LIUNA LOCAL NO. 500, TOLEDO, OHIO

100th Anniversary

A CENTURY OF COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

EST. 1919

TOLEDO, OHIO

COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

1919 - 2019







LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

Platinum sponsor

Congratulations!



Anniversary



From: Ohio Laborers' District Council



CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 500



ANNIVERSARY

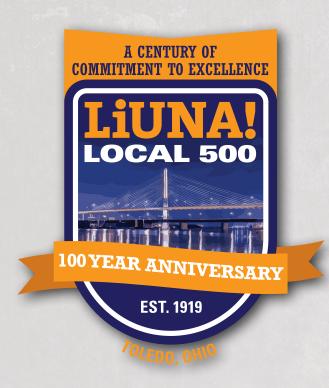
Congratulations to Business Manager, David Fleetwood, Staff and Local 500 Members on your 100 year Anniversary.

> LiUNA VP and OVSS LECET Chairman Robert E. Richardson



Ohio Valley and Southern States | Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust

platinum sport



LIUNA LOCAL No. 500 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday, October 4, 2019

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

Stranahan Theater - Great Hall

4645 Heatherdowns Blvd. Toledo, OH 43614

Cocktail Reception	5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Dinner	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Welcome Presentation	7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Live Entertainment, Dancing & Celebrating	8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

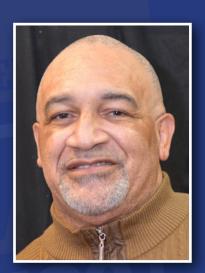


MESSAGE FROM LOCAL NO. 500 LEADERSHIP: 'THIS IS UNION'

Members, Retirees, Community and Honored Guests:

On June 9, 2013, the day I was elected to lead this multi-faceted organization, I was not only excited, humbled, and thankful for the opportunity to serve the hardest working men and women in the construction industry, I felt an immeasurable responsibility. That responsibility was to handle what was immediately in front of us, assess what was ahead of us, design a future for those coming after us, all while honoring those that built this union before us. This responsibility and privilege, I don't take lightly.

From October 20, 1919 and over the past 100 years, laborers in this region have evolved from a body of people organized to build roads, bridges and other infrastructures in Toledo and Northwest Ohio, to a



body of individuals continuing that legacy but also building up one another to strengthen the people in our communities. Over these 100 years, we have shared many successes, yet experienced many struggles which ultimately were lessons that have or will lead us into our future levels of success.

As a result of the dedication of those that built this union, literally and figuratively, generations of people owe a debt of gratitude. We are able to take care of our families because someone not only believed in us, but fought for us, which taught many of us how to fight for others. These are the souls of 100 years. This is Union.

You don't grow to be who you want to be; you grow to be who you work to be. I've believed this for myself, I've taught this to my children, and I stress this with my brothers and sisters of Laborers' Local 500. As we build upon the foundation and evolve into our next 100 years, we will continue to honor our founders and those that built this union along the way. We will master our craft through continued education and hard work which will inevitably progress us towards who we're meant to be.

Laborers' Local 500 not only celebrates and appreciates those that have been and are card carrying members, we honor our signatory contractors for believing in us, community members and elected officials for walking with us, and most importantly our families for encouraging and believing in us. To you all, we are grateful.

Thank you so much for the many acknowledgements on this momentous occasion. We are blessed and humbled beyond measure.

In Solidarity,

David Fleetwood

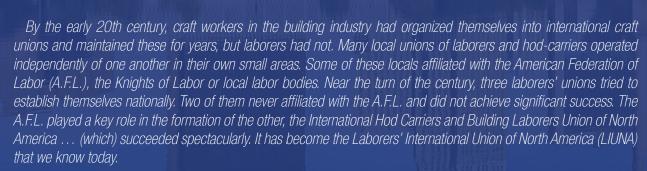
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

LIUNA Laborers Local No. 500

THE HISTORY OF LIUNA LABORERS' LOCAL 500

A 100-YEAR COMMITMENT TO

PROVIDING DEDICATED SERVICE IN TOLEDO AND NORTHWEST OHIO



Laborers often organized their unions along racial or ethnic lines, as did workers in many industries. . . . Ethnicity and race greatly influenced where people lived, worked and socialized. The bigotry and prejudice of employers, workers in other trades and laborers themselves was part of why laborers organized unions along ethnic and racial lines, but only part. These negative factors had a lot to do with what kinds of jobs people had. More positive aspects of race and ethnicity, such as shared community, background, language and culture also played roles. These elements of shared identity could sometimes generate the solidarity and continuity necessary for unions to endure despite the instability of the industry.

The most recent immigrants to the Americas often received the lowest wage and lowest status jobs, which included the heavy work of the laborer. When the Irish and Germans came, they took these jobs. By the turn of the century, southern and eastern Europeans displaced them in the role of laborer. Italian and Polish replaced English and German as the languages of those who carried hods and pushed wheelbarrows around the scaffoldings. . . . These independent unions would soon form the basis of the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Union.

From The Laborers' Early Years, Laborers' International Union of North America

SETTING THE STAGE FOR A TOLEDO UNION

International Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' Union — which would be renamed the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) in 1965 — permitted ethnic segregation among some of its locals "in some cases," according to *The Laborers' Early Years*, and both "official and unofficial (ethnic) segregation" was very common during its first two decades. The union at the time seemed to take a stronger stand against racial segregation than ethnic segregation, the essay states, and as such, it "separated African-Americans, Italian-Americans, Irish-Americans and all the rest each into their own local."

What's more, many locals even specified a particular ethnicity in their name; for example, Boston Local No. 209, the local of Laborers'

Union longtime International President Dominic D'Alessandro, was known as the "Italian Laborers' Union." However, the ethnic monikers did not "formalize segregation because nothing in their charters, constitutions or bylaws barred others from joining" a particular local, *The Laborers' Early Years* notes.

But in many cities, different ethnicities belonged to separate laborers' locals. The LIUNA essay also points out that communication problems heightened the need to create ethnically segregated locals. "Often, laborers spoke different languages," it simply states.

During that time, however, the laborers' union found much-needed stability when in 1908 Brother D'Alessandro took over the presidency of the international body from Brother John Breen, ending a "revolving door of leadership."





President D'Alessandro would serve nearly two decades in the position, helping to grow the union from 10,000 to more than 100,000 members. Importantly, during his term "the union grew at an unprecedented rate and finally established itself as a significant force in the ranks of organized labor," according to *The Laborers' Early Years*.

Additionally, economic recovery from the 1907-1908 depression spurred a wave of strikes across the United States, helping to strengthen the national labor movement. Then when the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Laborers' Union "threw itself wholeheartedly into the war effort," during which time the economy boomed, the labor market tightened and employers "accepted organized labor as a partner," the essay recounts.

Meanwhile, the union changed its name twice in 1912, becoming the International Hod Carriers and Common Laborers of America and then the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers of America.

As the laborers and other trade unions flourished with the demands of the wartime economy, the automobile was becoming a more-popular form of transportation, leading to increased government spending on road construction around the country, which would continue after the war and into the 1920s.

N.W. OHIO LABORERS FORM THEIR LOCAL

n that environment, which created a vital need for workers to build roads, bridges and other infrastructure in Toledo and Northwest Ohio, the Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers union chartered a large group of laborers in the city as Local No. 500 on October 20, 1919. The demand for laborers – and a union to represent them and protect their needs – was immediately evident as the local grew to more than 500 members by March 1920 while taking in upwards of 25 new members at each of its weekly meetings.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LIUNA

With the encouragement of Samuel Gompers, 25 delegates representing 23 local unions of laborers from 17 different cities met in Washington, D.C., from April 13 through 17, 1903, to organize into one union. The new organization subsequently christened itself the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Union of North America (a hod being a tray or trough with a pole handle that is used to shoulder loads of materials such as mortar or brick on a construction site).

