

#### THE CALIFORNIA STATE PIPE TRADES COUNCIL

**CONGRATULATES** 

## **UA LOCAL 189**

ON THEIR

## 125th ANNIVERSARY **CELEBRATION**



Aaron Stockwell International Representative

Mike Hartley Executive Director

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## Congratulations

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 189 On Your 125th Anniversary!



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Local 669 District 13 & 29

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Officers, Members and Staff of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council congratulate Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 189 on your 125 years of building Central Ohio.



MARK DOUGLAS
PRESIDENT

MIKE KNISLEY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Congratulations to everyone at Local 189 on this milestone! It is a testament to your hard work and dedication. In solidarity, your brother's and sister's at Local 219-Akron, Ohio



# Congratulations Local 189 on Your 125th Anniversary



PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS, & MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICE LOCAL UNION 392 CINCINNATI, OHIO

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Bill Froehle

#### **BUSINESS AGENTS**

Jerry Back Jim Harris Tim O'Hearn Chris Webster

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Jeff Kirby

Sponson

JAMES SNELL
Business Manager



**TOM REDDEN** 

Financial Sec.-Treasurer

Steamfitters Local Union 420 is proud to support Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 189 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Best wishes for a great event!

Bonso

BEST WISHES
On your
125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
of

PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION #189

from the
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS



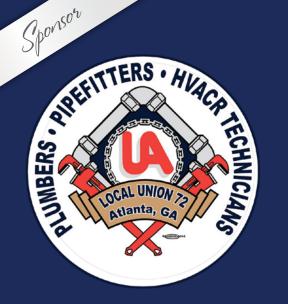
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ANDREW J. BEARDSLEY - JAMES C. KIRSCH ROBERT G. LORENZI, Jr. - WILLIAM T. PANITZKE JAMES E. REYNOLDS - WILLIAM A. YOCUM BUSINESS AGENTS

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## The Officers and Members of

PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS, AND HVACR TECHNICIANS LOCAL UNION 72, ATLANTA, GA

#### **Salutes and Honors**



# LOCAL UNION 189

## on your 125th Anniversary

Terry Newsome, Jr. BUSINESS MANAGER
Alan Tomberlin FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER
Steve Newsome BUSINESS AGENT
David Evans BUSINESS AGENT

#### Atlanta, Georgia Local Union 72

374 Maynard Terrace SE Atlanta, GA 30316 (404) 373-5778 | Fax (404) 373-2404 Albany, Georgia Local 72 Office

1900 Clark Avenue Albany, GA 31705 (229) 436-3929 | Fax (229) 439-4803

#### Macon, Georgia Local 72 Office

3040 Riverside Drive Suite A1 Macon, GA 31201 (478) 743-8606 | Fax (478) 745-3438 Rome, Georgia Local 72 Office

110 Darlington Drive Rome, GA 30161 (706) 291-6635 | Fax (706) 291-0816

## Congratulations UA Local 189 on 125 Years!



Best of Luck on Your Future!

From the Officers and Members

of UA Local 50

Toledo, OH

Sportsort

# CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL UNION 189



Brett McElfresh Business Manager, Financial Secretary-Treasurer Vance Van Voorhis Business Agent Dana Shanower President Chad Zollars Vice President

#### **E-BOARD MEMBERS:**

Matt Anania, Luke Metzger, Alex Poole & Codie Poole

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 94 3919 13th St. SW Canton, OH 44710 • 330.478.1864 plumbersandpipefitterslocalunion94.com

#### **CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ANNIVERSARY!**

125 Years Building Central Ohio Together

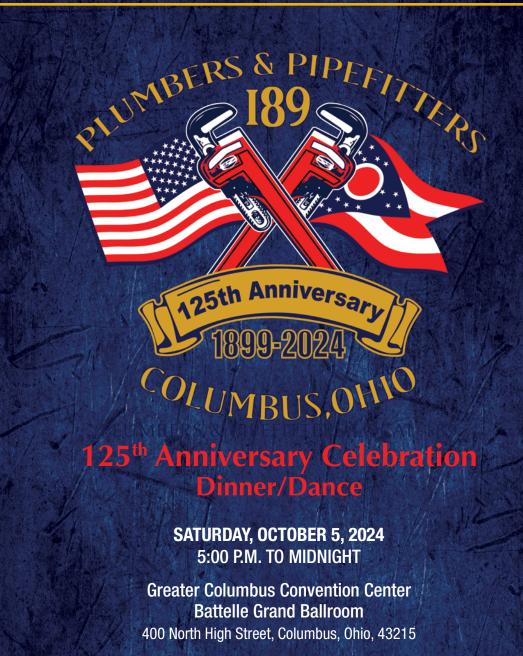


From the Officers and Delegates of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building & **Construction Trades Council** 

Providing skilled union craftsmanship to the Greater Columbus area since June 1, 1961

columbusconstruction.org





Registration and Reception5:00 to 6:30 p.m.Dinner (Family Style)6:30 to 7:30 p.m.Program and Presentations7:30 to 8:00 p.m.Music and Dancing8:00 to Midnight



#### WE CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY AS WE LOOK TOWARD OUR FUTURE

Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great pride and a sense of true union solidarity that I welcome you to the U.A. Local 189 125th Anniversary celebration!

I feel blessed and honored to serve as president of this historic and vital Central Ohio local union. And I was also honored to be part of the committee that was tasked with making the preparations of our quasquicentennial event.



The committee and officers of Local 189 hope that all our members and guests enjoy the festivities, which are a celebration of the accomplishments of our forefathers and members throughout the history of the Local, right through to our current membership.

"Thank you" to all members past and present for their contributions to this union, which more than anything else have helped create and make the Local into what it has become today. We look forward to forging new paths together into the future!

Fraternally yours,

Trent Carter, President

Plumbers & Pipefitter Local Union 189

This book was proudly produced by

#### UNION HISTORIES

Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions

United Association Local 189 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:

Local 189 Retirees Club

United Association, International Office

Much of the history contained in this program book was abridged from *Pride and Solidarity: A History of the Plumbers and Pipefitters of Columbus, Ohio, 1889 - 1989*; by Richard Schneirov

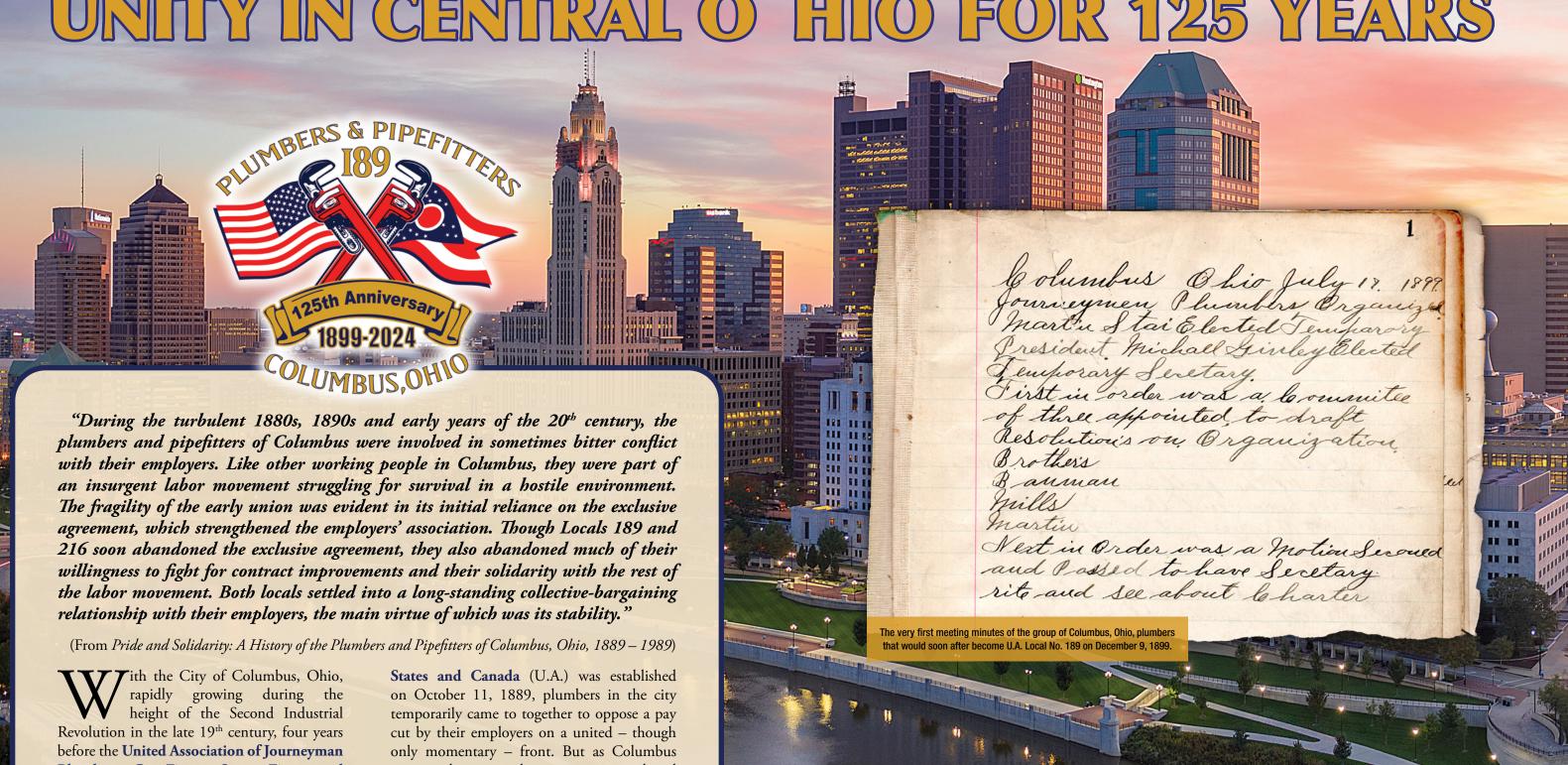
Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson Art Direction: Andy Taucher Layout & Design: Steven Demanett



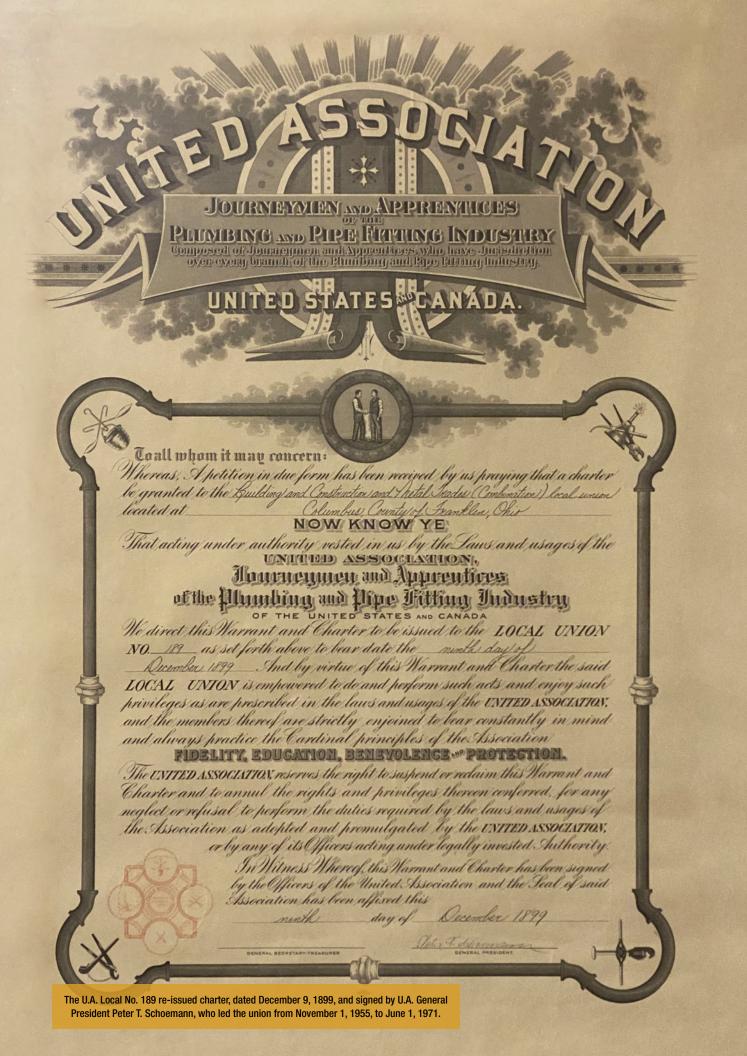




#### INSTALLING PRIDE, C RAFTSMANSHIP AND HIO FOR 125 YEARS UNITY IN CENTRAL O



Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United continued to expand as a governmental and commercial center whose population rose





Richard A.

from 51,000 in 1880 to 125,000 in 1900, just one month after the formation of the U.A., about 38 plumbers in the city organized again on November 15, 1889, and were granted a charter by the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) as independent **Plumbers Local Union No. 5180**.

(The U.A. would change its name to the current "United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada" on January 1, 1947.)

Less than two years later in 1891, the Columbus plumbers joined the U.A., which chartered them as **Plumbers Local No.**57. The following year, the union then chartered about 200 steam and gas fitters in the city as **Steam Fitters and Gas**Fitters Local No. 61.

In the wake of a severe financial depression, however, the U.A. merged Local 61 into Local 57 in 1894. Four years later, for reasons that are unclear, before December 1898 the union disbanded Local 57.

But within a year, a group of 28 plumbers led by Michael "Mike" Ginley assembled on July 17, 1899, in the backroom of the "Express Company" to organize a local union in Columbus once again to improve working conditions in their industry. After electing Martin Stai as temporary president and Brother Ginley as temporary secretary, the plumbers appointed Louis Baumann, Edward Mills and Thomas Martin as a committee to "see about a charter" with the U.A.

One week later, the group's committee on organization established a constitution detailing the purpose of the Local union: "For the betterment of the entire craft both socially and financially." It also stated that all members of the Local were required to pay dues of 10 cents per week and attend meetings regularly.

#### U.A. ORGANIZED OVER 130 YEARS AGO

With a general lack of stable, national organizations to represent steamfitters and plumbers at the time, Patrick J. Quinlan, a plumber from Boston, sent a letter to R. A. O'Brien, a plumber in Washington, D.C., on April 25, 1889, proposing the formation of a new, national pipe-trades union. Subsequently, on October 7, 1889, 40 delegates from 23 piping-trades locals in 10 states and the District of Columbia assembled in Washington for a convention.

Four days later, the United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada (U.A.) was born on October 11, 1889.

The U.A. selected Brother Quinlan as its president, Brother Henry Collins of New York City as its vice president and Brother O'Brien as its secretary-treasurer.

Meanwhile, most steamfitters were attempting to sustain their own national union, the National Association of Steam, Hot Water and Power Piping Fitters and Helpers, that they had formed in 1888, soon after which it would become the International Association (I.A.). For two decades, however, the two piping unions clashed regularly over jurisdiction – before the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) ordered the I.A. to amalgamate into the U.A. in 1912.

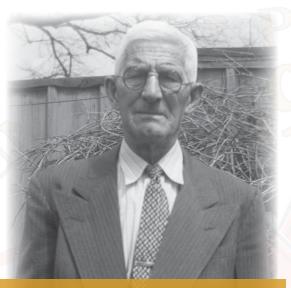
The union endured through two world wars and the Great Depression, after which on January 1, 1947, it changed its name to the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

By the following week, 28 members had joined the new local union. During the next three months, it set a goal of attaining a minimum wage of \$2.50 per day for its journeyman plumbers and began to initiate one or two members each week for a \$1 initiation fee.

After the Local set up a committee to consider affiliating with the U.A., Secretary Ginley collected the \$1 initiation to join the







Local 189 co-founder, charter member and first president Michael "Mike" Ginley Sr. (shown here many years later) collected the \$1 initiation fees of 19 total charter members in November 1899 and presented them to the U.A., after which the union chartered the Columbus local on December 9 of that year. Brother Ginley was from Marietta, Ohio, and during the previous two years had helped construct military forts in Florida during the Spanish-American War.

international union from 21 members, which he submitted on November 20, 1899, along with an application for a charter. The union subsequently chartered the plumbers as U.A. Local No. 189 on December 9, 1899, to cover Franklin County, Ohio.

