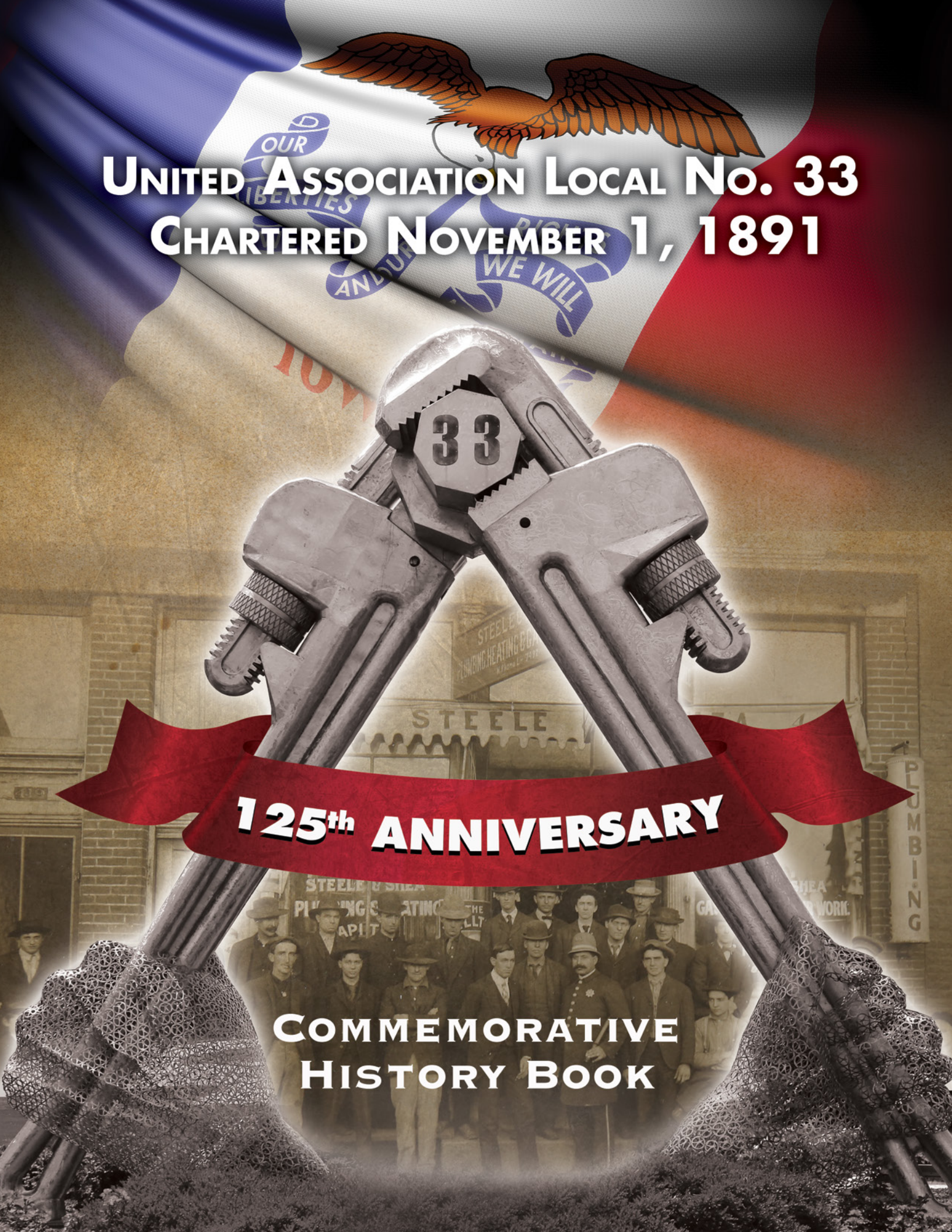


UNITED ASSOCIATION Local No. 33
CHARTERED NOVEMBER 1, 1891



125th ANNIVERSARY

**COMMEMORATIVE
HISTORY BOOK**



*United Association Local No. 33
125-Year Anniversary Celebration
Picnic and B.B.Q.*

Saturday, September 17, 2016

12 Noon to 12 Midnight

Union Labor Park

4640 NW Morningstar Drive, Des Moines, Iowa



Picnic & BBQ Menu provided by Tom Bianchi Catering, 5-7 p.m.

Open Bar will be available throughout the day.

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Music and Dancing provided by The Standing Hamptons, 8 p.m.-Midnight

PULLING TOGETHER

The U.A. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33 Unity Sculpture

(Located just outside of its Union Hall in Des Moines.)

The plaque alongside the sculpture reads:

"Pulling Together" signifies not only working cooperatively, as when two members grasp the same set of wrenches to accomplish a tightening job too difficult for one person, but also a cohesive gathering of energy and know-how. Both hands being lefts physically illustrate the first meaning. This infers two persons. I chose left instead of right because of the ancient belief that "the left hand is the more inspired or divinely guided." The second meaning results from a team whose capabilities can never be fully known or understood by its competitors, because they adapt, evolve and reinvent themselves at a rate that is unfathomable to the unorganized. The choice of stainless steel as a building material signifies permanence and pristine performance.

The hands are composed of a series of 4-inch circles encapsulating persons with outstretched arms and legs. The circle [LU33] represents a protective aura, impenetrable to deleterious forces. The persons appear quite small but all circles added together become giant hands. The immensity of these hands shows power or strength in numbers. The pattern the circles form is horizontal rows stacked one upon the other, just as our history is composed of generations, each passing on the wisdom and "tricks of the trade." Interestingly, the outstretched hands of the individuals join to create a replication of early picket lines. Let us never forget where we came from or the sacrifices made by our predecessors.

The pipe wrenches are tightening a union, which is emblazoned with the number 33 on each of its two faces. As viewed from Bell Avenue the union is obviously not installed level. The east face is higher than the west. The significance of this is as follows. The sun rises in the east, harkening all things new. LU33 members face new challenges eagerly, with heads held high, ready to deal now and from now on with whatever may come. The sun sets in the west, bidding goodbye to the day as well as to those brothers and sisters who have also passed. The lower west union face bows as we bow our heads in silent respect for those who fought the good fight, not only for them, but also for us. This piece of art is not only about unions. It is about the human condition.

Sculptor and Artist: John B. Brommel

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of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry
of the United States and Canada**

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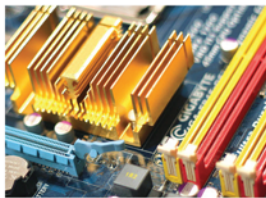
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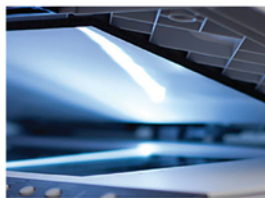
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Greetings and Congratulations from Local 33's Business Manager Forging a Path for The Future is The Legacy of Our Local

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends:

It is with great pride that the officers of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33 congratulate our membership on achieving 125 years of solidarity and excellence in the plumbing, HVAC and steamfitting trades. As the local's business manager, it is truly an honor and privilege to serve the membership and to celebrate this momentous occasion with all of you.

I am very proud of our rich heritage, which for so many of us includes multiple generations of Local 33 members. I would like to thank our forefathers, including my own grandfather and father, for helping bring this union to where it is today. Without the pride and commitment passed down from our founders and those who came before us, we would not have the opportunities that we now have to pass along to the next generation.



Reaching 125 years is no small feat. Many unions have come and gone over this time, and we have faced many challenges since our humble beginnings in 1891. But from the start, exemplary leaders, staff and members have persevered and helped this union to continue to succeed in the industry, no matter the difficulties. Our current membership continues to build upon the success of our past leaders and members; each and every one of us is called to represent the future of this union – in the classroom, on the jobsite and at the union hall. Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33 will continue to prosper for another 125 years only if we move forward with the same strength and solidarity.

Every day across the state of Iowa, we can see the evidence of our labor, which has provided comfort and safety to the families and businesses of our communities. We have strived to build and maintain positive relationships with our contractor and owner partners. Many charities around the area have felt the generosity of our membership. Along the way, co-workers and friends have become family, brothers and sisters who will forever be part of our lives.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us honor those who came before us and those who work beside us by working diligently to leave a path for future generations to continue our great tradition.

I want to thank everyone who has helped make this celebration a success! Thank you for your involvement, your pride and your friendship.

Fraternally yours,

Andy Roberts, Business Manager
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33

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U.A. Local 33 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:

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Layout & Design: Steven Demanett



125-Years of Impacting Lives Throughout Central Iowa



UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL No. 33, CHARTERED NOVEMBER 1, 1891

**PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS
LOCAL 33**

**1891 CELEBRATING 125 YEARS 2016
IOWA**

Des Moines, Iowa, had become a veritable boomtown as the end of the 19th Century approached: Between 1880 and 1890, its population exploded from about 22,400 to over 50,000 residents (and would surpass 62,000 by the turn of the century). What's more, the city's infrastructure was also expanding exponentially; by 1892, a total of almost \$2 million (a small fortune by today's standards) had been spent over the previous 10 years to develop its streets with sewers, paving and curbing.

Meanwhile, skilled-trades workers in Des Moines were becoming organized at a hurried rate. In fact, by July 1891, there were 16 trade unions in the city, where as there had only been five just three years earlier, including carpenters, bricklayers, painters and plumbers locals, the *Des Moines Register* reported on July 18 that year.

The newspaper went on in the article to espouse:

"Several new unions are now being organized, and before next winter this city can boast of being a better organized city among the working population than any city in the West. Trades unions are a good thing for all mechanics to belong to. They teach sobriety and honesty and fit out a mechanic of any trade in far better shape to command and get better wages than for a mechanic to plod through life in a slipshod manner, with no chances to learn only what he learns in the first year or so of his apprenticeship."

In that environment, a mere two years after the **United Association of Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada** – precursor of today's "U.A." (United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada) – **Local No. 33 was chartered on November 1, 1891**, to serve Des Moines and Central Iowa. The new local's charter was signed by U.A. General President J. A. Lee and General Secretary Treasurer H. D. McGhan.



Local 33 Charter Members

United Association Local No. 33 charter members, pictured circa 1891: J. W. McGlue, W. Burke, James Holland, C. Shaw, A. Anderson, H. Simmons, J. Nelson, A. Fletcher, W. Moorhead, E. Van Dyck, C. Rosene, F. Cavanaugh, J. Flynn, F. Kelso, P. McAlpine, Elmer Cox, T. Boller, H. Redding and J. Boller.

FIGHTING FOR MEMBERS, INDUSTRY

During the early 1890s, wages for plumbers and pipefitters in Des Moines were between 10 cents and 15 cents per hour, and they were working 10 to 12 hours per day during 6- and 7-day workweeks. Seeking to improve those conditions, within the first six months after it was chartered, Local 33 went on strike to gain a 9-hour workday for the plumbers, gasfitters and steamfitters it was representing in the city – and won.

By October 1892, the local had grown to 20 members and had sent a delegate, Local 33 President **J. W. McGlue**, to the U.A. national convention that July 25 through 29. Brother McGlue served on the Committee on Law during the conference.

Mid-way through the decade, the local's

plumbers and fitters were working on several of their growing city's fast-rising edifices, including the new, seven-story **Van Ginkel Building** at the corner of Fourth and Locust streets. (Renamed the Observatory Building, it was the tallest office building between Chicago and San Francisco when it opened on April 1, 1896; it was demolished in 1937).

But the union, as well as the city's residents, were also facing a serious matter by that time – the lack of a city plumbing inspector, a predicament with which the local would have to deal for years to come. The issue was so critical at the time that Des Moines Sanitary Engineer H. J. Baily even wrote in the September 3, 1896, *Register*, “No doubt a number of the people here have ill health and spend no small amount of money on doctor bills, when they could dispense with both if they had healthy plumbing in the house.”



