

IUPAT
LOCAL 845
100-Year Anniversary
★
LANSING, MI
1916 - 2016

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES LOCAL NO. 845

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM & HISTORY





District Council 1M Michigan

ON BEHALF OF DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M

**CONGRATULATION TO
LOCAL UNION #845
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

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I.U.P.A.T. Local No. 845
100th Anniversary Celebration
Dinner-Dance

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol
111 North Grand Avenue, Lansing, Michigan

6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

*Buffet Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.
Music and Dancing follows*

MEMBERS, OFFICERS PAST AND PRESENT DEFINE LOCAL 845

As Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer of Painters District Council 1M, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Painters Local Union 845 in Lansing on the celebration of its 100-year anniversary. For 100 years, Painters Local 845 has been a tremendous advocate on the front lines, fighting for workers' rights, and it has played a significant role in bringing workers into the middle class and securing good wages and benefits for its members.



This year's centennial is an apt tribute to the dedicated efforts of this outstanding local union and a celebration of the life-long bonds of mutual support that unite its membership and their communities.

Through the good times and the bad, Painters Local Union 845 has played a prominent role in the Greater Lansing Region and has never wavered in being a loyal partner in the community. There is no doubt that Local 845 will continue to affect and forge the future of the Greater Lansing Region through its accomplishments and the core values of its membership, instilled upon them by the founding members of Local 845.

I thank all the officers of Local Union 845 who are currently leading the way; they are truly an asset for the current membership, future members to come and their communities.

Lastly, I want the membership and their families, our employer partners and affiliates to enjoy this 100-year celebration of Local Union 845, as we all look forward to the years ahead and accomplishments to come.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Robert Gonzalez, Business Manager
I.U.P.A.T. District 1M

This book was proudly produced by

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Jack Stohr, Lake State Decorating

Works Cited

"One Union: The History of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, 1887 – 2003"
"How Drywall Works" 23 March 2007; HowStuffWorks.com; September 2017.

Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson
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Layout & Design: Steven Demanett





A CENTURY OF FINISHING GR EATER LANSING'S PROGRESS

I.U.P.A.T. Local 845's First 100 Years



For some time after Painters Local No. 845 was chartered on March 14, 1916, by the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators of America to serve Lansing, Michigan, the local struggled to gain its footing. Within the next two years, in fact, the local requested – and received – financial assistance from the Brotherhood on two occasions: \$75 in early 1917 and another \$100 in early 1918.

But the local's membership, though small in number, was meeting every week (at first on Wednesdays and by mid-1917 on Tuesdays) in the city's Central Labor Hall to conduct union business, including organizing a dance reception for their "wives and friends" on September 27, 1916, at the hall. By early 1917, the fledgling local had its new by-laws approved by the Brotherhood's national office, and by mid-1917 it had the first wage scale and agreement with its employing contractors approved by the union.

The following year, Local 845 joined many other locals in the union in endorsing the Aged Painters Home and Pension, an effort to establish a home and retirement payments for aged and disabled members, including those "incapacitated by tuberculosis and various occupational diseases." (*Ultimately, the referendum was defeated in a nationwide vote of all Brotherhood locals and the home and pension were never created.*)

Meanwhile, Local 845 remained relatively small into late 1918. In December of that year, the local paid only \$9.60 in member per-capita tax to the Brotherhood and only 80 cents to the union's War Death Benefit Fund (as compared to the \$49.60 per-capita tax and \$6.60 Benefit Fund payments made that month by Local No. 865 of suburban Warren, Ohio). The local also cast only eight "Against" votes in a union-wide referendum in April 1919 to decide if the Brotherhood of Painters

and Decorators General Assembly should convene that year (the majority of locals also voted against the summit).

However, the local did grow to 14 voting members by July 1920, and in August 1921 its members were working for Silver Lead Paint Company (now Lake State Decorating, to which Local 845 remains signatory) on one of the larger finishing jobs in Lansing in years: painting of the new "state block" of state-government buildings. Silver Lead Paint Company also won a contract to paint the Durant Motors automobile plant that year, and in 1922, it painted the Prudden Building, home of the world's largest producer of both wood and steel tires, and the Washington Square Office Building.

Regardless, Local 845 continued to labor to organize more members and, subsequently, stabilize its finances. As a result, the local was suspended by the Brotherhood in 1923.

Even after more than two dormant years, Painters Local 845 was far from finished. On November 21, 1925, a group of Lansing painters and decorators, including many former Local 845 members, met in the Trades and Labor Hall at 231-1/2 South

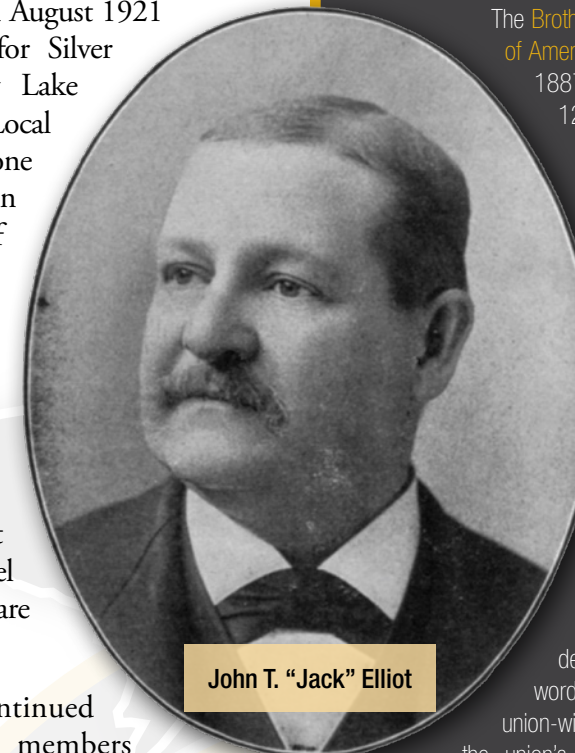
INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY

The Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators of America was established on March 15, 1887, by John T. "Jack" Elliot and 12 other painting and decorating delegates during a meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The preamble of the constitution they drafted stated: "Single-handedly we can accomplish nothing; but united there is no power of wrong we may not openly defy."