#### BUILDING A PERMANENT LOCAL

T nitially meeting in a rented space at 227-1/2 South High Street in downtown Columbus, the new Local 189 was initiated with 19 charter members during a meeting on January 15, 1900. That April, the Local began negotiating with the Master Plumbers **Association** for a working agreement with key demands that had been issues since the 1890s.

Perhaps the Local's most urgent of those requests of the employers was reducing the length of the workday with an increase in pay from the current \$2.50 per nine-hour day to \$3 per eight-hour day and regulating the hiring of apprentices and helpers. Additional

demands included overtime pay for holidays, Saturdays and Sundays; transportation pay and board for any member working outside the city while traveling; and guarantees from the master plumbers that would only employ union plumbers - that is, instituting "closed" union-shop conditions throughout the city.

The Local's ability and willingness to offer employers an "exclusive agreement," whereby members would only work for Master Plumbers Association firms and they in return would only hire union plumbers, aided negotiations between the two parties. As such, Local 189 obtained the eight-hour workday at a minimum wage scale of \$2.25 per day.

Local 189 then gained another ally after its membership approved a motion during the Local's general meeting on August 20, 1900, approving of the gasfitters and steamfitters in Columbus petitioning for their own U.A. charter. Subsequently, the U.A. chartered Gasfitters and Steamfitters Local No. 216 during the summer of that year.

Throughout late 1900 and early 1901, joint Local 189 and Local 216 committees met periodically with the contractors, but after they could not reach agreement on a working contract, on March 25, 1901, the Locals applied to the U.A. for permission to strike. In the meantime, they also launched a major organizing campaign to take in all men working at the trades while lowering the initiation fee into each local to \$1.

By early May 1901, Local 189 had close to 80 members and Local 216 had about 40 members, and that new strength and unity of the city's Plumbers and Steamfitters, along with the prospect of united action by the new Columbus Building Trades Council, of which the two piping locals were affiliated, helped persuade the master plumbers to concede to most of the union's demands. As a result, a two-year contract signed on May 6 provided eight-hour workdays; closed-shop conditions



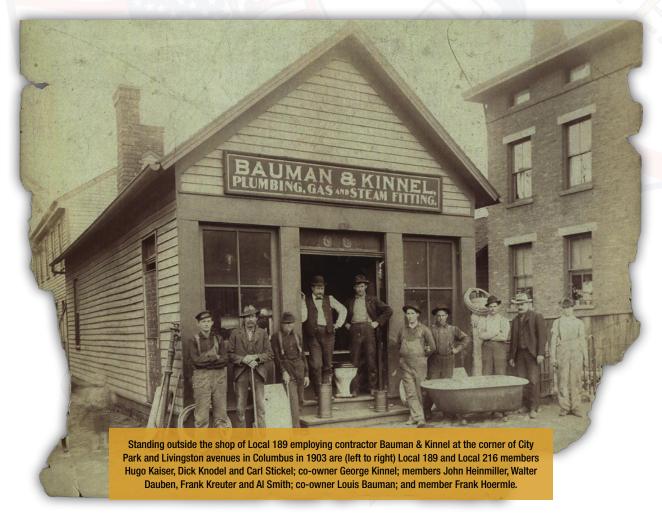
by which employers would only hire U.A. plumbers and fitters; a guarantee that master plumbers would only hire one apprentice for every two journeymen employed; and a new minimum wage scale for plumbers of \$2.50 per day and for steamfitters of \$2.25 per day.

"We gained what we wanted," Local 216 Secretary William H. Carlisle wrote afterwards in the July 1901 issue of the U.A. Journal. "They really gave us more than we asked for,"

The Plumbers and Steamfitters then hired Charles A. McAndrews as a joint business agent to represent both locals and police the agreement. Additionally, the Locals compiled its first list of working rules that were to be supplementary to the agreement, and on June 3 they fulfilled their obligation in the contract when their memberships voted "to pull all members out of shops that are not members of the Master Plumbers Association and that are not employing members in good standing."

After signing that first collective-bargaining agreement in 1901, Local 189 was able to provide its business agent with a home phone. It also leased its first office and meeting hall (although only semi-permanently) at 31-1/2 **Broad Street** in downtown Columbus.

Also that year, Local 189 raised dues from 10 cents to 30 cents per week, and the initiation fee into the Local was increased to the standard U.A. fee of \$25. In return, the union offered a Sick Benefit of \$5 a week up to 13 weeks to members who were unable to work because of illness or injury.







Hosted First Annual Convention

## LOCAL 189 WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF STATE ASSOCIATION

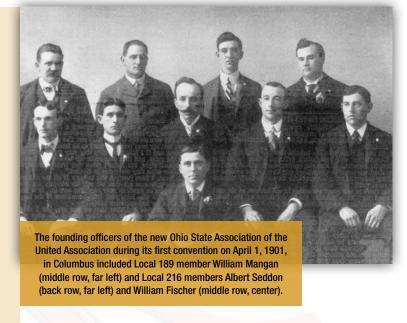
Columbus Plumbers Local 189 and Steamfitters Local 216 (which would be merged into Local 189 in 1929) were among the Ohio U.A. locals who answered a call by Cleveland Plumbers Local 55 and Steamfitters Local 120 in February 1901 asking for a referendum on organizing Ohio's U.A. locals into a statewide union-piping organization. Subsequently, the Locals decided by a majority vote to hold a convention in Columbus on April 1 of that year to "perfect plans and draft a constitution and by-laws."

Five locals, including Local 189 and Local 216, established the Ohio State Association of Journeymen Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers during that first convention so that its members could exchange ideas and work together. Its objectives would be "for the promotion of a better and harmonious feeling and for the protection of its members from unjust and injurious competition and for securing a unity of action among all workers of the trades throughout the state."

William Fischer of Local 216 served as the new association's very first president, while William Mangan of 189 served as fourth vice-president.

Nearly 123 years later as Local 189 celebrates its 125th charter anniversary in 2024, the since-renamed Ohio State Pipe Trades Association continues to promote the interests of the plumbing and pipefitting industry. Among the efforts undertaken to assist its affiliated locals, which include Local 189, in providing good jobs for their members by developing a piping workforce with superior training and skill education, the association supports legislation that protects the union building trades and furthers sanitation for the protection of public health while it also works to "cultivate feelings of friendship and good will among those in our industry."

But in early 1902, tension between the Locals and their employers mounted when a master plumber continued to employ a journeyman suspended because he had not paid back a loan to Local 189. When the Master Plumbers Association then refused to grant the two locals a wage increase that they were requesting in



contract negotiations, Local 189 and Local 216 went on strike on March 28 of that year, charging that the master plumbers had violated their agreement.

After four weeks, during which time the master plumbers unsuccessfully tried to break the union by importing over 30 non-union plumbers and pipefitters into the city, arbitration by a judge awarded the Locals an immediate 25-cent daily increase in wages and another 25 cents that would take effect in 1903. Although the Locals severely fined the eight of their 143 journeymen who had worked during the strike (or "scabbed") upwards of \$200, *The Columbus Dispatch* still reported on April 23, 1902, "The friendly feeling that has marked the conduct of this struggle was carried into the settlement, and the men return to their old places in the best possible spirit."

#### FIGHTING TO REMAIN VIABLE

he cordial relationship between the two piping locals in Columbus and the city's master plumbers took an abrupt turn in mid-1903 after the second wage increase of the active working contract between the union and association took effect. At that time, the employers advertised for plumbers to come

work in the city for \$3 per day, while most of the Locals' members were earning \$3.25 or even \$3.50 per day.

The next year, Local 189 and Local 216 went on strike after the employers locked them out of their jobs during the final week of April 1904 when the two sides could not negotiate a wage scale in a new contract as the previous agreement expired. During what would be the longest strike in the history of the Columbus pipe trades, on May 10, after the State of Ohio's Board of Arbitration stepped into the dispute, the Master Plumbers Association refused to take part in conciliation discussions and instead adopted "open" non-union shop conditions.

In response, the Locals decided to offer their services at the new scale to non-association contractors, which were generally smaller firms that were in competition with the larger association members. When that effort failed to generate enough work, the Locals formed their own cooperative plumbing and heating firm.

Three days after the master plumbers' openshop declaration, several contractors secured court injunctions prohibiting the Locals from picketing in the front or the rear of the firms' premises and fining or suspending union members who were scabbing. What's more, the Locals' cooperative plumbing had failed by July 19, 1904, an article in that day's *Columbus Dispatch* reported, and so many union members had opened small shops of their own that no single shop was profitable.

By the end of that month, many Local 189 and Local 216 members were leaving town to find work. The Locals subsequently ended the strike in August.

However, according to <u>Pride and Solidarity:</u> <u>A History of the Plumbers and Pipefitters of Columbus, Ohio, 1889 – 1989</u>, "it seems that the Master Plumbers Association abandoned the open shop in the face of its inability to secure an

adequate supply of skilled labor and moved back to collective bargaining by 1905." But the book further explains, "Though collective bargaining resumed in the pipe trades, it was largely on the employers' terms for many years thereafter."

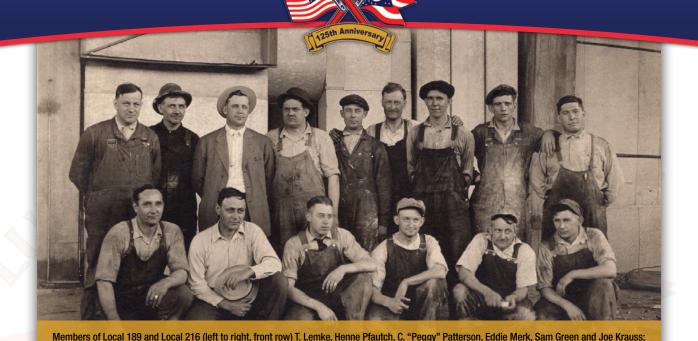
Local 189 held a special meeting in July 1905 "for the purpose of building up the Local and getting outside plumbers to join" while a smaller delegation was instructed to induce all non-union men, including those who had scabbed during the strike, to join the union for a lowered initiation fee of \$10. The meeting also called on "each brother to be a committee of one to see the scabs in each shop."

Within the next two months, 21 new applications were accepted and the Local soon regained much of its former strength. By 1906, the union was able to formulate and enforce a new set of working rules which included an eight-hour day for \$3 and time-and-a-half pay for overtime.

In November 1907, Local 189 and Local 216 expanded the responsibilities of their joint



Members Edwin H. Dover (left) and Walter M. Turner at the joint Local 189 and Local 216 annual picnic in 1906.



and (back row) Paul R. Postlewaite, Joe Rudolph, <contractors general manager H. B. Conklin>, J. "Snoots" Trautman, R. Jones, Jimmy Martin, William

"Bill" Seeds, W. "Tim" Hogan and Walter G. Dauben pose during a break while working on construction of the new Columbus Athletic Club in 1915.

business agent, Charles Albert "Al" Seddon, who had been serving in the position since 1904, to include regulating the Locals' first union hiring hall. With that, he was instructed to keep a written list of all new jobs received from union contractors and a list of all members who had been laid off work "so as the first man (laid) off (will) receive the first job, in case the first man does not want the job, it will go to the second man, and so on, down the line, until the job is filled."

That year and into 1908, however, a national depression stifled employment for the Locals, and slow job growth in Columbus would continue until the start of World War I in 1914. Many members during those years went into business for themselves, according to *Pride and Solidarity*, thereby increasing the competition for scarce work.

Foreseeing the Locals' progress, after visiting Columbus the month before, U.A. General Organizer Thomas E. Burke reported in the September 1909 *Journal*, "These locals have done well, considering what they have come through between hard times and bad strikes in the past. They have enforced the union shop and the apprentice and will be in a good, fortified position very soon to still further improve their

present conditions. To this end, Brother Birch and myself laid a plan for the future to improve the conditions of all that work at the pipe trades in this city and vicinity."

Successively, under the leadership of Business Agent Thomas P. Birch, who assumed the position in 1908 and would continue to serve as the Locals' joint agent into 1929, in September 1909 Local 189 and Local 216 unionized the two largest plumbing shops in the city that had remained "unfair" to union labor and were paying their workers below the union wage scale. At the same time, a joint committee from the Locals settled a new contract with the master plumbers that increased their journeyman members' pay by 50 cents per day.

Meanwhile, with the new-found favorable conditions, Local 189 enacted a \$50 **Death Benefit** for members' families that would be provided when a member passed away. The Local and Local 216 and their employers also agreed that a permanent committee from both sides would "work in conjunction," U.A. General Organizer Franklin C. Fay reported in the October 1909 *Journal*, "as we convinced them that we were ready and willing to work at all times for the betterment of our trade and expected them to do likewise."



#### MAKING SIGNIFICANT NEW GAINS

Because of the "anti-union atmosphere" in Columbus, up until the start of war in Europe in 1914 the union plumbers and steamfitters in the city did not press for major contract improvements, according to *Pride and Solidarity*. Rather, Local 189 and Local 216 "continued to guard existing wage rates and work rules."

Regardless, while work in the Locals' jurisdiction was "not any too plentiful," as U.A. General Organizer William Lynn reported in the July 1912 *Journal*, he was also able to announce, "both of our locals are enjoying good conditions and the city is well-organized." Likewise, the following year, U.A. General Organizer Charles Dickson was able to report in the November 1913 *Journal* after a September 17 visit to the

city, "The members are all working, with the exception of one or two, and they are expected to start shortly."

Among the jobs on which Local 189 members were employed during the mid-1910s was construction of the \$1-million, 400-room Deshler-Wallick Hotel in downtown Columbus in 1915 and 1916. (Located on the corner of Broad and High Streets, the hotel would be expanded to 1,000 rooms in the 1920s before it was demolished in 1969). While the Local continued to work on the hotel while the new Columbus Building Trades Council struck the job in September 1915 in support of a non-A.F.L.affiliated laborers union, in the end all of the building trades followed the plumbers' lead and soon after returned to work on the project.

Local 189 and Local 216 signed a new agreement with their employers in January 1916 that provided them with a 50-cent increase in daily pay and "excellent working conditions," as Organizer Lynn reported in the March 1916 *Journal*. Later that year, Organizer Dickson was also able to announce in the November *Journal*, "I can report favorably as to conditions in that city as given me by Business Agent Birch."

After the United States entered World War I on the side of the Allied Powers in April 1917, industrial construction in the Locals' jurisdiction swelled with the surge of government-financed military work in and around Columbus. War-related projects on which Local 189 members worked that year and in 1918 included a \$7-million federal storage depot.

#### **LOCAL 189 MEETING LOCATIONS & UNION HALLS**

(All locations are in Columbus.)

**227-1/2 South High Street** 1899 – 1902

Goetz's Hall 279 South High Street 1902 – 1903

**31-1/2 West Broad Street** 1903 – 1904

**17-1/2 East Town Street** 1904 – 1907

**40 East Chestnut Street** 1907 – 1912

**17-1/2 East Chestnut Street** 1912 – 1913

**172 East Town Street** 1913 – 1914

Fink Hall 21 North Front Street 1914 – 1923

Federation of Labor Hall 50-1/2 West Gay Street 1923 – 1925 **Eagles Hall 771 North High Street**1925 – 1927

**261-1/2 High Street** 1927 – 1930

Carpenters' Hall 8 East Chestnut Street 1930 – 1936

Carpenters' Hall 293 East Rich Street 1936 – 1950

**250 Donaldson Street** 1951 – 1952

**555 East Rich Street** 1952 – 1964

Local 189 Richard Anderson Hall 841 Alton Avenue

1964 – 1981

**Local 189 Union Hall 1250 Kinnear Road** 1981- present



But it was construction of the massive Camp Sherman military training facility at Chillicothe, Ohio, beginning in June 1917, which would eventually accommodate 42,000 soldiers, that provided the bulk of employment, as at one point more than 720 U.A. members were working on the project. With jurisdiction over the camp and union-friendly contractor M. J. Gibbons & Company of Dayton, Ohio, running the job, Local 189 and Local 216 were at the forefront of the construction of the more than 2,000 buildings, including hundreds of two-story wooden barracks, erected by September 1917 on the 2,000-acre cantonment, which prepared draftees and enlisted soldiers before leaving for duty overseas.