That issue notwithstanding, before the end of the decade and the century, Local 33 went out on a prolonged and bitter strike for the 8-hour day and higher wages. Beginning April 10, 1899, the journeyman plumbers walked off their jobs after contractors – including the Des Moines Plumbing, Wallace & McNamara and Van Dyke companies – refused to raise wages from 33-1/3 cents per hour to 40 cents per hour and shorten the workday by one hour, with the April 11 *Register* describing the proceedings:

“The striking plumbers repaired to Trades’ Assembly Hall and sent out skirmishers to notify men at work elsewhere of the action taken and requesting all plumbers whose employers declined to concede the demands to quit work and unite with the strikers in an effort to enforce the new scale. Soon there were 27 men assembled at the Trades’ Assembly Hall, the response to the request of the striking workmen being quick and nearly unanimous.”

At the crux of the conflict, the newspaper reported, was the employing plumbers’ “prevalent custom of creating wages on the basis of the estimated ability of men in their employ.” The journeymen argued that the employers did not use “discriminating judgment in applying this rule” and instead used it “as a pretext to scale down wages generally.”

By the following day, every one of the city’s 100 journeyman plumbers was not working, the *Register* reported on April 12. It even went on to cite a master plumber who stated that

the employees were “sewed up tight, and the strike is a success as relates to the absolute unanimity with which the men have responded to the call to quit work.”

The local’s solidarity eventually won out. However, to begin the 20th Century, it would again have to strike in 1900 – with far less success – and, yet again, two years later after contractors refused to meet several requests from the union.

Local 33 gave a list of 12 demands that would go into effect on May 15, 1900, including a wage scale of \$3 per 8-hour day for journeymen and \$1.50 per day for apprentices who have served five years of a six-year apprenticeship. The local also requested that no laborer be allowed to do any pipe work in the city, that a member’s railroad fare be paid by the employer if he is sent to a job outside of the city, and that “no plumber, steam or gas fitter shall do any work for less than two hours pay.”

The striking plumbers, gasfitters and steamfitters returned to work on May 19 having gained no concessions from the employers, who had delivered an ultimatum “to the effect that plumbers and gasfitters must return to work at the old scale or not at all,” according to an article in the *Register* that day.

Two years later, the plumbers were still being paid \$3 per day (while their peers in Chicago were earning up to \$4.50 a day), and June 2, 1902, the 40-man strong Local 33 membership



Van Ginkel Building

May 8th 94	C. D. Smith	0.75
	J. Costella	0.50
	J. Haland	1.00
June 18	P. A. McAlpin	0.50
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	C. Kohlpoth	1.00
	James Holland	1.00
	Andy Fletcher	2.00
	Spitznagel	1.00
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U.A. Local 33 accounting booklet, 1896

again attempted to gain an increase in wages and went out on strike – but with a much better outcome. While the local was asking for a raise to \$3.60, after six days, during which the master plumbers suspended business while work on many buildings was idled, an arbitration committee of employers and journeymen decided on a wage increase to \$3.25 for Local 33 effective from September 1, 1902, to April 1, 1903.

The committee also agreed that from April 1, 1903, to April 1, 1904, the journeymen would receive \$3.50 per eight-hour day.

“The news of the settlement of this strike was received with much appreciation by contractors throughout the city Saturday, because of the fact that a large amount of work has been delayed through the strike,” the *Register* reported on June 8.

Focusing on Improved Conditions

Throughout the first decade of the 1900s, Local 33 was continuously forced to fight for better wages and working conditions; however, it was not always by way of strikes and work-stoppages. Case in point, when the local was again struggling to have its demands met through a strike in April 1904, it instead created its own contracting firm – which the April 26 *Register* detailed:

“Yesterday, the ‘Sanitary Plumbing Company,’ organized by the striking journeymen plumbers, began business with a shop in the basement of the Marquardt building and began operations by starting several jobs of plumbing in several parts of the city. ... The shop is the outcome of a scheme which has been underway by the officers and members of the journeymen plumbers’ union for some time, and the members state that the business will be a permanent one.”



Local 33 charter member E. Van Dyke in 1902 while running for the office of Alderman of Des Moines' Fourth Ward, by which time he was operating his own successful business.

After two weeks, the journeymen and master plumbers came to a "final understanding," according to the May 6 *Register*, by which "the discrimination against union men is not to prevail." Ultimately, the plumbers returned to work for the contractors and the journeymen's shop was shuttered.

There continued to be no quit in the union plumbers of Des

Moines, as they walked off their jobs again in April 1906 and won a raise to \$3.75 per day and the continuation of the "closed" union shops in the city for the ensuing year. Again in April 1907, when the previous agreement expired, Local 33 went on strike and won a two-year contract for \$4 per day through May 1, 1909, after a joint committee of both parties agreed to arbitrate the local's original request for a 75-cent wage increase.

Having won those concessions, during that time, U.A. General Organizer John M. Love reported in the January 1908 United

Association *Journal* publication that the local "is in a good flourishing condition and will in the near future take a hand in the formation of the State Association for Iowa."

Nevertheless, when its two-year contract concluded, Local 33's nearly 120 members went right back on strike beginning May 10, 1909, when contractors refused their demands for a pay increase to \$5 per day, a "half holiday Saturday afternoon" and a closed-shop agreement. The May 12 *Register* explained, "The fact that there are a few master plumbers in the association of employers who do not work union men makes it difficult for the employers as an association to consider the closed-shop proposition."

The union journeymen would remain out for more than a month, during which time construction operations in Des Moines – which was in the middle of a building boom – were "seriously crippled" while over 25 contracts were held up, State Labor Commissioner E. W. Van Duyn declared in the June 4 *Register*, despite his own efforts to mediate a resolution. What's more, the contractors had brought in about a dozen strikebreakers to work the abandoned jobs – but that, too, was to no avail.

After a June 16 conference between the local and contractors, the plumbers gained a three-year contract with wages of \$4.65 for the first year and \$4.75 for the remaining two years, and they subsequently returned to work on June 17. In reaching the agreement, the local did recede from its request to have all shops in the city "closed," as the three non-union contractors would remain "open" shops, and its demand for a half holiday each Saturday afternoon, although they would "enjoy that privilege whenever the other building trades are given it," the *Register* reported on June 18, 1909.

There was no need for the local to stop working when the next contract negotiations

came around in 1912, as it made a three-year agreement with employers that spring that carried with it a \$5 wage scale the second and third years, as well as a closed-shop provision and restriction on the number of apprentices that could be used on jobs. The successful settlement even prompted U.A. General Organizer Frank J. Kennedy to declare in the October 1912 *Journal*:

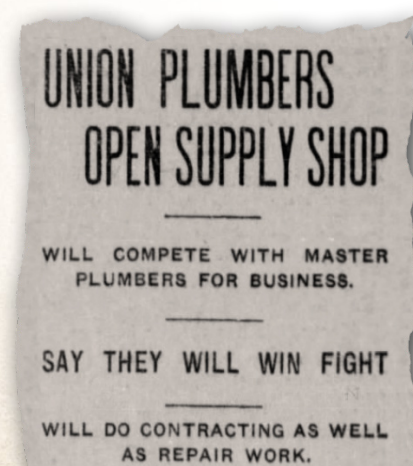
"Local 33 is one of the best locals in the state."

By that time, the local was charging a \$25 fee for initiation into the union – but any applicant had to first pass an examination. The local was also a member of the **Trades and Labor Assembly**, and its members spent Labor Day 1912 at the Assembly's picnic.

Local 33 also focused much of its efforts to improve its industry on bolstering outdated

plumbing ordinances in the City of Des Moines and the State of Iowa. To that end, a committee of representatives from the local and its employing master plumbers met on September 3, 1912, (the day after Labor Day) to draft a state law "regulating the licensing of plumbers and to supervise and inspect plumbing as well as to lay out a plan of action to ensure the passage of the law at the coming session of the legislature," Organizer Kennedy reported.

The committee presented the proposed ordinance, which called for "the examination of all persons as to their knowledge of plumbing before permitting them to engage in the business of contracting for plumbing, and also examine plumbers as to their knowledge of the trade," to the City Council in November, according to the November 30 *Register*. The plan also proposed to require an annual fee of \$25 from contracting plumbers and \$1 from journeymen.



Headline in the *Des Moines Register*, April 26, 1904.

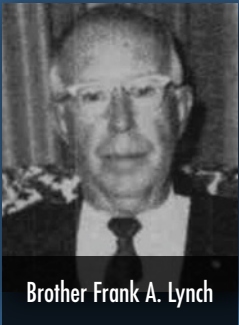


LOCAL HAS HAD ONLY SEVEN TREASURERS IN 125 YEARS

Local 33 had only two men serve as its treasurer during its first 99 years: **Brother James “Jay” Holland** was the local’s first treasurer from 1891 until October 1940, when he passed away, and **Brother Frank A. Lynch** was then treasurer until 1990. The two men helped guide the local through its early years and into the complex piping industry of the mid-20th Century.



Brother James “Jay” Holland



Brother Frank A. Lynch

Brother Holland, a charter member of Local 33, was initiated into the United Association in 1889 and held Steamfitter Card No. 7280. His son, Elmer Holland, and two grandsons, Gerald Holland and James Holland, were also members of Local 33.

(A 1939 article in the Des Moines Register, at which time Brother Holland was the local’s only surviving charter member, commented, “Jim ... may be the only man in the world who ever served 50 years as treasurer for a plumbers and steamfitters union.”)

Brother Lynch joined the local in 1918 and held a then-record 53 years of continuous good-standing membership. He was Chief Plumbing Inspector for the City of Des Moines for many years before retiring.

With that foundation, during its first 125 years, Local 33 has had a total of only six brothers and one sister hold the position of treasurer (the business manager took over the role of treasurer beginning in 2001). Following Brother Lynch, **Brother Steven R. Boggs** served as treasurer from 1990 to 1998; **Sister Patricia A. Broerman** served from 1998 to June 2001; **Thomas F. Gillespie** from June 2001 to July 2007; **Brother Gregory B. Foshe** from July 2007 to July 2010; and current treasurer **Brother Andrew “Andy” Roberts** has served since July 2010.

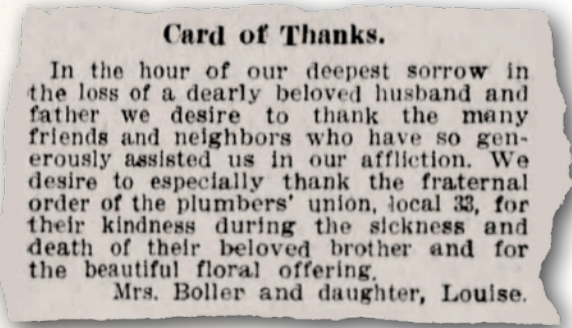
Before the ordinance was approved, however, it was considerably altered to, among other things, reduce the proposed Board of Examiners from five to three members and to disallow the master plumbers and the journeymen plumbers from having representatives on the board. After some further debate, it was then passed in October.

Soon after, the first group of 10 of the approximately 160 plumbers in Des Moines were being examined at City Hall by the plumbing board on December 20, 1913, “tinkering with lead pipe and other material to demonstrate their ability to do sanitary plumbing” – which an article in the *Register* the next day described as “the oddest examination ever held in Des Moines.” But in the end, General Organizer Kennedy was able to convey in the January 1914 *Journal*:

“The first of January the ordinance creating a Board of Examiners of Plumbers goes into effect. The ordinance compels any person desiring to work as a journeyman plumber to first pass an examination as to his qualifications to work at such trade. Under the ordinance, the boss plumber is not compelled to take an examination to engage in the plumbing business, but if he desires to do his own work he must first take a journeyman’s examination and procure a certificate before proceeding to do the work of a journeyman. This ordinance is backed up by a state law, which was passed at the last session of the legislature. I trust the other locals of the state will take advantage of the rights granted by the state law and insist on the city authorities of their various cities passing a similar ordinance.”