Within a year, the Brotherhood's membership numbered over 7,000 tradesmen who belonged to more than 100 local unions.

In January 1970, the union changed its name after General President S. Frank "Bud" Raftery decided that it should include the words "allied trades." Following a union-wide contest that was held before the union's 1969 convention and received 1,800 entries, a New Orleans member was the first to propose the favored name: "International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades."

With the female membership within the I.B.P.A.T. growing, General President Michael Monroe announced a new name at the 1999 general convention: "International Union of Painters and Allied Trades" (I.U.P.A.T.).



John T. "Jack" Elliot

LOCAL UNIONS ORGANIZED MARCH 1916

812, Idaho Falls, Idaho; 841, Canton, Ill.; 845, Lansing, Mich.; 846, Anniston, Ala.; 850, Duluth, Minn., (Carriage, Coach and Glaziers); 860, LaPorte, Ind.; 865, Warren, Ohio; 871, Denton, Texas; 874 New York, N. Y. (ItaHans.)

April 1916 I.B.P.A.T. Journal

Painters and Decorators Local No. 845 charter, dated March 14, 1916.

LOCAL 845 MEETING PLACES/OFFICES

225-1/2 North Washington Avenue
1916 to 1919

214-1/2 Washington Avenue
1919 to 1923

Central Labor Hall, 231-1/2 South Washington Avenue
1927 to 1930

407-1/2 North Washington Avenue
1930 to 1935

115-1/2 East Michigan Avenue
1935 to 1937

215-1/2 Washington Avenue
1937 to 1941

Labor Temple, 135 North Cedar Street
1941 to 1957

Labor Temple, 501 North Grand Avenue
1957 to 1976

Labor Temple, 4209 South Pennsylvania Avenue
1976 to 2001

AFL-CIO Building, 419 South Washington Avenue
2001 to current

Charter of painters, decorators and paperhangers of Local Union, No. 845, closed Wednesday evening, April 12th. Better get busy if you want to get in as a charter member. Central Labor hall Wednesday evening, 7:30 p. m. Signed, Committee.

Lansing State Journal, April 10, 1916

Michigan State Federation of Labor, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.).

Then during a second meeting of the re-chartered local on December 19, a “large class” was initiated into the union as charter members, the *Lansing State Journal* reported.

Before the end of the decade, however, the Great Depression began after the stock market crashed on October 29, 1929 (history’s “Black Tuesday”), and for the next several years, the cataclysmic economic disaster would affect the State of Michigan worse than the rest of the country. Between 1930 and 1933, the unemployment rate in the state was 34 percent while it was 26 percent for the nation as a whole. Fueling the adverse conditions, employment in the auto industry, which had become a key employer in Lansing and the entire state, declined rapidly in only a few years – between 1928 and 1932, for example, employment at General Motors, which had facilities in Lansing, was cut in half.

But there was adequate work within its jurisdiction to help keep Local 845 solvent during the Depression. Most notably, Local 845 members employed by Silver Lead Paint helped finish the new Olds Tower in 1930 and 1931, which soon after was renamed Capital National Bank Tower. After its completion, the 23-story building was the tallest in Lansing – and remains the tallest (and is

now known as the Boji Tower) as Local 845 celebrates its 100th anniversary.

What’s more, a determined band of members maintained Local 845’s charter until an organizing campaign in the early 1930s brought about an increase in union membership. By early March 1934, the local grew to about 125 member painters, drywall hangers and tapers – and Local 845 Secretary Fred White announced at that time that the local’s charter would be closed on March 31, after which membership fees would be “advanced,” the March 17 *State Journal* reported.

By that time, the local was holding its regular meetings every Thursday night at 407-1/2 North Washington Avenue.

Just a few years later, with the Depression waning, Brother White reported in the February 23, 1937, *State Journal* that the local’s painters and decorators were experiencing “increasing activity” in their industry. Indeed, the local had recently handled painting contracts for Kositchek Brothers clothing store, Sam’s department store, Sepeter’s banquet hall, Arbaugh’s department store, Woolworth’s department store, Smith Floral Company, Bazley’s market, J. C. Penney department store and Kresge’s dime store.

By the 1940s, Local 845 had become well-established enough that its members’ wives had formed *Ladies Auxiliary No. 57* of the local. Primarily, the group supported the local’s many social functions – including, for example, a “benefit card party” on February 17, 1940, at the North Side Community Hall. (There is no mention of the auxiliary in any records after the 1940s, however.)

EDUCATING LOCAL 845 MEMBERS PROVIDING THE BEST-TRAINED WORKFORCE IN THE INDUSTRY

Local 845 has provided training to its future and current members since it was chartered in 1916, although during its first few decades the education of those prospective painters and allied craftsmen was provided mostly through on-the-job training.

By the late 1950s, Local 845 had a formal three-year training program in place, conducting class and laboratory work at a facility at Michigan State University into the early 1960s before moving to a new location on Enterprise Drive in the city. However, the local did not have its own training facility and would not for many years to come.