The union wrote a constitution, set a per-capita tax of 5 cents per member per month, adopted a \$10 charter fee for new locals and adopted its official seal as a crossed hod, hoe and shovel, encircled by the union's name. That first constitution was published in three languages — English, German and Italian — and the group's charter application to the A.F.L. claimed jurisdiction over wrecking of buildings; excavation of buildings; digging of trenches, piers, foundations and holes; lagging and sheeting of excavations; concrete installation of floors, foundations or any other, signaling, handling of concrete buckets; tending masons and plasterers; tending carpenters; clearing debris from buildings; shoring, underpinning and renovating of old buildings; and handling of dimension stones.

The new union faced rival organizations, ethnic division and weak finances; in particular, two other organizations, the International Laborers Unions of Dayton, Ohio, and the Building Laborers International Protective Association of Lowell, Massachusetts, also claimed to represent laborers. But the union overcame its national rivals through its affiliation with the A.F.L., which encouraged building trades councils in various cities to recognize the Hod Carriers and Laborers as the official union.

In 1912, the fledgling union went through two name changes, becoming the International Hod Carriers and Common Laborers of America and then the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers of America. The union finally stabilized under the leadership of Italian immigrant Dominic D'Alessandro; before his death in 1926, D'Alessandro guided the laborers' union from under 10,000 to over 100,000 members.

In 1965, the union completed a much sought, symbolic name change, as many members resented the "common laborer" designation in the official title. After years of appeal, the A.F.L.-C.I.O. allowed the organization to change its name to the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA).





Meanwhile, Local 500 reported in the January 16, 1920, *Toledo Union Leader* newspaper that there was "great activity among the members" of the new organization, which was holding its meetings every Monday night at the **Toledo Labor Temple**. While there was no application fee to join the union, the local would begin charging \$15 to join beginning April 1 of that year – before which 75 members joined during a special meeting held on March 20 and 50 more signed up with the local during its regular meeting on March 22.

By that time, the local's hod-carriers (those who tended to carpenters and bricklayers by carrying materials using hods – trays or troughs with pole handles) and common laborers were earning a wage scale of 65 cents per hour. What's more,

the local was drawing up its bylaws, which would include both sick and death benefits for its members.

As Local 500 continued to progress and position itself to advance, including affiliating with the Toledo Central Labor Union, the March 26, 1920, *Union Leader* gave a glowing report on its condition and its future prospects:

"The Building Laborers' Union is growing by leaps and bounds and keeps business agent Murphy on the job recording the names of the new members. ... With the spring building boom now on, there is a big demand for building laborers, and with the activity shown by the building laborers union it is thought



that within a short time, a large majority of the common laborers of the city will be within the fold of organized labor."

Into the following year, the local kept growing and its expanding membership was kept employed by the active construction industry in and around Toledo. "The local is running along at top speed," the *Union Leader* reported on January 21, 1921. "Most all the men are working and look to the busy season in the building trades this spring."

Strong employment conditions persisted for the union laborers throughout the decade, as the 1920s were a time of great industrial expansion for Toledo, which was a major hub in the nation's transportation system with its 15 miles of riverfront. The city's automobile industry also produced more cars than any other city besides Detroit, and its glass companies produced "a mountain of glass," according to *Toledo's Attic* – all lending to the abundant work opportunities enjoyed by the laborers of Local 500.

Nationally, despite an anti-union political climate, the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers of America grew from a membership of 96,143 in 1920 to almost 100,000 members in 1929. During that time, construction boomed around the country and the union laborers consciously protected their jurisdiction while also organizing new jobs, while the union expanded its jurisdiction further in 1929 by merging in "Tunnel and Subway Constructors International Union."

As the end of the decade neared, the union voted by national referendum to raise its death benefit to \$200 for members who joined before age 50 and had been members for two years; \$100 for those with one year's service and less than age 50; and \$50 for those with less than one year's service. Members also voted to raise the per-capita tax to 35 cents per member per month.

LOCAL 500 CHARTER OFFICERS

E. W. Lapenas

President

O. E. Buterbaugh

Vice President

J. Rafferty

Recording Secretary

William Jackson

Financial Secretary

Ted Bowers

Corresponding Secretary

William Mack

Treasurer

J. House

Sergeant at Arms

R. SchofieldGuard





LOCAL 500 UNION HALL LOCATIONS

Toledo Labor Temple 129 Michigan Street, Toledo1919 – 1938

Toledo Labor Temple 912 Adams Street, Toledo1938 – 1960

Laborers Local No. 500 Union Hall 410 10th Street, Toledo1960 – 1974

Laborers Local No. 500 Union Hall William T. Copeland Building 2270 Ashland Avenue, Toledo 1974 – current



Local 500 Union Hall in 2019, located on Toledo's Ashland Avenue, which was renamed "William T. Copeland Avenue" after the local's former business manager after he passed away in 2004.



The original Toledo Labor Temple on the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Michigan Street was purchased by the city's organized labor unions in late 1919. The threestory former Zenobia Building contained 200 office rooms and two auditoriums, one of which was a "fully equipped banquet hall for taking care of dances, parties, etc." and was situated "between the best residence section and the hotels and business center," as described in an article in the February 20, 1920, *Toledo Union News*.

The facility was replaced in 1938 when the city's unions, with the individual donations of thousands of their members, built a new Labor Temple on the corner of 10th and Adams streets in the city.

TAKING ON HISTORIC NATIONAL EVENTS

oledo was markedly impacted by the **Great Depression**, the historic economic and human catastrophe that essentially began with the U.S. stock market crash of October 29, 1929 – history's "Black Tuesday" – and lingered for nearly a decade. As a center of manufacturing, the city endured some of the highest rates of unemployment, with some estimates at nearly 80 percent at its peak while the jobless rate in Ohio reached 37 percent.

Membership in the building trades as a whole was hit particularly hard by the Depression, as funding for new construction was not available, and laborers especially suffered. According to *The Laborers' Early Years*, the Laborers of America membership dropped from 100,000 in 1929 to 27,000 by 1933, and by 1932, more than 50 locals were suspended for not paying their per capita.



Several federal laws were passed during that time to help workers, such as the National Industrial Recovery Act in 1933, which set minimum standards for working conditions and established a national Labor Board to enforce collective bargaining rights, and the National Labor Relations Act in 1935, which ensured that private-sector workers had the right to union representation. The Davis-Bacon Act, which requires contractors on federal construction projects to pay workers the prevailing wages and benefits in their community, was also passed in 1931.





Local 500 members and their families and friends enjoy the local's 25-year members banquet sometime during the 1950s.

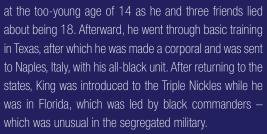




MEMBER MADE HISTORY AS BLACK PARATROOPER

Before Local 500 Brother Linden King joined the laborers' union in the mid-1950s, he was a part of American history as a member of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, also known as the Triple Nickles (the spelling of which was derived from old English), the United States' first, all-black parachute platoon, company and battalion.

Brother King enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, the predecessor of the U.S. Air Force, on October 16, 1945, during the latter years of World War II when he was



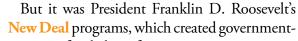
Linden King

However, it would be several years — and three years following military desegregation in 1948 — before King's unit was allowed to jump in a battle zone. Then on March 23, 1951, during the Korean War, a black paratrooper of the 555th jumped in combat for the first time in the history of the U.S. military.