MAKING SUBSTANTIAL GAINS

By 1915, Local 33 had not only contributed to creating the **Iowa State Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters**, but the local’s Business Agent H. P. Willey and Brother Harry Loring were kept busy helping to run it, the later as its president, while the association’s primary energies focused on passing state legislation to protect and improve the plumbing industry (which more often than not was a struggle). The local even hosted all of the state’s U.A. locals on May 2 in Des Moines for the group’s annual state convention.



Letter in the Des Moines Register, March 26, 1910.

Meanwhile, Local 33 was enjoying a good measure of prosperity into 1916, during which time wages for its plumbers and fitters were at \$5.50 per day. U.A. General Organizer Edward W. Leonard even commented in the May 1916 *Journal*:

“I am pleased to say that the affairs of the Des Moines Local Union are in excellent condition and the energy shown by their business agent is manifest by the unity that was exhibited by all the members and the confidences imposed in their officers.”

The local endured a lockout in 1917 while it squabbled with its employing contractors over a new contract, and again the following year was forced to strike for an agreement. As a result,

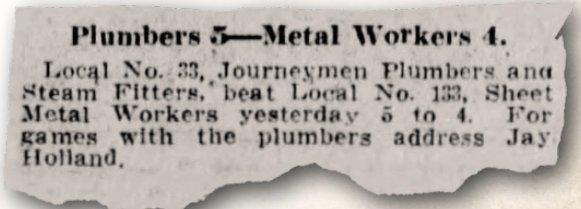
The wives and girlfriends of Local 33 members formed **Ladies Auxiliary No. 7** in 1915 to help support the local and its social and charitable activities.

by the spring of 1918 the local had secured “a good substantial increase in wages and one that is in keeping with the general increase of all our locals,” General Organizer Kennedy reported in the August 1918 *Journal*.

Many of the local’s men at that time were working on construction of the 400-room **Fort Des Moines Hotel**, which would open in 1919 after local business leaders pooled their money to build it, citing the need for a marquee hotel downtown. (At least 13 presidents would be guests of the hotel, as well as foreign leaders, musicians and celebrities.)

During the spring of that year, Local 33 joined the other building trades of the city in an eight-week-long strike that ended on May 25 with a new, two-year contract. While the labor dispute was conducted in a civilized manner and was “not nearly so costly as a ‘labor war’ would have been,” a May 26, 1919, *Register & Tribune* editorial commented, it also forewarned:

“The employer who still believes that labor unions can be broken by a determined resistance is merely blinding himself to the commonest experience. ... While the terms of the agreement for the coming two years in Des Moines have not been published, it is plain on the face of it that the employers have recognized the right of labor to act in a body”



Baseball game score announced in a June 23, 1912, newspaper.

The local led another breakthrough later that year when the Iowa State Association, under the leadership of Local 33 brothers **Jason A. Sneddon** as its president and **William A. Hoos** as its secretary, finally had a new state plumbing code passed in the Iowa legislature and officially adopted on October 2, 1919. The law made it mandatory for all cities with more than 6,000 residents to draft ordinances relative to the installation and inspection of plumbing and for plumbers to be examined by local boards composed of one journeyman, one employer and a member of the city's Board of Health. Cities with populations under 6,000 could elect to come under the same provisions.

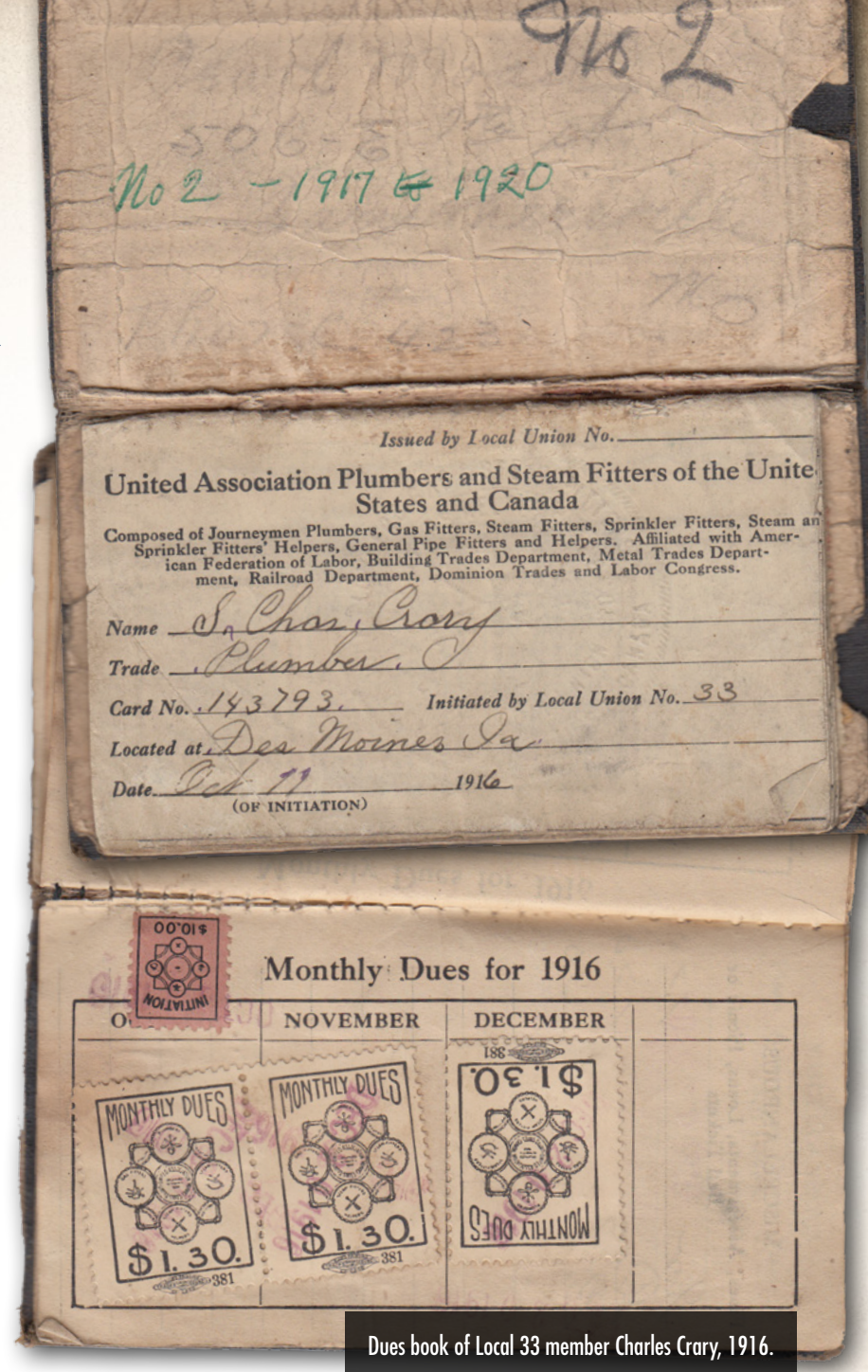
With the new, statewide regulations in place, General Organizer Kennedy reflected in the 1919 *Journal*, "From the number of cities in Iowa without proper plumbing ordinances, we can all agree to the necessity of a state code to make them do things along this line."

ENDURING THE 1920s AND '30s

While Local 33 had secured a \$10-per-day contract for 1920, the next two years were far less kind to the local than the previous decade had been. In fact, in early 1921, with the City of Des Moines and the State of Iowa in a serious economic and construction downturn (at one point in 1922 the city's Building Trades Council was not functioning because work was so slow), the master plumbers cut wages to \$8 per day, effective April 1.

The following year, the local's members walked off their jobs for 10 days beginning March 1 before an agreement on wages could be reached. However, by July, more than half of the local's fitters were unemployed – while the local was fighting maintenance workers throughout the city who were performing steam-fitting work.

Worked picked up again in Local 33's jurisdiction, and before the end of 1922, U.A.



Dues book of Local 33 member Charles Crary, 1916.



Local 33 members working for Ryan Plumbing and Heating on construction of Fort Des Moines Hotel in 1918 and 1919 included (left to right, starting at top) A. Burnside; George Hunt; Paul Pennington, assistant superintendent of heating; William Robinson; L. Feezer; Ed Spitznagle; W. Wittkowsky; W. A. Rupkey; Brother McAniff; C. J. Olson; S. L. Whitmore; George Kennedy; P. A. Kehoe; S. A. Moran; Martin McGlone; Joe Fox; Charles Miller; Jerry Brown; Victor Merchant; Steve Crary; George Gerber; Harry Loring; Oscar Sparland; Tom Lynch; C. W. Stall; Charles Arkill; Charles Crary; H. E. Korneman; Joe Kohler; Dan Baldwin; William Ammison; C. Otto; Joe Burkehead; Robert Gilmore; W. E. Bunton; Dave Morgan; Paul Gustafson; W. C. Shanley; Roy Wiseman, superintendent of heating; Patrick Mansfield, superintendent of plumbing; M. Sandler, timekeeper; A. Isbell; W. E. Dike; Robert Haslett; Frank Wilson, assistant superintendent of plumbing; and J. W. Conklin, business agent.

General Organizer Richard P. Walsh was able to report in the November *Journal* that all of the local's members were employed and "conditions are very good in Des Moines."

The local joined the Building Trades in another strike in April 1923, the plumbers seeking a wage increase to \$1.25 per hour, although the employers again held firm to their refusal for the substantial wage increase. Just three years later, however, a strike by the Building Trades was averted on April 1 when annual contracts were extended by 15 days – but Local 33 signed its contract with the master plumbers that very day.

The local began to dwindle with the onset of the **Great Depression** after the stock market crashed in late 1928, and by June 1929, it numbered only 114 journeymen and apprentices. While the local did gain a

new, two-year contract in 1930 for the \$10-per-day wage rate, its situation would only get worse, as it would for many across the state and nation.

Undeniably, U.A. members throughout the country fell on hard times as unemployment soared, according to the U.A. International History. The *Journal* even ran several articles during the early 1930s that offered advice on how members could stretch their wages, such as growing food in their own gardens, but much of the focus was on calling on the government to take action to help people and on trying to offer some kind of hope and encouragement to the U.A. membership.

"... Construction all but stopped, and this led to a significant decline in manufacturing," the 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." But while membership declined and no U.A. International conventions were convened between 1928 and 1938, "the union held it together."

In and around Des Moines, the depression had a profound effect, as hundreds of workers were out of work and the region's agricultural industry suffered greatly during the early 1930s. Local 33 also did not escape the distress, and by June 1932, it was down to only 96 total members.

ALWAYS TAKING THE LEAD IN MEMBER TRAINING

"Here at the Local No. 33 training center, we believe that a highly educated, safe and professional worker is a must, and that training starts here."

— 2016 —

Training and education of its membership has always been a crucial part of Local 33's agenda. From the very beginning, the local provided on-the-job training to apprentices who sought to make a career and earn a living through the plumbing and piping trades.

Eventually, the local's training evolved into a three-year apprenticeship through which the apprentice still learned while working with a journeyman. At the end of that period, he was given a written test that he had to pass in order to "graduate."

Local 33's apprentice education became markedly more formal beginning in 1939 when it organized its first official apprenticeship class. Over the ensuing two decades, the local's apprentices were taught by Des Moines public school teachers and classes were held in the evenings at public school facilities – while the apprentices continued to work out in the field during the days.

By 1947, beginning apprentices were making 50 cents per hour in wages while they were learning the trade.

Through the 1950s, classes for Local 33's five-year apprenticeship school were held at Des Moines Technical High School two evenings per week. The classes were eventually moved to Saturdays at the Technical High School (which is now known as Central Campus).

In 1970, the local moved its training into a training center at 2501 Bell Avenue (the local's current union hall, offices and training facility), for which it had a lease agreement with the Mechanical Contractors Association. Sixteen years later, the local purchased the building from the contractors and moved its union offices there, leasing the training space to the **Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (J.A.T.C.)** that operated the training program.

