Benefit** and an “on-job” weekly **Disability Benefit** for members who could not work, each of which was funded by regular, set contributions from each member.

To close the decade, the following year the local received a 16-cent increase through the national agreement that raised the wage scale for its journeyman mechanics to \$3.71 per hour and its helpers to \$2.60 per hour.

PROSPERING AND STRIKING

“We have the finest and best working conditions we have ever had.”

By the time Local 71 correspondent **Brother John E. Borden** made that declaration in the May 1963 *Elevator Constructor*, the local had been making “tremendous progress” over the previous several years. In fact, the local was so busy with jobs that in 1962 it first assigned stewards to oversee jobs in outlying areas, with **Brother J. P. Johnston** allocated to cover Fort Lauderdale and **Brother Ralph R. Wharton** covering Palm Beach.

What’s more, in 1962 the I.U.E.C. National Agreement with employers not only provided new outlays for the NEMI Welfare Plan, but it

SUPPLYING ITS MEMBERSHIP WITH LIFE-SUSTAINING BENEFITS

The local is able to provide its members with health-insurance and pension and annuity retirement benefits through its collectively bargained contract with its employers, who pay into those funds based on hours worked by the local’s active membership. Through continued bargaining, the **I.U.E.C. Welfare Plan**, which was instituted in 1952, and the **I.U.E.C. Pension Plan**, which began in 1962, have each substantially improved since their inception. The I.U.E.C. also added a **401(k) Retirement Plan** to members’ benefits in 2000.

As such, **Local 71 received the following letter from a retired member in March 1989.**

Dear Brothers/Sisters:

As I promised when I talked to you last, I am writing to you concerning our health-insurance benefits.

As you know, my wife passed away on October 29, 1988, after a bout with cancer. She went into the hospital on June 26 and lymphosarcoma was diagnosed. She had to have major surgery before they could start chemotherapy. During her illness, she was only home about a month.

Her hospital bill alone was over \$70,000, out of which I only had to pay \$1 a day on the room. At this point, most of her bills have been paid, except one doctor bill that will probably be between \$3,000 and \$4,000. The total cost for her treatment is going to be about \$90,000, of which I have paid less than \$200.

I would like for the membership to know what a valuable asset we have in our welfare plan. Without it, I would have spent everything I worked for in 30 years.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Elliott

also included provisions for the new **National Elevator Industry Pension Plan** for the membership of the union’s locals.

Strong employment persisted throughout the first half of the 1960s, prompting Local 71

(Continued after the following spread.)



LOCAL 71 LEADERSHIP

(Local 71 instituted the elected, full-time position of business manager in 1974 to run the daily operations of the local after its membership had grown too large for just the business agent and president to handle those duties.)

Presidents

Rudolph M. Dannenfelser
1924 – 1928

Rollie B. Blackwelder
1929 – 1931

Jason S. McGloughlin
1931 – 1932

Rollie B. Blackwelder
1932 – 1933

Horace D. Jones
1933 – 1935

Troy E. Daniel
1935 – 1936

Rollie B. Blackwelder
1936 – 1939

J. H. Patrick
1939 – 1940

Horace T. Terhune
1940 – 1944

Carroll Rasor
1944 – 1946

Rollie B. Blackwelder
1946 - 1948

William H. Pierce
1948 – 1951

Luman L. Adams
1951 – 1952

H. H. Smith
1952 – 1953

Horace T. Terhune
1953 – 1960

Walter W. Davis
1960

John H. McGregor
1960 - 1962

Richard F. Pope
1962 – 1967

Charles Burandt
1967

Charles B. Scrivner
1967 – 1968

Edward W. Stubbe
1968 – 1969

Eugene P. Roberts
1969 – 1971

Arthur E. Carlson
1971 – 1972

Alonzo C. Decker
1972 – 1974

Lawton Kelly
1974 – 1977

Arthur E. Carlsen
1977 – 1982

James Carlsen Sr.
1982 – 1991

Robert Romeo
1991 – 2003

Frank Lopez
2003 – 2005

Ken Mittelberg
2005 – 2009

Gerald “Jerry” Morale
2009 – 2018

Nelson Milian
2018 – 2022

Matthew Vella
2022 – current

Financial Secretary/ Treasurers

Jason H. Brewerton
1924 – 1925

Allan C. Crawford
1925

Charles H. McGregor
1925 - 1926

Jason S. McGloughlin
1926 – 1931

Victor A. Keller
1931 – 1937

James E. Ferguson
1937 – 1952

Ernest L. Stevens
1952

John H. McGregor
1952 – 1953

James E. Ferguson
1953 – 1954

Robert A. Wade
1954 – 1957

Richard F. Pope
1957 – 1959

Ernest L. Stevens
1959 – 1963

E. Henry Ryder Jr.
1963 – 1966

William F. Scott
1966 – 1967

Eugene P. Roberts
1967 – 1970

Chuck E. Lewis
1970 – 1971

Alonzo C. Decker
1971 – 1973

Eugene P. Roberts
1973 – 1982

Robert A. Wulff
1982 – 1987

John A. Pettit
1987 – 2017

A. D. Martinez
2017 – 2018

Matt Vella
2018 – 2022

Mike Sansone
2022 - current

Business Agents

Elzia J. DeLoach
1924 – 1926

Edward R. Leigh
1926 – 1927

Jason S. McGloughlin
1927 – 1928

John S. Ried
1928 – 1931

Malcolm McLaughlin
1931 – 1932

John S. Ried
1932 – 1933

Rollie B. Blackwelder
1933 – 1935

Jason S. McGloughlin
1935 – 1952

John S. Ried
1952 – 1953

Jason S. McGloughlin
1953

John E. Borden
1953 – 1963

Ernest L. Stevens
1963 – 1970

George M. E. Morton
1970 – 1973

William A. Daye
1973 – 1977

Thomas P. Reilly
1977 – 1978

<none>
1978 – 1982

Eugene P. Roberts
1982 – 1984

Arthur E. Carlsen
1984 – 1991

Frank P. Connelly
1991 – 1993

Frank Lucas
1993 – 2007
Mike Hynds
2007 – 2011

Greg Levenson
2011 – 2018

John Herbert
2018 – 2021

Gerald “Jerry” Morale
2018 – 2022

Nelson Milian
Tommy Scudiero
2022 – current

Business Managers

George M. E. Morton
1973 – 1977

Richard W. Scariot
1977 – 1991

Michael J. Hammar
1991 – 1998

Tom Story
1998 – 2003

James Carlsen Sr.
2003 – 2012

Robbie Stoops
2012 – 2018

Greg Levenson
2018 – 2021

John Herbert
2021 – current

BREAKING RACIAL BARRIERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES

During the Civil Rights Movement that sought to advance racial equality and abolish racial discrimination in the United States during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, Local 71 was among the building trades unions in Miami that worked to integrate minorities into the construction industry. As such, in November 1973, Local 71 was one of the nine construction trades locals in the city that met or exceeded their "minority placement goals" as part of the **Miami Hometown Plan**.