As Local 845 celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016, training of its apprentices and upgrade education for its journeymen are administered by I.U.P.A.T. District Council 1M, to which the local belongs, and the *Finishing Trades Institute* (F.T.I.), which is the education department for the I.U.P.A.T. Class and laboratory work for the program and are conducted in two state-of-the-art training facilities: a 20,000-square-foot center in Warren, Michigan, and a 9,500-square-foot center in Lansing, both of which contain classroom and lab space.

Apprentices learn through a “hybrid” approach that combines both classroom and on-the-job instruction. Students must complete required hours in the program, including a minimum of 144 hours of classroom instruction as well as the required minimum of on-the-job hours as mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor.



Location of 225-1/2 North Washington Avenue in Lansing where Local 845 held its earliest union meetings from 1916 to 1919. (Silver Lead Paint Company to the right at 229 North Washington was and remains — as Lake State Decorating — a longtime employer of Local 845 members.) Photo courtesy of Forest Parke Library & Archives.

Location of 214-1/2 North Washington Avenue in Lansing where Local 845 held its union meetings from 1919 to 1923. Photo courtesy of Forest Parke Library & Archives.



The Capital Bank Building (right) in Lansing shortly after it was completed in 1931 with Local 845 painters working for the Silver Lead Paint Company. Photo courtesy of Forest Parke Library & Archives.



After the United States officially entered World War II in late 1941, the effects of the Depression throughout the country and in Michigan at long last fully diminished. Subsequently, Local 845 members were busy with plenty of work produced by both the wartime and the post-war rebuilding demands of the 1940s, particularly in the automobile factories in the region. During the war, for instance, the General Motors "Fisher" Body Plant in Lansing was retooled to make airplane parts, creating more jobs including many for union painters.

The local also enjoyed the full advantages of a nationwide labor agreement between the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators and the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America that was signed in March 1941. With the pact, the 125,000-member union guaranteed to "furnish qualified painters for all defense projects even if the painters had to

be brought in from another state," while it also prohibited strikes and lockouts on defense jobs.

Also during the war, builders fully realized the benefits of using drywall, as quick and inexpensive building materials were needed to offset the labor shortage and war costs. By the time the war ended in 1945, drywall had become the dominant building material in the United States.

What's more, by 1948, the Brotherhood was permitting the use of paint-spray guns – until then, it had vehemently fought against their use in place of brushes – for painting projects "where adequate provision is made for protecting the health of workers."

In that climate, Local 845 was able to grow its membership to more than 150 painters, drywallers, tapers and apprentices as the early 1950s progressed.

With its increasing strength, the local found itself in a better position to bargain. As such, in June 1952 the local and its 13 painting contractors agreed to petition the federal Wage Stabilization Board for a 15-cent-per-hour increase effective July 12.

Then on May 11, 1953, the union painters walked off their jobs for the third time in seven years after the two sides failed to reach an agreement during 60-day-long contract negotiations to raise the Local 845 journeyman wage rate of \$2.46 per hour. The strike would not be settled until June 1, when the local agreed to a 14-cent-per-hour increase for the coming year – a compromise between its 19-cent request and the offer made by the Lansing Chapter of the Painting and Decorating Contractors.

Just four years later, Local 845 in May 1957 signed another year-long contract for a 12-cent-per-hour boost, putting its hourly rate for journeymen at \$3. The following year, the union painters and contractors reached an agreement on a new two-year contract for an 8-cent-per-hour increase the first year and a



Local 845 members donate their time to paint the Community Nursery in Lansing in 1955.

10-cent hike in May 1959.

Before the end of the 1950s, the local's membership stood at 150, "one of the higher post-World War II peaks," according to the October 18, 1959, *Lansing State Journal*. While "encouraging," Business Agent Kenneth Drouin told the newspaper that the local faced problems enlisting new members and with the increased use of ready-painted materials, aluminum sash and acoustical ceilings, which were becoming common in the building industry. "It cuts into us an awful lot," he admitted to the newspaper.

The 1960s was a very busy time for Local 845. Among many projects on which they worked, the local's members were kept busy throughout the decade – and into

LOCAL 845 BUSINESS AGENTS/REPRESENTATIVES

(Local 845 did not employ a regular business agent/representative until 1931; the local's very first officers in March 1916 were Recording Secretary Bert Miller and Financial Secretary Cola Birchard.)

George Crossman
1931

C.F. Hoisington
1932 through 1935

Fred E. White
1936 through 1937

Sam Borst
1938 through 1941

Tom Borst
1942

Harold Potts
1943

Ira Shaw
1944

Cecil Bishop
1945 through 1950

Tom Borst
1951 through 1953

Frank Blake
1954 through 1959

Kenneth Drouin
1960 through 1963

Everett Arnold
1964

Thomas Borst
1965

Dorr Lorraine
1966 through 1970

Harold Perry
1971 through 1994

Peter Cherrette
1995 through 1997

Thomas Miller
1998 through 2000

B.M. Raymond R. Whitaker
2000 through 2012

Fred Frederickson
2012 to current



Brother Harold Perry

Labor Temple at 501 North Grand Avenue in Lansing where Local 845 held its union meetings from 1957 to 1975.



Former Local 845 Business Agent Kenneth Drouin on January 7, 1965, pleaded guilty to one count of falsifying union records after he had been indicted the year before for allegedly embezzling \$1,335 from the local between August 31, 1960, and November 8, 1962.

the ensuing decades – at the General Motors main plant in downtown Lansing and the Lansing Car Assembly Plant on the west side, where Oldsmobiles were being put together.