Brother King went on to participate in 33 more jumps in Korea until 1954, according to an article in the May 26, 2013, Huntington, West Virginia, Herald-Dispatch, when he returned to the States. He then joined the laborers union, married and had seven children.

He later was quoted in the newspaper as saying the legacy of the Triple Nickles was to show that black troops are just as equal as any others. "My skin tone doesn't make me who I am," he said. "My character does."

Brother King passed away on June 4, 2016, at the age of 85.



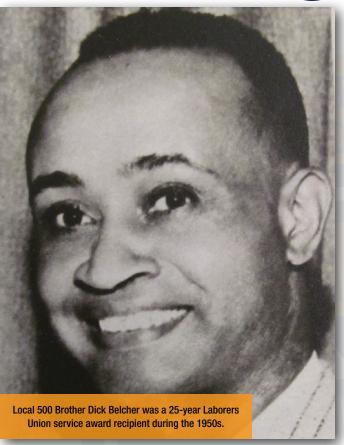
funded infrastructure construction projects throughout the nation, that most-benefited laborers and all construction workers throughout the decade. In Toledo, Local 500 laborers worked on a number of New Dealfunded projects in the city, which included construction of the \$335,000 University Stadium (later renamed the Glass Bowl Stadium) at the University of Toledo in 1936 and the magnificent, \$2-million Toledo Main Public Library in 1939 and 1940.

Other New Deal projects in the city included Old Orchard Elementary School, Ottawa Park Amphitheater, Toledo Heights Branch Library and the Toledo Zoo.

What's more, Toledo remained one of the most unionized cities in the country into 1937, by which time the city had experienced an excess of labor unrest and turmoil punctuated by the watershed Toledo Auto-Lite strike in 1934 that left two strikers dead. "This results from the strikes, part from the fights," an article in the May 19, 1937, *News Bee* stated. "But chiefly it is due to the tremendous impetus given union organization by the Roosevelt New Deal. Toledo was well on its way to unionism before the New Deal. The New Deal pushed it far ahead.

In June 1937, the outlook for the union was "bright," Local 500 business agents Brother Frank Barry and Brother Elmer Williams reported in the June 16 *Union Leader*. By that time, about 93 percent of the local's 1,000 members were employed, according to the newspaper, and work on the New Dealfunded, \$1.25-million Irving E. Macomber Vocational Technical High School was set to begin using contractors that would employ the union laborers. In addition, that month,





the local negotiated new contracts with the Associated Building Contractors of Toledo, the Excavators' Association, the Road Constructors Association and the building supply yards under a closed agreement at a wage scale of 75 cents per hour.

The following year, as the Great Depression was beginning to subside, the union building trades, including Local 500, extended their contracts with their respective employers at the current wage scales – and with no pay cuts, as had often been the case during the decade. The schedules for hourly pay for the union laborers from May 1, 1938 through May 1, 1939, were 75 cents for common laborers, 80 cents for hod-carriers and \$1 for sewer-tunnel workers.

After the outbreak of World War II in Europe and Asia in the late 1930s, the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers of America adopted a resolution in 1940 that pledged its full support for the National Defense Program.







After the United States officially entered the war following the Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, the union suspended all dues until the war was over, while thousands of its members would go on to serve in all armed forces.

The dramatic increase in construction throughout the country to meet the demand for war materiel created an urgent need for workers to quickly build military plants, new roads and military bases. Subsequently, by the end of 1942, national membership in the union nearly doubled from what it had been in 1941, reaching 430,000 laborers.

In Toledo, industries focused on wartime production as they received a combined total of over \$900 million in defense orders, according to <u>Toledo's Attic</u>, helping to put scores of Local 500 members to work. (Nearly a year before the United States entered the war, the Toledo Board of Education began to emphasize vocational programs for high school students in an effort to ensure that Toledo plants would receive defense

contracts.) Among Toledo's contributions to the war effort was the jeep, which the Willys-Overland Company began producing for the U.S. Army in 1941.

Also during the war, passage of the Federal Highway Act in 1944 led to the creation of the interstate highway system, which ultimately created tens of thousands of jobs for International Laborers of America members across the country, including Local 500's laborers. As the local celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2019, the Highway Act is still an important source of employment for LIUNA members.

Construction around the nation and in Northwest Ohio surged again after a brief postwar drop, as returning veterans desired new homes, businesses expanded and automobile ownership grew, creating the need for more roads to be built. On the international level, Local 500 and all laborers' locals gained another benefit when in 1949, the International Laborers of America signed its first national agreement with pipeline contractors.



ENJOYING A GLUT OF ROBUST CONDITIONS

he prosperity continued into and throughout the 1950s and strong construction, likewise, persisted. At one point during the decade, the wage scale for the local's journeyman would be raised to \$2 per hour – although the local would still not receive any fringe benefits, such as healthcare or pensions.

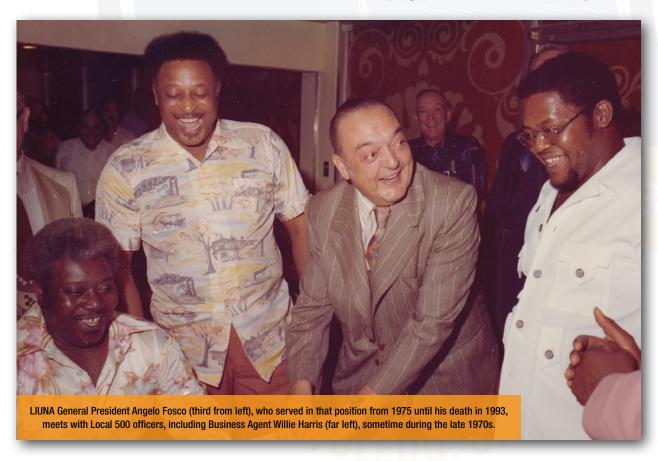
One of the several large projects on which Local 500 members worked during the first half of the 1950s was construction in 1953 of 20 large, concrete grain silos for The Andersons, an agribusiness established in 1947, in Maumee, Ohio. The concrete for the 168-foot towers was poured in less than two weeks using slip-form construction, in what the *Toledo Sunday Blade* labeled "The Big Pour."

The local, which would help build and expand every hospital in the Toledo area over the next

When the Toledo branches of the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (C.I.O.) merged in 1959 (following the national merger of the two labor organizations on December 5, 1955) after nearly four years of "fruitless negotiations," it was the first union of two local A.F.L. and C.I.O. organizations that "had to be merged by force," as described in the November 22 *Toledo Blade.* Local 500 member Brother Count Brooks was an original member of the Executive Board of the new Toledo Area A.F.L.-C.I.O Council.

several decades, also worked on construction of the new **St. Charles Hospital** in 1953. Local 500 members also worked on construction of the new, modern **Toledo Municipal Airport** (now the Toledo Express Airport), which would open in 1955.

But while the 1954 Interstate Highway Act would inject millions of federal dollars into road programs, Local 500 was not primarily



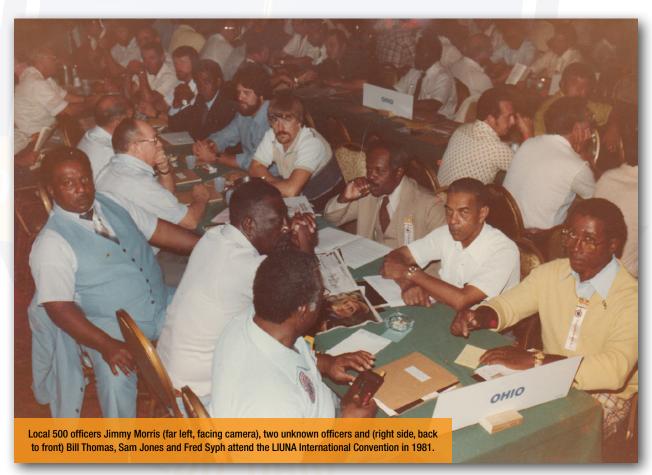




involved with highway work, and when construction slowed in the second half of the decade, there was little work for its members much of that time. A large amount of the local's manhours came from paving local streets and utility work, such as digging for sewers and water lines, during the balance of the decade and into the 1960s, retiree **Brother James** Smith recalled in 2019.