Modeled after the prototype Philadelphia Plan, the Hometown Plan was established by unions and builders in the Miami-Dade County area to increase minority membership in the trades, after a study by the federal government "showed a lack of minority membership in the lucrative building trades," according to an article on the November 8, 1973, *Miami News*. A federal compliance audit that measured progress of the plan during the 12-month period ending January 17, 1973, showed that the eight other craft locals fell short of their goals, the newspaper reported.

The goals of the crafts that did meet their self-imposed standards, including the elevator constructors, ranged from five to 15 workers. At the time, according to the newspaper, the Miami plan was one of more than 60 U.S. Labor Department-approved voluntary, or "hometown," plans in the nation.

Business Manager Ernest L. Stevens to declare during the local's November 18, 1963, regular membership meeting that "the work situation is generally good with all the companies" – a sentiment he often repeated at previous and future meetings. The following year on August 24, 1964, he was also able to report that "there are enough job contracts already signed by the manufacturers to carry into June of 1965."

The surplus of prominent and smaller jobs on which the local's elevator constructors worked during that time included construction of the 30-story **New World Tower** in the Central

Business District of downtown Miami from 1963 into 1965. Now known as 100 Biscayne, the mixed-use commercial, office and residential skyscraper contains seven lifts/elevators.

Into the second half of the decade, Local 71 correspondent **Brother Walter Braun** was able to report in the February 1966 *Constructor*, "We still have enough work to keep the wolf away from the door." However, while he could also write in that year's August issue of the union's journal that more work was on contract with the local's employers "than we could possibly finish before the end of the year," he also warned that many of the jobs were being stalled because of strikes by some locals of other trades.

Then early the next year on February 5, 1967, more than 14,000 elevator maintenance, construction and repairmen across the country, including the more than 300 members of Local 71, went on strike against their employers after contract negotiations between the I.U.E.C. and NEMI broke down the previous day. The first elevator-industry-wide strike since 1921 began after the five-year contract between the union and the companies ended December 31, 1966, and no new pact was reached after it was extended through midnight February 3 while bargaining continued.

At the center of the conflict was the issue of wages, on which Federal Mediator William Rose announced in the February 6 *Miami Herald* "both sides are far apart." Additionally, NEMI balked at the union's demand for guarantees against job losses as new methods of elevator construction threatened to cut into the jobs of its members.

After 49 days, the strike ended when the two sides settled on an agreement on March 23 "after 15 days of nearly continual negotiation," the *Fort Lauderdale News* reported the following day. The five-year contract stipulated that wage rates and fringe benefits would be determined by averaging the rates and benefits of the four highest buildings-trades unions receive in each city, which provided

small gains in pay, health and welfare funds and vacation time for Local 71.

The local's entire membership was back to work and employed soon after the strike, during which the local found employment for many of its members, primarily through small, independent contractors. "(Business Manager) Stevens did a wonderful job in placing men during the strike," **Brother Lawton Kelly** reported in the June 1967 *Constructor*. "Most everyone co-operated very well."

Work also remained steady into the following year before hitting a lull as construction in South Florida lagged during the late 1960s before picking back up again before the end of the decade. At the time, the I.U.E.C. contract provided a new wage scale of \$6.25 per hour for journeymen constructors and \$4.37-1/2 per hour for helpers effective December 1, 1969, for the remainder of the year.

ENDURING NEW CHALLENGES

Local 71 members endured "slow" employment conditions throughout the early 1970s, with correspondent **Brother Phil Portz** even announcing in the April 1971 *Elevator Constructor*, "The work situation is very bad." One of the constant concerns during that time was union elevator constructors losing manhours because workers from other trades were drilling the "hydro holes" into which the hydraulic cylinders for hydraulic elevators would extend into the ground, which was a job that fell under the jurisdiction of the I.U.E.C.

The local did, however, move into a new union hall on Northeast 59th Street in Miami in early 1971. Given the work situation, the new location was "adequate at this time," as Brother Portz also mentioned in the *Constructor*.



Local 71 Business Manager Richard "Dick" Scariot (standing) presents member Ed Stubbe with his I.U.E.C. Gold Membership card during an event to celebrate Brother Stubbe's retirement on September 22, 1979.

Driven by a surge in office construction in Miami, work for Local 71 picked up into 1972. Early that year, members would install construction lifts and construct or prepare to install interior elevators for several new projects that included the **Imperial Point Hospital** in Fort Lauderdale and three seven-story parking garages at **Miami International Airport**, each with three elevators, for Otis Elevator – which at the time was installing and maintaining about 80 percent of the nearly 4,000 elevators in Dade County.

Members working for new employer U.S. Elevator Company also installed elevators and lifts into the new, 28-story **Landmark Bank Building** (now One Financial Plaza) in Fort Lauderdale during its construction before it was completed and opened in 1972. At that time, after the union constructors had installed six high-rise elevators for the tower, it was the tallest building in the Fort Lauderdale area.

Elsewhere, members were looking forward to working for Westinghouse Elevator on the new, 39-story **One Biscayne Tower** in downtown Miami that was just underway. Additionally,

employers Miami Elevator and Broward Elevator reportedly had enough work to keep its Local 71 employees busy.

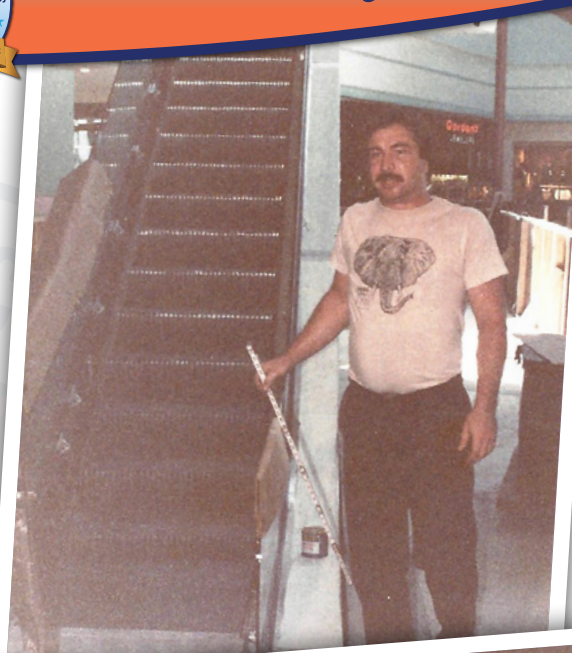
But the I.U.E.C. began another nationwide strike of its 18,000 members on March 29, 1972, over disputes concerning wages and union hiring practices in negotiations with NEMI. As the walkout continued into June, the strike slowed construction around Dade County, in which 360 Local 71 members were located, and South Florida, holding up practically all construction jobs in which elevators were involved, primarily because heavy equipment could not be moved to upper floors without construction lifts.

During the strike, many of the smaller elevator companies such as Miami Elevator Company entered into interim agreements with the union. The agreements allowed them to use skeleton union crews during the strike if they would accept the eventual terms of the strike settlement, enabling many Local 71 members to get work with the firms that signed a temporary pact.