While work was plentiful in and around Columbus, it became difficult to supply plumbers and fitters at times in the city's downtown plumbing shops while many of the Locals' members were employed on the government work, and a decline in residential construction meant that many plumbers and pipefitters were still not assured of adequate employment. As a result, in July 1918 Local 189 voted to assess all members working on

government jobs a \$2-per-month tax to support members who were unemployed.

But that month, a committee composed of three members of Local 189, three members of Local 216 and Business Agent Birch met with the Master Plumbers Association on July 9 to recommend a pay raise for both locals. Although the Locals' current agreements did not expire until January 1, 1919, their committee was able to secure a wage-scale increase from 70 cents per hour to 75 cents per hour and double-time for all overtime work, effective July 15, 1918.

The war officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919 after hostilities had ceased on November 11, 1918.

At the outset of the conflict, U.A. General President John Alpine had pledged to avoid strikes on government work and disassociated the U.A. from those in the labor movement who opposed involvement in the war and led a strike wave in 1917. In return for labor's support, the federal government under President Woodrow Wilson recognized many of labor's demands, including recognition of existing collective-bargaining agreements.



#### A History of Charitable Activism

#### **READY AND WILLING TO HELP ITS NEIGHBORS**

"Local 189 has always been involved in the community. That's how we see what being part of a union means — everyone working together to better themselves and helping those less fortunate."

- Local 189 Treasurer Kenny Davis

As a proud member of the Central Ohio community since being founded in 1899, Local 189 has throughout the past 125 years embraced the responsibility of giving back to those in need in the area. As such, the Local's members have regularly donated their time, skills and resources to support the region's charitable organizations.

To help provide basic needs such as food and shelter to less-fortunate members of the community, Local 189 has been an active supporter of organizations that include the Mid-Ohio Foodbank (dedicated to feeding the hungry), The Community Shelter Board (focused on ending homelessness), the Affordable Housing Trust For Columbus & Franklin County (which creates affordable home ownership for working families and seniors), and national organizations such as the Red Cross. Over the years, the Local 189 Union Hall has hosted numerous blood drives and, on occasion, has provided emergency shelter for people stranded by weather events.

The Local's members' have also applied their craftsmanship to help organizations including Rebuilding Together Central Ohio (formerly Christmas in April), which rehabilitates houses for people with limited income, senior citizens and homeowners who need assistance.

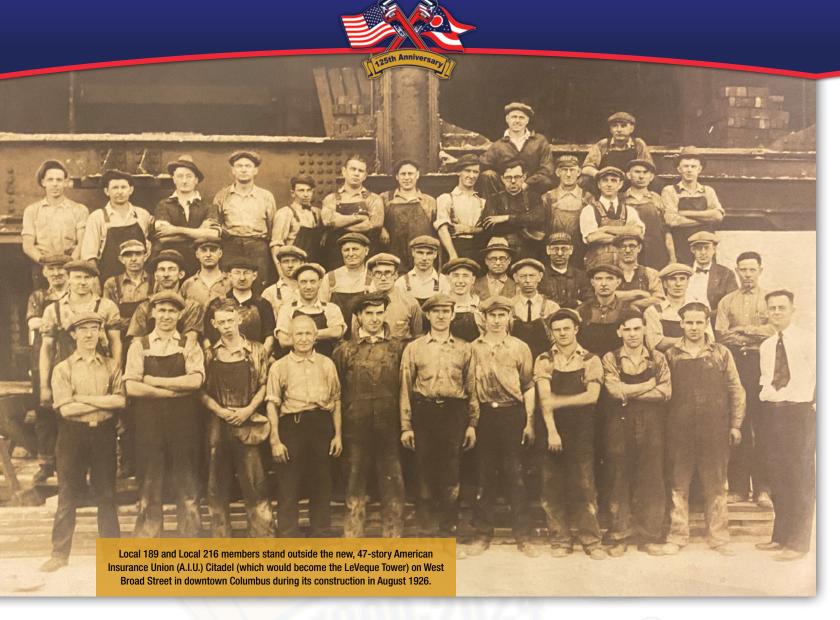
Local 189 has also consistently supported a number of organizations that benefit a range of causes from cancer research to veterans to educational programming. Organizations such as the Special Olympics, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Helmets to Hardhats, Veterans in Piping (VIP), the Boy Scouts of America, Charity Newsies and the Lupus Foundation of America have all received support from Local 189.

"With our members, if you asked for their help with something that was being done for charity, you'd get a good group of people there to help you. They'll do absolutely anything to help their community out, which I think is one of the main qualities of a good union – they are there for their community."

- Forty-year Local 189 member Gary Giehl







This resulted in a large expansion of the trade union movement, including the U.A., which increased its membership by 50 percent between 1917 and 1920. In Columbus, Local 189 likewise increased to close to 200 members by the early 1920s.

#### **ENJOYING PROSPEROUS TIMES**

s Local 189 and Local 216 were growing, in October 1919 a joint committee requested another increase in wages from the Master Plumbers Association to \$1 per hour. The Locals instead settled for a 90-cent-per-hour scale in a new contract that would remain in effect from 1920 until 1922.

Contrary to expectations, however, the cost of living mounted during a national recession in the early 1920s, and most unions in Columbus

were not active in the Building Trades Council. But the plumbers and steamfitters locals and their contractors were able to maintain a positive relationship, allowing Organizer Dickson to report in the January 1921 Journal, "The affairs of our locals in Columbus are in good shape, and the other trades will have to help themselves, or at least show some effort to do so prior to our locals placing themselves on the altar of sacrifice."

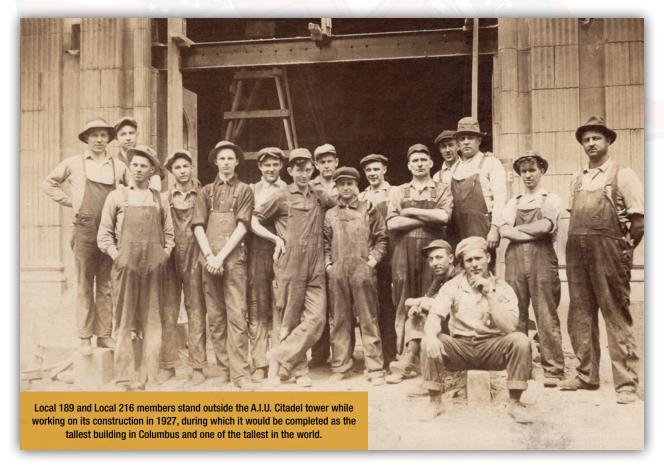
After the "Roaring Twenties" period of unprecedented economic growth in the United States kicked-in following the recession, Local 189 and Local 216 enjoyed general prosperity along with the entire city for much of the next five years. With construction work in the Locals' jurisdiction escalating, the downtown area underwent redevelopment with the construction

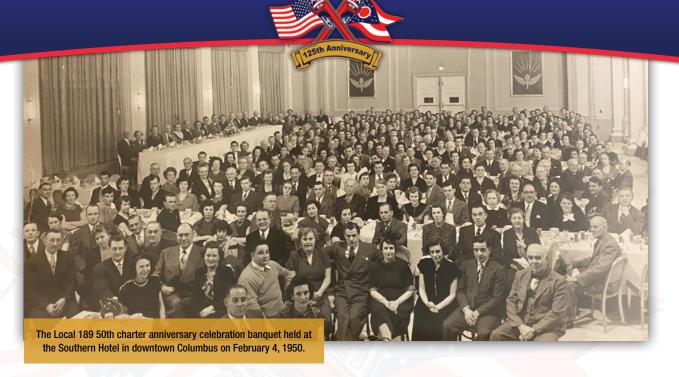
of the Civic Center and Port Columbus airport, while Ohio Stadium on The Ohio State University campus was built and The Timken Company and Ford Motor Company constructed plants in the city that provided good jobs for union construction workers.

As harmony between the Locals and their contractors persisted, in 1922 they signed a new, two-year agreement that raised wages from 90 cents to \$1 per hour (or \$8 per day) at a time when many other U.A. locals were resisting wage cuts. The following spring, when it became clear that the city's new building boom was going to last, the employers voluntarily raised that daily wage to \$9 – and Organizer Lynn was able to declare in the October 1923 *Journal*, "Our plumbers and steamfitters local unions of Columbus are in a far better condition than any of the other building trades of the city."

The Locals and the Master Plumbers Association were able to avoid a strike in early March 1924 after they continued negotiations on a new contract and each made concessions in an agreement. The new, two-year pact provided a wage scale of \$10 per day and excellent working conditions for the union, while also allowing the Locals to request negotiations on a new wage at the beginning of 1925 if it desired.

The groundbreaking on September 23, 1924, of the 47-story American Insurance Union Citadel in downtown Columbus provided Local 189 and Local 216 members with an abundant – and prominent – source of employment over the next nearly three years. Later renamed LeVeque Tower, when completed in September 1927 the skyscraper, which included 137,000 feet of heating pipe for thousands of radiators, was the fifth-tallest building in the world and would be the tallest in the city until 1974.





Also during that time, the Building Trades Council of Columbus reorganized with the plumbers and steamfitters at the forefront, although many of the city's building-trades unions were not enjoying the same conditions as their sister piping locals. "Our plumbers and steamfitters local unions are both enjoying good conditions under working agreements with their employers," Organizer Lynn even announced in the January 1925 *Journal*, "but I am sorry to say several other building trades are not very well organized."

Local 189 also spent much of the decadeworking to improve and protect the city's Plumbing Code, an endeavor that was augmented with the formation of the Local 189 Plumbing Code Committee. In one associated instance, in 1925 the Local successfully protested the city's waiver on the plumbing ordinance and water-testing rules on a large hotel being built across from the Ohio Statehouse capitol building in downtown Columbus, after which the contractor agreed to test water in the structure and follow plumbing standards.

"For plumbers and pipefitters, the prosperity and good feeling during the 1920s construction boom was punctuated only by a short strike in June 1926," *Pride and Solidarity* states, "which brought the pay of the city's 300 plumbers and pipefitters to \$11 a day."

That strike began on June 8, 1926, after the Locals' members continued to work even though their previous contract expired on June 1. After several meetings, the union and employers reached an agreement on June 16 on a new, two-year contract that provided a wage scale of \$10.50 per day from June 1 to October 1 and \$11 per day for the balance of the pact.

"The members of local unions 189 and 216 are to be congratulated upon their stand during this short strike," Organizer Lynn later wrote in the July 1926 *Journal*, "and I want to particularly thank the committees from both local unions, who worked with me and so ably represented their membership in our negotiations with the employers."

But that period of cooperation and prosperity virtually ceased when construction in and around Columbus began to decline in 1927. Consequently, during a January 1929 joint meeting of Local 189 and Local 216, delegates reported that "the plumbing and steamfitting industry in Columbus has been deteriorating for the last two years. The non-union shop and non-union journeymen are securing a good percentage of the work that was formerly done by our employers and our members."

That same month, during another joint meeting Local 189 and Local 216 officials



recommended that they merge to save salary costs and to be better unified against expected efforts by the contractors to impose a wage cut. With a plan in place that protected the interests of the outnumbered fitters by mandating that a merged local's Board of Directors be composed of three plumbers and fitters, the U.A. amalgamated Local 216 into Local 189 on September 5, 1929.

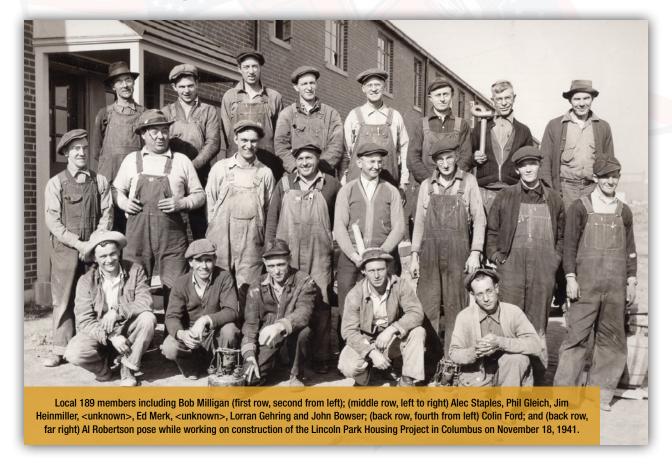
Also around that time, longtime Business Agent Birch retired after 21 years in office. The Local 189 membership voted **Arthur M. Barr** to be its next agent.

#### ENDURING HISTORIC HARDSHIP

Ithough the Great Depression that began when the U.S. stock market crashed on October 29, 1929 (history's "Black Tuesday") did not hit the Columbus economy as hard as those of industrial cities, Local 189's membership declined by 47

percent from 224 to 119 members in 1936 as unemployment among U.A. locals across the country surged during the historic, decadelong economic and humanitarian disaster. "Construction all but stopped, and this led to a significant decline in manufacturing," the official U.A. history recounts. "The economies of both (the United States and Canada) spiraled ever downward, until unemployment reached extremely high numbers and workers began to give up altogether."

In April 1930, the Master Plumbers Association demanded that Local 189 take a wage cut, but the Local authorized its negotiating committee only to "stand pat for the old agreement." After the Local refused the contractors' counter proposal of a \$10-per-day reduced pay scale on July 8, the contractors locked out their journeymen plumbers and fitters for one week before the Local accepted the association's offer.





225th Anniversary

As the Local worked to curb the effects of the depression, in August 1930 it instituted its finance committee's recommendations that it move into a less-expensive union hall, discontinue the practice of making personal loans and require all officers to pay dues from which they had previously been exempted. To further help hold the Local together, only members working more than five days a month were required to pay dues, and in an attempt to restrict entry into the trade, the Local quadrupled its initiation fee to \$100.

Meanwhile, as the U.A. history notes, the *Journal* ran several issues during the early 1930s that offered advice on how members could make their wages go as far as possible, although much of the focus of the articles was either on calling on the government to take action to help people or on trying to offer some hope and encouragement to the U.A. membership. But as its overall international membership declined and the U.A. held no conventions between 1928 and 1938, "the union held it together," the U.A. history states.

After it refused to accept another pay cut requested by the master plumbers, Local 189 entered the longest strike in its history in June

1933. When the employers then reduced pay unilaterally from \$1 to 75 cents per hour, the Local established a lockout committee, set up pickets and assessed all working members \$1 per day.

With little work available, however, there was not much incentive to reach an agreement and the strike continued into the fall before the two sides settled on a 96-cent-per-hour wage agreement. As *Pride and Solidarity* points out, the contract "represented a hollow victory for a union with most of its members out of work."

But as the depression persisted, by one point in 1934 so many members had dropped out of the union that the Local decided to take them back for the regular initiation fee of \$25 plus one year's back dues.

Some relief came from the Federal and state governments in the form of labor-friendly legislation such as the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 and a similar Ohio law, which gave workers prevailing wages when employed on public-works projects, and the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which guaranteed employees the right to organize and bargain collectively. What's more, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's federal "New Deal" programs



instituted from 1933 through 1938 generated construction and civic-improvement jobs throughout Ohio and the country.

Prominent New Deal projects in Columbus included a new, \$1.7-million, five-story "east" wing added to City Hall that was completed in 1936. The Federal program also helped fund construction of a new, \$4-million wastewater treatment facility on Jackson Pike between July 1934 and June 1938.

Then, after the U.A. in 1937 directed locals to fully organize their respective jurisdictions, including the growing field of refrigeration, and take apprentices into the union, the union's national membership reached 54,000 in 1938 after dropping to less than 35,000 in 1935. In Columbus, Local 189 membership revived as well, as the Local began taking in **refrigeration** workers in 1938 as an auxiliary body.

With the impact of the depression receding during the latter half of the 1930s, in 1937 Local 189 requested a significant wage increase from its employers. The Master Plumbers Association conceded and agreed to a \$1.37-1/2-per-hour scale without the Local striking.

