

PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL NO. 598



80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Commemorative History

1944 - 2024

Platinum SPONSOR



Southland Industries **congratulates UA598 on your 80th Anniversary**

As an MEP building systems expert, Southland Industries provides integrated, full lifecycle solutions that optimize the design, construction, operation, and efficiency of buildings.

For more information,
visit southlandind.com

PORTLAND

4750 N. Channel Avenue
Portland, OR 97217
+1.503.285.9851 | +1.800.613.6240

*The General Officers
of the United Association
Congratulate the Members of
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 598
on Their 80th Anniversary.*

Mark McManus
General President

Derrick Kualapai
General Secretary-Treasurer

Michael A. Pleasant
Assistant General President





80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

U.A. Local No. 598 80TH Anniversary Dinner

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024
4:30 P.M. UNTIL 11:00 P.M.**

THREE RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER
7016 W. Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick, WA 99336

Registration, Photos, Cocktails, Hors D'oeuvres..... 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Welcoming Remarks, Honor Guard/National Anthem..... 6:00 pm to 6:15 pm
Buffet Dinner (*Indicate special dietary needs*)..... 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm
Program and Presentations..... 7:15 pm to 8:00 pm
Music (DJ) and Dancing, Photo Ops 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm

80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



AT 80 YEARS, LOCAL 598 LOOKS BACK WELL-PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

As we commemorate our Ruby Anniversary, we reflect on an 80-year journey marked by resilience, pride and unwavering commitment. This milestone is an opportunity to honor our beginnings, celebrate our achievements and chart a bold vision for the future of Local 598.

Founded in 1944 to support the Manhattan Project at the Hanford Site, Local 598 has grown into a pillar of strength and resilience. Over the past eight decades, we have expanded our reach to serve Walla Walla, Yakima, Moses Lake, the Grand Coulee area and Omak, building a legacy of excellence and dedication.

Our members have been instrumental in constructing and maintaining the region's infrastructure, from nuclear research and defense to hydrocarbon, manufacturing, and food processes. Our successful completion of projects from nuclear power plants and data centers to schools and hospitals stands as a testament to the high standards and professional expertise that Local 598 consistently delivers.

But we do more than build projects; we build communities and lives. By creating family-wage jobs and investing in apprenticeship and training programs, we prepare tomorrow's workforce and foster innovation. Our members are the backbone of our community, contributing to its prosperity and well-being.

We take immense pride in our members' commitment to health, safety and community service. Whether volunteering as firefighters, serving local charities such as the United Way, coaching or engaging in activism for working families across our jurisdiction, our members embody the spirit of Local 598. These relationships with community partners are among our most cherished, reflecting our dedication to the future of the places we call home.

Looking ahead, we are keenly aware that our future success hinges on the opportunities we create. We are committed to making a lasting impact for our families, communities and way of life for generations to come.

The future of Local 598 is brighter than ever. Our leadership in industry, politics and apprenticeship programs continues to attract new opportunities and talent, securing prosperity for every member and their families. We are more prepared than ever to build a robust future, honoring the heritage and legacy entrusted to us.

Here's to the next 80 years and beyond!

Nickolas A. Bumpaous, Business Manager
U.A. Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 598



This book was proudly produced by

UNION HISTORIES™
Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions
unionhistories.com

United Association Local 598 and Union Histories give special thanks to the following for their contributions to this book:

Local 598 brothers Frank Vedder, Tom Welker, Ray Kreuger, Bob Cox
Local 598 Office Staff Member Alana Jones
United Association, International Office

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



THE HISTORY OF U.A. LOCAL No. 598, PASCO, WASHINGTON

An 80-Year Heritage That Has Impacted The World



"People from all over the country came to Hanford, ultimately forming a 51,000 person workforce. Very few of the workers knew what they were building or what these facilities would do once they were completed. Hanford employees believed they were doing important war work, but beyond that, they knew few details. Under the careful supervision of such noted scientists as Enrico Fermi, crews began the process of building production reactors at Hanford. Workers also built two massive processing facilities called 'canyons,' where plutonium would be extracted from uranium 'fuel rods' after removal from the reactors. Hanford's ultimate triumph came with the nuclear explosion above Japan in August 1945, effectively ending World War II."