After 102 days – more than three months – the I.U.E.C. and NEMI settled the strike with the assistance of Federal mediators by coming to terms on a new, five-year agreement on July 8 that would extend to July 8, 1977. Among its provisions, the contract provided an immediate wage raise of about 5.5-percent in the first year and continued the wage formula of the “Atlantic City Plan,” which divided the nation into sections and set elevator constructor wages at the average level of the four highest-paid among seven related construction trades.

Almost immediately after the strike, work and employment surged for the Local 71 membership throughout South Florida. “Times are good now,” by which time 786 elevator constructors were working out of the local.

By December of that year, the local had grown large enough to have two officers in its



Local 71 members William Grubb (top photo) and Charlie Reeder (left, middle photo) and an unknown member work on installing escalators during renovation of the Pompano Square shopping mall in Pompano Beach in 1985.



business office. As such, that month the local’s ballot for officers included a business agent and a first-ever business manager position, for which **Brother George M. E. Morton** would win election to the new post that began January 1, 1973.

However, after the local purchased a new, 5,000-square-foot property on Northwest 36th Street in Miami in early 1974 into which it moved its union hall that year, a nationwide recession beginning in early 1975 would hamper employment throughout much of the remainder of the decade. With well over 100 members out of work at times, the local moved into another new union hall on Northwest 77th Court in late 1976.

After two years, the local’s employment situation improved dramatically in early 1978. “Work in general has picked up,” **Brother Tommy Dykes** reported in the April 1978 *Constructor*, “but we still have a lot of men out of work.”

Conditions continued to progress the following year, as well, with Westinghouse “going strong” at the airport and Otis working on three large buildings on Brickell Avenue, the local announced in the April 1979 *Constructor*. Miami Elevator likewise had a good amount of work in the Palm Beach area; Montgomery was “holding its own” with jobs that included the new **Sheridan Inn** in Fort Lauderdale; and Houghton Elevator “had a few jobs on the books.”

What’s more, by that time, that local had its **Transportation and Expense Agreement** in place, making it one of the few trades in South Florida that had an expense benefit. With the agreement, members were provided with travel allowances for jobs outside certain mileage points around Miami, West Palm Beach and Naples, as well as 15 cents per mile when furnishing their own vehicles for “company business.”

But by the late 1970s, the elevator constructors and all of the state’s union building trades were

also “fighting for their lives against the non-union element,” Local 71 **Business Manager Richard W. Scariot** revealed in the April 1979 *Constructor*. In the elevator industry alone at that time, 19 non-union companies were operating in the Dade, Broward and Collier counties area and “picking up some pretty sophisticated equipment.”

Referencing an I.U.E.C. report that identified a “concerning number of non-union elevator companies in South Florida, Business Manager Scariot had already appealed to the Local 71 membership in a letter in the February 1978 *Constructor*:

“As union Brothers, we are going to have to give just a little bit more to please the customer, to keep him from going to a non-union company for maintenance, service or new construction. We do have an advantage over non-union companies as far as qualified people are concerned. The Mechanics and Helpers of Local 71 are second to none.”

EXPERIENCING UPS, DOWNS

“Steady” was the preeminent word used in Local 71 reports to describe the local’s employment throughout the first half of the 1980s. “The work situation looks pretty good down here in the deep south,” correspondent **Brother Dennis Brouillette** even announced in the March 1985 issue of the *Elevator Constructor*. “Just about everyone is working.”

Among a range of projects on which the local’s members worked during that time was construction of the **James L. Knight Convention Center** and adjoining **Hyatt Regency** hotel in downtown Miami. When completed and opened on October 2, 1982, the complex featured five escalators installed by Local 71 mechanics.

Thirteen teams of union elevator constructors with Schindler Elevator Company were also working on construction of the new, 55-story

LOCAL 71 A GOOD NEIGHBOR THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY

I.U.E.C. Local 71 has been an active and supportive member of its community during its 100-year existence, frequently answering the call whenever someone or some organization is in need. That commitment to being a concerned and caring neighbor by helping those who require assistance has been evident in the local's continued participation in the programs of benevolent organizations such as **Miami Feeding Miami**, **Dads Against Diabetes (D.A.D.s)**, **Toys For Tots**, the **Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Christmas Toy Drive** and the **United Way**.

The local's membership has likewise selflessly responded to specific calls to action over the past century from individuals and groups in need. For instance, during the 1990s alone, Local 71 members donated their time and talents to a host of charitable projects that included installing an elevator at the **Linda Ray Intervention Center** (which helps improve children's lives) in 1993 and a wheelchair lift at the **Miami Youth Museum** in 1996.

In the wake of the devastating Hurricane Andrew in August 1992, as it has after many natural disasters in South Florida, the state and the country, Local 71 provided aid to victims of the most destructive hurricane to ever hit Florida. Among other actions, Local 71 set up a **Hurricane Andrew Emergency Relief Fund** to assist residents who suffered significant losses – including more than 45 of the local's own members and their families.

More recently, the local has continued its legacy of philanthropy through to its 100th anniversary in 2024 with numerous efforts and events. In 2006, for instance, Local 71 hosted its first annual **"Fishing for a Cure" Dolphin Tournament** to benefit cancer research, and then in 2015, the local held its first annual **D.A.D.s Day Golf Tournament**, whose proceeds go to the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), A.F.L.-C.I.O., program to raise money for the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami.

Southeast Financial Center in 1983, during which the local had full employment of its membership. With 43 elevators, the office tower was the tallest building south of New York City and east of the Mississippi River when it was completed in October 1984.

Elsewhere, additional jobs employing Local 71 members included construction of the new, 1.2-million-square-foot **Aventura Mall**, for which the union mechanics installed 10 glass elevators for its opening in April 1983. With downtown Miami busy with construction,

crews also installed 16 elevator cars with top speeds of 800 feet per minute, with a modern, solid state control and state motor drive, in the new **Lincoln Center** (now 701 Brickell Avenue) 36-story office skyscraper that would open in 1986.

Meanwhile, with a large number of members living in the Palm Beach area, in 1983 the local began holding satellite meetings each quarter in West Palm Beach. Soon after, the local also held meetings in Naples for members in that area.



Local 71 members and officers display the local's donations to the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital from its annual "Fishing for a Cure" Dolphin Tournament in 2023.

Conditions dropped significantly in 1985 as many construction jobs were completed and others were stalled or did not materialize, forcing the local and many other building trades to take a cut in wages that year. As such, Brother Brouillette had to report in the October 1985 *Constructor*, "The work situation is weak and getting weaker."

Before the end of 1986, however, construction work picked back up again in South Florida, and members were getting back to work within their jurisdiction. Jobs employing those constructors was highlighted by construction of the \$115-million **Joe Robbie Stadium** (now Hard Rock Stadium), the new home of the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League, that was completed in August 1987 with eight escalators and seven elevators installed by union mechanics working for Westinghouse.

Also that year, the I.U.E.C. relatively quickly reached a settlement on a new contract with the **National Elevator Industry, Inc. (NEII)**, the newly formed association of the union's employing contractors and manufacturers. The agreement prompted Business Manager Scariot to declare in the August 1987 *Constructor*, "We now have a good agreement with Otis and NEII for the next five years."