Then in 1998, Local 33 became the first United Association local to establish a fulltime apprenticeship school when it created an 8-hour-per-day, 5-day-per-week program. In doing so, the J.A.T.C. hired four full-time instructors and undertook a major renovation project to modernize the training facility.

At 125 years in 2016, the J.A.T.C., which consists of representatives from the local and its employing contractors, not only trains its apprentices but also



Local 33 apprentice Raymond Baker, center, competes at the United Association Apprenticeship Contest at Purdue University in 1955.

continues to educate the local's journeymen. The training center features classrooms and hands-on, practical labs, where members have the opportunity to take classes in many different disciplines such as Plumbing, Pipefitting, Welding, HVAC, Refrigeration, Rigging, Blueprint Reading and Drawing, Medical Gas Installation, Backflow Prevention, Safety and many more.

The Local 33 center also has a state-of-the-art welding shop that is able to teach welding in every process used in the pipe welding industry. There, the J.A.T.C. can test and certify welders in more than 50 weld certifications.

Apprentices attending plumbing classes are educated on the installation, service and repair of water, gas, sewer and drainage systems, and they also complete a 40-hour backflow class. After finishing these classes, apprentices have the knowledge to complete the State of Iowa plumbing exam.

While taking classes in installing, repairing and troubleshooting air conditioning and heating equipment for many different applications and industries, apprentices learn basic electricity along with arc-flash safety training. At the completion of the apprenticeship, he or she will have the knowledge to pass an HVAC and Refrigeration exam.

Through the J.A.T.C. program, pipefitting apprentices learn to assemble, install and maintain piping systems that carry water, steam and fluids necessary for manufacturing processes. In the training classes, they learn complicated mathematics problem solving in addition to Steam and Hydraulics theory.

For 125 years, Local No. 33 has provided mechanical contractors throughout Iowa with the expertise necessary to complete projects safely and efficiently.

This standing workforce of highly skilled workers has been expertly trained through the Local 33 apprenticeship program.



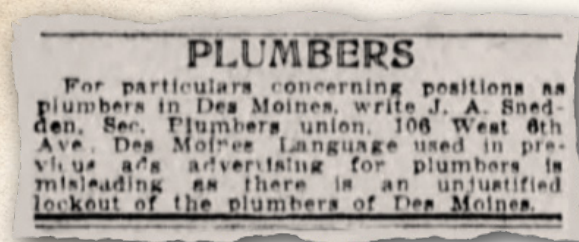
First Apprentice Class: Local 33's first formal, organized class of apprentices matriculated on September 13, 1939, and consisted of (left to right) Tony Mihalovich, Charles Fuller, Cliff Chamberlain, Bill Robinson, Bill Seymour, John Chamberlain, Glen Cole, Carl Christiansen, Bill Elder, Don Jones and Ray Garlick.



Local 33 apprentices training in 1974.



Local 33 apprentices, 1974.



March 20, 1921, *Des Moines Register*

Earlier that year, the local also endured a week-long lockout beginning March 14, during which only 18 member plumbers were at work while the **Des Moines Retail Plumbers** demanded the union take a \$3-per-day reduction in wages. An agreement was finally reached on March 22 that slashed daily wages \$2 down to \$8 per day.

As the depression continued, on May 1 the following year the local accepted a new, one-year contract without a wage increase, holding at \$1 per hour for an eight-hour day.

A light at the end of the dark tunnel began to

shine with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, which began putting U.A. members back to work in the early 1930s helping to build schools, libraries, public buildings and housing projects under the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration. In Des Moines, the Federal stimulus funding provided many new improvement projects, including bridges, the Argonne Armory, Des Moines River retaining walls and the extension of several streets.

By mid-1936, all of the city's unions had reported growth over the previous three years, according to the July 5, 1936, *Register*. Over 65 union plumbers were at work in the city, the newspaper reported, and all Building Trades union members were "at work most of the time."

By that June, the local's membership had slowly increased to 105 ... and by June 1940, after the Great Depression had given way to **World War II**, Local 33 stood at 148 member journeymen and apprentices.

PITCHING IN AND GROWING

With the depression a moment in history, 1939 was a record year for plumbing in Des Moines. According to the January 7, 1940, *Register*, the city's plumbing inspectors issued 2,123 permits, and there were 48 licensed master plumbers and 142 journeymen plumbers – most of whom belonged to Local 33 – in the city.

What's more, by 1941, during which the country entered the Second World War on December 7, the City of Des Moines had grown to a population of 160,000 and its economy had stabilized as commerce and industry were converting to support the war effort. Perhaps most notably, the new, small-arms-munitions **ordnance plant in Ankeny**, Iowa, was built in 1941 with over 120 union plumbers – and would employ thousands of men and women during the war years.

Local 33 also helped convert old **Fort Des Moines** military induction center into a training base for the newly formed Women's Army Corps (WAC) beginning in 1942. (Congress passed a bill on May 14, 1942, forming the WAC to fill thousands of non-combat roles in the military; soon after, the military selected Fort Des Moines as the location at which to train the initial 60,000 volunteers, according to "Images of America: Fort Des Moines.") The installation grew so quickly, in fact, with 112 buildings springing up in less than five months and a total of 174 structures built there, that the "WACs" named the area "**Boomtown**," the book recounted, although much of it was demolished following the war.

During the war, the local's membership grew to over 175, with those in the union in 1943 making \$1.50 an hour. On June 15 of that year after a one-day cessation of work, the local agreed with its contractors that its wage-increase request for \$1.75 an hour should be

presented to the War Labor Board for arbitration.

After the end of the war and at the onset of a post-war building boom during the late 1940s that would last well into the 1950s, however, the union plumbers were not so amenable after nearly two decades of constant wage concessions. In late 1945, Local 33 went on strike for several weeks before winning an increase from \$1.62-1/2 per hour to \$1.75, the former rate having been established by the Federal Board of Adjustment (the continuation of the wartime War Labor Board, which was abolished when the war ended).

The local was again on strike in July 1946 for a new contract with a wage of \$2.08 an hour, stopping work on apartments at Fort Des Moines that would house the families of 203 war veterans to "enforce their demands," the July 25 *Register* reported. The debate was not settled until after a full day of negotiations in the office of a Federal conciliator on August 3, when the local was awarded a base pay of \$2 an hour, plus an additional 8 cents per hour into a **Vacation Fund** for the local's members and double time for all overtime (an increase from time-and-a-half).

The local signed on for a similar agreement with the Des Moines Master Plumbers for the following year, which was effective April 1, 1947. During the life of that particular contract, **John Deere** took over the closed ordnance plant – with Local 33 working on its conversion for the tractor company – and completed its first year of operations in 1948 while employing over 1,400 people.



Guy H. "Cuzzy" Brooks, shown here in 1947, the year he passed away, was one of Local 33's earliest members and held practically every office in the local before retiring.

Local 33 members working for Iowa Power & Light Company, circa 1925.



The local and its fellow Building Trades unions in the city again secured wage increases with a new contract on May 7, 1949, after walking off their jobs for four days. The plumbers had asked for a 25-cents-per-hour raise to a new \$2.50 scale and received a compromised \$2.37-1/2.

With abundant work in its jurisdiction and a favorable wage, the local's membership surpassed 200 before the end of the decade.

MOVING FORWARD, STAYING BUSY

Local 33 ballooned to 218 journeyman and apprentice members at one point in late 1950, before which the local had asked for an increase in wages to \$2.62-1/2 but again settled on a middle ground with the master plumbers at \$2.50 per hour in May. When that contract expired the following May 1, 1951, the local and its employers agreed on a new pact for \$2.61-1/4 per hour and again signed for \$2.90 per hour in 1952.

The Building Trades and Local 33 truly tested their collective mettle the next year when they went on a 16-week strike beginning May 4, 1953, to win pension benefits and raises, the plumbers seeking an increase to \$3 per hour plus a 7-1/2-cent Welfare Fund provision. As a result, **Local 33 became the first local in the nation with a multi-employer, defined-benefit pension plan**, which started in 1954.

United Association Local 310 of Ames, Iowa, was merged into Local 33 on April 28, 1954. Local 310's city had been under the jurisdiction of Local 33 until late 1922, when the plumbers in Ames applied for a charter with the U.A. and were originally organized as Local 696. (Local 33, "owing to the distance from that city and the difficulty involved in controlling the industry, ... readily gave its consent to the founding of the new local," U.A. General Organizer Richard P. Walsh reported in the December 1922 U.A. *Journal*.)

Local 33's primary trade classifications were amended by the United Association in 1951 from "Plumber, Gas Fitter and Steam Fitter" to "Plumber and Steamfitter," and again in 1956 to "Plumber and Pipe Fitter."

The local's **Pension Board** held its first meeting in February 1954 in Judkins Hall and consisted of Local 33 members Frank Lynch, Melvern Robinson, Tom Ferguson and John Chamberlain and contractors W. C. Robinson, Don Stroh, M. A. Wolin and Carl Muench. The board, with \$34,000 on hand, voted to pay Haight, David and Haight Consulting Actuaries of Omaha \$1,948 for setting up the Pension Fund and to place \$20,000 in a savings account in the bank. *(Some 20 years later in 1973, there were about \$1.8 million in assets in the Pension Trust, including over \$611,000 in mortgage loans.)*

Soon after on May 2, 1954, Local 33 signed a new contract for a 10-cent-per-hour raise. That year, many of the local's members were at work building **Veterans Memorial Auditorium** in downtown Des Moines, which when it opened on February 1, 1955, was one of the largest exhibit halls and arenas in the country. *(Nearly 50 years later, the facility would be completely renovated as part of construction of the massive Iowa Events Center project beginning in 2002 and was renamed "Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center" in 2011.)*

While working on many major projects at that time, such as the \$3.5 million **North High School**, the \$2 million telephone company building and the \$1 million apartment complex at 3660 Grand Avenue, Local 33 briefly stopped working in May 1956 in another dispute over wages. The local's members returned to work on May 7 after settling on a contract with the Mechanical Trades Association, representing 20 heating and plumbing contractors, for a 5-cent hourly boost to \$3.25 and a flat 12-1/2-cent hourly payment into the local's Vacation Fund.

Despite the multiple wage and benefits disputes, the local and its contractors did continue to work together in most instances during the 1950s. In particular, Local 33 and the Mechanical Trades Association in early 1956 urged the City of Des Moines to enact an ordinance requiring inspection of low-pressure and hot-water-heating systems.

Meanwhile, Local 33 members were also working on construction of a new **Iowa Power and Light Company building** at Walnut and 9th streets in Des Moines in 1957 and 1958.

Before the end of the decade, however, Local 33 was again forced to strike along with the Building Trades for better wages, tying up nearly \$25 million worth of projects beginning May 1, 1959. The last Building Trades local to sign a contract, Local 33 remained out until June 2, when they were given a 39-cent total increase to its \$3.68-1/2-per-hour rate for the coming two years, including 12-1/2 cents into the local's Pension Fund.