Meanwhile, as more work became available, Local 189 increased in size from 119 members (including 12 apprentices) in June 1936 to 184 members (including 1 apprentice) in June 1939. What's more, the Local's jurisdictional area expanded during that time as well when the U.A. awarded it authority over the union piping industry in Marion, Ohio, in 1937 and Lancaster, Ohio, in 1938.

#### WINNING A WAR - AND CONTROL

The start of World War II in Europe and then Asia in 1939 essentially put an end to the Great Depression and spurred strong economic recovery throughout Ohio and the United States. U.A. locals nationwide – including Local 189 – grew as a result of the work created by military production demands,

which helped swell U.A. membership across North America from 81,000 in 1941 to 210,000 members, many of whom built and expanded shipyards, weapons plants, aircraft factories and other facilities to support the war effort.

Even before the United States officially entered the war following the Imperial Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, the U.S. by 1940 was re-arming its military, which initiated a major construction boom. In Columbus by that time, Local 189 members were helping to build the Lockbourne Army Airfield (now Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base), a U.S. Army Air Forces training base at Lockbourne, Ohio; Wright-Patterson Air Base in Dayton; the Scioto Ordnance Plant in Marion, Ohio, which would produce a range of bullets, artillery shells and bombs; the Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant (now the James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center) near Ravenna and Newton Falls, Ohio.

Perhaps even more significant than any of those projects for Local 189 was the beginning of construction in 1941 of the large Curtiss-Wright Corporation airplane factory in Columbus, which at its wartime peak would employ 25,000 workers. During the war, the Local's members also helped build the Columbus Army Service Forces Depot, which would become the largest joint military supply installation in the world, while in 1941 the Local's jurisdictional territory grew when the U.A. gave it jurisdiction over Circleville, Ohio.

What's more, as a result of the unprecedented demand for labor, Local 189 brought helpers into the union as journeymen for the first time ever when it could not meet the demand for mechanics for the Curtiss-Wright (now Rockwell) plant. Overall, between 1939 and 1943 the strong economic recovery spurred by World War II throughout the nation drove a 55-percent growth of the Local 189

Continued after following spread.





#### Local 189 Member Training

## EDUCATING CENTRAL OHIO'S BEST- PREPARED PLUMBERS AND FITTERS

While Local 189 has utilized the time-honored system of apprenticeship to train potential plumbers and steamfitters new to the profession since it was chartered in 1899, it was not until 1922 that the Local established a formal, five-year apprentice program after the U.A. International organized a similar system of training for its locals to follow. At that time, apprentices were paid by their employers to attend school four hours each week for a four year period while also receiving on-the-job training on active job sites under the tutelage of experienced journeyman members of the Local.

However, the Local's training program ceased to exist after the Great Depression began in late 1929. During the final years of the depression, in 1937 the U.A. allowed its local unions to admit apprentices to their membership after a probationary period.

Local 189 established its own apprenticeship program at that time. However, a lack of funding delayed the establishment of an ongoing apprentice-training program until after World War II.

The Local again started a formal apprenticeship program on April 29, 1946, which its Joint Apprenticeship Committee (J.A.C.) of an equal number of representatives from the union and the Master Plumbers Association registered with the

State of Ohio's Department of Industrial Relations. In 1948, the training local's training classes and labs were held in a small vocational school building between Neilston Avenue and Sixth Street in the downtown Columbus area that was owned by the Columbus Public Schools, into which the J.A.C. placed three welding machines for apprentices to use.

Then in the spring of 1950, the Locals' five-year apprenticeship program began in space supplied by the Columbus City School District after it was organized by William Beckel, a Local 189 plumber and former naval petty officer who became the training program's first coordinator. At the time, 78 apprentices were enrolled in the five-year program, which included four evening classes of plumbing, steamfitting and the new process welding.

To further advance its training, in 1960 the Local and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Central Ohio (M.C.A.C.O.) which was formed in 1957, established a trust fund to subsidize the apprenticeship program. The funds contributed by the contractors were based on hours worked by the Local's journeymen.

From 1964 into 1980, the school was located at the Local's 840 Alton Avenue facility. During that time, classes were held in the daytime during normal work hours.





When the Local moved to its current Union Hall at 1226 Kinnear Road, the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (J.A.T.C.) overseeing the training program leased 4,800 square feet of space in it for training, and it also resumed night classes.

In 1985, the J.A.T.C. leased an additional 2,776 square feet of space for a new welding shop and turned the former shop into a classroom and a break area. In 1989, the Local added a 2,4000-square-foot project room to the back of its building.

The J.A.T.C had used the Columbus Public School system to certify its instructors and for its training program's accreditation, but in the late 1980s, the committee changed to Eastland Vocational School. In 1997, the J.A.T.C. elected to change its accreditation and signed an agreement with Owens Community College, which increased the amount of funding the J.A.T.C. received and allowed each apprentice to earn and use all of his or her technical credits toward a two-year associate degree.

Meanwhile, growth continued in 1996 when the J.A.T.C. leased an additional 1,300 square feet to create a medical gas classroom and an additional 296 square

feet to expand the welding shop classroom. In 1999, another 2,000-square-foot area was leased for additional classroom and office space.

By 2014, Local 189's training facility had grown to 19,000 square feet and included 10 classrooms, a project room, a backflow project area, a refrigeration area and a welding and brazing lab. The school was operating five days a week and hosting welding classes on Saturdays.

The training program also provides ongoing education opportunities for experienced journeyman members of Local 189. In an industry with constantly changing technology, they are able to receive upgrade training to remain up-to-date on the latest technologies in plumbing, HVAC, welding, medical gas and other aspects of their trade.

As Local 189 approached its 125th charter anniversary in December 2024, its Training Department and J.A.T.C. program together were educating about 270 apprentices. Key to that growth and future expansion of the Local's training, in 2023 the J.A.T.C. opened its new, 43,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Plumbers and Pipefitters Apprenticeship and Training School Training Center at 4560 Journal Street in Columbus.



membership from 184 members in 1939 to 335 members in 1943 during the peak of wartime production.

After a 1940 agreement had retained the \$1.37-1/2 per hour scale from 1937 but established for the first time a five-day workweek, Local 189 also gained its first wage increase from the Master Plumbers Association in four years in a new agreement that went into effect on June 6, 1941. The contract raised journeyman plumbers' and steamfitters' pay from \$11 to \$12 for an eight-hour workday, which Local 189 **Business Agent Francis Graham** said in a June 8 *Columbus Dispatch* article was "comparable to wages received by plumbers in surrounding communities."

But in large part because of Federal wage restrictions put in place to protect wartime production, Local 189 members received a total of 8 cents in hourly pay increases during the remainder of the war years to \$1.58 per hour in 1945. "Continual overtime and serious overwork on the job resulted in an untold number of accidents," *Pride and Solidarity* also notes. "Still, the Local carried out its pledge to avoid strikes."

The Local did withdraw from the Columbus Building Trades Council in 1942, however, after the council signed an exclusive agreement with the Building Trades Employers Association of Columbus. The U.A. recommended that Local 189 disassociate with the council after several large non-union contractors employing approximately 100 plumbers received contracts from general contractors affiliated with the association as a result of the exclusive agreement.

Following the war, which ended with the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945, after Nazi Germany's surrender earlier that year on May 8, Columbus experienced a major boom in manufacturing construction that

would continue into the 1950s and provide the Local 189 membership with a strong source of employment. With General Motors and Timken Roller Bearing building new plants in the area to manufacture auto and aviation equipment and Westinghouse constructing facilities to produce electrical machinery, new power plants, water treatment facilities and transportation and commercial construction were required to serve the region's growing industrial enterprises.

As employment remained abundant, beginning with a new working agreement with the Master Plumbers Association that went into effect on June 1, 1946, with an increased wage scale of \$1.75 per hour for its journeymen, Local 189 significantly improved its members' pay over the balance of the decade – even though the Local did not strike during that period. As such, by 1949 the Local's plumbers and steamfitters were receiving \$2.37-1/2 per hour.

Meanwhile, the Local responded to a labor shortage and strengthened itself by taking in helpers as journeymen, organizing large numbers of refrigeration mechanics and accepting the applications of apprentice plumbers and pipefitters under the new U.A. apprenticeship training program. Subsequently, in 1948 alone the Local voted 55 candidates to membership in the union.

At the time, while non-union labor was largely limited to residential work, which was dominated by non-union contractors, throughout all other construction sectors Local 189 would not work on any jobs employing non-union labor as a strict rule with few exceptions. This "reflected not only the control of commercial and industrial jobs by the union," as *Pride and Solidarity* points out, "but the solidarity of the building trades unions in Columbus immediately after the war" – during which time Local 189 rejoined the Building Trades Council.



#### **'BOOMING' WITH THE FIFTIES**

ontinued substantial construction across Columbus and Central Ohio throughout the 1950s kept Local 189 members busy with work at industrial jobsites that included North American Aviation (formerly Curtiss-Wright), General Motors, Westinghouse and an expansion at Timken. Additionally, a massive, long-term expansion at The Ohio State University beginning in the late 1950s would add to the available manhours for Local 189 and further grow its membership rolls into the following decade.

Many of the Local's members entered the 1950s already working on construction of the new, \$14-million Ohio State University Medical Center (renamed The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in February 2012) that began in the late 1940s. When completed in 1951, the facility added a 600-bed clinic hospital that augmented an existing 300-bed hospital, a 300-bed facility for treating tuberculosis patients under the State of Ohio Health Department and a new College of Dentistry building.

Also back in 1949, the Local had attempted to include a hospitalization fund in its next agreement with contractors as an insurance fringe benefit for its members, but the proposal was rebuffed by employers – and many within the Local who wanted to see their earnings on paychecks rather than in an insurance fund. In 1950, however, the Local established a welfare

fund for sick and disabled members, collecting a \$1 assessment on each member to subsidize the fund, which would be active for the next nine years.

That year, the Local saw new life in its apprentice training, which in the spring of 1950 had 78 apprentices enrolled in its 5-year program.

But along with the construction boom that began in the late 1940s, many members were working in industrial construction far from their homes in Franklin County and, as a result, travel pay had become an important issue for members. While in 1948 the Local had asked its contractors for 5 cents per mile for transportation out of town, the Master Plumbers Association would not agree to institute travel pay in a contract until 1953.

That year, among the projects on which Local 189 members were working was construction of the new Westinghouse Electric Corporation plant and office building on Phillipi Road in Columbus. The plumbers and steamfitters temporarily halted construction of the facility on September 1, 1953, when they walked off the job in a jurisdictional protest against the ironworkers union, which had unloaded airconditioning units at the site.

The Local's 700 members voted on June 2, 1954, to accept a 12-1/2-cent-per-hour raise in their wage scale, increasing it to \$3 per hour for the coming year. However, negotiations for a new contract with the master plumbers





broke down before that agreement expired, after which the Local went on strike beginning June 2, 1955, after refusing to even vote on the contractors' proposed 7-1/2 cent hourly raise.

After two weeks, during which the Local had demanded a 22-cent raise, the Local accepted a 15-cent hourly increase in a new, one-year agreement. With their new wage scale of \$3.15 per hour, the union plumbers and steamfitters returned to their jobs on June 15, 1955.

After dropping welfare fringe-benefit demands at the last minute in favor of wage increases during negotiations over the next two years, the Local gained a Welfare Fund insurance benefit for its members in a new, two-year contract settled on June 15, 1958, which was initially subsidized by a 5-cent contribution from employers for each hour worked by Local 189 members. The agreement also increased the Local's journeyman wage scale by 30 cents over its duration, providing \$3.75-per-hour pay to members by the end of the decade.

Local 189 elected its first Welfare Fund trustees to oversee the premiums paid to Nationwide Insurance Company on July 1, 1958. (The Local would replace Nationwide with a self-funded plan in 1976.)

Out in the field, the Local continued to progress, in particular when the U.A. awarded it jurisdiction over the town of Logan, Ohio, in 1956. The membership also remained flush with employment as construction work remained abundant in Central Ohio, led by large housing projects on the expanding east side of Columbus on which about one-third of the Local's membership was working as late as 1958 and the vast expansion of The Ohio State University that carried into and throughout the next decade.

#### ATTAINING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

he 1960s began for Local 189 with a two-week-long strike against the Mechanical Contractors Association of Central Ohio (M.C.A.C.O.), the new representative of the Local's employers, that began on June 2, 1960, after contract negotiations failed to produce a new working agreement. The strike ended on June 15 when the two sides settled on a two-year pact that provided a total 25-cent-per-hour wage increase during the term of the contract.

Meanwhile, to service its expanded geographical jurisdiction and membership, in 1961 the union added **Frank Crowley** as an assistant business agent to work with current



Business Agent Dick Liddil. One year later in 1962, the Local created the new office of business manager, which was filled by Brother Liddil, to be the full-time coordinator of the affairs of the Local from within its offices.

Then when its working agreement with the contractors association expired in June 1962, the Local finally won a long-sought Vacation Plan in its next contract that was settled that month. With the new fringe benefit, 10 cents per hour of each member's pay would be deposited in Ohio National Bank, and journeymen would be allowed to withdraw their respective shares once (and later, twice) each year.

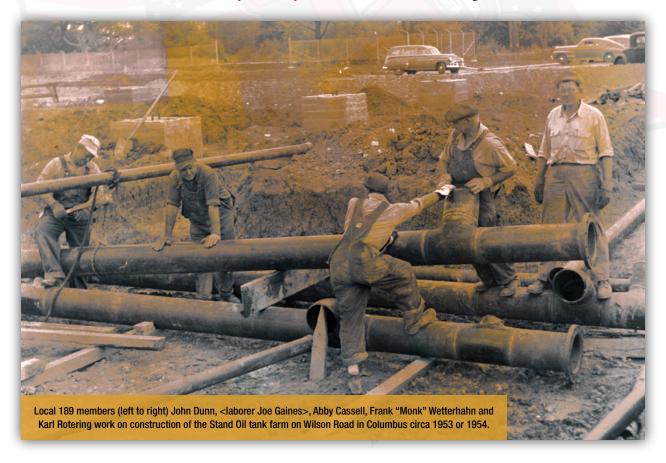
The U.A. grew Local 189 the following year when it merged **Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 574** of Marion, Ohio, into the Columbus local on August 1, 1963.

After losing an election the previous cycle, in 1964 Local 189 member **Dudley "Curley"** 

Steiner defeated incumbent Brother Liddil for the business manager position while running on the issue of ending hiring by contractors outside of the hiring hall, which appealed directly to those who could not get steady work. Brother Steiner, who lost his legs in an accident in 1974, would lead the Local for the next 11 years into 1975, after which he remained a business agent for the Local.

On the verge of another strike that year, the Local 189 membership voted on May 28, 1964, to accept a first-time three-year-long contract from the M.C.A.C.O. that included a total 45-cent-per-hour pay package increase. The raises would come in increments of 15 cents each immediately and on June 1, 1965, and June 1, 1966.

But it was the start of construction in the summer of 1966 of the new **Anheuser-Busch Columbus Budweiser plant** in the northern suburb of Worthington that defined the decade





125th Anniversary

for Local 189 – and would go on to impact the Local for decades to come. Over the next three years, more than 300 of the union's 500 active members were employed at the brewery at one point, with many commonly working 10-hour days for six days a week ("six-10s") with overtime paid at double-time.

Construction and operation of the brewery, which began operations in the summer of 1968 with an original capacity of 1.8 million barrels (in 2024 its newest brewhouse is capable of brewing 10 million barrels of beer), had a powerful and lasting effect on Local 189. "As a 'big' job, it brought many of our members together, both in the daytime hours at work and after work (at the bars)" an essay in the Local's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration program booklet from 1999 recounts. "Another thing



it did was make our craftsmen a sought-after commodity that helped us nail down a stunning 67-percent wage increase over three years!"