But work again took a turn in early 1988, and for the next year employment was stagnant. With concerns about the slow work persisting, in early 1989 the local even implemented a lottery during its meetings, with half of the proceeds being donated to unemployed members.

As had been the case throughout its history, construction and the resultant employment bounced back the following year, and the local's employment was holding pretty well as it approached the 1990s. One of the major projects that contributed to the recovery for Local 71 was a \$92-million renovation of the **Miami Beach Convention Center** that doubled its size in 1989.

FACING NEW HIGHS & LOWS

"It is always nice to see the union companies taking work away from the scabs."

While correspondent **Brother Roland J. Born** was hailing Miami Elevator's purchase of a "large chunk" of non-union Century Elevator in an essay in the July 1990 *Elevator Constructor*, employment for the local's membership remained cyclical during the initial years of the new decade. Down at the start of the decade, by June 1990 work was again abundant in the union elevator-construction industry of South Florida.

Mirroring the national economy's general course, which entered a recession in 1990 that lasted into mid-1991, at the end of that year the local's unemployment rate was just below 20 percent and the future did not look



Local 71 member Sister Regina Domenech

FIRSTS FOR FEMALE MEMBERS

Sister **Debbie Bannon Siegel** became the first female member of Local 71 when she was initiated into the I.U.E.C. in February 1982.

Sister **Regina Domenech** was the first female member to become an officer of the local when the membership elected her as a trustee in 2023.



A Local 71 Montgomery Elevator service crew sometime during the 1990s.

promising, as Brother Born later reported in the June 1992 *Constructor*, “The unemployment situation remains bad.” What’s more, although in early 1992 the local’s members received their first in-paycheck raises in over seven years (other increases having gone toward benefits), the local was still far from recovered from the effects of the recession by that summer.

Construction of the 40-story **Bristol Tower** in Miami beginning in early 1992, as well as the work created by the devastation Hurricane Andrew created after passing through South Florida on August 23 and 24 of that year, provided a marked boost to the local. As the 147-condominium unit approached completion in 1993, at which time it would be the tallest residential building south of New York City, the union

elevator constructors working there; at Miami International Airport on maintenance and upgrades; and elsewhere were again gainfully employed across the jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, a new, five-year national agreement between the I.U.E.C. and its employing elevator firms went into effect July 9, 1992. Using the averaging formula of other trades’ wages that was established in the “Atlantic City Plan,” the wage scale for Local 71 mechanics would eventually be set at \$20.82-1/2 per hour effective November 1, 1996, until the end of the contract.

After another lull in work during the mid-1990s, by early 1998 all Local 71 members were working again. Another extended decline in employment during 1999 was also reversed by an increase in maintenance and construction

Local 71 Workforce Training PREPARING THE INDUSTRY’S TOP ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS

Training its membership to be highly skilled and safe craftspeople has been a priority of I.U.E.C. Local 71 all through its century-long history. Consequently, its apprenticeship and journeyman-upgrade education program has evolved over the years along with the **National Elevator Industry Educational Program (NEIEP)**, a joint craft-training effort between the I.U.E.C. and its signatory contractors, after it was established in 1967.

Just prior to that, after years of providing apprenticeships through which potential members new to the elevator-constructing trade were educated primarily through on-the-job training but were given little formal classroom work, Local 71 set up its first-ever “**school for helpers**” (apprentices) after its members adopted an amendment on October 11, 1966, to conduct the program. The resultant standardized, structured instruction focused on National Elevator Manufacturing Industry specifications while also providing “side lessons” on topics such as safety and elevator-installation code requirements.

“The new school will be more interesting and more applicable,” Local 71 correspondent **Brother W. J. Braun** even declared in the August 1966 issue of the I.U.E.C. Elevator Constructor magazine. “It would even interest many of the mechanics.”

Before the end of that year, the local’s school was also hosting two classes each week for journeyman mechanics that focused on basic electricity and wiring theory. Meanwhile, apprentices were aligning hatches, shackling cables and aligning rails with models and props.

As both Local 71 and NEIEP advanced over the ensuing years, with the educational program developing to encompass all phases of construction and service, in 2005 the local had grown to the point that NEIEP assigned a full-time area coordinator to run its school program in South Florida, classes for which were held in the local’s union hall. The first coordinator, Local 71 member **Brother Frank Lopez**, was responsible for all NEIEP-related subjects such as class scheduling, on-the-job training, lease agreements, apprenticeship committee meetings, discipline, instructors and textbook acquisition.

Then on January 12, 2015, Local 71 and NEIEP opened the new **Training Center for Elevator Constructors** in property at 3805 Northwest 35th Avenue in Miami across from the local’s union hall. From the facility, which featured NEIEP modules and labs and hands-on equipment, the local began implementing the most complete education program available in the elevator industry for its apprentices and members. As such, Local 71 delivers world-class education, training and safety awareness to its elevator constructors to help maintain its position as the most highly-skilled labor force in South Florida’s conveyance industry.

As Local 71 approached its 100th anniversary in 2024, it sought to further its ability to train its members with the purchase in early 2023 of a new facility in Fort Lauderdale. When complete in the near future, the 12,500-square-foot property will serve as a union hall and training center that will enhance the local’s educational offerings for apprentices and mechanics so that they can gain and maintain the skills necessary to provide employers with a productive industry workforce.



Training at the Local 71 National Elevator Industry Educational Program (NEIEP) Training Center in Miami in 2015.



The 40-story Bristol Tower condominium high-rise in Miami under construction with Local 71 members in 1993 before it was completed and opened later that year.

before the end of the decade, the century and the millennium – although what was to be a signature union project in Hollywood had been progressing “at a snail’s pace” and had not yet produced any substantial manhours for the local.

HOLDING FAST AMID CHANGE

As Miami’s skyline dramatically transformed during the first eight years of the new “Y2K” (2000) Millennium, driven by a major spike in the construction of high-rise luxury condominiums, and scores of other significant projects were built throughout South Florida, Local 71 and its membership prospered. During that period, when member employment was not steady it was over-abundant and providing travelers from other I.U.E.C. locals with manhours.

“Work has been steady,” Local 71 correspondent **Brother Derek Stapleton** announced in the August 2000 *Elevator Constructor*. “All members were employed as of our June meeting.” More often than not, the local would repeat that description in reports during the ensuing years; for example, **Business Manager James Carlsen Sr.** declared in the local’s May 2006 newsletter:

“Our work situation in construction is BOOMING. As you can see, there are tower cranes everywhere with all the companies getting a piece of the pie.”



Retirees attending the Local 71 annual picnic in 1994.

At the center of the early employment binge for the organized building-trades industry, after much delay, was construction of the union-owned **The Diplomat Beach Resort** in Hollywood, which had been planned for opening in late 1999. Built with money from the pension fund of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry, Local 71 mechanics working for Otis installed 56 elevators and 10 escalators in the \$187-million, twin 36-tower, 998-room hotel and 209,000-square-foot convention center before it opened in 2002. *(The Diplomat has since been acquired by the Thayer Lodging Group in August 2014 and rebranded under the Curio collection by Hilton Worldwide.)*

During that time, the I.U.E.C. and its employers also signed a new, five-year national contract that went into effect July 9, 2002, with which Local 71 officers and members were “pleased,” according to Brother Stapleton. “Our officers and the delegates did a great job getting us this contract,” he further stated in the August 2002 *Constructor*. “We gained more this time than we ever have and basically gave nothing away.”