HOLDING GROUND AMID CONTROVERSY

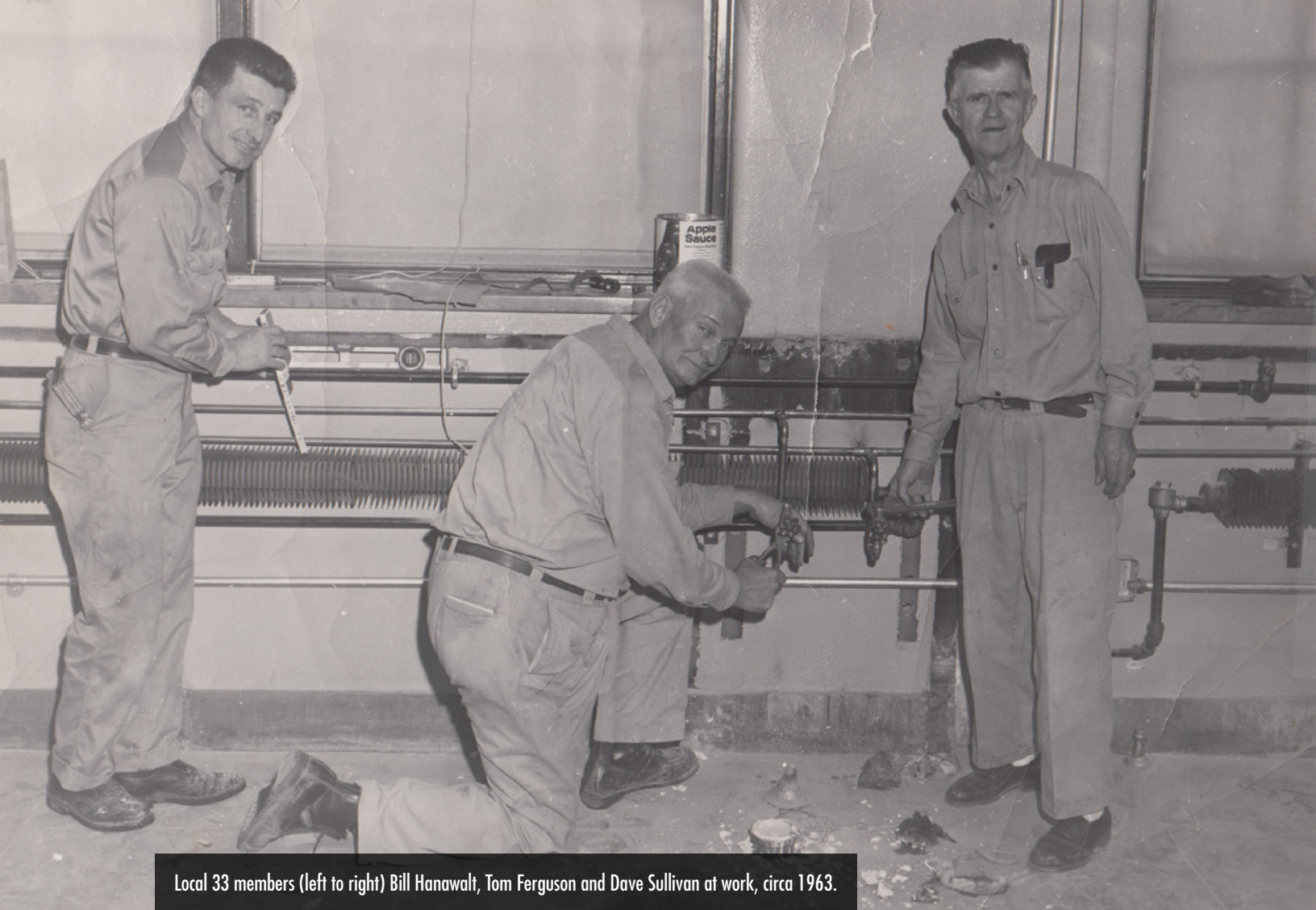
The 1960s was generally a period of strong employment and good times for Local 33, especially as downtown development and redevelopment of Des Moines progressed vigorously with new and renovated retail and commercial buildings. An initial membership count of over 371 journeymen and apprentices in September 1960 would surpass 500 by the end of the decade.

United Association Local 315 of Marshalltown, Iowa, was merged into Local 33 on May 1, 1960.

The relative calm was raucously shattered in March 1963 when Local 33 clashed head-on with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) Local 499 of Des Moines over work at the Iowa Power and Light Company's **Pleasant Hill Power Plant**. The



Local 33 brothers Bill Seymour, Ted Storm, Henry Merkel and Paul Delapp man an information booth at Veterans Memorial Auditorium (now Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center) in Des Moines on Labor Day 1960.



Local 33 members (left to right) Bill Hanawalt, Tom Ferguson and Dave Sullivan at work, circa 1963.

dispute became so heated, in fact, that on March 20, Governor Harold Hughes ordered a National Guard unit from Knoxville be put on alert for possible duty at the plant “because of fear there might be some violence” after officials became concerned over “a large gathering of cars in the Pleasant Hills area,” the *Register* reported the next day.

The two unions were quarreling over which should perform certain work, primarily changing boiler piping, on a \$12.5 million addition project at the plant. While members

United Association Local 584 of Ft. Dodge, Iowa, was merged into Local 33 on January 1, 1967. Local 33 Brother John Sneddon had helped organize the local in 1912, when 14 men in the city signed a charter application with the U.A. on September 11.

of Local 33 working for Power Services, Inc., of Minneapolis were doing the work, 800 maintenance employees of the plant who were members of the I.B.E.W. struck the facility in protest for three days beginning March 19.

Eventually, the National Labor Relations Board (which entered the case when Iowa Power charged that Local 499 was engaged in an illegal jurisdictional strike) ruled on September 28 that the members of the I.B.E.W. should perform the contested work. However, Local 33 had completed the job, which involved rerouting and temporary removal of existing pipe for installation of a new, high-pressure boiler adjacent to the plant that had been in service since early July.

Meanwhile, with upwards of 375 members covering 22 counties, Local 33 accepted a new

United Association Local 47 of Ottumwa, Iowa, was merged into Local 33 on May 1, 1969.

contract from the 25 contractors represented by the Mechanical Trades Association of Des Moines on June 3, 1963, three days after its former agreement had expired. The pact called for 53-1/2 cents in total increases over the coming three years, raising total compensation for journeymen from \$4.56-1/2 to \$5.10 per hour in 1965, including **health, welfare, pension and apprentice-education benefits.**

Three years later, the local voted to strike against the 25 members of the Mechanical Contractors Association after that contract expired and the local’s initial wage request was denied. A three-year agreement was reached a week later with the help of two Federal mediators that gave the local’s journeymen \$5 per hour, including 34 cents in benefits, for the first year retroactive to June 1; \$5.35 for the second year; and \$5.70 for the third year from June 1, 1968, to May 31, 1969.

Local 33 was embroiled in another controversy during the mid-1960s over a lack of black workers in the plumbers local and other Building Trades locals. The Des Moines Chapter of the

N.A.A.C.P. had filed complaints that the plumbers were “among several that have excluded Negroes from their ranks in this area,” the *Register* reported on May 18, 1966 – but when Local 33 Business Agent Wilton M. Seymour was asked in the June 1, 1967, *Register* if blacks were being excluded from Local 33, he replied, “Absolutely not.”

Seek Young Negroes to Apply For Apprenticeships in D.M.

Headline in the *Des Moines Register*, May 18, 1966.

In response to the allegations, Local 33, which still had no black members by May 1967, had already started an “intensive recruiting drive” that targeted young blacks interested in applying for union-plumber apprenticeships, the *Register* reported in the May 18, 1966, article. To the local’s credit, a U.S. Labor Department investigation revealed in July 1966 that Iowa State Employment Service officials were partly to blame for “secrecy that kept youths from applying for apprenticeships in Plumbers Union Local 33,” the *Register* reported on July 15.

Plumbers License of Local 33 member Wilton Seymour, 1967.

1967

No. 136

City of Des Moines, Iowa

Fee { Examination \$
Renewal \$ 2.00

Plumber's License

To All Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Know ye, that Mr. Wilton M. Seymour has submitted to the examination required by the Board of Examiners, for plumbers, as provided in Chapter 151, 54th G. A., and has passed said examination to the satisfaction of said Board, is hereby declared to be competent to work in the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as a **MASTER** Plumber and is so licensed until the 31st day of December, 1967, unless sooner revoked by said Board.

In Testimony Whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 4 day of April, 1967.

Renewed Mar. 30, 1966.

W. M. Elder
Journeyman Plumber

Julia H. Hines, M.D.
Member of the Local Board of Health

Red Butler
Master Plumber

THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

LOCAL EXTENDS ITS HANDS INTO COMMUNITY, TOO

For 125 years, the numerous charitable efforts of Local 33 have continuously touched countless lives in Des Moines and throughout the State of Iowa. The long list of member activities also includes marching together in annual parades, annual parties, picnics and dinner-dances to honor apprentices and retirees.

Out in the community, Local 33 members have helped a wide range of beneficiaries. More recently, the local joined a significant community-wide crusade in 2006 that helped win a nationwide competition for a **Job Corps Center in Ottumwa** after several years of lobbying and letter-writing campaigns. The mechanical work on the Job Corps Center in Ottumwa, one of only two granted in the entire United States, was awarded to Winger Mechanical, a union contractor from the area.

Among other helpful projects in which the local has participated, back in 1959, Local 33 members contributed labor to help build three new buildings at the Y.M.C.A. boys camp near Boone, Iowa. The next year, the local and 11 other Iowa United Association locals helped build "**Camp Sunnyside**" for the Iowa Society of Crippled Children and Adults in Des Moines.

Even during the challenging 1980s, Local 33 pitched in. For example, the local was one of the first distribution sites in the city in 1983 to run out of free government surplus cheese that was being given away to Polk County residents.

Later in the 1980s and well into the 1990s, Local 33 participated in the United Association's nationwide "**Project HEAT'S ON,**" during which members volunteered to inspect, service and repair heating equipment of needy families in the Des Moines area. In October 1991, 90 servicemen volunteered for the project and serviced 207 homes.

At its 125th Anniversary in 2016, Local 33 has compiled a long, proud list of community giving – and continues to help whenever there is a need. Most recently, the local has participated in and continues to assist with multiple community-support ventures, organizations and institutions, including **Make-A-Wish Jolly Holiday Lights**, **John Stoddard Cancer Center**, **Mercy Cancer Center**, **Blank Children's Hospital**, **Dorothy's House**, **Habitat for Humanity**, **Iowa Food Bank**, **Siouxland Food Bank**, **Young Women's Resource Center**, **Animal Rescue League**, **Des Moines Police Burial Association**, **Bethel Mission** and **Hope Ministries**.



Local 33 members volunteered their piping skills to the Iowa Mission of Mercy in October 2013 to help the program provide free dental services for those in need.



FACING NEW CHALLENGES, HARD TIMES

The downtown revitalization and abundant apartment construction work of the late 1960s eventually tailed off in Des Moines, and the bulk of the 1970s, for the most part, were relatively slack times for Local 33. Regardless, the local continued to grow and by the end of the decade had nearly 700 members.

What's more, as the decade proceeded, Local 33 and the **Iowa State Building Trades Council** became more preoccupied with the advancing non-union movement, led in particularly by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) anti-union group.

In the mid-1970s, the local did enjoy a reprieve from the tougher times beginning with construction of the **Ruan Center** high rise on Grand Avenue in downtown Des Moines. Started in 1973 and completed in 1975, it was the tallest building in Iowa until the completion of the 801 Grand building in 1991.

Members were also employed during that time on a project at the **3-M** plant in Knoxville and at the **Maytag** plant in Newton, Iowa, and **Business Manager Ray Sullivan** reported to the November 20, 1974, general membership meeting that a new power house would be built in Chillicothe, Iowa, in 1976.

The bulk of Brother Sullivan's reports during the following few years were far less encouraging. On February 5, 1975, he told the membership that 11 men were on the out-of-work bench; then on March 5 that year it was 25 men; and on February 2, 1977, he reported that 82 men were either unemployed or working out of town.

The news was not all foreboding during that time, as the local did receive a 65-cent pay bump with a new contract in June 1976, increasing the rate for plumbers from \$9.90 an



Local 33 joined the more than 200 union members who assisted with cleanup operations after a tornado hit Charles City, Iowa, on May 20, 1968.

hour to \$10.55 an hour. For the second year of the agreement, the wage increase was based on a fixed amount or the increase in the cost of living, whichever was higher.

At the conclusion of that contract, Local 33 received a three-year pact on June 1, 1978. For the first year, journeymen wages were increased to \$12.15 per hour, which included a 50-cent vacation allowance, then to \$13.20 the second year and then \$14.30 until May 31, 1981, while foreman were given an additional \$1 per hour.