To help strengthen its position, Local 845 in July 1960 joined the Greater Lansing Labor Council, becoming the first building trades local to rejoin the A.F.L.-C.I.O. group after a long, acrimonious absence following the tense merger of the national A.F.L. and C.I.O. (Congress of Industrial Organizations) groups in December 1955. “You might call it an effort to promote a little harmony,” Brother Drouin said in the July 31 *Lansing State Journal*. “Any attempt to try to settle our differences.”

From there, the building trades



Brother Lyle Asa Owen (shown in 2017), who served as Local 845 president from 1964 through 1980 before retiring in 1998.

and Local 845 began making a dent in the traditionally non-union home-building industry beginning in the summer of 1961, when the Lansing Building Trades Council launched an intensive campaign to organize home builders “of all sizes.” Brother Drouin, who was president of the Council by that time, proclaimed in the October 1, 1961, *State Journal*, that the success of the drive thus far “can be attributed to the high degree of cooperation between all the building trades locals,” including Local 845.

But the following year, Lansing’s 150 union painters waged an eight-day strike that finally ended on May 17, 1962, after the local agreed to a new, one-year deal providing a 6-cent hourly pay increase immediately and another 4 cents in October. The increases would be added to the painter and drywaller scales of \$3.43 to \$3.85 per hour members had been receiving under their old contract.

The agreement also retained the local’s double-time pay for Saturdays and Sundays, making it one of the few locals in the country with weekend double-time – for which the local had worked hard for years to obtain but would lose in the early 1970s when the International Office of the recently renamed International Brothers of Painters and Allied Trades (I.B.P.A.T.) forced it to return to time-and-a-half. Before the strike, the local had agreed to a 23-cent-per-hour package pay boost, including fringe benefits such as a recently gained Health and Welfare Fund for healthcare insurance, over a two-year period but balked when contractors proposed that Saturday and Sunday double-time pay be cut to time-and-a-half.

During that time, the membership rolls of Local 845 reached more than 250 journeymen and apprentices in the mid- and late-1960s. Indeed, General Motors was in the middle of its “Golden Years” and would soon begin an expansion project on its Lansing body plant, further spurring the local’s growth.

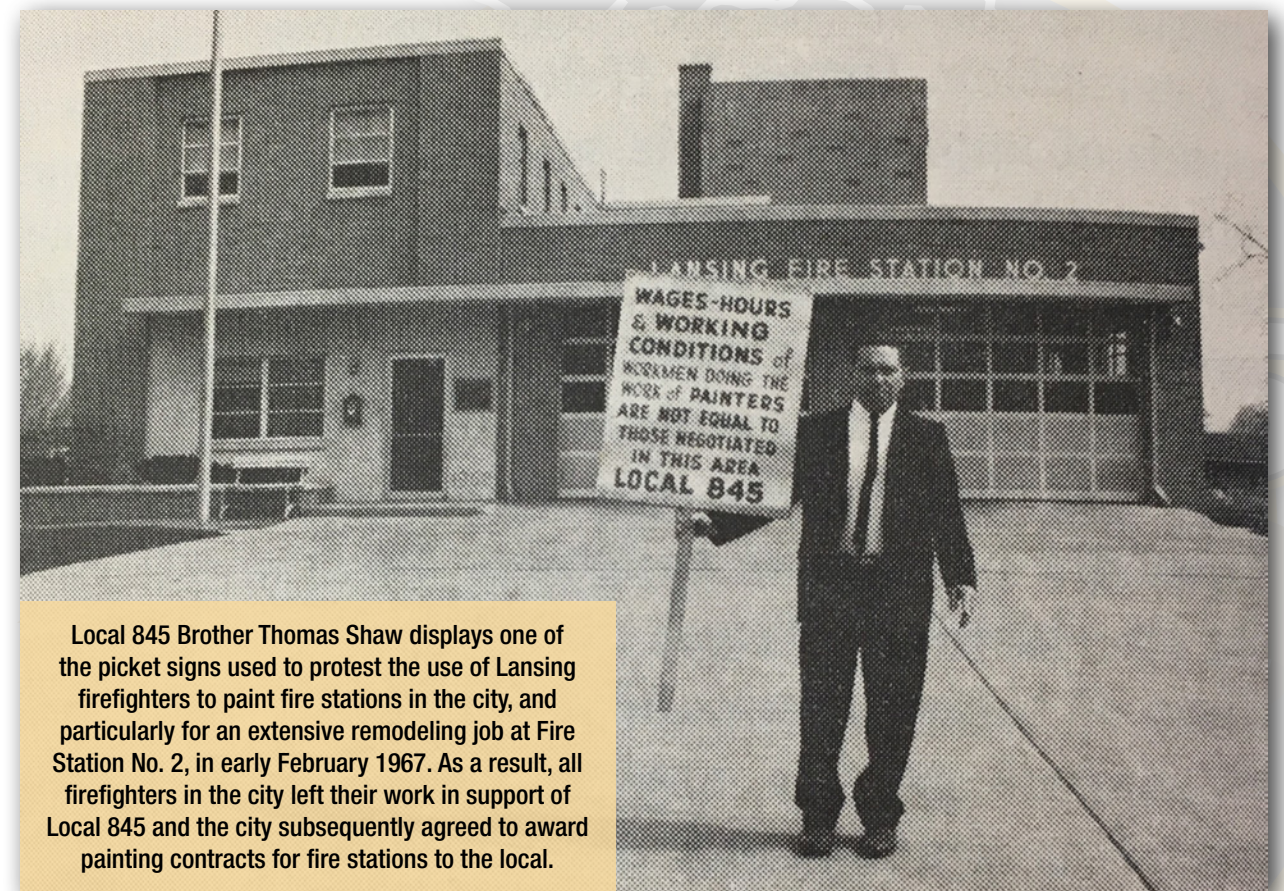
But Local 845 members walked out again on May 10, 1966, in another dispute over terms of a new contract and remained off of their jobs until June 14. That evening, the painters ratified a new, two-year contract with the Lansing Painters and Decorators Association for a \$1.40-per-hour total increase, including health and welfare benefits, that brought the base pay of journeyman painters to \$5.30 per hour in November 1967.