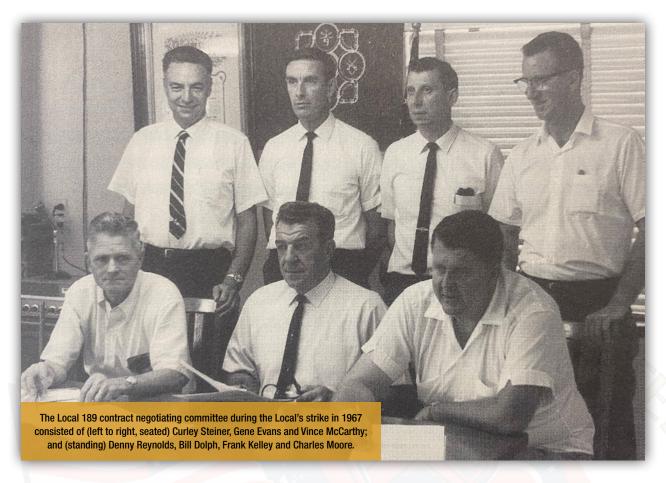
Also during that time, a group of younger members, including Ed Scanlon, Roy Taylor and John Bowser Sr., took the initiative to travel throughout the state to investigate the pension plans of other locals. After considerable resistance, the Local established its first, self-administered Pension Plan retirement benefit for members in 1966 when it voted to apply 15 cents per hour it was due in June 1966 through its current working contract to a retirement fund.

During that time, the ongoing prosperity allowed the Local to relocate in 1965 from its hall at 555 East Rich Street, where rampant crime had forced it to pay \$3 per month for police protection. The Local that year purchased and moved into a building at 841 Alton Avenue – which it named "Richard Anderson Hall" after its recently deceased president – and hired its first full-time office secretary the following year.

The Local was also able to increase its pay scale up to \$4.64-1/2 per hour in 1966. In June of that year, its membership grew to 867 journeymen and apprentices as well.

A two-month-long strike against the M.C.A.C.O. that began June 1, 1967, resulted in a sweeping victory for the Local. During the strike, hundreds of Local 189 journeymen went out of town for jobs through other U.A. locals while most of the remaining members found work at the Anheuser-Busch brewery for general contractor H.K. Ferguson, who was not a member of the M.C.A.C.O. but rather was signatory to the U.A. National Agreement.

The new, three-year agreement ratified by the Local's membership on July 30 provided a total wage-and-benefits package increase of \$3.44 per hour through May 31, 1970, with wage-only increases of 81 cents the first year,



\$1.20 the second year and \$1.12 the third year, during which journeymen would be making \$7.77-1/2 per hour in wages alone. What's more, the union gained its first-ever won an employer-funded, jointly administered Pension Plan, which was initially funded by a 15-cent- per-hour direct contribution by M.C.A.C.O. contractors the first year and 20 cents per hour in 1969, which would allow members to retire at age 65 after completing 10 years of continuous union membership.

The contract also greatly strengthened the Local's hiring hall by putting the obligation on the employer to be fair when hiring members. The agreement's Article 16 even dictates, "Whenever new or additional employees are needed, the employer shall notify the union in writing."

As favorable conditions for the Local continued, in 1968 it hired member Joseph

J. Snyder as a second business agent. The following year, the U.A. increased the Local's territory and membership when it merged 48-year-old Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 723 of Chillicothe into Local 189.

Some of the many significant jobs employing the Local's members during that time included an \$11.5-million expansion to the Columbus water-treatment plant on Morse Road that would be completed in late 1969. Throughout the latter period of the decade, work at The Ohio State University also provided abundant manhours, including construction of the new Graduate Research Center for Biological Sciences.

Indeed, by the late 1960s, during which the Local's membership reached 1,133 journeymen and apprentices in December 1969, "Local 189 had achieved an unprecedented level of prosperity for its members," as *Pride and Solidarity* declares. "In pay scale and in



benefits, it had risen to national leadership; its apprentice training program was second to none; and its hiring hall was the envy of other construction locals."

The book goes on to note, however, that with a slowdown of the construction spree beginning in 1968 and an economic recession in 1969, the Local "became aware of the pressing need to organize its jurisdiction more thoroughly." Subsequently, in 1969 the Local's organizing committee, which had been dormant since its founding after World War II, was reactivated and attempted to organize open, non-union plumbing shops.

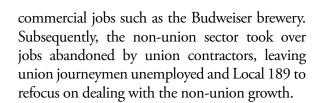
But the committee's "top-down" organizing efforts were not successful. As a result, according to *Pride and Solidarity*, "This failure was the genesis in a long train of contract 'give-backs' by the union that slowed, but did not reverse, the non-union tide."

#### TAKING ON NEW CHALLENGES

he precedent set by Local 189 winning its 1967 working contract allowed it to gain another favorable agreement in June 1970 that called for \$1-per-hour raises for each of the three years of the pact. With that, at one point during that time the Columbus plumbers and pipefitters surpassed San Francisco and New York U.A. locals in having the highest wage in the union.

During the 1970s, the Local also took in its first female members and saw large increases in minority membership. Its apprenticeship program also grew and improved under the direction of coordinator **Richard Patterson**.

The expansion of non-union labor in Columbus during the previous two decades accelerated during the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s, however, as M.C.A.C.O. contractors continued to concentrate on large, lucrative industrial and



The Local encouraged its journeymen members to go into business for themselves as contractors, thereby increasing the number of small contractors who would bid on smaller work and utilize the union's hiring hall. It also attempted to help its signatory contractors become more competitive with non-union contractors by instituting **Operation MOST** (Management and Organized Labor Striving Together), a program established in 1976 by the building trades and its contractors' associations through which unions pledged to reduce unnecessary and inefficient work practices and cooperatively resolve jurisdictional and contract disputes.

Local 189 further sought to bring non-union labor into the union through "bottom-up" organizing of workers. The initiative was originally deployed by the Ohio State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, which in 1974 hired a fulltime organizer to lead the effort throughout the state.

But first, with the non-union share of large jobs in the Local's jurisdiction approaching 50 percent and approximately one-third of the Local's active membership on the "out-of-work" list, in the fall of 1970 the Local and the M.C.A.C.O. established a residential wage rate to help contractors get back into the lost housing-construction market. The agreement set a reduced \$4.36-per-hour base scale for work on residential structures not exceeding three stories, while fringe-benefits remained the same.

The key feature of the agreement was a stipulation that once a journeyman accepted work under the residential agreement, he could not quit the job until it was completed, even if a higher-paying commercial or industrial

#### AMONG LOCAL 189 HEROES, ONE MADE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

While working at the Anheuser-Busch Budweiser brewery in Columbus on May 7, 1973, just after noon that day Local 189 apprentice Mark W. Zack and journeyman Roy Taylor spotted two other journeymen from the Local laying prone at the bottom of a tank on which they had been welding using argon gas. The two welders had been incapacitated by the gas, which was suffocating them.

When Brother Taylor climbed down to help, he was immediately overcome by the lack of oxygen and retreated from the tank. Brother Zack then climbed into the structure and lifted both men to the top, where they were pulled to safety.

The two victims, members John Frownfelter and Larry Liston, made full recoveries. Afterward, the H. K. Ferguson Company, for which all four members had been working, nominated both Brother Zack and Brother Liston for the H. K. Ferguson Lifesaving Award.

In its letter of recognition, company officials stated, "Words cannot adequately describe the feeling we have toward these men, and so we can only say to them a sincere 'Thank You.' You can certainly be proud to have these men as brothers in your local, as we are proud to have them working on our project."

Four years later on May 24, 1976, Brother Zack, who had since graduated from his apprenticeship to journeyman status, was attending the Local 189 apprenticeship graduation picnic at Le Boudin Winery near Chesterville, Ohio, when he drowned while trying to save two apprentices whose rowboat had capsized in a pond. Brother Zack was 25 years old.

job was available. Signed in October 1971, the agreement was the first of its kind in the union pipe-trades industry in the United States.

Among the more newsworthy actions taken to counter the non-union threat, in October 1972 the members of several building trades unions "rampaged" multiple non-union construction sites around Columbus, as the October 25 *Dispatch* reported, beginning with the French Market shopping mall (also known as "The Continent"), the first large commercial



union labor

job in the area built with non-union labor. Later, as *Pride and Solidarity* describes, Local 189 members "confronted" and "drove off" non-union mechanics working at The Ohio State University.

Meanwhile, although employment conditions were sluggish as construction in Central Ohio began to slump, Local 189 members helped build an expansion to the Budweiser brewery from 1971 through 1973 that doubled the facility's production capacity. Members were also at work during that time constructing the new, 41-story James A. Rhodes State Office Tower state office building on Capitol Square in Downtown Columbus from 1971 through mid-1974.

Contract negotiations with the M.C.A.C.O. in 1973 resulted in a new one-year agreement that provided a 15-cent-per-hour increase in pension contributions and a 10-cent hourly increase for health and welfare insurance. The Local's membership also decided to divide an additional 35 cents per hour by earmarking 2 cents for wages in paychecks, 3 cents into the Local's organizing fund, 15 cents into the U.A. National Pension Fund after joining the program; and 15 cents to establish a Supplemental Unemployment Benefits

#### **MERGERS THAT GREW LOCAL 189**

U.A. Steamfitters Local No. 216 of Columbus was merged into Local 189 on September 5, 1929.

U.A. <u>Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 574</u> of Marion, Ohio, was merged into Local 189 on August 1, 1963.

U.A. <u>Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 723</u> of Chillicothe, Ohio, was merged into Local 189 on June 1, 1969.

U.A. <u>Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 271</u> of Newark, Ohio, was merged into Local 189 on January 1, 1974.

The Madison County jurisdiction of U.A. Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 97 of Springfield, Ohio, was merged into Local 189 on July 1, 1987, when Local 97 was amalgamated into four different U.A. locals.



Fund. (The latter fund came too late to assist during a 1974 recession and would go out of existence in 1982.)

But Local 189 gross pay remained at \$9.67 per hour until a 1974 contract increased wages to \$10.42 in June of that year, \$11.02 in June 1975 and \$11.17 in December 1975. "To sum it up, local members, who had received \$5.03 in wage increases in the four years between 1967 and 1971, received \$1.50 in wage increases during the succeeding four years (through 1975)," *Pride and Solidarity* spells out. "These paltry increases combined with substantial continuing inflation and low employment levels translated into a lowered standard of living for most members of the Local."

After the U.A. merged Plumbers and



Steamfitters Local No. 271 of Newark, Ohio into Local 189 on January 1, 1974, the following year construction activity in Columbus severely decreased. As a result, the Local 189 out-of-work list swelled by the end of the year to 380 members.

As the second half of the decade progressed, building activity in the Local's jurisdiction began to recover but moderate unemployment among its membership remained. As such, in June 1976 Local 189 and the M.C.A.C.O. settled on a modest, four-step increase in wages from \$11.17 to \$12.47 per hour over a two-year contract.

Then in 1977, Gene Minix became the Local's third business manager in 12 years after he defeated one-term incumbent Business Manager Gene Brewer in an election for the position. Along with other new officers, including President John "Gus" Naegele, the Local's administration worked to restore the

sagging morale of its membership.

One of its first actions was to establish a local newsletter to improve communication with the membership. In the first issue of **The Open Line**, published in March 1977, President Naegele appealed to members to attend meetings while Business Manager Minix pleaded to the membership, "If we as members don't try to organize the unorganized, union craftsmen will be a thing of the past over the next few years. ... If you want strong leadership, we've got to have strong membership behind us."

Within one year, the Local also upgraded its hiring hall to curb unfair favoritism, posting available jobs on Fridays then having hiring take place on Mondays. Meanwhile, Business Manager Minix got the Local solidly behind the MOST program.

The new officers also began attending





125th Anniversary

Columbus Building Trades Council meetings to propose joint action by all the trades, which led to the unions waging a boycott against Kroger Food Stores in 1979 after the company decided to build its perishable food warehouse on the East Side of the city with non-union labor. After the unions began using money to buy up all the bread and other special items at particular supermarkets (all of which was donated to the Open Food Pantry charity) to the growing dismay of its regular customers, Kroger relented and pledged it would build with union craftspeople.

#### COUNTERING HARSH OPPOSITION

"Unemployment, double-breasted contractors, a hostile political environment, building trades disunity, an inability to organize and a rising share of new work taken by non-union contractors," *Pride and Solidarity* declares, "These were hammer blows taken by the union

Local 189 members Frank Mechlak Jr. and Dick Morbitzer work on a Federal Housing project in Columbus in September 1977.

during the first half of the 1980s decade."

Although anti-union Federal government policies would hit Local 189 hard during that time, more than 300 of its journeymen and 30 of its apprentices were employed from mid-1979 into 1982 on construction of a new paper machine at the **Mead Corporation paper plant** in Chillicothe. When placed online that May, the \$122-million "No. 12" machine would be the company's largest paper-making mechanism, with the capability to produce 440 tons of paper per day.

Many of the Local's roughly 1,100 members also worked ample manhours building the new, 1-million-square-foot Honda Marysville Auto Plant in Marysville, Ohio, from 1981 into November 1982, when the factory's first Honda Accord rolled off the line. Elsewhere, the Capitol Square Hyatt complex and several high-rise buildings in downtown Columbus, a

trash-burning power plant and numerous smaller jobs helped keep Local 189 members working during the early years of the challenging decade.

Local 189 also moved into its current, spacious Union Hall at 1250 Kinnear Road on the west side of Columbus in 1981, which houses its offices and meeting hall and served as its training center until 2024. (The Local continues to reside there as it celebrates its 125th charter anniversary in December 2024.)

But with the bulk of its membership experiencing consistent unemployment, the Local signed a special **Light Commercial Agreement** with the M.C.A.C.O. in 1981, supplanting the residential agreement of 1971 and the statewide Mechanical

Equipment Service Agreement. As an incentive to contractors to hold onto the field and, as a result, produce more work for the Local, the agreement specified a light-commercial wage of about 60 percent of the standard journeyman wage rate, as well as a lower residential rate.

The Local's efforts to organize non-union contractors gained its first major success with the Favret Company, a 60-year-old heating, ventilation and air conditioning (H.V.A.C.) company employing 42 journeymen in early 1981 when the Local won a National Labor Relations Board election that obligated the employer to bargain with the union in good faith. After three months, Favret employees voted to strike, after which the company signed an interim Light Commercial Agreement on August 5, 1981, and two months later the Local swore in 32 new members.

During the early 1980s, however, a host of other union general contractors handling many of the large commercial downtown jobs as well as industrial work began to open up side non-union operations. In addition to those "double-breasted" contractors, several mechanical contractors also opened non-union subsidiaries under different names and at different offices, all of which presented another challenge to the union.

After going for a decade without large wage increases, on June 1, 1982, Local 189, together with the ironworkers local union, went on strike after the M.C.A.C.O. refused the pay raise the Local had requested in contract negotiations. Five weeks later on July 5, the Local's membership overwhelmingly ratified a new, two-year agreement that provided \$1-perhour increases for each year, and they returned to their jobs the following day.

The national recession of 1982 and 1983, the worst since the 1930s, severely affected Columbus construction workers, leaving almost 30 percent of the Local 189 membership unemployed the first year and even more the

#### **LOCAL FIRST TOOK ON ASBESTOS IN 1980S**

Asbestos workers in the 1960s and 1970s were the first to learn the fatal consequences of prolonged exposure to asbestos and brought thousands of claims against Johns Manville Corporation, which manufactured asbestos products. In January 1989, six years after the company declared bankruptcy, a \$3-billion trust fund was established for victims of diseases caused by asbestos exposure.

Pipefitters had been handling asbestos for decades without taking any special precautions while blanketing steam lines or protecting finished work from welding with the insulation. Local 189 members also had contact with asbestos insulation at times when they demolished walls, ceilings and floors.

The issue first came to the attention of Local 189 members in 1984 when doctors diagnosed journeyman pipefitter George Hobart with mesothelioma, a fatal lung disease. Brother Hobart passed away soon after.

After several years of discussing the issue at union meetings, in February 1987 the Local began arranging for X-ray screenings. A total of 467 members took the tests and of those, 146 tested positive for asbestosis, after which most sought legal representation by a national group of lawyers specializing in asbestos suits.

next. Although the recession receded, in 1984, as *Pride and Solidarity* states, "the union slipped further into the doldrums with a monthly average of 40 percent of the union's members sitting on the (unemployment) bench during the year."