Ultimately, the local’s base wage rate for its journeyman mechanics would be raised to \$32.86 per hour effective January 1, 2007. Among benefits members would also receive was Health Plan contributions by employers that would increase to \$7.77-1/2 per hour for the final year; Pension Plan contributions that would increase to \$3.96 per hour for the final year; and a \$1.60-per-hour payment into the union’s **Annuity Fund** to be used by retired members.

With the new high-rises breaking ground in Miami and Fort Lauderdale keeping all of the



Local 71 member Brother Jeff “Silverback” Aronson at work at the American Heritage High School in Fort Lauderdale in 1997. (Twenty-six years later, Brother Aronson was instrumental in organizing the first-ever “Breakfast Club” for Local 71 retirees in 2022.)

local’s members busy into 2004, correspondent **Brother Mike Stella** reported in the March 2004 *Constructor*, “Work has been very steady, especially in construction.” Those numerous skyscrapers employing the union elevator constructors included **500 Brickell** in Miami’s Brickell neighborhood in which members installed 12 elevators in the twin 46-story towers of the residential complex before it was completed in 2008.

Even more work was created in South Florida in 2005 as a result of the effects of Hurricane Wilma, one of the costliest tropical cyclones in the state’s history, after it hit the region on October 24 following the devastating Category-5 Hurricane Katrina striking in late August. While members working in construction lost work time because of severe power outages and destroyed cranes, those in service and modernization were kept busy with work that resulted from elevators and escalators being damaged by water or shut down by power surges.

Employment conditions continued to flourish in 2006 and 2007 with a significant



While serving as I.U.E.C. general secretary-treasurer, Local 71 member Richard W. "Dick" Scariot (left) stands with I.U.E.C. General President Edward C. Sullivan (center) and Assistant to the General President Dana A. Brigham in January 1999. Brother Scariot served as the international's secretary-treasurer from January 6, 1992, until his retirement on March 31, 2001, during which time he ushered in the union's 401(k) program, after having served as Local 71's business manager from 1977 through 1991.

increase in the volume of work and the number of new high-rises being built in Southern Florida. Subsequently, the local hosted numerous travelers during that time to supplement its workforce.

Work took a "turn for the worse," as **Business Manager Jim Carlsen Sr.** declared in the April 2008 *Constructor*, after the start of the Great Recession in late 2007 that severely affected all



During Local 71's 25th annual picnic in 2004, retired members (left to right) Marty Stevulak, Artie Carlsen and Fred Beaudoin are presented with crowns as three of the five organizers of the first picnic in 1980.

of the construction projects that were begun in the local's jurisdiction during the previous few years. A steep financial crisis throughout the United States, the recession would continue into mid-2009.

By April 2008, the local had about 150 members on its out-of-work "bench," many of whom had not been employed since the previous October. One year later, by April 2009 the local still had 200 apprentices and 18 mechanics seeking employment – or nearly 25 percent of its more than 1,000 members.

"The work situation here is dire," correspondent **Brother John McClain** proclaimed in the May 2009 *Constructor*. "I drive around Miami and see construction jobs fenced off, apparently abandoned, with weeds growing where men should be working. There are high-rise buildings half-built that are going to be finished on the outside only, with no elevators installed. This is a terrible crisis."



Local 71 member Mark Escuage works on an escalator during a job in early 2005.

Some members were provided with a respite with the start of construction of the new **Marlins Park** (now LoanDepot Park) retractable-roof baseball stadium in Miami in July 2009. The \$634-million facility includes 10 escalators and eight passenger elevators installed by the union mechanics before the new home of Major League Baseball's Miami Marlins was completed in March 2012.

USHERING ANOTHER REVIVAL

The new 2010 decade brought with it a raise in the local's wage rate through the national agreement, with journeyman pay increasing from \$35.21 to \$36.44 per hour effective January 1, 2010. Benefit upgrades included a boost in Annuity Fund contributions by employers from \$2.75 to \$3.50 per hour worked by members.

But despite construction of the new baseball stadium, by the summer of 2010 the overall

employment situation for Local 71 had not improved much, as around 20 percent of its membership was still without work. Little changed before the end of the following year, at which time Brother McClain reported in the November 2011 *Elevator Constructor*, "We still have way too many good people on the bench."



Local 71 members Mike Stella (left) and Thomas Cortes perform a six-car modernization on gearless machines for Kone Elevator at the West Palm Beach Government Center in 2005.

(Continued after the following spread.)

A LOCAL THAT PLAYS TOGETHER

Since its inception in 1924, the Local 71 membership has enjoyed countless local-sponsored social activities. Early on, annual dances and fishing outings brought together members and their families away from their workplaces and construction sites.

More recently, Local 71 has held its **Annual Spring Picnic** since 1980, which was first organized by members **Fred Beaudoin, Marty Stevulak, Artie Carlsen, Richard Scariot** and **Dennis Woods**. That year, the local began the tradition with a picnic on Sunday, April 27, at T.Y. (Topeekeegee Yugnee) Park in Hollywood that was attended by 100 members and their guests; fast-forward 25 years later to 2004 and participation had grown to over 1,000 for the event that the local continues to host as it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2024.

Also in 1980, the local began hosting its **Annual Golf Tournament**. It also continues to provide members with its annual **Dolphin Fishing Tournament**, among a host of other activities.



2009 Picnic



2009 Picnic



2010 Fishing Tournament



2009 Fishing Tournament



2015 Picnic



2015 Golf Tournament



2009 Picnic



2015 Golf Tournament



2015 Golf Tournament



2016 Fishing Tournament



2018 Picnic



2018 Picnic



2018 Picnic



2018 Picnic



2023 Picnic



2023 Picnic



2023 Picnic



Local 71 candidates for office (left to right) Mike Stella, Frank Lucas, Tim Siemas Sr., Ken Mittleberg and Mickey Walker speak to the membership during election campaigns in 2006.

As a result of the lethargic employment, by September 2012 the local's membership had dropped below 700 – just under half of what it had been just a few years earlier.

The union was, however, able to negotiate another new contract that year. Although negotiations were difficult and the agreement was not as lucrative as the previous one, the union did not lose any ground, and Local 71's mechanics would receive a new wage scale in the first year of \$39.07 per hour.

Construction within the local's jurisdiction began picking up slowly into 2013; in fact, an article in that year's January 4 *Miami Herald* even reported, "Construction starts in Miami-Dade County posted strong gains in 2012 after a deep, six-year slide. ... Construction is under way on a dozen new condominiums in Miami-Dade County ... Commercial building

is picking up, too, particularly in Miami's hot new urban core."

Brother McClain subsequently remarked in the April 2013 *Constructor*, "That means a lot of elevators. ... So the outlook for this year is cautiously optimistic."