The local’s Pension Plan Committee had also been hard at work and as part of that

contract, the local in November 1967 gained a Pension Plan from its employing contractors, into which they initially put 10-cents-per hour as part of the local’s pay package. Originally, retiring members could draw \$288 per month from the plan.

During the local’s regular meeting on April 4, 1969, members voted to put 20 cents per hour from a coming 50-cent raise it would receive that November into the pension plan. *(By the 1980s, Local 845 had 10 members receiving benefits from the I.B.P.A.T. Pension Fund, into which employers at that time were contributing \$1 per hour, which derived a member, with full qualifications, a pension of \$720 per month.)*

Meanwhile, the local on March 24, 1969, also approved a monthly assessment of \$1 per member for a Building Fund to be used to lease or rent a meeting hall.



Local 845 Brother Thomas Shaw displays one of the picket signs used to protest the use of Lansing firefighters to paint fire stations in the city, and particularly for an extensive remodeling job at Fire Station No. 2, in early February 1967. As a result, all firefighters in the city left their work in support of Local 845 and the city subsequently agreed to award painting contracts for fire stations to the local.

Local 845 members gathered to paint the home of Brother Fred Randall in August 1966.



But before the end of the decade, by June 1969 the local had insufficient funds in its General Fund to pay its bills. In response, the local on June 30 voted to raise the business-agent salary assessment to \$4 per quarter per member, to discontinue the awarding of door prizes at special meetings and to make all parties given by the local “self-supporting.”

Out in the field, the still-busy membership’s many projects included the new Meridian Mall that opened in 1969 in the suburb of Okemos, Meridian Township, and a new building for the telephone company in 1970.

Local 845 members Bob Stayland, Roy Jones, Dick Hoisington, Dave Murphy, Bill Ballont and Pete Simmons working at the Lansing Power Station plant in January 1973.



Wages for Local 845 journeyman painters, drywallers and tapers was \$6.53 per hour plus 40 cents in fringe benefits when the local negotiated a new scale in May 1970. That contract provided an immediate 50-cent-per-hour raise, an additional 15 cents on November 1 and another 20 cents into the pension plan on May 10, 1971. Then it gave the local 50-cent-per-hour increases on May 10 and November 1, 1972.

But work slowed in 1970 and into the following year to the point where contractors in April 1971 asked to defer that 50-cent-an-hour raise that was due to the local on May 10. The contractors claimed with the wage increase, they would be unable to compete with outside contractors in bidding on new work.

Likewise, during balance of the 1970s the local experienced periods of high unemployment between stretches of strong work that was highlighted by a large amount of school jobs throughout the local’s jurisdiction.

By November 1972, Local 845 had expanded to about 200 members and its journeyman painters were being paid \$8.18 per hour plus benefits. But just a few month later in March 1973, half of the local’s 170 members were out of work again, and the following April 5 the local voted to reduce its pay rate on single-unit housework to \$6.50 per hour to try to gain more of that market.

The ups and downs of the decade continued when in May 1973 the local gained a new, one-year contract with a 20-cent-per-hour raise. That September, the local’s drywallers were making \$9 per hour with

their total package of wages and benefits.

The next year, some of the local’s members worked on one of the more prestigious – and interesting – projects in the area when they helped refurbish the dome of the State Capitol in Lansing. Working for Silver Lead Paint Company, members applied more than 500 gallons of primer and two white finishing coats as part of the \$215,000 project.

But Local 845’s signpainters began what would become a prolonged strike beginning April 9, 1974, as they held out for wage increases and a pension retirement plan from their employer. At the time, the local’s 38 journeyman signmakers employed by Central Advertising Company of Lansing were making \$5.60 per hour and were asking for 50-cent-per-hour raises for each year of a new two-year contract.

Soon after the strike, which extended into the summer, the signpainters left Local 845 to form their own local.

During the latter half of the 1970s, many Local 845 members worked at the General Motors plant in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on an expedited, \$1 million upgrade project that employed 110 painters.

Labor Temple at 4209 South Pennsylvania Avenue in Lansing where Local 845 held its union meetings from 1976 to 2001.



In November 1972, Local 845 Brother Clifford P. Houser became the first Lansing-area painter to retire under the Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades Pension Plan, which had been negotiated into the local’s contract in 1967.

Back home, discussion during the local’s meeting were dominated by funding benefits and the local’s dues structure. Ultimately, on April 19, 1979, the local voted to place 25 cents per hour of its new 61-cent raise into its Vacation Fund, 30 cents into its Pension Fund and the 36-cent balance into members’ checks; with that, that local’s dues were \$91.12 per month. Then in October, the membership voted to place another 5 cents into its Michigan State Painters Insurance Fund.

Arriving at the 1980s, Local 845 was about to enter an extended period of stagnant work while the entire nation would be bogged down by an historic recession. Subsequently, early in 1980 the local found itself in debt as half of its members were unemployed at one point that year.

With many members having to travel to other locals for jobs, Local 845 struggled for the next three years before it would fully recover.