The first major contract giveback during that turbulent period came when the M.C.A.C.O. demanded a \$3.60 wage reduction in 1984 and Local 189 instead offered to give up travel pay within its jurisdiction. The Local also allowed the percentage of journeyman's wages received by apprentices in increasing increments as an apprentice advanced through the Local's training program to be significantly reduced in the 1984 contract.

When the contractors demanded a 20-percent wage reduction in 1985, the Local went on strike again that June. After negotiations







resumed, the two sides agreed on a 21-cent hourly increase for the first year and a 25-cent hourly increase for the second year of a new contract, both of which were applied to the Local's health-and-welfare fringe-benefit fund.

Beginning in the second half of 1985, the amount of work available to the Local's journeymen gradually increased from the low level of 1984. But the average number of hours worked in the Local between 1985 and 1988 still stagnated about 18 percent below the level worked during the period of 1979 through 1981.

With non-union labor still spreading into the commercial and industrial sectors, Local 189 launched its **Targeted Jobs Program** in October 1988 to help union contractors win construction contracts. Modeled after a similar effort by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 683 of Columbus, the program created a fund using a 2-percent dues increase levied on Local 189 members

that would subsidize wages and, therefore, help lower bids by M.C.A.C.O. contractors when in competition with non-union contractors.

Major projects on which the Local's members did work during the second half of the decade included construction of the 33-floor William Green Building in downtown Columbus from 1987 to 1990. The tallest building constructed in the city during the 1990s, it housed the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation when it opened.

Local 189 also grew again when on July 1, 1987, the U.A. merged **Plumbers and Pipefitters Local No. 97** of Springfield, Ohio, into four locals. With that amalgamation, the Columbus local's jurisdiction was expanded to include Madison County.

Before the end of the decade, however, Local 189 and its union contractors had lost virtually all residential construction, had less than 5 percent of plumbing in all markets and controlled only 25 percent of the commercial market. The Local's employment was only strong by that time in industrial work with over half that industry – but even the Local's hold on that was precarious.

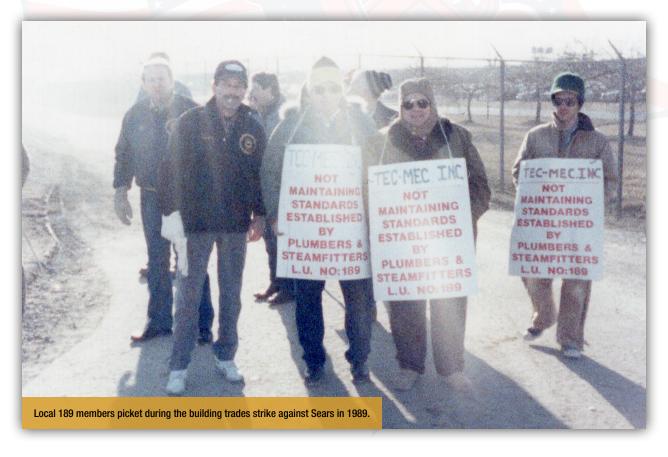
What's more, as *Pride and Solidarity* attests, "the stagnation in wages during most of the 1980s is highlighted by the statistic that from June 1, 1983, through May 31, 1991, (when) wages increased only 91 cents, an average of six-tenths of one-percent per year, by far the worst record during the postwar period."

But Local 189 put an exclamation point on the end of the 1980s when in March 1989 it began a picketing campaign against Sears, which was building a large distribution center and new computer center using a non-union firm, which sub-contracted the heating and air conditioning work on the latter to another non-union contractor. While in the past Sears had used union labor for its construction and maintenance work, and much of the rest of the work on the computer center, including most of the plumbing, remained union, the Local picketed the jobsites and handed out informational handbills to patrons outside Sears stores.

After the Local won a court decision in April against the contractors' unfair labor practice complaint because the Local had neither disturbed the peace nor littered, over the ensuing weeks the non-union contractor fell behind schedule on the project. That summer, the U.A. organized more than a dozen of the contractor's workers into the union, after which the firm left town in July.

#### ENJOYING A TURNAROUND AT 100

building boom in and around Columbus made the 1990s a very prosperous time for Local 189. With members working on projects for LSI Industries electronics manufacturer, Honda, Anheuser Busch and The Ohio State





University in addition to construction of the 580,000-square-foot Greater Columbus Convention Center that was completed in March 1993 and the 20,000-capacity Polaris Amphitheater in north Columbus that opened in June 1994, they enjoyed strong working conditions throughout much of the decade.

The Local also significantly increased its members' pay and benefits during the 1990s, beginning with a three-year agreement with the M.C.A.C.O. that went into effect on June 1, 1992, after the two sides reached a deal before the previous contract expired on May 31. The agreement initially set a new wage scale at \$21.59 per hour and fringe-benefit contributions for health and welfare, Local 189 and U.A. national pensions, a supplemental Retirement Savings Plan, apprentice training and the target fund at \$7.67 per hour and then added \$1 total raises for the second and third years - giving the Local a total journeyman pay package for the final year ending May 31, 1995, of \$31.26 per hour.

Another three-year agreement beginning June 1, 1995, and then a first-ever five-year-long contract negotiated between Local 189 and the M.C.A.C.O. that went into effect June



1, 1998, would initially increase the Local's journeyman wage scale to \$24 per hour and its total pay-and-benefits package to \$32.66 per hour for the first year. Subsequent \$1 raises for each of the ensuing years would ultimately push the total journeyman package from June 1, 2002, to May 31, 2003, to \$36.66 per hour.

The continuing construction surge within the Local's jurisdiction had even created a shortage of manpower in the piping industry that began around 1998 and persisted to 2002. During that period, several major projects, including the massive \$194-million renovation and expansion of Ohio Stadium on the Ohio State campus, construction of the Nationwide Arena multi-purpose sports and entertainment venue in Columbus from May 1998 into September 2000 and a 250,000-square-foot expansion of the Convention Center that began in 1999 and would be completed in 2001, drained the labor pool.

When Local 189 celebrated its 100th charter

anniversary with a dinner-dance event at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on July 15, 1999, its total membership stood at 1,389 plumbers, pipefitters, welders, service technicians and apprentices. Upwards of 30 percent of that membership was employed in service work for industrial, commercial and residential HVAC and plumbing maintenance, upgrades and repairs.

Also by that time, its jurisdictional area had been expanded to cover the 11 Central Ohio counties of Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Marion, Pickaway, Ross, Union, Madison, Perry, and Licking.

#### SURVIVING MORE DIFFICULT TIMES

hroughout the first decade of the new "Y2K" (Year 2000) millennium, a recession in 2001 and then the so-called "Great Recession" of 2007 and 2008 severely suppressed the national and local economies. In that challenging atmosphere, Local 189 and the rest of the building trades trudged through a nearly decade-long period of poor employment









within the construction industry.

Regardless, the Local and the M.C.A.C.O. signed another five-year working agreement that went into effect on June 1, 2003. Annual increases in pay and benefits raised the Local's journeyman total compensation package to \$38.12 per hour for the first year of the contract and eventually for the final year from June 1, 2007, through May 31, 2008, to \$43.92 per hour.

Yet another five-year deal set the Local's wage scale at \$30.01 per hour and its total package with fringe benefits at \$45.72 per hour beginning June 1, 2008, for the ensuing year. With annual increases over the remaining life of the contract, the Local's journeyman total wage-and-benefits package for the last year of the agreement from June 1, 2012, through

May 31, 2013, would be advanced to \$53.37 per hour.

But during the final years of the 2000s decade, at one point in 2009 roughly one-third of the Local's active membership was unemployed. However, a surge in construction that would continue throughout the following 2010s decade would allow the Local to recover.

Among a growing number of significant projects on which Local 189's skilled tradesmen were employed during that period was construction of the new, 27-floor Franklin County Courthouse in downtown Columbus from late 2007 to 2010. With the work of the Local's members on the environmentally friendly building, which included installing watermanagement systems such as low- and dual-flush fixtures and water-efficient landscaping, it

became the first LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design)-certified courthouse in the State of Ohio.

Started in late 2009, construction of the new Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute as part of The Ohio State University Medical Center at its peak employed about 205 union plumbers, pipefitters and apprentices. During 2012 and 2013, the 1.1-million-square-foot, 21-story expansion was the largest institutional or commercial mechanical project east of the Mississippi River and was the largest development project in the school's history before being completed in December 2014.

Meanwhile, in 2009 Local 189 threw its support behind the campaign for election passage of State Issue 3, a constitutional amendment allowing casinos in Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo. After voters passed the measure on November 3 of that year, construction of the Hollywood Casino in Columbus began in June 2011 and would be

completed under budget and ahead of schedule in October 2012 with the skilled labor of about 54 of the Local's piping craftsmen.

A pair of three-year working agreements between Local 189 and the M.C.A.C.O., the first of which went into effect June 1, 2013, and the second of which commenced on June 1, 2016, provided the Local's members with regular annual raises in wages and benefits over that six-year period. Ultimately, the contracts would increase the Local's journeyman wage-and-benefits package – including healthcare insurance and retirement pensions – for the second agreements' final year from June 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019, to \$60.17 per hour.

#### REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TO 125TH

he five years leading up to Local 189's 125th charter anniversary on December 9, 2024, were some of the most prosperous in its history. With construction work in its jurisdiction once again flourishing, the Local at times hosted more than 400



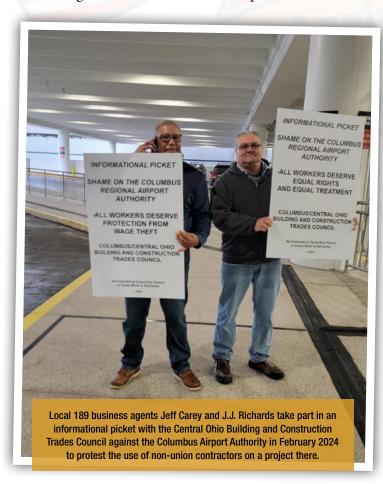


125th Anniversary

traveling brothers and sisters from other U.A. locals to help handle the abundance of projects, which included ongoing expansion of The Ohio State University medical campus and its facilities, that furnished a once-in-a-generation opportunity to union construction workers in the region.

Early in that period, the Local also signed a three-year working agreement with the M.C.A.C.O. that went into effect on June 1, 2019, with a new base journeyman wage scale of \$38.45 per hour and fringe-benefit contributions, including healthcare insurance and pensions, totaling \$23.97 per hour. Increases of \$2.25 per hour on June 1, 2020, and again on June 1, 2021, boosted the Local's total wage-and-benefits package for the final year of the pact ending May 31, 2022, to \$66.92 per hour.

During that time, members helped build



and service many of the most prominent and important projects ever constructed in Central Ohio, including facilities for Amazon, American Regent Pharmaceutical, Amgen Pharmaceutical, Facebook, Google, Intel and Ohio State. They also helped build other large new jobs such as the 1,000-guestroom Hilton Columbus Downtown Hotel that was completed in the fall of 2022 and the 863-inmate-capacity Franklin County Corrections Center that opened in February 2023, while continuing to service the Local's existing customers from the previous 50 years.

Indeed, Local 189 made tremendous progress beginning in 2019 and continuing through to its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary despite the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that struck the United States from January 2020 into 2023, by which time it had claimed the lives of more than 1 million Americans and greatly impacted Local

189 on jobsites and within its Union Hall.

During much of the early stages of the pandemic, the Local closed and limited access to its offices, hall and training facility and canceled meetings, events and training classes (while holding some virtual classes) to help stop the spread of the disease.

Regardless, leading up to its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, work hours performed by Local 189 members were as high or higher as they were at any time in the Local's history. That good fortune allowed the Local to continuously provide job opportunities to U.A. brothers and sisters from around the State of Ohio and throughout the country, and the Local as of September 2024 had hosted traveling U.A. members for 60 straight months.

Along with the flood of employment, the Local's membership increased dramatically as well. Over five-plus years, the Local grew from 1,603 total members on January 1, 2019, to 1,946

members on August 1, 2024 – an increase of 343 plumbers, fitters, welders, service workers and apprentices.

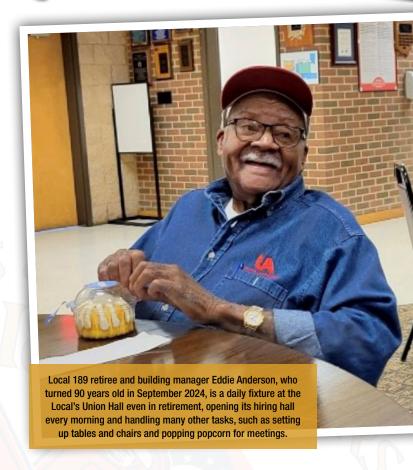
Local 189 was also able to increase the number of contractors signatory to its collective-bargaining agreement during that time. As such, the Local went from 34 contractors to 47 contractors employing its members every day.

The Local's trust funds similarly experienced positive changes, as its health-and-welfare contributions stabilized while the Local secured one of the lowest healthcare rates of the 15 U.A. locals in Ohio. Its Retirement Savings and Local 189 Pension funds likewise both trended in the right direction in the early 2020s to be able to provide quality retirements for members.

What's more, the Local 189 Pension became 100-percent funded once again after the Local's members and leadership made some difficult decisions for the good of the Local's future when the stock market collapsed in 2008. Because of those decisions, the Local has recently been able to restore some of those pension benefits moving forward.

Not to be outdone, the Local 189 Training Department also saw significant growth in the 2020s as a result of the membership agreeing to invest in the Local's training program, enabling the Local to prepare for the growth in its industry. Perhaps most notable aside from the growth in enrollment in the Local's five-year-long apprenticeship classes from 208 total apprentices in 2024 was the opening of the Local's new, 43,000-square foot **Training Center** on Journal Street in Columbus in 2023.

Out in the field, when work on construction of the two new leading-edge Intel microchip factories in New Albany, Ohio, ramped up in early 2003, Local 189 members were on the site from the start in late 2022 installing underground plumbing. More of the Local's



plumbers and fitters have joined the several thousand construction workers required to build what is Ohio's largest economic development project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2025.

Across 125 years, U.A. Local No. 189, along with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Central Ohio and that local's many employers, has built a strong and viable plumbing and piping industry in the region while providing it with a workforce that is well equipped with a reputation for quality work. Throughout that time, the Local has fought since its founding to provide safe working conditions and fair compensation for the skilled tradesmen of Columbus, as well as safe living conditions for the city's residents – as it will do as it enters its promising future, in which the craftsmanship of Local 189's journeymen and apprentices will continue to be seen all over Central Ohio and beyond.