As the International Laborers of America celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1963, the union neared the half-million mark in membership and two years later would rename itself as LIUNA in 1965. Throughout the decade, strong federal support and a booming economy kept construction strong, as suburbs grew and cities built new skyscrapers around the nation and in Toledo.

Among the high-profile jobs on which Local 500 worked during that time was construction







of the 30-story Fiberglas Tower (now the Tower on the Maumee) on the Maumee River in downtown Toledo in 1967 and 1968. Constructed as part of the Riverview Urban Renewal Project, when completed the skyscraper was the city's tallest building and would serve as the headquarters for Owens Corning Fiberglass Corporation for the next 37 years.

By the late 1960s, the local's members were also busy constructing expressways throughout the region – which would help suburban communities surrounding Toledo grow while the city's downtown core began to suffer from urban flight.

SHAKING OFF RUST, OUT ON THE ROADS

Ithough the booming construction years of the 1960s gave way to the Lestagnant 1970s nationally, and Toledo found itself squarely in the middle of the socalled "Rust Belt" - where the once-dominant industrial region of the Midwest endured a bleak period of economic decline as manufacturers responded to global competition by relocating to other parts of the United States or Mexico - Local 500 persevered during the decade. By then operating under a hiring hall system, in which members were required to check into the union hall to be selected to work on certain jobs, the local was able to place members on a few significant projects that came to its jurisdiction, including Promenade Park in downtown Toledo beginning in 1975.

LOCAL 500 BUSINESS MANAGERS

When Local 500 was chartered in 1919, Brother E. W. Lapenas was selected to lead the new organization as its president, and he was succeeded as president in 1920 and 1921 by Brother Jack Purdy. Over the following three-and-a-half decades, a part-time president and part-time business agents — usually more than one during the 1940s and early 1950s, ran the administrative affairs of the local. The local's first elected business agents were Brother Charles Murphy in late 1919 and 1920 and Brother William Fay in 1921. Beginning in 1954, the local elected a single business manager to lead the local.

C.C. Brooks 1954 into 1962

Sam Leavitt 1962 into 1965

John Gooden 1965 into 1971

William Copeland 1971 into 1982

James Morris 1982 into 1993

William Thomas Sr. 1993 into 2002

Steven Thomas 2002 into 2007

Phillip Copeland 2007 into 2013

David Fleetwood 2013 to Current



served as a business

agent for the local

throughout the 1940s

Perhaps most prominent among those was construction of the **Davis–Besse Nuclear Power Station** just northeast of Oak Harbor in Ottawa County, Ohio, beginning in September 1970. The 894-megawatt, pressurized-water reactor nuclear power plant would go online on July 31, 1978.

Key to the local's continued development during that challenging decade was the accession of **Brother William "Bill" Copeland** to the position of business manager in 1971, in which he would serve until his

Continued after next spread.



Local 500 Apprentice & Member Education

TRAINING TO ENSURE A HIGHLY S



In the not-so-distant past, the laborers of Local 500 and Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) members across the country were still learning their trade solely while "on the job" as apprentices working side-by-side with experienced journeyman laborers. "Veterans just took you where they needed you until you learned everything you needed to know," Local 500 retiree **Brother Larry Stegall**, who entered the union as an apprentice in December 1974, recalled in 2019.

In 1965, LIUNA established an Education Program on the international level, and in 1967, the union established the National Training Program with \$2.1 million in international union support. Then in 1969, the Laborers – Associated General Contractors Training Fund was established.

During the early 1980s, Local 500 had breached the idea of funding an apprenticeship program out of employees' paychecks, but the membership quickly put a stop to that because

"they did not want to take a pay cut," Brother Stegall recalled. However, talk about forming a training fund to subsidize a formal program continued into and throughout the 1990s.

A long-sought breakthrough for the LIUNA international training fund came in 1994 when the U.S. Department of Labor certified "Construction Craft Laborer" as





KILLED WORKFORCE OF LABORERS

an apprenticeable occupation, opening the door for apprenticeship programs to begin throughout the union.

Since that time, Local 500 has become a participant in the Ohio Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Program, the training arm of the LIUNA Laborers' District Council of Ohio, which offers training in basic construction skills; advanced construction skills; environmental remediation techniques; and safety regulations and awareness. The program provides new-member training and continuing education for the state's LIUNA construction workforce at the 66,215-square-foot Drexel J. Thrash Training Center in Howard, Ohio, which also includes an environmental training building; a training building for gas pipeline and distribution worker classes; a soft-ground tunnel hands-on building; and a combination gunite/hard rock tunnel building.

The Training and Apprenticeship Program is subsidized through contributions to a Training

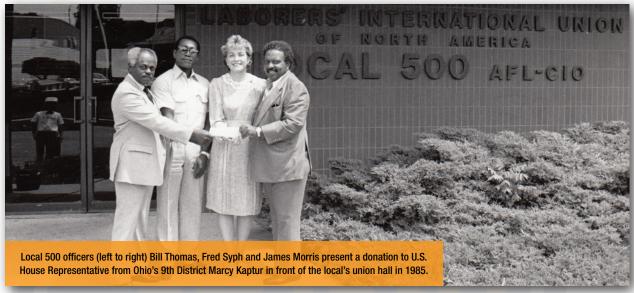
and Apprenticeship Fund established in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the union and its employing contractors.

LIUNA requires all new members to participate in a comprehensive apprenticeship program, such as the Ohio Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Program, consisting of 4,000 hours of on-the-job training and an additional 432 hours of classroom training. All training is provided at no additional cost to qualified candidates, and apprentices are paid according to a schedule based on training and experience; pay raises are given after each period of 1,000 hours of work and 144 hours of training.

To further secure the future of its skilled workforce, Local 500 on July 12, 2017, acquired the property at 2821 Nebraska Avenue in Toledo to house the new LIUNA Northwest Ohio Training Center, which the local hopes to open in the near future.







LOCAL 500 LOVES A PARADE

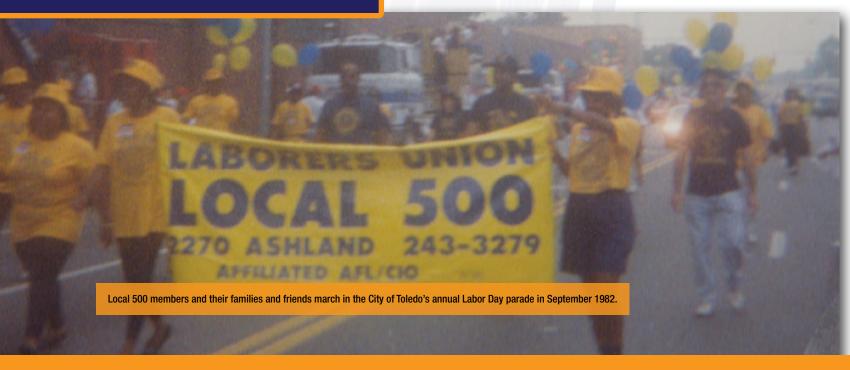
Local 500 has long been a regular annual participant in the City of Toledo's Labor Day parade.