But on May 8, 1980, the local during a special meeting turned down a contract offer from its contractors for 60-cent-per-hour increases on May 10 and November 1, 1980, and May 10 and November 1, 1981. Instead, following the 33-to-5 ballot against accepting the offer, the local declared its members would not work that Monday.

A meeting with contractors on



Local 845 Brothers Harold Wing (left) and Bob Smith (right) receive their Life Membership certificates and initial I.B.P.A.T. Pension checks from Local 845 Business Representative Hal Jerry in 1982.

On June 17, 1989, Local 845 participated in the City of Lansing's first "Paint Blitz" to paint the homes of low-income homeowners. That year, the program painted 19 homes — with Local 845 volunteer members completing one entire house in less than seven hours.

The project was just one of countless community-support efforts, from the Community Chest to United Way, in which Local 845 has been a part throughout its 100-year history.

May 20, during which the local proposed a \$1.25 increase on May 10, 1980, and another 65 cents on November 1, 1980, produced no new results. In fact, contractors would not even give the local a counter offer that day.

The negotiations were finally settled on June 4, 1980, with the help of a federal mediator. Local 845 gained a \$1-per-hour raise effective May 10 and another 30 cents on November 1, 1980, then \$1 more on May 10, 1981, and another 50 cents on November 1, 1981.



Local 845 Brother Larry Tice (left), who started his own paint company, with Ron Roche (center), owner of Silver Lead Contracting, and Bob Smith, owner of B&J Painting, in 1982.

With employment slow, when that contract expired the local voted to extend it into May 1983. The basic rate at that time for painters and tapers was \$14.20 per hour, \$14.95 per hour for commercial drywallers and \$14.55 per hour for commercial paperhangers.

Meanwhile, the local's persistently weak work situation took its toll and by January 1983 it had a total membership of just 78, only 57 of whom were full dues-paying members and nine of whom were tapers.

However, as employment began to pick up in the mid-1980 as the recession eased and regional automakers were increasing production, Local 845 began a new, two-year contract on May 21, 1985. With it, the base hourly rate for painters and drywall tapers was raised to \$13.95 and then to \$14.70 on May 10, 1986; for residential drywallers from \$12.84 to \$13.59; and for commercial drywallers from \$14.70 to \$15.45 for the final year. The agreement also provided \$1.25 per hour from employees into their Vacation Fund, 1 cent per hour from both the employees and the contractors into the Apprenticeship Training Fund, and contractor contributions of \$1.60 per hour into Health and Welfare and \$1 per hour into Pension funds.

Work was booming in and around Lansing

in the late 1980s, and Local 845 members were working a large amount of overtime. Many were busy on maintenance projects in the various plants in the area, including General Motors and the Federal-Mogul automotive-parts facility in St. Johns, Michigan.

The local became so busy, in fact, that its March 17, 1988, meeting minutes include the entry, "Need more members. As of now, we can't furnish people. What are we going to do this summer?"

However, the local was still forced to deal with the incursion of a glut of non-union contractors into its jurisdiction during the late 1980s. Consequently, Local 845 instituted a strategy to picket non-union jobs, first taking aim at a new Target store in South Lansing in March 1989 as part of the initiative.

Regardless, the local's painters, drywallers and tapers would remain very busy throughout much of the mid- and late-1990s, as well, with abundant projects underscored by a large amount of work at Michigan State University.

But "a number of factors" including litigation against the local had left it "financially unstable" by October 1993, as pleas to the I.B.P.A.T. International Office for legal and financial aid

In 1994, the I.B.P.A.T. announced that its union locals would operate under a district-council system. A decade later, District Council 26 was formed in 2004 to serve the Outstate Michigan area, which included Local 845 — and to help those locals avoid being lost in the shuffle of District Council 22, which also served the Greater Detroit region. To finally bring the entire state's I.U.P.A.T. locals together, District Council 1M was formed on September 6, 2012, and Local 845 was transferred into the new council.

were rejected and, therefore, the local's financial situation was in "grave condition." As a result, the local made some cutbacks, raised quarterly dues by nearly \$30 per member and raised the contribution to its emergency operating fund from 20 cents to 50 cents per hour ... and in the end, the local survived.

In stark contrast, later in the decade, the local's jurisdiction expanded as the International Office was in the process of amalgamating locals all across the country to increase efficiency. Subsequently, I.B.P.A.T. Local No. 475 of Muskegon, Michigan, and Local No. 119 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, were



Local 845 Brother Paris Carpenter works on the Sparrow Hospital Volunteers Office renovation project, circa 2008.



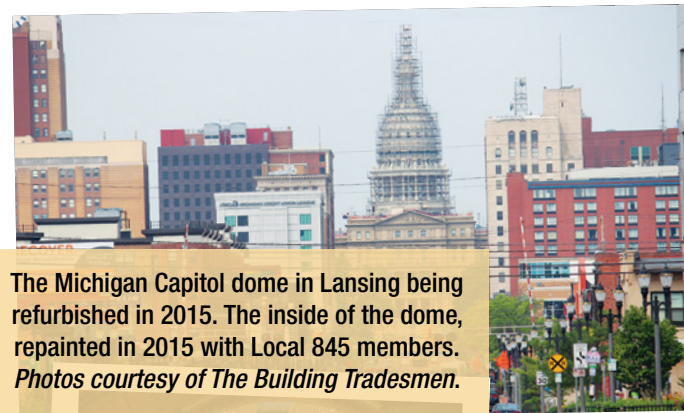
Local 845 Brother Brian Stoddard works on the Reo Depot exterior renovation for the Lansing Board of Water and Light in 2012.