Work in South Florida held steady into 2014, although regular employment still eluded many of the local's more than 700 members as jobs were slow to break. Among projects that did provide manhours for the local's members was construction of the 85-story, mixed-use **Panorama Tower** in Miami that, after being put on hold during the Great Recession, would be the tallest building in the city when it was completed in July 2018.

Before the end of 2014, although the recovery was gradual, Brother McClain was able to



Local 71 at Miami Marlins Stadium

The Local 71 crew consisting of (left to right) William Hubbard, Robert Vera, Paul Cordes Jr., Allen Taft, Michael Adams, Richard Kump, Jay Morris, John Strand, Joe Allison, Jonathan Rowe, Timothy MacLellan, Luis Saez and Joseph Buffa that worked on construction of the new Marlins Park baseball stadium (now LoanDepot Park) in 2010 for its opening in 2012.

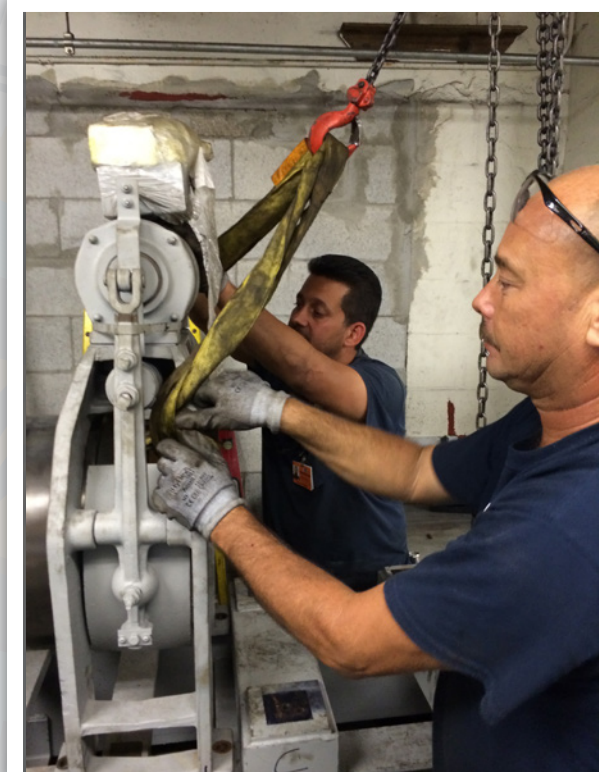
announce in the December 2014 *Constructor*, "Work has picked up in our local. Nearly everyone is back to work who wants to work."

The second half of the decade saw Local 71 and the South Florida construction industry in full recovery from the recession. An August 25, 2015, *New York Times* article even noted, "The construction boom of recent years south of here, in Miami Beach and its neighboring areas, has used up almost all the best lots. So developers are migrating north to Broward County locales like Hallandale Beach, Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale In Broward County's 24-mile coastal strip, 83 new residential towers, with 7,901 units, have been announced or are under construction – 37 of them in the last year. In Fort Lauderdale alone ... 44 such projects are in the works, 29 more than last year."

With strong employment conditions persisting throughout the balance of the 2010s, Brother McClain was able to constantly submit positive reports to the *Constructor*, such as his August 2016 submission that declared, "Work has turned around so much in our area that we have gone from a full bench to near full employment and have even had two recruitment

drives." Among similar announcements over the ensuing few years, the local's correspondent also broadcast in the May 2018 issue of the union's journal, "Most of our brothers are working. In fact, most of our employers have more work than they can handle."

Among the major projects that helped bring about the new-found good fortunes of the



Local 71 members Don Gibson (left) and Thomas Cortes install a Hollister-Whitney machine and controller for the modernization of a freight car at Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, in 2011.



Local 71 members working for Kone Construction and TKE Construction pose while having lunch together in Miami Beach in 2016.



Local 71 honorary retirees in 2023.

FIGHTING THROUGH TO 100TH

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which first appeared in the United States in early 2020 and would claim the lives of more than 1 million Americans into 2023, stifled the progress being made with construction in South Florida and employment for Local 71. The local also had to deal with the epidemic away from worksites, forcing it to cancel union meetings, apprentice training and its annual picnic that year and in 2021.

While it implemented online web-based online instruction for apprentices, the local would not host a union gathering after its March 9, 2020, regular membership meeting until December 2020, when it enforced strict mask and social-distancing measures to collect nominations for officer elections outside its union hall. The local did not hold an in-person, official union meeting at the hall until February 8, 2021, during which attendees were required to bring their own chairs, wear masks and practice social distancing.

When COVID-19 spiked again in early fall 2021 after appearing to have subsided, meetings were again canceled. By October of that year, more than 10 percent of the local's 800 members were out of work with some form of the disease.



Local 71 members (left to right) Frank Lopez, John Pettit, Rusty Gilbert, Greg Levenson, Robbie Stoops, Jerry Morale and Mike Stella pose after installing a flagpole at the local's new National Elevator Industry Educational Program (NEIEP) Training Center in Miami.

Local 71 membership was construction of the 60-story **Porsche Design Tower** luxury residential skyscraper in Sunny Isles Beach that was built from April 2014 through January 2017. The local's union elevator mechanics also installed lifts for the \$1.3-billion expansion of the **Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino** in Hollywood that featured a new, 35-story tower constructed to resemble a Gibson Les Paul guitar once completed in October 2019.

Elsewhere, other significant jobs for the Local 71 membership included the \$620-million remodel and expansion of the Miami Beach Convention Center that began in December 2015. Improvements to the convention center, for which the local's mechanics provided various lifts, included the addition of 263,000 square feet of space before the renovation was completed in 2020.



The Seminole Hard Rock Cafe and Resort in Hollywood, Florida, under construction with Local 71 members in December 2018.
(Photo from Wikimedia Commons user Yanjipy.)

It was not until January 2022 that the local was able to host in-person gatherings again. After the two-year hiatus, the local also held its annual picnic on November 5, 2022.

Work likewise began to reemerge in mid-2021 as restrictions at jobsites were lifted. As construction then surged, the Local 71 membership would enjoy strong employment conditions through to the local's 100th charter anniversary in January 2024.

During that time, the local waged a very public battle against non-union Oracle Elevator after one of its employees was killed on October 12, 2021, while working inside an elevator shaft at the Harbor Towers condominiums in Aventura. *The Miami Herald* reported on November 15 that a medical examiner's report stated that "the elevator remained operational for some unknown reason, and an elevator came down and crushed the decedent." The newspaper further reported that the elevator pit stop switch

was "inoperative" and that another report said a "'jumper' was found bypassing the switch."

"When is enough enough?" Local 71 **Business Manager Greg Levenson** queried in the newspaper article. "Now we have a jumper on a job where a technician has passed away."

At the time, Oracle also managed equipment at Miami International Airport, where local news had previously highlighted concerns "over jumpers after dozens were discovered on escalators, elevators and moving walkways," according to the *Herald*. In response, I.U.E.C. and Local 71 representatives passed out leaflets at the airport warning passengers about Oracle's safety record and launched a website against the company.

Two years after Miami-Dade inspectors first warned of the safety "negligence" in elevators at Miami International, the administration of county Mayor Daniella Levine Cava terminated its contracts with Oracle in June 2022, *The Miami Herald* reported on June 15. The county replaced the firm with Local 71 employer Schindler Elevator, which would receive funds from the local to reduce the company's costs on the airport contract.