As the local marched with more than 40 other local unions in the 2012 parade through the streets of downtown Toledo, Local 500 Brother David Fleetwood, the local's future business manager, declared to the *Toledo Blade*:

"This is to commemorate all the laborers before us, who worked for little or nothing. It's my duty to come out here. This is laborers sticking together. In unity, there's strength."

retirement in 1982. Brother Copeland would go on to be responsible, in part, for setting up a building fund for a new headquarters and union hall for Local 500 and establishing the union's Pension Fund.

Meanwhile, additional work that also employed Local 500 members during the 1970s included large shutdowns to refit, upgrade and repair the oil refineries in and around Toledo such as **Sun Oil** and **Standard Oil of Ohio** (or Sohio, and now BP). One of the larger projects on which the local's members worked was repair of the kilns at the Sun complex during the mid-Seventies, while members were also





performing floor construction for a new unit at Sohio.

Nationally and locally, successful organizing drives initiated in the late 1960s continued into the 1970s and training and educational efforts expanded, but by decade's end the unionized construction had lost market share to the growing non-union construction sector. A recession during the late 1970s and into the early 1980s further impaired the condition of the organized labor.

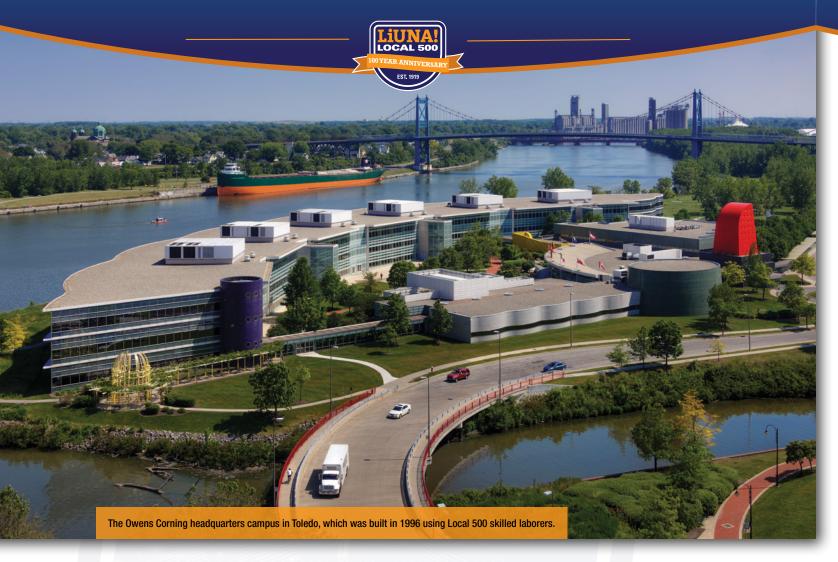
Local 500 and organized labor attempted to fight back the non-union invasion and curb the loss of union employment and control. For instance, in late December 1976 and into January 1977, the local and Cement Masons Local No. 886 of Toledo went on strike against their heavy and highway contractors for better wages and conditions.

It was also during that time that Local 500 and other building trades crafts members joined

Local 500 is a member of the Ohio Laborers District Council, a group of the state's LIUNA locals whose mission it is to work collectively with its signatory contractors and its union affiliates in on-going efforts of providing the best trained, experienced and most reliable work force possible. At its core the District Council advocates for fair day's work, fair wages, fringe benefits and retirement security for all workers.

striking Toledo public-service employees in their historic strike when 3,400 municipal workers walked off their jobs on the morning of July 1, 1979 (believed to be the nation's first in which both a city's police and firefighters walked out the same day, according to an article in the May 10, 2009, *Toledo Blade*). While "countless blazes were set," and about \$50,000-worth of city property, much involving vehicles, was trashed, including the firebombing of the former Plaza Hotel on Monroe Street where non-union workers were renovating the building to apartments – work





that would be completed with union labor, including members of Local 500.

Nationally, by 1980, unionized construction represented only 35 percent of the total construction workforce and it was estimated that one-half million union construction jobs were lost across the country in the 1970s, according to *LIUNA History* by the Great Plains Laborers District Council. What's more, by the early 1980s, "many Laborers local unions were freezing their wages or even taking wage reductions to compete with non-union contractors."

The Local 500 Retirees' Club was chartered as Retiree Council No. 500-R on March 16, 1992. Its charter president was Brother John Gooden.

However, Northwest Ohio's construction industry remained relatively unionized and as a result, Local 500 members had a large amount of work during the 1980s, including new industrial projects, work on the refineries, new downtown and government buildings, parking garages and work at the Port of Toledo, as well as a great deal of infrastructure work around Northwest Ohio. "We just moved from one job to the next," Local 500 retiree Brother Larry Stegall recalled in 2019.

Indeed, all of the construction work performed in downtown Toledo during the decade involved Local 500 members. In particular, from 1979 into 1982, the union laborers worked on construction of the new, 32-story One SeaGate tower, which would become the city's tallest building and serve as the world headquarters for Owens-Illinois before it became the Fifth Third Center at One SeaGate in 2007.



During the early 1980s, the local's members also worked on expansion of Libbey glass production company, which is headquartered in Toledo and expansions of The Andersons in Maumee, including the installation of new dryer units at the company's facility. During that time, Local 500 laborers further helped build the new Portside Festival Marketplace shopping mall that opened in 1984 along the Maumee River with the hope of helping with revitalizing downtown Toledo. (The mall closed, however, in 1990.)

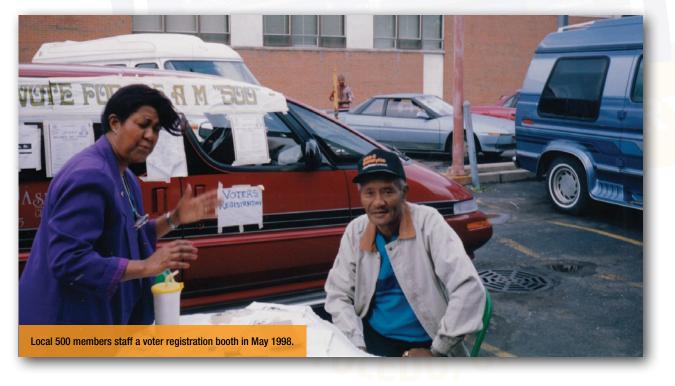
In a sign of those relatively lucrative times, Local 500 and its sister trades unions in the Northwest Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council won a new, two-year contract in 1980 that provided for a total \$3.47-per-hour total wage-and-benefits raise to their respective wages scales.

The local was able to stage successful strike actions during the decade in response to non-union contractors' attempts to move into the local's jurisdictional work. Subsequently, employment for Northwest Ohio's union laborers stayed relatively strong throughout the

The Laborers' District Council of Ohio, of which Local 500 is part, and the Ohio Contractors Association founded the Ohio Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) in 1995 as a means for laborers and their union contractors to work together to promote the highway construction industry and the role played by union contractors and union laborers. Since then, Ohio LECET – the state's affiliate of the national LECET program – has participated in the legislative passage of new gas taxes, project promotion with contractors, prevailing wage enforcement efforts, and other activities such as a Work Zone Safety Campaign, all with the aim of giving LIUNA locals in Ohio and their signatory contractors a competitive advantage to win projects and jobs.

1980s and into the early 1990s.

But an anti-union political climate and the expansion of non-union labor into the jurisdiction, which was also experiencing a sluggish construction market, resulted in extremely poor employment during the 1990s. "The bottom dropped out," Brother Stegall stated while recalling that some Local 500 members had to travel to other LIUNA locals for work.