With the help of Local 845 Business Representative Fred Fredrickson, who was president of I.U.P.A.T. District Council 26 at the time, young Local 845 members joined other "Young Lions" of the council in the summer of 2010 to establish the District Council 26 Young Lions Club. Among the group's first officers was Local 845 member Club Recording Secretary Nick Chance.

The Young Lions initiative was launched by I.U.P.A.T. General President James Williams to encourage more involvement by younger members of the union.

both merged into Local 845 as of June 30, 1998. (At the time, both Local 475 and Local 119 were older than Local 845, both having been chartered at least an entire decade before Local 845 was chartered in 1916.)

Meanwhile, to help close out the decade, the century and the millennium strong, many Local 845 members were working at the General Motors stamping plant in Grand Rapids (which would close in 2006), and by 1998, the local's total wage scale for journeyman painters was over \$23 per hour.



The Michigan Capitol dome in Lansing being refurbished in 2015. The inside of the dome, repainted in 2015 with Local 845 members. Photos courtesy of The Building Tradesmen.



The new "Y2K" millennium brought with it an abundance of changes for Lansing and Local 845; notably, General Motors constructed its new Lansing Grand River Assembly Plant – with Local 845 craftspeople – and began production there in 2001. Meanwhile, its old Lansing Car Assembly Plant continued to function and provide some employment until it was closed in May 2005 (when it had produced the last Oldsmobile and was the longest-operating automobile factory in the United States).

But by that time, the automobile maker had opened its Lansing Regional Stamping Plant in 2004, and just two years later began production in its Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant adjacent to the stamping plant – providing more employment opportunities for the local.

Work was also still going strong throughout the local's area, with members mostly working on commercial jobs. As the mid-2000s progressed, larger jobs such as those at the automobile factories were winding down but there were many small- to medium-sized projects to keep the local busy in the coming years.

In 2005, the local also started a hand-billing campaign at Meijer's stores after the supercenter chain decided to build a new Meijer's in Grand Ledge with only non-union labor.

However, Local 845 dwindled to just 88 members at one point by 2012 before another boom in work brought full employment and a membership binge that quickly grew the local. With about 150 member painters, drywallers, tapers and apprentices by 2013 and through to its 100th Anniversary in 2016, the local could be found on many of the flourishing construction and maintenance projects in the area.

That recent work has included projects at the General Motors plant and a large amount of jobs repainting bridges in the area. The local's members have also helped renovate and build power plants in the area and participated in numerous jobs on the ever-transforming Michigan State campus.

During the years leading up to the local's 100th anniversary, its members could also be found working on the new Lansing Board of Water & Light's REO Town cogeneration facility. Construction of the \$182 million project began in 2011 and the power plant became operational in July 2013.

The local further helped with the conversion of the T. B. Simon Power Plant on the campus of Michigan State from burning coal to using natural gas.

Additional projects on which Local 845 worked in the mid-2010s included a \$6.4 million facelift of the State of Michigan Capitol Building in 2015, with members employed by Murray Painting for the painting of the dome and areas below. Beginning that summer, the local's craftspeople also worked on the new,

186,350-square-foot addition to the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

Local 845 painters, drywallers and tapers that year worked on the \$50 million upgrade and expansion of the basketball court and arena at the Breslin Student Events Center on the Michigan State campus (which was expected to be substantially complete in August 2017). More work also came recently with construction of the new, \$64 million Sparrow Health Center Herbert-Herman Cancer Center beginning in May 2015, with the local's members working to finish the state-of-the-art facility for its opening in July 2017.

All the while, Local 845 has remained an active part of the since-renamed International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (I.U.P.A.T.) and I.U.P.A.T. District Council 1M, as well as its community. Its membership also continues to the local, carrying on a tradition when their forefathers a century ago began holding annual picnics and Christmas parties and entering floats and marching in Labor Day parades.

In 2016 when Local 845 marked its 100th Anniversary, its union office was located in the Michigan A.F.L.-C.I.O. building at 419 South Washington Avenue in Lansing.