Despite the local's many gains for its membership in the more recent years and throughout its history, Des Moines Water Works employees voted, 82 to 74, on June 27, 1980, to reject a proposal to join the local.

It then took a 10-day strike beginning June 7, 1981, with Local 33 members walking off jobs on several downtown building projects, including **Locust Mall**, Carriers

Insurance and Elsie Mason Manor apartments, just to gain a new one-year deal with contractors.

The slump not only continued but worsened into the early 1980s for Local 33. In a true sign of the times, **Business Manager Robert Cobley** reported to the local's September 2, 1981, general membership meeting that 66 members were on the bench and "work in town looks bad," while one particular non-union firm, Fulton Company, won three jobs in the city over the previous month.

A few months later on March 17, 1982, Brother Cobley told the members that 160 men were on the bench, 87 of which were on travel cards, and "things don't look good in our area." Conditions remained the same for the ensuing year, placing 184 men out of work in the area on August 4, 1982, 141 still on the bench on May 5, 1983, and over 160 out in November of that year.

Elsewhere, United Association Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 125 in Cedar Rapids ratified a new contract in May 1983 – for a \$2.60-per-hour pay cut.



Ruan Building

LOCAL 33 BUSINESS AGENTS/MANAGERS THROUGH THE YEARS

The position of "Business Manager" was not officially designated until 1964; previously, the local employed a "Business Agent" for related duties.

Local 33 Business Agents prior to 1912 were not recorded in United Association records. (The earliest documented officers of Local 33 were **Secretary C. W. Rosene**, who served from October 1892 through December 1893, and **Secretary C. G. Shaw**, who served from March through April 1894.)

M. J. Miller (Business Agent)
March 1912 through July 1912

J. A. McChesney (Business Agent)
August 1912 through September 1912

Eugene J. Heger (Business Agent)
October 1912 though May 1914

H. P. Willey (Business Agent)
June 1914 through July 1915

John W. Conklin (Business Agent)
August 1915 to November 1919

Jason A. Sneddon (Business Agent)
December 1919 through October 1922

W. F. Freezor (Business Agent)
November 1922 through January 1925

J. A. Sneddon (Business Agent)
February 1925 through August 1927

(None, September 1927 through December 1930)

W. R. Elder (Business Agent)
January 1931 through August 1932

Frank A. Lynch (Business Agent)
September 1932 through February 1934

Willard Morrow (Business Agent)
March 1934 through July 1940

Court Boller (Business Agent)
August 1940 to September 1951

Wilton M. Seymour (Business Agent)
September 1951 to September 1964

Wilton M. Seymour
September 1964 to July 1970

Raymond L. "Ray" Sullivan
July 1970 through June 1980

Robert Cobley
July 1980 through June 1983

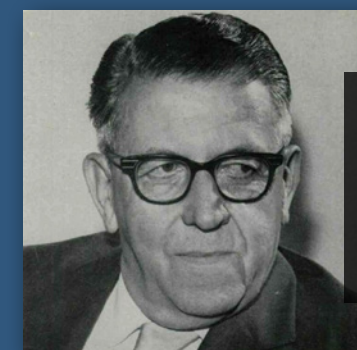
Raymond L. "Ray" Sullivan
July 1983 through June 1992

John "Pat" Dorrian
July 1992 to October 1999

Thomas F. Gillespie
October 1999 to July 2007

Gregory B. Foshe
July 2007 to July 2010

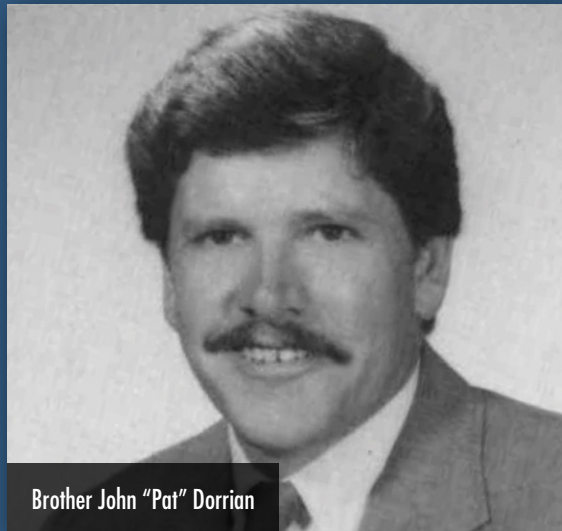
Andrew "Andy" Roberts
July 2010 to current



Local 33 **Brother Wilton M. Seymour** was elected business manager of the local in 1951 and held the position for 19 years before he was named a United Association International Training Fund Coordinator. He served in that post until his untimely death on July 3, 1971, in Denver, where he was attending a business session of the Industrial Relations Council.

BROTHER JOHN DORRIAN PLUMBER SERVED AS CITY'S LONGEST-TENURED MAYOR

A member of Local 33 since being initiated into the United Association on April 15, 1959, Des Moines born-and-bred Brother John "Pat" Dorrian was elected mayor of the city on April 14, 1987, after former mayor Pete Crivaro passed away while in office. Brother Dorrian would go on to serve in the position for over eight years, becoming the longest-serving mayor of the city on record.



Brother John "Pat" Dorrian

Brother Dorrian won his initial bid to complete Mayor Crivaro's term in a landslide, carrying all but four of the city's 97 precincts and pulling 64 percent of the vote, and easily earned re-election the following November. At the time, he had been a business agent for the local since 1980 and chaired the Health and Welfare/Pension Board for Local 33.

Brother Dorrian came from a long line of union men; his father was a 36-year U.A. member, as are his two brothers and a nephew, and his son went through the U.A. apprenticeship program.

Before he finally ended his run as mayor (which was a part-time position), deciding not to seek re-election in 1995, he was elected business manager/financial secretary of the local on July 1, 1992, replacing longtime business manager Ray Sullivan. Brother Dorrian served as business manager until he retired in 1999.

EMPLOYING INNOVATIVE NEW MEASURES

By 1985, Local 33 had decided to fight back to regain its market share. In one particular endeavor that year, the local established a **Market Recovery Target Fund** with which it would help subsidize jobs being bid by its contractors in an effort to win the work – becoming the first U.A. local in the region and the first construction craft local in central Iowa to begin such an effort.

The fund had some effect, targeting and securing two jobs in Fort Dodge in 1986, for instance. Meanwhile, other U.A. locals from around the country were asking for information about the plan.

It was also during this time that the local, in response to continued debates with its contractors, shifted to a self-funded, self-insured and self administered Health and Welfare Plan.

The local further moved to improve its situation by literally moving – on November 1, 1986, Local 33 relocated from its longtime location on **124 Washington Avenue** to a new, more spacious and updated union office building and hall at **2501 Bell Avenue** in Des Moines. *(The local still resides there in 2016 as it marks its 125th anniversary.)*

In perhaps its most groundbreaking enterprise, Local 33 engaged in a TV advertising campaign beginning in 1984 – becoming **the first union local in central Iowa to advertise on television**. The local's membership voted in mid-1984 to begin the televised public-relations program and contribute 10 cents an hour in wages to finance it, generating about \$100,000 annually.

The initial, simple commercials featured a hard hat with a voiceover explaining the advantages of union labor, while subsequent



Local 33's 85th Anniversary celebration, 1976.



ads also promoted images of quality union workmanship, union service to the community and the benefits of union membership. After the spots were running for over a year, Business Manager Sullivan explained the campaign's overall goals in the January 26, 1986, *Register*:

"The reason we're doing the TV stuff is to project the true image of our membership to the public. I think the public gets a slanted image of our building-trades people in general, because most of the media coverage we get is normally of the negative nature. ... It's probably long overdue for unions to do these kinds of things."

Following the lead of Local 33, the **Central Iowa Building and Construction Trades Council** launched a \$6,000 advertising campaign in 1985 that also featured TV commercials. Themed "Don't Blame Us," the promotions charged that non-union workers were responsible for delays in completing construction of the new transit mall along Walnut Street in Des Moines.

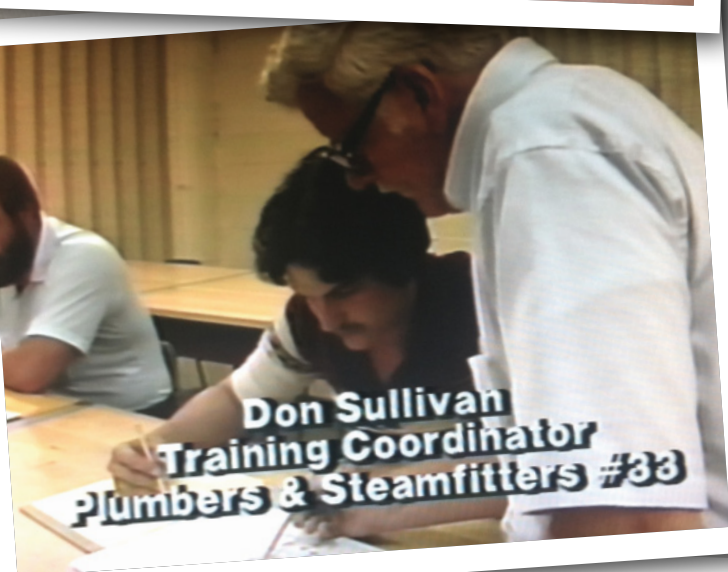
But those attempts initially failed to substantially move the needle, and Local 33's employment situation did not improve dramatically into the

Local 33 Brother Frank Lynch receives a commendation for his 60 years of service to the local and the United Association in 1981.





Clips from the Local 33 TV commercials that began airing in 1984.



second half of the decade. In fact, employment and overall union membership continued to decline – with the local’s roster dropping below 600 in early 1986 after peaking at 712 just six years earlier while Iowa State Building and Construction Trades Council membership continued to dwindle, as well.

Still, Local 33 not only continued marketing on television, it pushed the envelope on the productions, even featuring prominent business leaders beginning in late 1987. Three highly regarded area business leaders, James Hubble III, president of Hubble Realty Company; Jack Taylor, president of Ringland Johnson Crowley construction company; and Charles Stroh, chairman of Stroh Corporation mechanical contracting, appeared in Local 33 spots that first aired during the December 12, 1987, broadcast of the University of Iowa-Arizona University basketball game on KDSM-TV.

Two years later, the local produced a commercial starring Iowa’s two U.S. senators: Democrat Tom Harkin and Republican Chuck Grassley, a

conservative who was not known for his pro-union support. First aired during a Chicago Cubs-San Francisco Giants baseball game on October 4, 1989, Brother Sullivan explained that Grassley was included in the commercial because the local was “trying to make this non-political. ... It’s strictly business.”

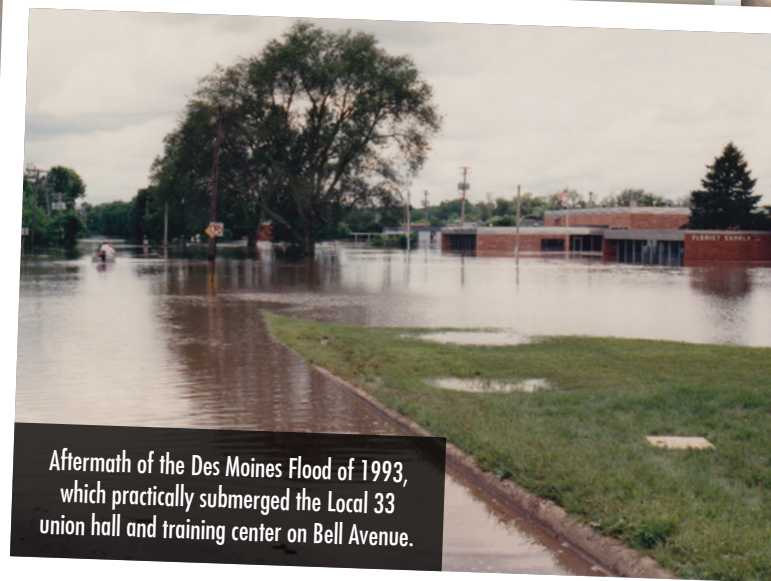
Before the end of the 1980s, the local’s efforts were paying dividends, as work in its jurisdiction was excellent most times while contractors were consistently calling for manpower.