Road work helped keep the local afloat, and it was during that period that the bulk of the local's employment gravitated to work on streets, bridges, tunnels and highways, as well as construction of utility tunnels and railroad maintenance work, as the LIUNA District Council of Ohio negotiated a statewide contract for road work with the Ohio Contractors' Association. "The local was surviving on road work," Brother Stegall recalled.

During that time, as the non-union incursion into Northwest Ohio construction proliferated, Local 500 and the building trades also worked to establish Prevailing Wage laws locally and for the state in order to protect organized construction labor.

Meanwhile, work on the new, Owens Corning World Headquarters campus along the banks of the Maumee River in Toledo during the mid-1990s until its completion in 1996 provided much-needed employment for Local 500 members. The three-story building encompasses a total of 370,816 square feet.

Some of the lost construction work returned after the 1990s and into the new Y2K millennium, including expansions to the glass factories and refineries in the area. In the meantime, road work continued to keep many of the local's members employed, dominating the manhours being worked by the union laborers.

REBUILDING A CITY, RECOVERING TO 100

ocal 500 enjoyed a large amount of work on the Ohio Turnpike and highway and bridge jobs throughout Northwestern Ohio during the 2000s. Those included construction, along with other building-trades unions, of the Veterans' Glass City Skyway cable-stayed bridge on Interstate 280 in Toledo that opened in 2007. At \$220 million, the 8,800-foot-long Skyway was the Ohio Department of Transportation's biggest single construction project.

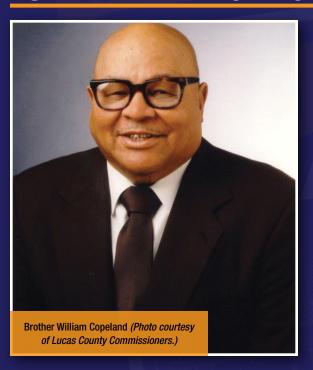
The local's laborers were also well-employed during the millennium's first decade on

Continued after next page.



The Legacy of Brother William Copeland

LOCAL, CITY ADVANCED UNDER LONGTIME LEADER



The groundbreaking efforts of Local 500 Brother William "Bill" Copeland, who served as the local's business manager from 1971 into 1982, in the laborers' union and politics helped open the door for African-Americans in many other fields.

He began what would become a nearly 40-year career with Local 500 in 1946 as an intern and rose through the ranks of the local's Executive Committee. As business manager, he was responsible, in part, for setting up a building fund for the union's new headquarters and also was key in establishing the union's pension and vacation funds — which were among the first to be created in the Northwest Ohio building trades.

In 1974, when the local's new union headquarters on Ashland Avenue in Toledo was opened, it was named in honor of Brother Copeland. The plaque affixed to The William T. Copeland Building reads, "Erected in 1974 in honor of his dedicated service to the Laborers International Union of North America Local 500."

Before his retirement, he served as vice president of the Northwestern Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council. He remained close to the labor movement throughout his political career, which began in 1973 when he won his first seat on Toledo City Council.

In 1983, he became the city's first black vice mayor in nearly a quarter-century. Five years later, he became the first black county commissioner in Lucas County and one of the first in the state when he was appointed to the position, and he would serve in the position until his retirement in 2002.

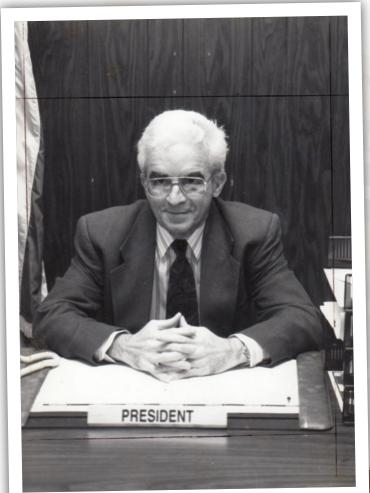
"He was a hero and mentor to all of us in (the African-American community)," WilliAnn Moore, president of the Toledo branch NAACP, said in Brother Copeland's May 4, 2003, Toledo Blade obituary. "He never left the neighborhood, and was an inspiration to all. He lived by the motto of education and to always bring someone else up with you."

Born Feb. 3, 1922, in Nashville, his family moved to Toledo when he was a youngster. He helped lead the Woodward High School basketball team to city and state championship games during his three varsity years. He attended South Carolina State University on scholarship and, in 1943, helped his basketball team capture the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship. He received a bachelor's degree in business a year later and played basketball as one of the New York Comedy Kings, a version of the Harlem Globetrotters.

He also was proud of his involvement in getting Fifth Third Field, the home of the minor-league baseball Toledo Mud Hens, built in downtown Toledo.

Brother Copeland never married and had no children. He passed away on May 4, 2004, at the age of 82.





refinery work and projects at the Davis-Besse Nuclear plant involving upgrades and refueling shutdowns.

Along with Toledo's other construction-trade unions, Local 500 members played a considerable role in building the Fifth Third Field minor-league baseball stadium in downtown Toledo from 2000 until it opened in April 2002. The \$39.2-million, 10,300-seat facility is home to the Toledo Mud Hens – in which the union laborers continued to invest with the purchase of a suite in the stadium along with the Northwest Ohio Building Trades and Ironworkers Local No. 55.

Other significant road and bridge work during that time included a five-year, \$48-million renovation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge connecting downtown and the east side in 2003.

As the decade progressed, however, the more-than-1,200-member Local 500 found itself in a continuing, five-year downward spiral in





2006. By that year, local's membership had dropped 7 percent from 2004 and it was forced to cut expenses, and before the end of the decade, some of its members would run out of unemployment benefits before being able to get back to work again.

The poor employment remained into 2010, during which Local 500, which by that time typically had 1,500 members working on road and building construction projects, only had about 1,150 of its laborers employed. However, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was in the process of spending \$1.1 billion for 473 transportation projects in Ohio and \$1 billion for 797 projects in Michigan, while the Ohio Department of Transportation was investing more than \$2 billion in construction projects for 2010 and 2011.

The local remained on the offensive, as well, and in on particular example stages an informational picket at the former Fiberglas Tower for a week in July 2010 after its owner hired a non-union company from West Toledo to remove asbestos from the building as part of its redevelopment.

A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING ITS COMMUNITY

Over its many decades, Local 500 has been involved in countless community-services works in which its members have participated throughout the Greater Toledo area.

Two of the more notable — and appreciated — projects in which the local played an instrumental role were repair work on the City of Toledo's Wilson and Jamie Farr pools during the summer of 2014. In June of that year, the union laborers, Plumbers Local 50 members and the Toledo Buffalo Soldiers completed repairs on the public swimming holes at only a fraction of the originally estimated cost.

Afterwards, Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins praised the unions' work, saying in the June 17 *Toledo Blade*, "Their participation refutes many of the naysayers about their dedication to a community."

Recently, among many other charitable efforts, Local 500 and its contractors trade group, the Associated General Contractors of Northwest Ohio, sponsored an annual \$500 scholarship award for community youth through Kings Kids Academy. The local also was one of several sponsors for the "Let Our House Be Your House" gala on December 6, 2015, to benefit Family House Homeless Shelter, the largest family shelter in Northwest Ohio.





Local 500 is one of six disparate minority organizations that comprise the Toledo Black/Brown Coalition, whose members feel compelled to bring together people from both the African-American and Latino communities to identify common problems and work toward solutions on issues that acutely affect the black and Latino populations. (African-Americans make up more than 27 percent of Toledo's population while Latinos account for roughly 8 percent of the city's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.)