After the non-union firm was discharged and union mechanics were placed on the job, Local 71 correspondent **Brother John Pettit** proclaimed in the November 2022 *Constructor*:

"A sigh of relief for the riding public is being felt now that the means of conveyance at the Miami International Airport terminal is once again being serviced and maintained SAFELY. It takes over 25 trained and knowledgeable I.U.E.C. members to get that task accomplished daily."

The following year, Schindler reached an agreement with Dade County and signed a contract to safely maintain



Local 71 Brother Greg L. Levenson, who served the local as a route mechanic, business agent and business manager before moving into a position with the I.U.E.C. international office in 2021. A dedicated husband, father and veteran of the U.S. Navy, Brother Levenson passed away on January 8, 2023, at age 51.



Local 71 members Chanel Mumford (left) and Regina Domenech stand outside the local's National Elevator Industry Educational Program (NEIEP) Training Center in Miami.

all the elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters and moving walks at Miami International for the next 10 years.

Meanwhile, five-year collectively bargained national agreements between the I.U.E.C. and employers throughout the country who were represented by the **National Elevator Bargaining Association** (NEBA) and the **Elevator Contractors of America** (E.C.A.) were reached in 2017 and again in 2022. The provisions of the contracts would eventually increase the local's base journeyman mechanic wage scale to \$39.18-1/2 per hour beginning January 1, 2024, and they would ultimately raise the wage to \$41.73-1/2 per hour on January 1, 2027, for the ensuing year.

Subsequently, throughout 2022, 2023 and into January 2024, South Florida experienced "a development boom across all aspects of commercial space, from the construction of hospitals to class 'A' office buildings and multifamily housing," as the *South Florida*

Business Journal described in an October 3, 2022, article. That mass development has kept the Local 71 wholly employed, for the most part, through to its 100th charter anniversary, by which time the local had grown back to more than 1,000 members.

The local also sold its former union hall on Northwest 35th Avenue, where it had been located for 43 years but had experienced excessive flooding, in 2021 and purchased the 12,500-square-foot property at **1771 State Road 7** in Fort Lauderdale in early 2023. With plans for the new facility to be completely renovated to house its future union hall and training center (during which time the local rented office space at 1909 Tyler Street in Hollywood) Local 71 has its sights clearly fixed on the future – as it continues to service and represent its current members, employers and the union construction industry while remaining devoted to honoring and learning from its past. ●

100th Anniversary

International Union of Elevator
Constructors, Local #71

Congratulations

James Demmel
Assistant National Director

Terry Jones, Jr.
Jennifer Hunt
Thea Mauer
Vivienne Fritz
Sarah Verleysen
Nerses Zurabyan
Sofoniyas Demelashe



R. Allen Spears
National Director

Todd Albertson
Lee Alley
Carisa Barrett
Maggie Cleveland
Ward Dicks
Ryan Donnell
David "Chip" Hallmark
Mike Janca
Bruce Peak
Matt Rusch

Eric Rogers
Lead National Coordinator

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Allen Thompson
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LOCAL 71

ON
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SUCCESS



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Business Representative - Jim Norris
Business Representative - Eric Mills
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100 YEARS OF

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BUSINESS MANAGER

GREG HARDEMAN
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

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BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

RYAN LANGE
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NICK MOORE
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LOCAL 8 OFFICERS
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From the officers and members
of Elevator Constructors Local 5.



Joe Williams	Business Manager
Jack Koch	Business Representative
Eric Rittenhouse	Business Representative
Frank Gramaglia	President
John Cichon	Secretary-Treasurer
Joe O'Connor	Organizer

I.U.E.C. LOCAL 74, TAMPA

ORGANIZED
NOVEMBER 25, 1924



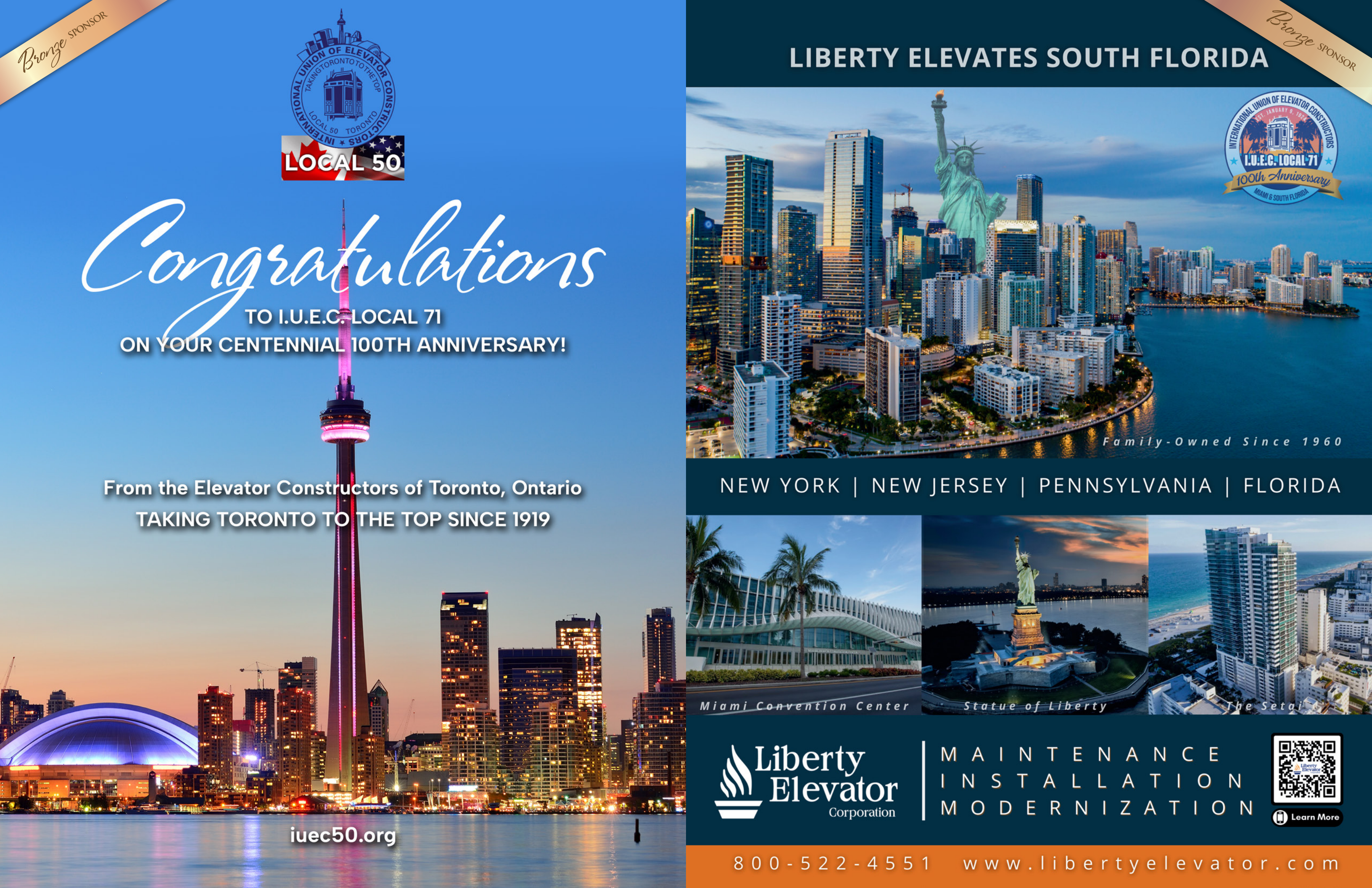
100th Anniversary

**We Salute Our Brothers
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ON YOUR CENTENNIAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

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CONGRATULATIONS, LOCAL 71, ON 100 YEARS!

FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP
OF I.U.E.C. LOCAL 11

LOCAL 11



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I.U.E.C. LOCAL 139



ORLANDO, FLORIDA

CONGRATULATIONS, LOCAL 71

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SOUTH FLORIDA!**

FROM YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

Local 139 was Chartered on January 14, 1969

Congratulations

To Our Brothers And Sisters in Miami & South Florida
at IUEC Local 71 on your 100 Year Anniversary.



Best Wishes For A Wonderful Evening & Celebration!

from all of us at

IUEC LOCAL 2
CHICAGO



JUAN GONZALEZ, JR.
BUSINESS MANAGER / PRESIDENT

Eric Crane Robert Kennedy Gary Pipiras
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES / VICE PRESIDENTS

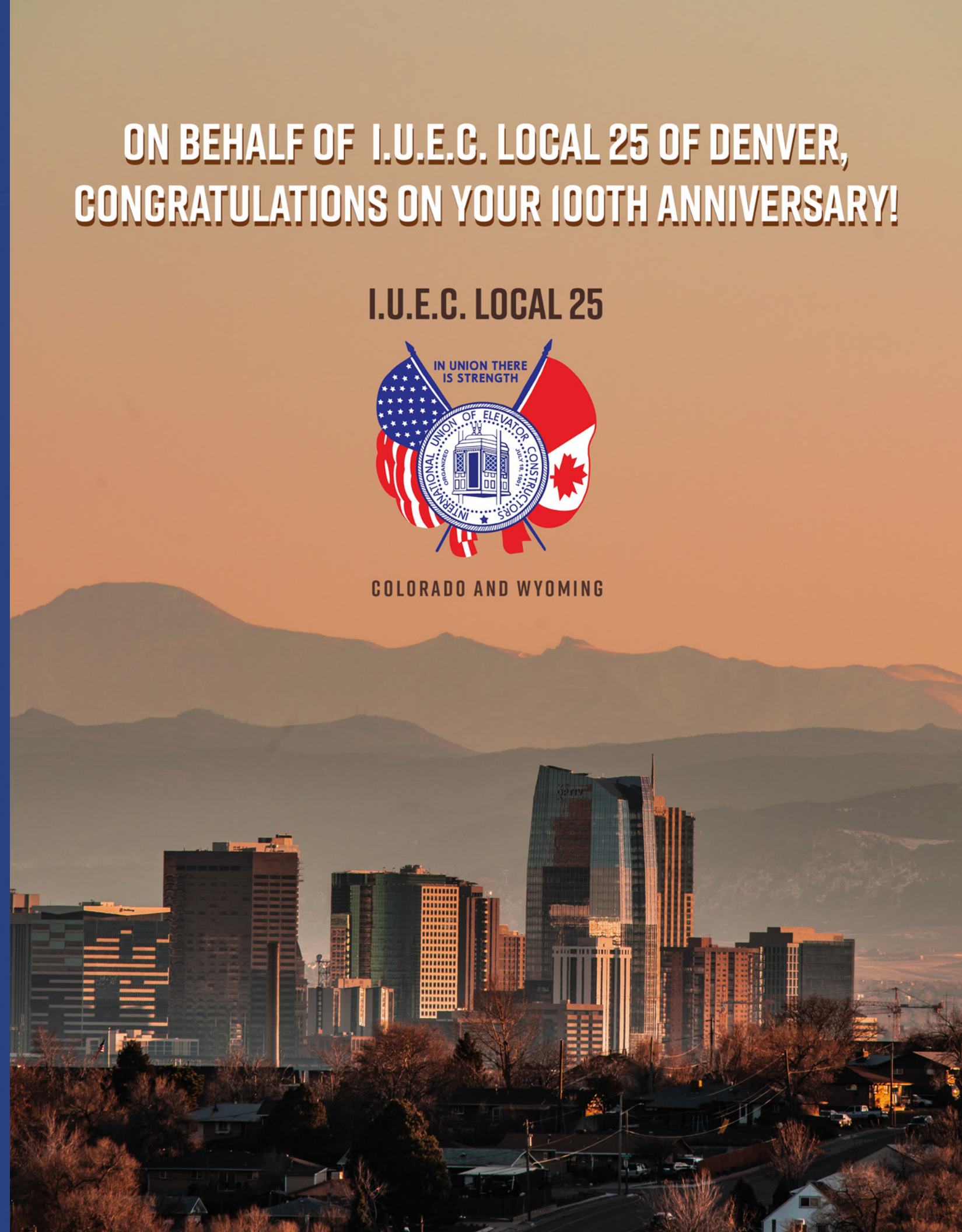
OFFICERS & STAFF OF IUEC LOCAL 2

**ON BEHALF OF I.U.E.C. LOCAL 25 OF DENVER,
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY!**

I.U.E.C. LOCAL 25



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The Officers & Members of IUEC Local 82 would like to congratulate Local 71 on **100** years of strength and solidarity.



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Miami & South Florida
on your 100th Anniversary*



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**Congratulations on your 100th
Anniversary from Local 140
Members and Officers**



IUEC LOCAL 140 PHOENIX/TUCSON

**CONGRATULATIONS
ON
100 YEARS
LOCAL 21, MIAMI**

FROM LOCAL 23-PORTLAND, OR

CONGRATULATIONS ON CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

**FROM YOUR I.U.E.C. BROTHERS & SISTERS SERVING
"THE BIG EASY" AND THE SURROUNDING REGION**



**Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary
from the officers & members of IUEC #32 - Atlanta, Ga.**

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Michael Emerson
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Robbie Williamson
Recording Secretary

Danny Moon
Trustee

Blake Braswell
Trustee



Stewart Spencer
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David Brown
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Terry Borden
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Alex Cook
Trustee

Shannon Cahanin
Office Manager



Congratulations
on your 100th
Anniversary

From your Brothers at
Local 35



CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 YEARS!

From the Members of I.U.E.C. Local 52,
Virginia Beach, Virginia



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF I.U.E.C. LOCAL 36, DETROIT

*Wishing Local 71 another 100 years
of growth and prosperity!*



*Congratulations on your 100th Anniversary,
from IUEC Local 90, Hamilton, Ontario*



IUEC LOCAL 96

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From I.U.E.C., Local #3
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CONGRATULATIONS

IUEC Local 71

On your 100th Anniversary

From
IUEC Local 91
Members, Staff & Officers



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