#### J.A.T.C. Trustees





















Jeff Carey

**Eddie Anderson** 





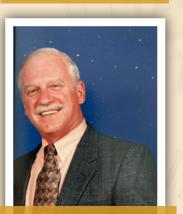


Trent Carter, President Steve Goble, Vice President





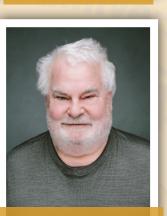




Robert "Bob" Merideth, Past Business Agent and Past Business Manager



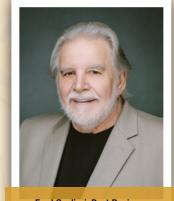
Bill Butts, Financial Committee



Mike Kelley, Past Business Manager and Past Business Agent



Michael Byrnes, Financial Committee



Fred Scolieri, Past Business Manager and Past Business Agent







James Brennen (Not Pictured)



Becky Westergard, Retired Funds Administration Secretary



Eddie Anderson, Building Manager

















## U.A. LOCAL 189 MEMBERS WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNION

73 Years of Service Robert Riddle

70 Years of Service Frank J. Kelley Jack L. Evans 69 Years of Service

Paul R. Geiger

**68 Years of Service** Cyril B. Taylor

**67 Years of Service** 

Gerald Kaiser C.E. Remlinger Lawrence J. Sweeney Lawrence Work

**66 Years of Service** James P. Schneider

**64 Years of Service** Ardie Schirtzinger

**63 Years of Service** Neal E. Keller

**62 Years of Service** 

James L. Dickson James R. Brennan Sr. Robert H. Dyer Ronald Tiller Jerry D. Merchant **61 Years of Service** 

Louis P. Volpe Jesse J. Pope

**60 Years of Service** 

Lloyd G. Skeese Michael P. Callahan Paul Gronbach Paul D. Jones

59 Years of Service John R. Dunn Robert J. Merideth Frederick J. Rice Michael Lackey **Thomas Sauer** James C. Sumner Paul Sumner Douglas R. Hartfield Ronald G. Carver Russell Cochenour Dan F. Stierhoff

Bernard E. Davis Patrick T. Ferry Mark E. Hale William D. Miller Robert L. Parsley Ralph E. Wilkins Harold B. Cline Richard O. Reiner Michael Woodward

**58 Years of Service** 

Earl McClellan William J. Smith Robert Croft Thomas W. Dauer Sr. George A Hudnall Roger McAfee Raymond C. Noltemeyer Dale F. Ranke Jerry L. Jones Michael F. Scott

**57 Years of Service** 

Thomas M. Vance Robert S. Deri George R. Pavlick Jr. Thomas P. Pavoni Charles R. Gaston Gerald L. Shockcor James F. Weaver Jimmie E. Houseman Joseph E. Brennan William G. McFadden Chester Sizemore John Sturgeon Joseph Vancleve Lloyd E. Reed

**56 Years of Service** 

Ron G. Raines Bertell Cordle James S. Rowland David L. Dysart Ronald Glanzman James Jacks **Burnurd Young** Donald L. Hampshire Everett C. Sizemore Wendell Brumfield William V. Damron Chester A. Keith Jr.

**55 Years of Service** James N. Spafford

Charles W. Ball

John E. Corbett Dale lacovetta John B. Kopf Jr. David D. Maxwell Thomas M. McGue Gregory H. Murphy Fredrick C. Scolieri Donald L. Spangler Henry A. Thompson Philip O. Wince Roy Lowe Jr. Shongo S. Obadina Harry A. Poston Clarence Cardwell

James E. Walter **54 Years of Service** 

Dan Curtis

Calvin L. Weaver

Paul A. Salvers John M. Simon Jr. James N. Cline Robert C. Gartner Norman D. Mershon Robert J. Anglin Jerry R. Dolph Gary D. Foreman

**53 Years of Service** 

Charles Maynard Carl E. Hatmaker

Les Schinke

**52 Years of Service** 

Howard M. Wilson Jr. Scott R. Tallent Robert Eskridge Jr. Ronald E. Graves Michael E. McAfee Paul C. Schneider John J. Wuellner Donald E. Ragland Danny L. Hayes

**51 Years of Service** 

William H. Siegel Michael J. Reed Cleophas Roberson Dewey V. Akers Morris G. Howard David K. Patterson Kevin Archer William D. Belknap Albert T. Kirk

50 Years of Service

Thomas E. Sturgeon Marvin L. Johnson Larry A. Salver George T. Hill Stephenson Justice William E. Terry

**49 Years of Service** 

Olin Brown Mark C. Carlisle David P. Duckworth Glenn Morgan Scott J. Ely Tommy Hicklin Gwylard W. Locke George R. Lynch II Terence R. Archibald Larry W. Scaggs Francis Doan

48 Years of Service

Gary S. Giehl Jack Soma James R. Prass Wavne A. Baker Thomas D. Alban

47 Years of Service

Thomas N. Mead Michael J. McFadden **Larry Summers** John R. Myers Philip M. Fox Thomas E. Schneider John C. Snyder David M. Dyer David M. Krupp Stephen Krupp John F. Noll Jr. Paul S. Shively James V. McCov William H. Work

**46 Years of Service** 

Victor J. Elv Charles D. Knab Jeffrey A. Seymour Bryon K. Bivens Bruce E. Salvers Matthew L. Auld John D. Davis Jr. Darrell A. Gammell David B. Graves Gary E. Green Christopher K. Griffin Bradford Hartfield Michael K. Surber Joseph M. Uhl Michael A. Berkemer Steven A. Diewald Bruce A. Haines William J. Santanich Jimmie L. Turner Michael R. McIlvain

**45 Years of Service** 

Terry J. Brewer

Walter R. Baggs Timothy W. Belknap Jerry Gaston Ralph E. Golden Larry E. Segner Guy H. Reynolds Herbert D. Duvall Gregory L. Hendrix James V. Herold Charles T. Lackey David L. Pezzutti Michael R. Unger Timothy K. Ward Otis Wingo John W. Cahill Russell S. Dennison Aaron L. Drakeford John D. Calderone Jr. William Gregory Damron Gerald A. Zoladz Mark E. Neary Randall E. Rausch

Thomas Pitt

Michael D. Wetherell

**44 Years of Service** 

Louie Hall Michael P. Kellev Michael Metzger William Chaky Kevin Hall Gary J. Wells Robert E. Coleman Jr. Michael W. Deibel Carl E. Dennison Teri A. Dominguez Vici A. Gleich Christopher E. Heller Cynthia L. Manzi David M. Noltemeyer Mike S. Samczak Dan Bosworth Edward J. Groves Richard W. Heskett Kathy A. Ely Edward P. Golden Michael G. Kerber

Perry E. McCalla

James K. Krupp

James C. Green

Charles Volpe

James R. Miller

Denise A. Edwards

Thomas J. Manley

Timothy M. Karrer

Patrick A. McMillan

Gregory R. Johnson

Myrna Washington

Michael T. Dembski

Michael J. Beyer

Marvin C. Daniels

Richard F. Diewald

Reid C. Farmer

Brian R. Woodard

Richard L. Myers

Robert G. Castle

Garry Dunkle

Richard L. Schirtzinger

**42 Years of Service** 

Christopher Cunningham Sr.

Edward N. Anderson

43 Years of Service

Karen Rogers

41 Years of Service Randy L. Collins

William S. Johnson

Claude T. Runyons

James P. Corbett

George P. Dyer

Paul E. Naegele

**Brad Sweeney** 

James M. Whitt

Richard E. Myers

Gloria K. Mansfield

Michael A. Paullus

John E. Shabdue

Larry G. Pyers

Ronald Reese

Theodore F. Lancia

William B. Trego

Eugene J. Fleshman Jr.

Timothy D. Ely

Robert Farber

Donald R. Haddox Jr.

Richard Douglas Patterson

Allan D. Fala Frank G. Bate James A. Ysseldvke Dale Kinnett Trent Christy H. Robert Aspery Jr.

**40 Years of Service** David M. Barlow Kevin J. Kellev

Frank L. Schneider Jr. Michael E. Zack Richard L. Morgan Philip M. Holt

**39 Years of Service** 

Kipling W. Honesty Rod McIntyre Daniel W. Pennell Robert J. Schneider Franklyn M. Profrock Steven W. Eaton Gregg A. Dennison Timothy J. Harrison

William Lewis

Richard J. Manley

Donald F. Damron

38 Years of Service

Kevin McClain Daniel E. Sizemore Jack Wenger II Van H. McClaskey Jr. Richard J. Cirakv Max W. Chenoweth Jr. Lori A. Davis Edward C. Frey Dwight D. Gammell Bret A. Reed Donald L. Floyd John L. Wisler Jr. Thomas J. Young James F. Fleshman Rick Franz Jon E. Kochensparger Douglas D. Linnabary David A. Ranke Todd A. Schmoll David Thatcher Jr. Chris Wollenberg Frank R. Hanson Paul Eric Stevenson Michael A. Klingler Eric M. Jones Allen Depugh William L. Golden James R. Kachel Barry R. Marshall Larry C. Miller Bruce E. Salvers Jr. Steve Woodward Norman V. Chenoweth

37 Years of Service

Brian Quillen

Richard G. Hilderbrand Steve Sweeney David W. Joneikis Danny R. Blankenship David M. Hinoiosa Pamela J. Moore James M. Sindel Michael A. Thomas Robert M. McKarn George M. Roberts Jr. Robert T. Watts Jackie L. Fisk Jr. David W. Gaines Jerry A. Southall Donald F. Butts





## U.A. LOCAL 189 MEMBERS WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNION

#### 36 Years of Service

James S. Cameron

George F. Burnside Ronald G. Raines Jr. Larry A. Vance Jr. Paul D. Fischer Lawrence R. Curfman Frederick J. Hoff Brett T. Lowe Jack A. Roberts Heather A. Hawkins Kevin Rush Gary E. Wallace Kyle Richley Donald L. Scheidegger Sue E. Sells Mark A. Heinmiller Larry W. Harvey

#### 35 Years of Service

Frank D. Arthur

Jeffrey L. Carey

David A. Ives James D. Schmoll Fred A. Eiginger Michael W. Cundiff Aaron Holbrook William L. McLaughlin Mark S. Behr Edward L. Wickham John Payne Jeffrey A. Smith Kraig S. White

#### 34 Years of Service

James R. Brennan Jr. John Krupp Joseph L. Sims Christopher A. Wolfe Michael A. Sullivan Russell Cochenour Jr. Kevin J. Francis Brett M. Kerns Steve Stevens Robert E. Redding John L. Adkins Steven A. Haag Kevin D. Bolding Kenneth E. Davis Steven Hartfield

Dwayne E. Howard Daniel L. Kroeplin Donald R. Lowe Kerry F. Drake Darren G. Gammell Sr. Steven R. Hawkins Thomas A. Duckworth John Walsh

Nathan J. Conner Robert I. Glanzman Jerry D. Horn Donald McNeal Frank B. Deems Steven P. Goble Harvey J. Giffin Michael A. Crocco John H. Knight Jr. Jeffrey S. Henry Edward D. Rife John D. Sims Charles L. Bowden Kenneth R. Brown II George Dillon John H. Mills

#### **32 Years of Service**

David Richard Patterson

Michael D. Tipple

Shannon L. Smith

Darryl C. Hill

Shannon Humphrey

Craig Close Michael Joe McAfee Jennia L. Shively Daniel J. McHale Robert M. Vance Rick P. Helenthal Shawn Hunter Ronald E. Snodgres Lawrence R. Curfman Jr. Scott M. Bell Lawrence E. Carver Jr. Jeffery G. Tincher

#### 31 Years of Service

James Buyko II Robert K. Garee Steven J. Harrison Scott C. Schwartz

#### 33 Years of Service

Harry C. Myers James F. Swaim **Eric Daniels** Ronald D. Cassady Kelly J. Callaghan Thomas Sturgeon II Thomas A. May Mitchell Manley John E. Byerly Timothy A. Rooney Jack W. Curtis Kraig P. Krick Jr. Clive E. Stephens

Daniel I Stainbrook

Robert L. Tripp Jr.

Jerry W. Alexander

Aaron P. Russell

Gregory A. Leaf

Johnnie Jay Johnston

#### **30 Years of Service**

James L. Minix James Pierson Michael C. Walters James C. Ferensen Bryan J. Yazawa Edward T. Duckworth Richard Joseph Wirth Dennis Duckworth Timothy F. Likes James Robert Clark Curtis D. Johnson John F. Ratcliff Jr. Daniel B. Sharpe

#### 29 Years of Service

Jason W. Corbett James L. Davis Jr. Robert J. Diewald Wesley R. Toops Jeffrey A. Diewald **Edward Vandewater** Wavne D. Stonebraker Joseph T. Carbonaro

#### 28 Years of Service

Timothy A. Williams Troy W. Schooley Gregg Allen Jordan Ronald Jost Robert L. Roahrig

Richard M. Harrell Paul Kempf John Magill Timothy Nixon Terry Toone Ricky E. Wright Donald Ragland Jr. David T. Hores Robert Carl Eyerman Michael R. Flaherty Matthew Gartner Michael S McMurray Karl W. Vradenburg **Brian Schmidt** John Frary Bryan R. Davis John Harrell Robert L. Vantilburg **Aaron Walton** Richard P. Fritz **Russell Blevins** William Bosaw Brian Coleman Ronald Jeffrey Dobos Jeffrey R. Dolby Jerry Greer Mark D. Hunter Michael Brady Jones Chad Siegel David B. McCauslin

Donald Evanoo

Shane Allen

Paul E. Lorenzoni

#### 27 Years of Service

John M. Sabo

**David James Elekes** Elmer Graves Kris A. Snyder James M. Ucker Stephen McCov Tim Rice Norbert R. Stalica Rodney G. Potts Nathan S. Bell Cory B. Gregory William O. Kepley Steven Lee McAfee Craig Adams Mary L. Nutter

Thomas L. Vermaaten Robert E. Brewer Alan G. Rawlings Fredrick R. McKinney Steven E. Miller Ralph J. Bontrager Gerald Butts II Patrick A. Dalton Sr. Kirk Gronbach James J. Killian Jr. Jeffrey S. Mix **Bradley Runkel** Travis M. Runyon **Gregory Hendershot** William A. Kremin Thomas C. Meier **Timothy Stevens** Dan Hall James A. Jewett

#### **26 Years of Service**

Robert Grindell Jr. Jeffrey B. Grabans Terry Kuhn Nick Pummel James J. Thompson Martin V. Durkin Gerard J. Gerkin Adam V. Brown Clinton D. Coleman Robert Brad Wood Louis Volpe Jr. Brian M. Cameron Bryan Berner David L. Claytor Robert T. Ewing Larry C. Fast Richard E. Fast Claude A. Pharis Christopher Palagyi Kevin Page John P. Scholl James A. Green Harry E. Barton Brian Boyd Paul Breniser Barry N. Claytor **Kevin Edwards** William Gilbert

Jake D. Henry

Matthew E. Jones Michael Wayne Jones Jeff Mitchell Steven Mustard Sr. Wallace L. Owens Jonathan J. Richards Susan J. Ruzicka Jason A. Stephens James M. Stevens Shawn Sturgeon Robert Carter Randall S. Cook Bruce E. Dixon Brian Haughn John D. Sheehn Lowell D. Staten Brad A. Wescott Mark S. Delzell Richard A. Early John R. Goble Herb Rainer Thomas V. Shaffer

#### 25 Years of Service

David Lee Woodard Jason A. Abbott Randel P. Heflin Jamie J. Duncan Glen Baltzer Pete D. Bock Raymond Criswell Andy Hall Mitchel W. Shipe **Brian Scott Hamilton** Jason Deemer David Truxall Joseph B. Oakes Chad C. Morrison Ronald E. Oakes Daniel D. Saltzmann Jr. David H. Tripp Stephen F. Kramer Michael S. Tate Richard L. Brandon Brian Eyerman Brad W. Mason Christian McFadden Jeffrey R. Mustard Michael F. Scott Jr.

James B. Bennett

Mark Alan Cooper Haden Morrison Joseph M. Morrison Robert Six Joel P. Snyder James M. Sutton Richard J. Taylor Tracy S. Wilson Vernon Gustin Michael Fritz Highley Chad Dusty Parker Sr Carlton Perry Andrew Smallwood Donald L. Williams





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PAUL O'CONNOR Business Manager FREDDY DELLIGATTI Financial Secretary-Treasurer RICHARD GILLIGAN Business Agent-at-Large

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## Congratulations Plumbers & Pipefitters

Local 189 on Your 125th Year

Anniversary!



#### DEDICATED TO THE WORKING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT NORTHEAST INDIANA

Christopher Brown
Business Agent

Kent Prosser Business Manager

Les Zimmerman Business Agent

## CONGRATULATIONS to Plumbers & Pipefitters LOCAL 189 ON 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

**BUSINESS MANAGER**Pasquale D. Petrovia

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Gary G. Glab

BUSINESS AGENTS Gerald W. Jackson, Sr. Ryan C. Ambrose Harry M. Schleicher, Jr. Steven M. Nitsch

RECRUITER
Todd Eckley



President Jeremy Smith
Vice President Robert Bennett, Jr.