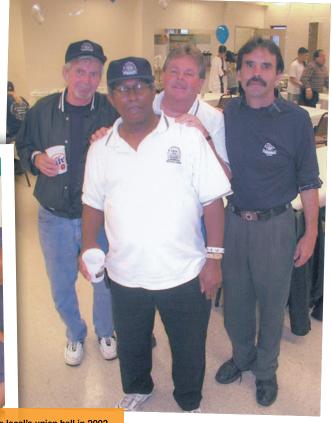
Those stimulus and transportation funds helped get Local 500 members working again on road projects, including the \$63.9-million Interstate 475 widening and reconstruction project in West Toledo, and would soon put more to work on future jobs. "That's what saved us," Business Manager Phillip Copeland told the September 4, 2010, Blade.

With the local getting its feet back under itself, in June 2013, its members elected a new business manager, **Brother David Fleetwood**, over Brother Copeland, who was simultaneously working as Lucas County recorder, to lead it into the future. Brother Fleetwood immediately turned his sights to doubling the number of Local 500 field agents to four in order to betterpolice the union's jurisdiction, which includes Lucas, Wood, Fulton, Henry, Defiance, and Williams counties.













He further planned to cut his annual salary by \$20,000 and lower the salaries of the business agents by a similar amount to pay for the additional agents, according to the June 10, 2013, *Blade*. "We'll have more feet on the ground and spread the duties out so it's not too taxing," he told the newspaper.

Other plans called for holding monthly union meetings in Williams and Defiance counties to make it easier for members to attend. "Members on the outside feel neglected," Brother Fleetwood said at the time. "I want to include all 978 members before my three-year term is up. It's going to be members first."

Its new regime led the local in a picket outside Westfield Franklin Park on August 22, 2013, to protest the mall's decision to hire an out-of-town company from Detroit to repair sidewalks and handicap ramps. At issue was the contractor's paying of substandard wages to its employees.

The following year, as the local continued to regain momentum, it remained committed





Local 500 Business Manager David Fleetwood was recognized as a 2018 Freedom Fund Honoree during the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Toledo Branch 103's Freedom Fund Banquet, which supports the local chapter's Youth ACT-SO program, on October 27, 2018.

to offering needed support and training to members to enhance their abilities, offering various classes and training events to update technical skills. What's more, the local's officers were taking time with members personally, in addition to spending time in union meetings, to discuss the importance of developing proper and good relationships with contractors. "We will not rest on this issue until every member truly exemplifies that commitment," Business Manager Fleetwood declared in the local's May 2014 newsletter.

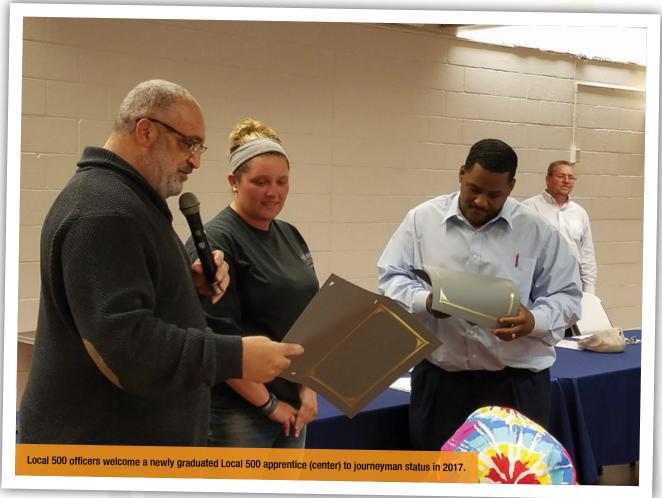
Just three years after Brother Fleetwood took over leadership of Local 500, its membership had increased by almost 400 in November 2016

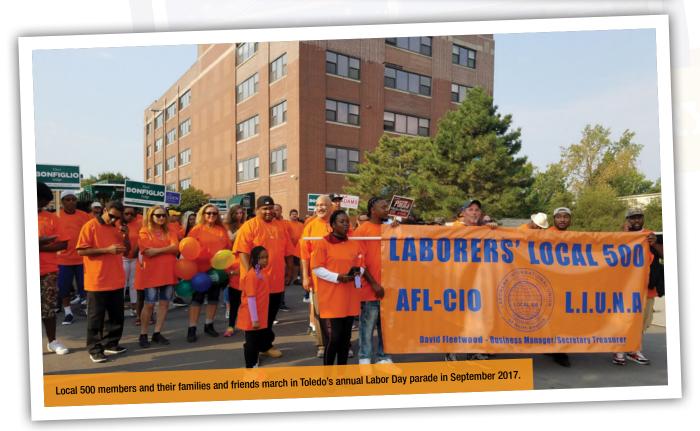


to more than 1,300 men and women working in building-trades construction. Those union laborers were most all being regularly employed by that time on jobs around Northwest Ohio that involved the placement and removal of concrete, demolition, asbestos removal, grade checking, flagging, carpenters tenders, brick mason tenders, hazardous waste removal, tunneling and more.



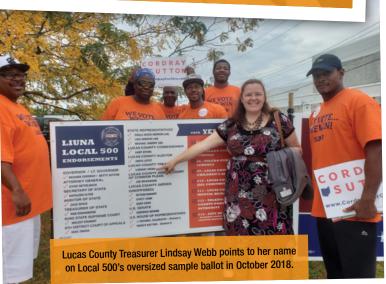












Over the coming years, Local 500 did not relent, despite its increasingly improving condition. For example, in August 2018, the local joined Toledo's mayor, Lucas County commissioners, Toledo Port authority officials and representatives from the Northwest Ohio Building Trades Council to send an open letter imploring the U.S. Coast Guard to step in and allow overseas vessels to travel to and from the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority's general cargo docks, which had been shut down to overseas cargo shipments in a years-long dispute between the International Longshoremen's Association Local No. 1982 and port manager Midwest Terminals of Toledo.

Now, as Local 500 celebrates its 100th anniversary, its nearly 1,300 members continue to apply their skills in the building-trades industry within the six-county jurisdiction it serves in Northwest Ohio. Its members also continue to work throughout the State of Ohio under the Heavy Highway Agreement administered by the Ohio Laborers' District Council.





Considering those 100 years, Brother Stegall was able to look back at the local's past century and his own career with the union with pride and appreciation:

"It was a way for me to mature in life by thinking if I get a good work ethic, I could make a good life for my family. It stands for equality and a better livelihood."

Similarly, retiree Brother Dale Wood credited Local 500 with having a profound effect not only on himself and his fellow brothers and sisters, but also their families:

"It has been a blessing. The local has given me a decent life. There's been gaps, but as a whole, it's been a blessing. It wasn't just about the members, it was also about the wives and loved ones, so they could have a better life."



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The sign outside of the future home of the LIUNA Northwest Ohio Training Center at 2821 Nebraska Avenue in Toledo, which Local 500 acquired on July 12, 2017.