FORTIFYING IN THE WAKE OF DISASTER

“Pat Dorrian ... reported on the positive comments about our TV ads. Reported the local is in much better shape going into the ‘90s than we were going into the 80s.”

While Local 33 Business Representative Dorrian was giving the Business Manager’s report to the local’s January 3, 1990, regular general membership meeting, he also noted that work in the area was “very good” for wintertime – so much so that the local was finding work for U.A. traveling members.

Despite its vastly improved condition, during the 1990s, Local 33 continued to take on the challenges of recapturing and holding larger portions of the construction-market share, industry contractors, and union membership among plumbers and steamfitters. With those goals in its sights, the local became one of the first U.A. locals in the nation to undertake an aggressive organizing campaign before the International Office required its locals to do so through its **COMET (Construction**



Aftermath of the Des Moines Flood of 1993, which practically submerged the Local 33 union hall and training center on Bell Avenue.



Some of the Local 33 flood cleanup crew.

Local 33 celebrated its **100th Anniversary** in 1991 with a gala banquet and dinner dance that was attended by 1,000 people, including Des Moines Mayor and Local 33 member John “Pat” Dorrian and U.S. Congressman Neal Smith.

Organizing Membership Education Training program beginning in 1994.

By the end of the decade, Local 33 would have three full-time organizers funded entirely by the local. What’s more, each organizer and the local’s business representatives were COMET trainers who could provide continual education on organizing to their membership.

During what became a very active period of time for the local, the 1990s also saw it become the first construction-craft local in Des Moines with **paid holidays** for its members. Soon after, the local realized another first in the entire state when it established a **collectively bargained drug-testing program** for members with its contractors.

However, the devastating **Great Flood of 1993**, one of the most costly in U.S. history during which the Des Moines and the Raccoon rivers overran their levees, hit the City of Des Moines, including Local 33, particularly hard beginning July 9. Brother Dorrian, by that time the local’s business manager,



The Local 33 float takes part in a parade in 1994.



A tug-of-war contest during the Local 33 family picnic in 1994.



Santa Claus listens to children during the Local 33 Christmas party in 1994.



Local 33 members march in a parade in 1996.

United Association Local 405 of Mason City, Iowa, was consolidated with Local 33 on October 1, 1997.

reflected in the July 12 *Register* on the extensive flood damage to the local:

“We’re wiped out. All of our records and files are lost. We set things up on desks, but it came up higher than that. There was no chance of getting things out, it came so fast. ... When you have 100 years of records in the daily business portion lost, it’s kind of devastating. It gives you a sick feeling in the pit of the stomach. ... But we have to keep going forward and can’t look back.”

While getting cleaned up and back on track, Local 33’s members continued to work on projects that included the new, \$16 million Iowa National Guard headquarters building at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. The 27-month job was completed in October 1994.

Soon after, the local won a relatively small but hugely important victory in January 1995 when the U.S. Department of Labor ruled that Proctor Mechanical Company of Des Moines owed more than \$13,000 in back wages to Local 33 employees who had worked on the National Guard headquarters. In reaching its decision, the Labor Department found that Proctor had not paid the proper prevailing wages on the federally funded project.

By the end of the decade, the century and the millennium, Local 33 had nearly 1,100 members in 57 counties in central Iowa and other parts of the state. However, for much of the last years of the 1990s, the local only controlled just over 25-percent of the piping construction market throughout its jurisdiction.

United Association Local 18 of Sioux City, Iowa, was merged into Local 33 on May 1, 1998.

POWERING INTO ANOTHER NEW ERA

While most all of the Building Trades unions in Des Moines were strapped by poor employment levels to begin the new “Y2K” millennium, including Local 33 throughout much of its jurisdiction, on January 3, 2002, the unions secured a labor-friendly Project Labor Agreement for construction of the new, \$208 million **Iowa Events Center** in the city. The contract included standard pay rates for union and non-union workers, as well as a promise by the unions not to strike for the duration of the 2-1/2-year construction schedule.

But while labor leaders had hoped the project would begin by early spring that year, it was delayed by challenges to the P.L.A. by the Master Builders of Iowa. However, on November 14, 2002, the Iowa Supreme Court upheld the implementation of the agreement – which would then become the first public P.L.A. ever utilized in the state.

When work began soon after, a substantial number of Local 33 members would work for Waldinger Corporation, which was awarded the \$23 million mechanical contract, on what was the largest publicly funded project in Iowa history. When completed, the Events Center consisted of the remodeled **Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), the existing Polk County Convention Complex, the new **Hy-Vee Hall** and the new **Wells Fargo Arena**.

Two major energy-producing projects, which would help power the Iowa Events Center, were also built at that time under P.L.A.s with the help of Local 33 skilled tradespeople. The \$400 million, 565-megawatt **Emory Generating Station** in Mason City, completed two weeks ahead of schedule in May 2004, was the first plant built by Alliant Energy under its Power



Local 33 retirees gathered on December 4, 2002: (seated, left to right) Warren Yakish, John Knauer, Merritt Lutter, Jim Eaton and Don Boller; and (standing) Business Representative Jeff Turner, Elmore Titus, Walt Mettler, John Merkel, Jerry Holland, Charles Knauer, Dan Horrigan, Clifford Ellington, Richard Anderson, John Thompson and Business Manager Tom Gillespie.

Iowa plan – of which Local 33 members were an essential part to help ensure a safe, secure and efficient source of power in America's heartland. Almost simultaneously, the \$357 million **Greater Des Moines Energy Center** was developed by MidAmerican Energy Company with its U.A. team working for Kiewit Industrial.

With the boost provided by the P.L.A. projects, Local 33 had 900 working members and 53 contractors controlling 47 percent of the construction market by the end of 2002, as well as over 200 retirees. What's more, there were 30 fewer non-union contractors in its

jurisdiction than there had been just six years earlier, at which time the local was only doing about 28 percent of the plumbing and piping construction in its area.

As 2003 broke, unemployment nationwide was high and over 17 percent of all U.A. members were out of work; however, Local 33's condition had markedly improved from just a year earlier, when poor employment blotted most sectors of its jurisdiction and over 100 members were on its unemployed bench. In sharp contrast, by year's end, work was booming in Central Iowa and the local was hosting over 300 working U.A. travelers, thanks in large part to the construction of the Events Center and the two power plants.

The local's good fortune gave Local 33 **Business Manager Tom Gillespie**, who helped lead the charge for the Events Center P.L.A., occasion to reflect on the significance of the project in the September 2004 *Journal*:

"Despite the fact that Iowa is a right-to-work state and a non-prevailing wage state, Local 33 and all the building

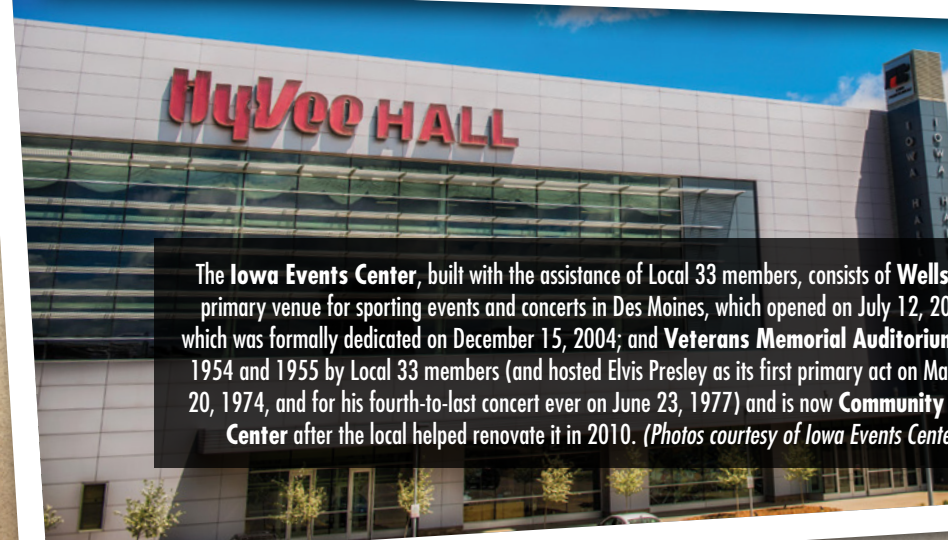
trades were determined to protect taxpayer investment in the project and their own jobs by making certain the Project Labor Agreement covering the center was not destroyed by anti-labor forces."

"We're very proud that we succeeded in keeping this Project Labor Agreement in place. It's in the best interest of taxpayers because they now have a guarantee of quality construction, and it's in the best interest of Local 33 members who are the most qualified to do the work."

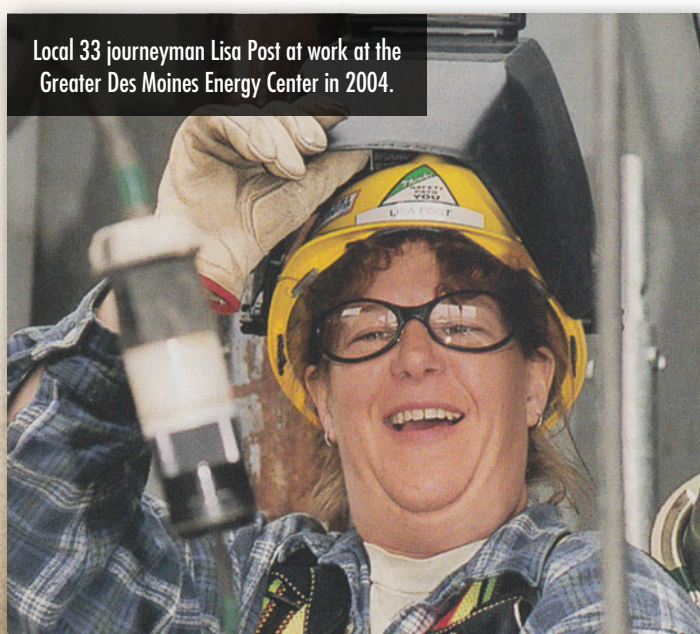
While work was underway on the center and the power facilities in Des Moines, plans were being laid for construction of the 92,000-square-foot

Bridge View Center expo hall and conference center in Ottumwa under the terms of a P.L.A. That project would be completed in 2007, and with the local and national economies sluggish in the second half of the 1990s and Alliant Energy delaying plans to construct a new powerhouse in Marshalltown, Local 33 again experienced a period of unemployment with about 100 of its 1,000 members out of work at times during late 2008 and early 2009.

The local pressed forward, however, and in one key indication of its determination and focus on the future, the local began an intensive, \$200,000 apprentice-recruitment



The Iowa Events Center, built with the assistance of Local 33 members, consists of Wells Fargo Arena (top left photo), the primary venue for sporting events and concerts in Des Moines, which opened on July 12, 2005; Hy-Vee Hall (bottom photo), which was formally dedicated on December 15, 2004; and Veterans Memorial Auditorium (top right photo), which was built in 1954 and 1955 by Local 33 members (and hosted Elvis Presley as its first primary act on May 22, 1956, and twice more on June 20, 1974, and for his fourth-to-last concert ever on June 23, 1977) and is now Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center after the local helped renovate it in 2010. (Photos courtesy of Iowa Events Center/Spectra Venue Management.)



Local 33 journeyman Lisa Post at work at the Greater Des Moines Energy Center in 2004.

Longtime Local 33 member **Brother John Knauer** receives his 75-year membership pin during a ceremony on July 15, 2016. A World War II veteran who is still very active with the local, Brother Knauer said after the presentation, "The local has been very good to me."



campaign in the fall of 2008. Complete with a mobile training facility the local purchased earlier in the year, the effort was targeted to attract young people into the trade, as the local was concerned about an expected shortage of up to 1,500 skilled workers in the state over the coming years.