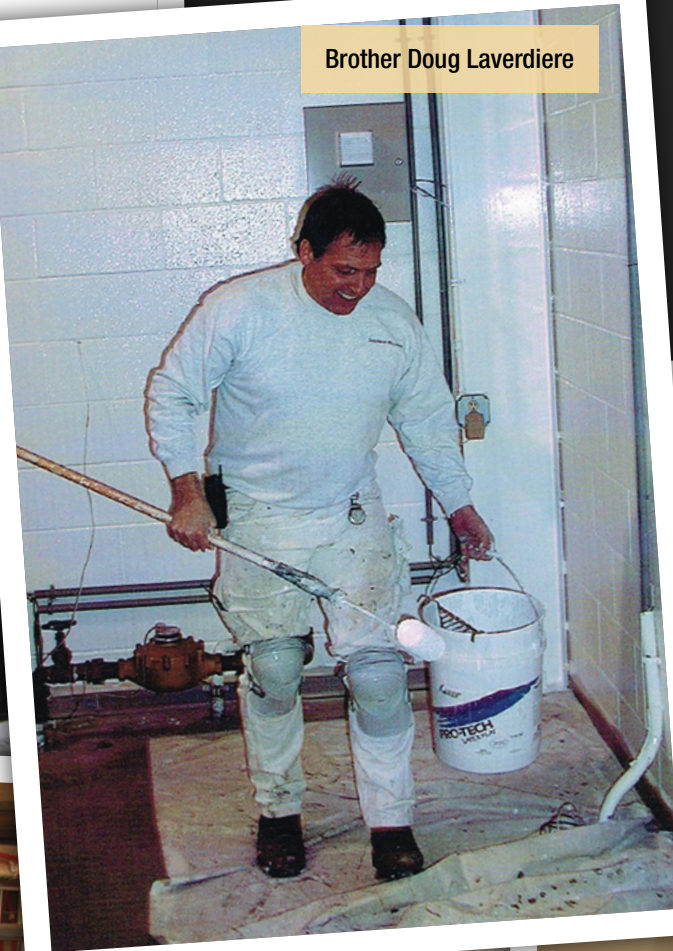




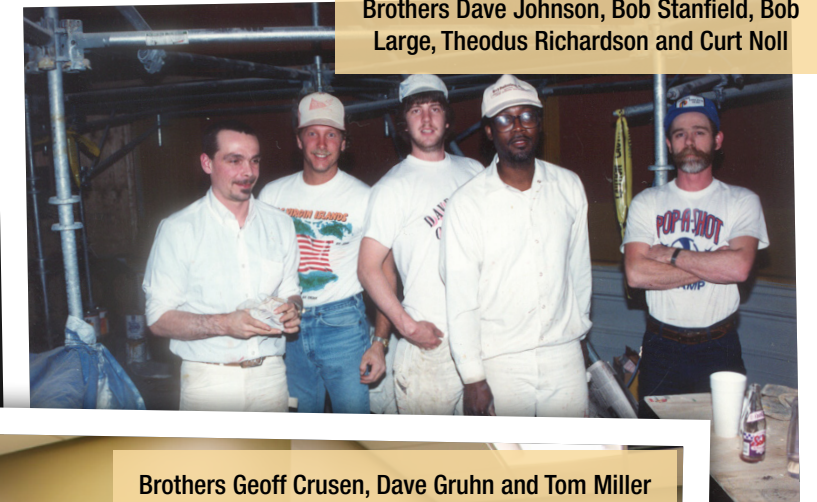
Brother Jim Mangold



Brothers Dave Gruhn and Mark Garlock



Brother Doug Laverdiere



Brothers Dave Johnson, Bob Stanfield, Bob Large, Theodorus Richardson and Curt Noll



Brothers Geoff Crusen, Dave Gruhn and Tom Miller



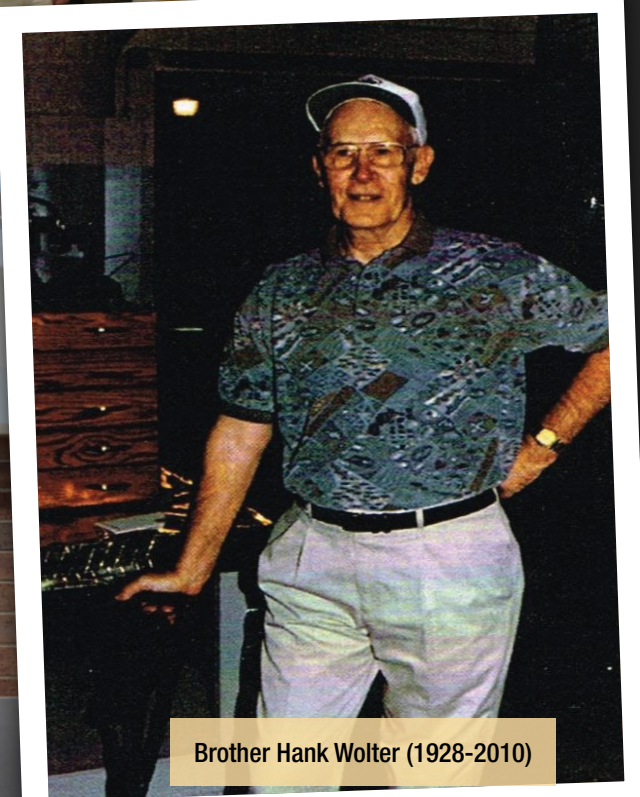
Brother Jim Musser



Brother Fred Frederickson Jr.



Brother Gale Wheaton



Brother Hank Wolter (1928-2010)

Sister Joelle Foshee and Brother Dave Johnson



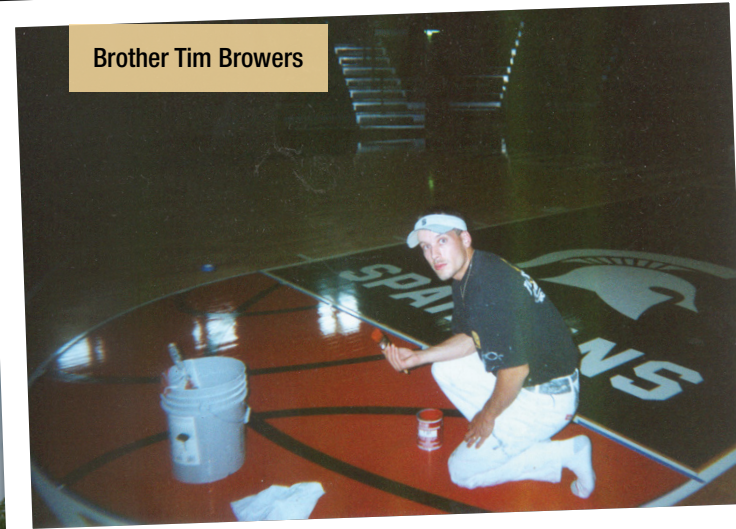
Brother Larry Queen



Brother Mark Garlock



Brother Tim Browers



Brother Steve Tingley



Brother Ken Stadley



Brothers Mark Haskell and Dave Laverdiere



Brothers Rick Pumfrey and Dave Stadley



Brothers Terence Grant and Ben Ellenwood





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for Another 100 Years in Solidarity!*

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On Your 100th Anniversary!*



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