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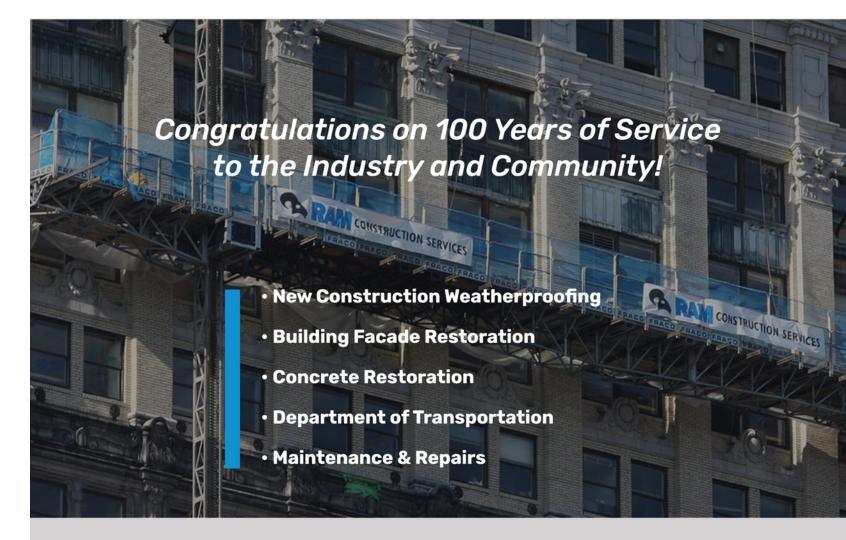
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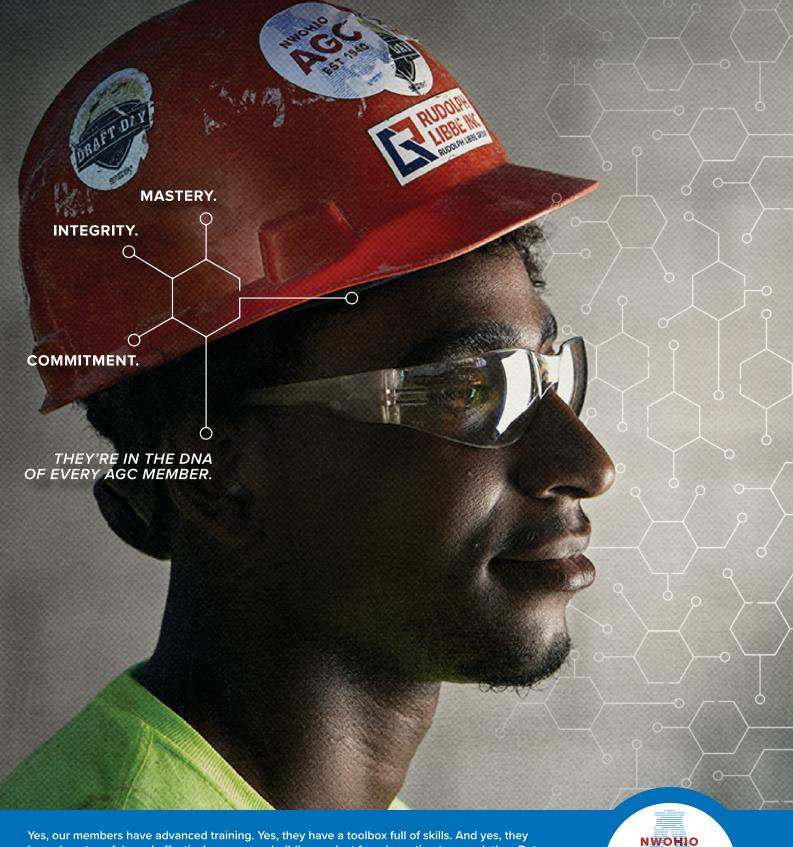
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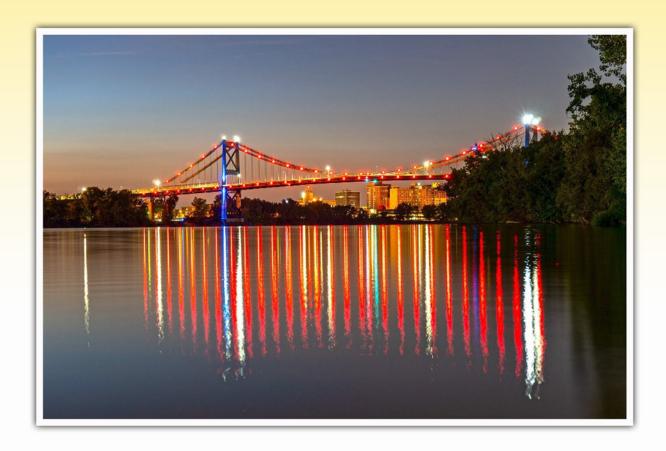
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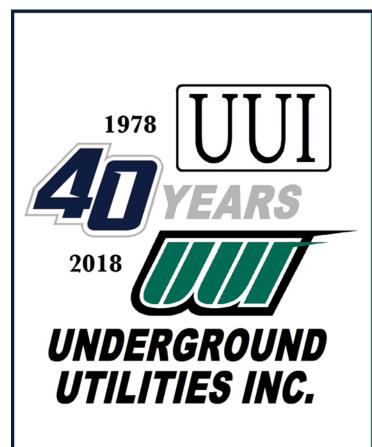
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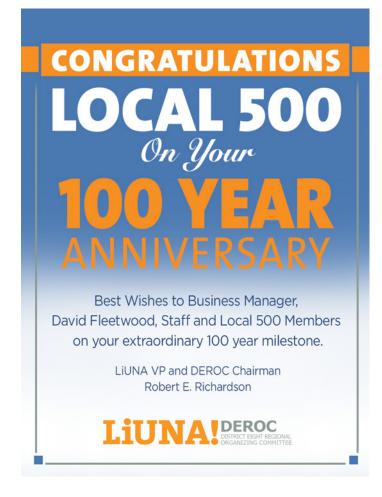
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From the Insulators #45





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What a great milestone you have accomplished!! We wish you all the success for many more years to come.

Laborers' Local 559, Birmingham, Alabama

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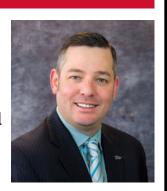
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Matt Cherry for City Council

"As a Union
Worker I respect
the hard work put
in by my fellow
union brothers and
sisters each day.
Congratulations
to Local 500 on
100 years of
dedication to
our community!"



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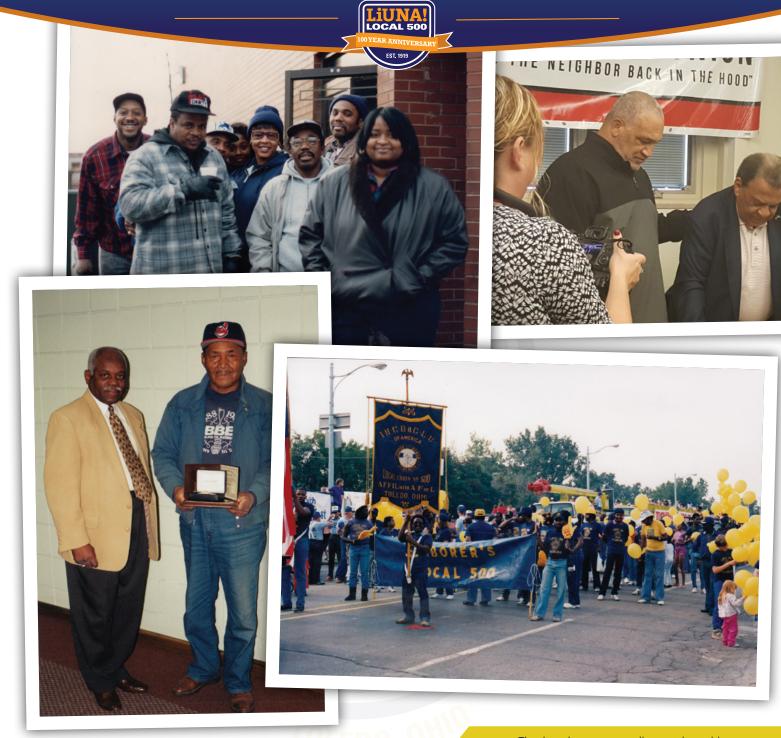
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Congratulations on 100 years of hard work and dedication!



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