The results were promising, as the Local 33 apprenticeship program's enrollment increased by about 8 percent in 2008, indicating that the local's contractors were also anticipating a need for more skilled workers in the future. But without the Alliant Energy project starting, projections for the needed manpower in the piping trades and elsewhere proved to be over-estimated.

After an ensuing lull, work picked up exponentially over the next several years and into 2016, the year of Local 33's 125th anniversary, and by January 2010 the local had grown to over 1,300 members.

Among several jobs that kept many of those journeymen and apprentices busy were two

Central Iowa data center projects in 2014 – **Facebook** in Altoona and **Microsoft** at Grand Avenue and South 88th Street in West Des Moines – that provided a large amount of work for Local 33, especially with the required installations of complex cooling equipment. Consequently, as its workload significantly increased, the local took in 75 new apprentices that year after having admitted only 15 over each of the previous few years.

(The local's training program, as well as those of Building Trades around the state, were further assisted in 2014 when Governor Terry Branstad signed legislation on May 27 that gave \$6 million to state workforce training programs, half of which was dedicated to apprenticeship programs.)

Additional recent employment for Local 33 came from **Port Neal Powerhouse** and **Ottumwa Generating Station** projects, as well as an influx of other jobs throughout Des Moines and the local's jurisdiction, including construction for Barilla Pasta, the U.S.D.A., World Food Prize, Nationwide Insurance,

Wellmark/BlueCross BlueShield, Cargill, the Poet Cellulose Plant, Cambrex Pharmaceutical, the Des Moines Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Mitchellville women's prison.

Into and during its 125th anniversary year of 2016, many of the local's members are at work on the new **Marshalltown Generating Station**, which was finally started under a National Maintenance Agreement contract requiring the job is done with 100-percent union labor. Construction of the 650-megawatt, combined-cycle, natural gas-fired facility that will power more than 500,000 homes when it is completed in 2017 is yet another victory for Local 33 in its long and storied history ... and for the over 1,460 members it serves as the local turns 125 years old.



LOCAL 33 UNION HALLS/OFFICES/ MEETING LOCATIONS

(Locations prior to 1904 were not documented in United Association records.)

Trades and Labor Assembly Hall, 106 Sixth Avenue
November 1904 through December 1930

216 Locust Street
January 1931 through June 1936

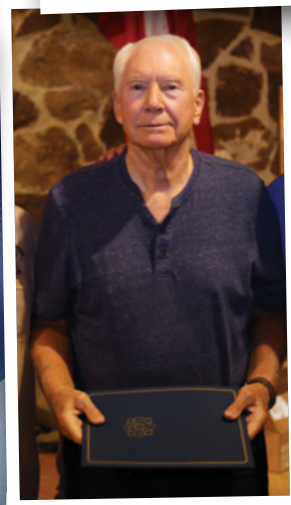
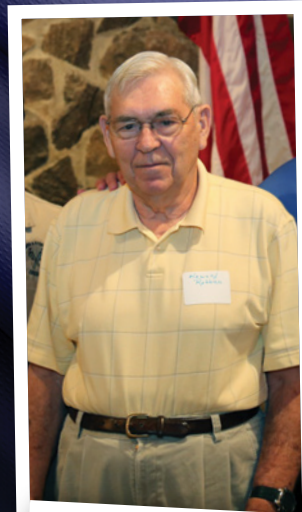
1220-1/2 West Grand Avenue
July 1936 through September 1947

Iron Workers Hall, 204 Seventh Street
October 1947 to 1950

408 Fourth Street
1950 to August 31, 1959

124 Washington Street
September 1, 1959, to October 31, 1986

2501 Bell Avenue
November 1, 1986, to present



Longtime Local 33 members/retirees received service awards during a ceremony on July 15, 2016: (top row, left to right) Howard W. Robbins, 60 years; Fred A. Thomas, 45 years; William J. Brommel, 40 years; and Ray E. Baker, 65 years; (middle row) Kenneth E. Laver, 50 years; Vernon T. Bauer, 55 years; Dale L. Curl, 40 years; and William W. Diehl, 45 years; and (bottom row) Harry E. Wertz Jr., 50 years; Leroy C. Peterson, 50 years; Gerald R. Holland, 65 years; and George L. Dickerson, 50 years.



Asset Consulting Group would like to congratulate the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33 on celebrating their 125 year anniversary.

We value our relationship with you and we look forward to building on the achievements we have made for many more years to come.



ACG is a premier investment consulting firm focused exclusively on providing objective, sophisticated and creative investment expertise to a select group of clients.



The Law Firm of Blake & Uhlig, PA

CONGRATULATES

PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 33

ON 125 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE
TO WORKING PEOPLE

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Amash | Bill Ferguson | Michelle Levine | Katherine Pearlstone | Michael Stapp |
| Scott Brown | Robert Henry | Tyler Manson | Amanda Rhodes | Nathan Terry |
| Kate Cigrand | Nathan Hill | Jason McClitis | Charles Schwartz | Paul Torlina |
| Jon Dedon | Carol Krstulic | Natalie Miller | Katie Snow | James (Dick) Waers |
| | | | | Frederick Zarate |

**CONGRATULATIONS
PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS
LOCAL 33
ON YOUR
125TH ANNIVERSARY**

PLUMBERS LOCAL 130 U.A.

Chicago Joliet Volo

James F. Coyne, Business Manager

Kenneth A Turnquist, Secretary Treasurer

Patrick F. McCarthy, Recording Secretary

Business Representatives

SCOTT C. SPANGLE

WILLIAM E. MATTHIES

JONES L. RICHMOND

JAMES A. MANSFIELD

PAUL J. HINTERLONG

PETER C. OLSON

CHARLES A. SEIBERT

JOSEPH W. STRONG

MICHAEL E. SHEA

THOMAS E. GAVIN

Special Representative

MICHAEL T. TIERNEY

Director of Political &

Municipal Affairs

BART F. HOLZHAUSER

Technical Engineering

Business Representative



The PLUMBER protects the health of the nation!

*Congratulations on 125 Years
of
Service to Our City*



**From Your Brothers and Sisters of
I.B.E.W. Local 347, Des Moines**

Business Manager Patrick Wells
Assistant Business Manager Al DeHeer
Membership Development Coordinator Doug Buchman

President Scott Farnsworth
Vice President David Butler
Recording Secretary Matt Deangelo
Treasurer Kyle Overton

**Executive Board: Jason Ballard, Timothy Hawthorne, Timothy LeClaire,
Michael O'Brien, David Reid, Douglas Wolf**

Steve Hansen, J.A.T.C. Training Director



**Congratulations to Plumbers
& Steamfitters Local 33 on
their 125th Anniversary from
your friends at Steamfitters
Local 353, Peoria, Illinois.**

Pipefitters Local 208

Congratulates
UA LOCAL
33
on their

125th

Anniversary
Celebration

Denver, Colorado

Howard Arnold/ Business Manager

Ed Keefer/Business Agent

Mark Miller/Business Agent

Tom Tuttle/ Business Agent

Geoffrey Herrig/ Business Agent

Congratulations On Your 125th Anniversary

We look forward to continuing
to work with you in the future

From the Officers & Members of
Local #441



Richard Taylor, Business Manager
Bill Urton, Business Representative
Phil Petty, Business Representative
Rick Salyer, Business Representative
Steve Watson, Business Representative
Mike Wolownik, Business Representative
Mike Magennis, Training Director



Pipeliners Local Union 798

4823 S. 83rd E. Ave. Tulsa, OK 74145 / Phone: 918 622-1900 / Fax: 918 627-9327
Website: www.local798.org / Facebook: www.facebook.com/Local798



CONGRATULATIONS TO U.A. LOCAL 33 ON **125** YEARS BUILDING IOWA



WOLIN

MECHANICAL • ELECTRICAL

Wolin Mechanical • Electrical is proud to celebrate the Plumbers & Steamfitters of the U.A. LOCAL 33 in this 125th milestone anniversary.



PROVIDING FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP TOGETHER SINCE 1920

Congratulations UA Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #33 On your 125th Anniversary Celebration

President
Frank Murray

Vice-President
Fred Jonas

Finance Board
Chris Lauver
Joe Mannino
Chris Simmons

Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec'y-Treas.
Chuck Tarpley

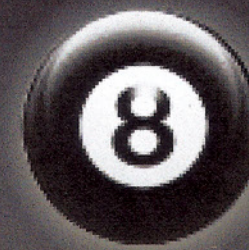
Business Representative
Matt Harris
Andy Johnson

Examining Board
Sebastian Manriquez Sr
Scott Peck
Brad Phillips

Executive Board
John Crooker
Chris Glenn
Carl Mannino
Pat Wiese

Recording Secretary
Mike Toot

Inside Guard
Eric Keller



LOCAL 8

PLUMBERS & GASFITTERS

—| EST. 1890 + KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI |—



The Plumber protects the health of the Nation

Congratulations U.A. Local 33

**For 125 Years of Excellence In Service to your
Members and Community**

From the Officers & Members of Plumbers & Steamfitters
Local Union 230, San Diego California

Mike Hartley

Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Jim Cunningham
Business Representative

Pete Vargas
Business Representative

Barry Kenny
President



www.ualocal230.org



Steve Beringer
Business Representative

Gary Sallis
Organizer

Bernadette Butkiewicz
Political Organizer

DEBOER
& ASSOCIATES, PC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY!**

DeBoer & Associates, PC is proud to provide
audit and tax services to Local 33 and wish you
continued success in the future!

Congratulations on 125 amazing years!

To Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 33

From Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 398



Congratulations

From the Officers and Staff of Iron Workers Local 67



James Watt, Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Nick Franklin, Apprenticeship Coordinator
Jill Moland, Bookkeeper

Mason McGaffin
Scott Alitz
Trenton Powell
James Alitz
Todd Ruepke



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more constant work and less crime; more
leisure and less greed; more justice and less
revenge; in fact, more opportunities to
cultivate our better nature, to make manhood
more noble, womanhood more beautiful, and
childhood more happy and bright."
Samuel Gompers - August 28, 1893*

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Jeremy Andrist
Business Manager and the Members of
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would like to Congratulate
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Arrick Jazynka - Financial Secretary-Treasurer

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From your friends at
**Plumbers &
Pipefitters
UA Local 23**

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

Rick Beck, Business Manager
Tim Huff, Business Agent
Bob Wooden, Business Agent - Organizer

CONGRATULATIONS
to
Plumbers & Steamfitters
UA Local Union No. 33
On Your 125th Anniversary



From the Officers and Members
of
Plumbers & Pipefitters
Refrigeration Fitters/HVAC
UA Local Union No. 447
Sacramento, California

STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 601



CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 33
ON YOUR
125TH ANNIVERSARY

The Officers & Members
Of
Steamfitters Local 601

Joel Zielke
Business Manager
Brian Toutant
Business Agent
Edward Fitzsimmons
Executive Board

Doug Edwards
Financial Sec./Treas
Dale Poweleit
President
Andrew Rinderle
Executive Board

James O'Brien
Business Agent
John McGrath
Vice President
Leon Schufletowski
Executive Board

Gary Cox
Business Agent
Walter C. Kunde
Recording Secretary
Joseph Strauss
Executive Board

Happy Anniversary
Local 33 - 125 Years!



From ~ Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 25
4600 46th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
309-788-4569

W. Thomas McCune, Jr., Business Manager

Bill Allison, Business Agent
Phil Davison, Business Agent
Steve Jones, Business Agent
Dave Keefer, Business Agent
Brett Swanson, Business Agent

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UA LOCAL 38
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS
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The Officers
and Members
of UA Local 38
Salute
UA Local 33
on their
125th Anniversary

-Larry Mazzola Jr.
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

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From the officers and members of Local 11, we wish you all the best.

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