Recording Secretary
Justin Ganzermiller

EXECUTIVE BOARD
John Laubach
Chris Anderson, Jr.
David Williams
Kyle Elrod



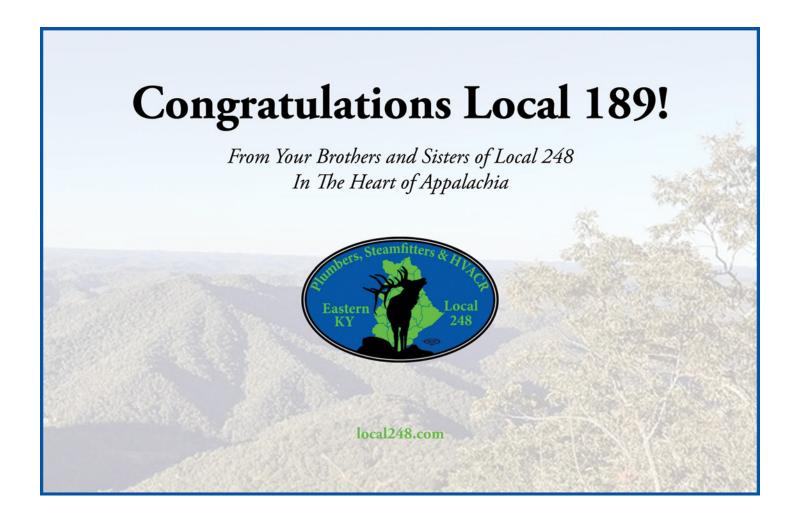




Carlo Castiglione, Business Manager
Jon DeRoo, Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Rob Moses, Vice President/Organizer

Business Representatives
Gary Glaser Dan Nixon
Rufus Hamilton Mark Wisniewski

ualocal98.org





## Congratulations to Local Union 189 on 125 years!

#### Pipefitters' Association Local Union 537

Daniel T. O'Brien

Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

James M. O'Brien
Assistant Business Manager

Brian A. Nicholson
Business Agent

Daniel E. Coady
Business Agent



John J. Kelly
Business Agent

Christopher J. Brennan Organizer

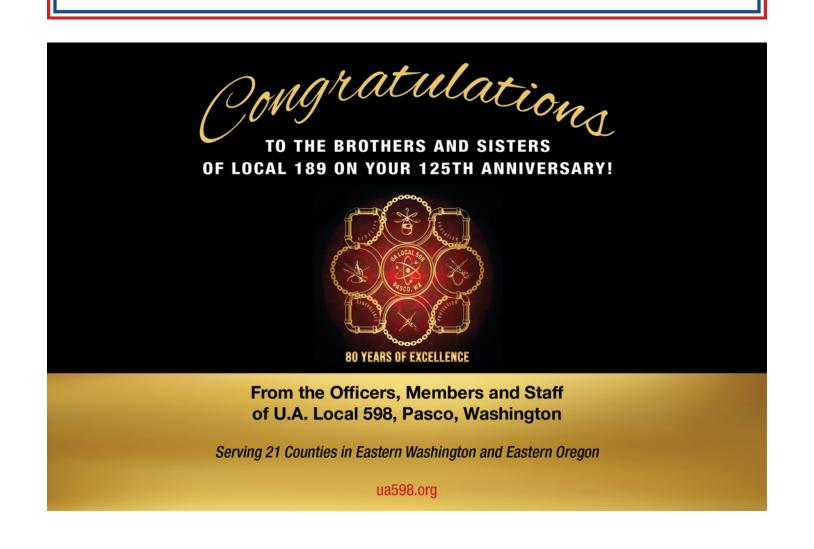
Terence M. Sweeney
Organizer

Daniel J. Mulligan
President

The Officers and Members of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 565 Congratulate Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 189 on 125 Years of Excellence



ualocal565.org



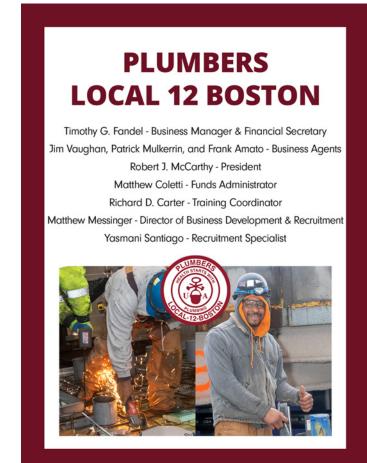


#### A PROUD PARTNER TO LOCAL 189

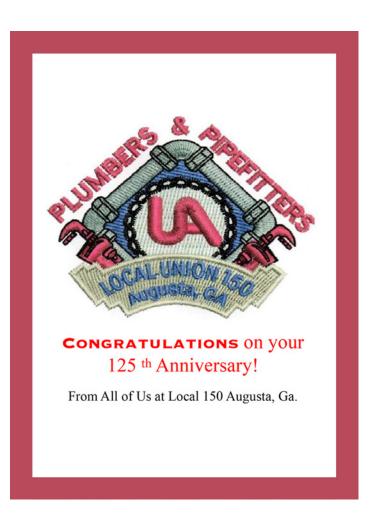
CONGRATULATIONS
ON 125 YEARS
OF BUILDING OHIO

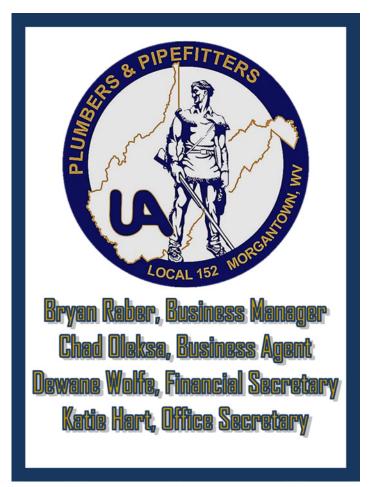


Columbus, OH | Lancaster, OH Baltimore, MD

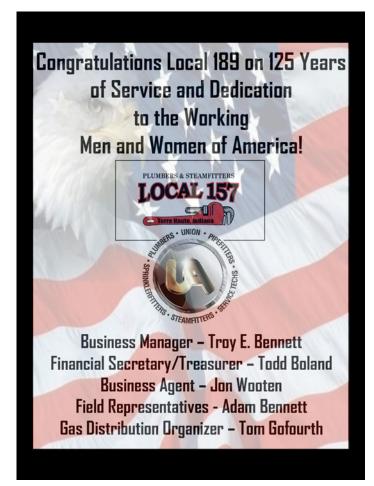


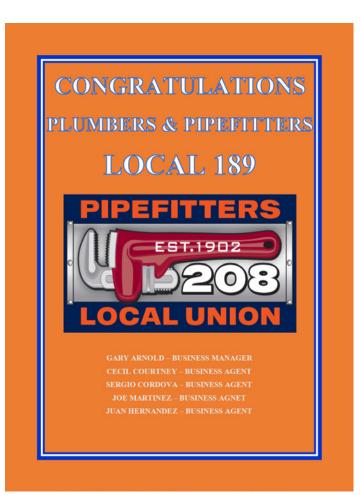


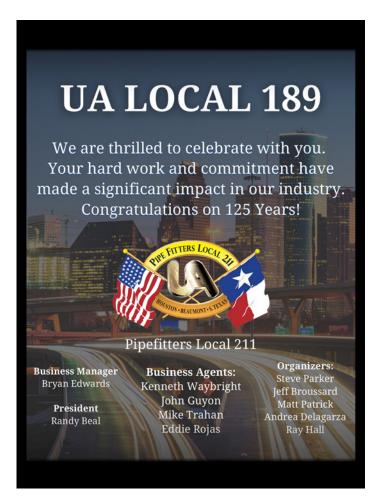




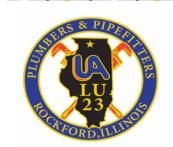








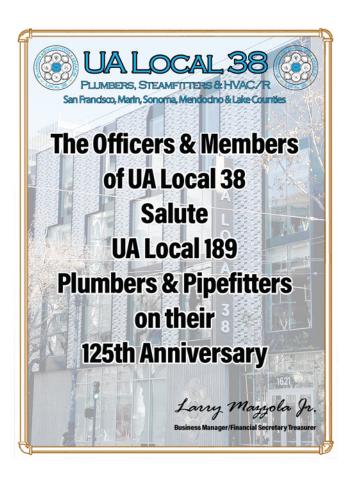
## Congratulations UA Local 189 on your 125th Anniversary!



From your friends at Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local 23

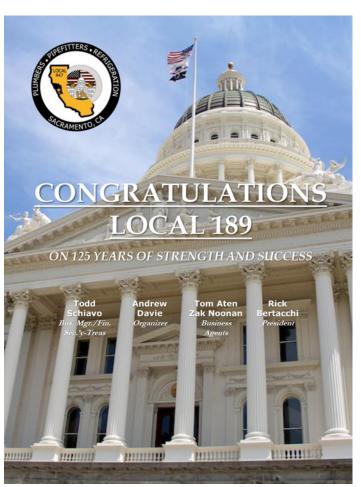
> 4525 Boeing Drive Rockford, IL 61109 (815) 397-0350

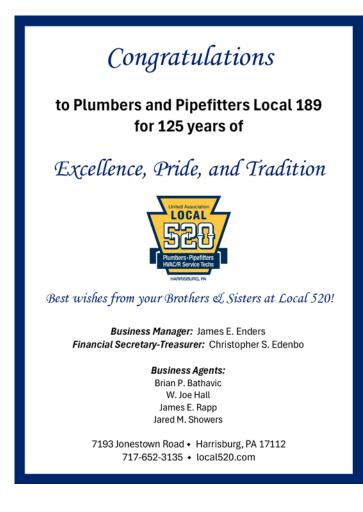
Randy Allen • Business Manager
Ryan Marshall • Business Agent
Ryan Tracey • Business Agent / Organizer

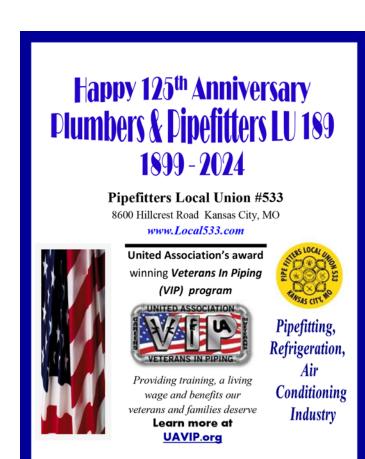


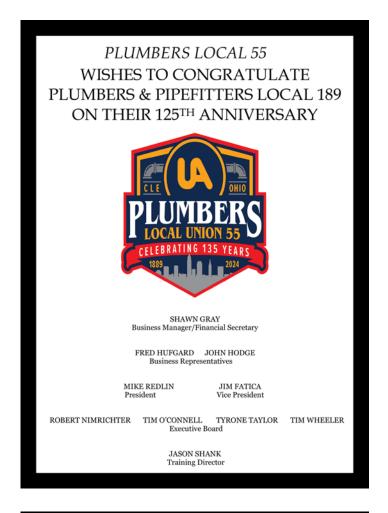


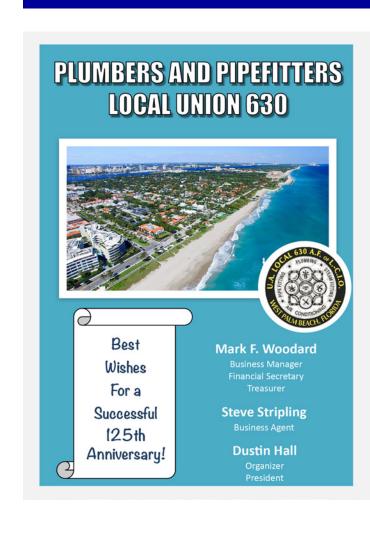


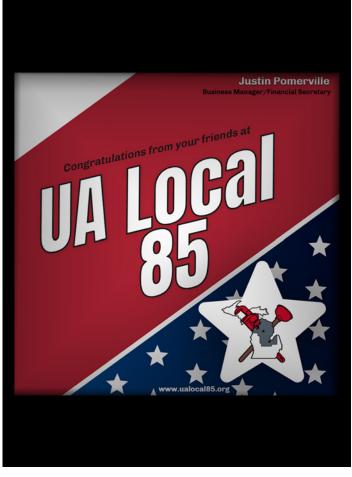


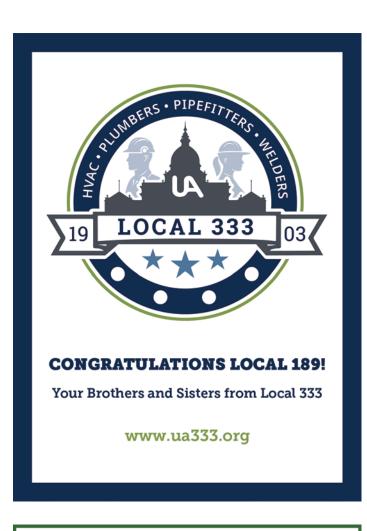




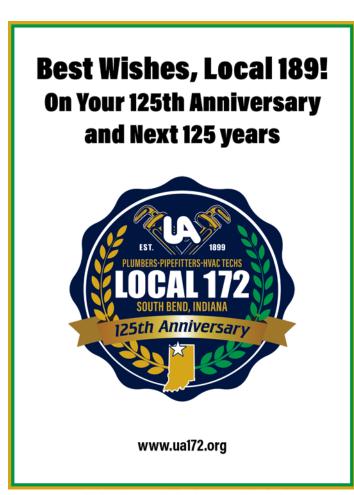


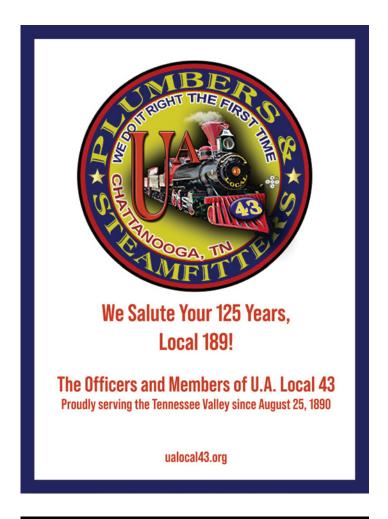












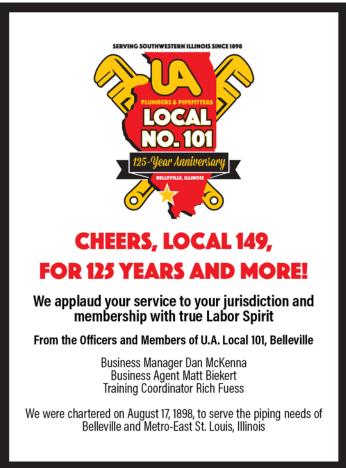
#### **Congratulations!**

Here's to Another 125 Years.

Celebrating 50 years as a Contractor with Plumbers Local 189.



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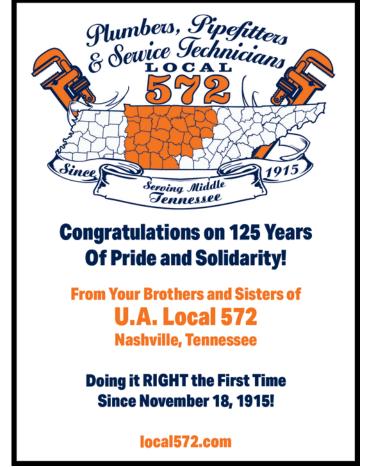






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## Congratulations on 125 Years Of Pride and Solidarity!



From Your Brothers and Sisters of U.A. Plumbers & Pipefitters Local No. 625 Charleston, West Virginia

## **ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION OF STEAMFITTERS LOCAL UNION 638**



Organized 1884

Robert J. Bartels, Jr. Business Manager

Brian R. Kearney, Jr. President Patrick S. Daly
Financial Secretary Treasurer

Tim Sullivan Vice President

#### **Business Agents**

Sean Dolan, Vincent Gaynor, Ray Goger, Brian Hunt, Cliff Johnsen, Dave Johnson, Michael Koebel, Charles Pellegrino, Janet Powers

#### Organizers

Johny Martincic, Julio Reinoso



Happy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
From the Officers and Members of
Local Union 776
Business Manager: Brad Wendel

Business Agent: Irv Coats President: Matt Cunningham

## UNION HISTORIES\*\*

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Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions

Union Histories hails U.A. Local 189 for 125 Years of Service to Your Members, Contractors, Industry and Community!

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