– U.S. Department of Energy

Among the workers who traveled to work at the **Hanford Site**, a 586-square-mile patch of desert in the rural community of Hanford in southeastern Washington where the U.S. military beginning in 1943 produced plutonium for the atomic bomb that brought an end to World War II, were steamfitters who were members of United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers (U.A.) **Local No. 377** of Walla Walla, Washington. The top-secret government project on which those union fitters, who were first dispatched to the job in May 1943, would work was part of the **Manhattan Project**, for which the world's first, full-scale plutonium production reactor, the B Reactor (105-B), was built during that time.

Ultimately, the plutonium manufactured at the site would be used in the first-ever nuclear-bomb test at the "Project Trinity" site in New

Mexico and then in the nuclear bomb "Fat Boy" that was detonated over Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945, in effect ending the war.

But prior to that, during the summer of 1944, U.A. General President Martin Durkin visited the Hanford Site while serving on the National War Labor Board and met with Major General Leslie Groves, head of the Manhattan Project, and his assistant, Colonel Frank Mathias, to discuss labor issues taking place at the facility. Shortly after, the U.A. chartered **Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 598** on **December 29, 1944**, to serve Pasco and Kennewick, Washington, with jurisdiction over construction and maintenance work in and around those cities and work at the Hanford Site.

The facility, which would also be known as **Hanford Engineer Works** and the **Hanford**



The Hanford Site in 1944, the year U.A. Local 598 was chartered. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.)

Nuclear Reservation, was not only the birthplace of Local 598 ... it would also go on to sustain and bolster the local and its membership for decades to come.

Expanding Hanford And The New Local

Construction of the nuclear facilities at the Hanford Site progressed quickly before the war officially ended on September 2, 1945. By the time the Japanese government accepted terms of surrender from the U.S.-led Allied countries on August 15, 1945 (after Nazi Germany had surrendered three months earlier on May 7), more than 500 buildings had been erected at the site, including three nuclear reactors and three plutonium processing canyons.

That September, the U.A. re-designated the jurisdictional duties of the fast-growing Local

598 to include construction work for the Hanford Site program. By that time, the local had already affiliated with the **Washington State Association** of the U.A., through which it would bargain its contracts for the next nearly 30 years, and was beginning to secure its place within the Tri-Cities region of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland at the confluence of the Yakima, Snake and Columbia rivers in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington.

Following a brief lull in production at the Hanford Site, during which the General Electric Company took over management of the facility under the supervision of the newly created U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, the recently ignited Cold War between the United States and the communist Soviet Union provided the impetus for the U.S. government to increase and accelerate nuclear testing and production at the site by 1947. That August, the Hanford Site entered a new phase of expansion after it

received funding for the construction of two new weapons reactors and research to develop a new chemical separations process, according to the Hanford Cultural Resources Program's *Hanford Site Historic District: History of the Plutonium Production Facilities, 1943–1990*.

“Post World War II tensions between the U.S. and Russia brought about the ‘Cold War’ and drove continued atomic weapons production and Hanford’s plutonium production mission,” Department of Energy literature further attests. “Additional reactors were constructed next to the Columbia River as the two nations began to develop and stockpile nuclear weapons.”

Subsequently, the U.A. on April 1, 1947, again amended the Local 598 charter to simply cover “Pasco and Kennewick, Washington, and Hanford Engineering Project.” During the balance of the decade, the local’s membership expanded exponentially to more than 650 plumbers, pipefitters and apprentices, while about 4,000 total U.A. craftsmen were employed at the Hanford Site.

The local experienced such marked development at the time that U.A. International General Organizer Clayton Bilderback even noted in his report in the January 1948 U.A. *Journal* following a visit to Pasco in late 1947, “Due to the recent growth of membership in that local union, several regular meetings had been postponed until a hall of sufficient size could be obtained.”

Those Local 598 and U.A. members at the Hanford Site were working for the **Guy F. Atkinson Company** and the **J. A. Jones Construction Company**, who were under contract with General Electric and the Atomic Energy Commission for work at the facility. A collective-bargaining agreement between the union and those two contractors signed on August 16, 1947, set wages for Local 598 and

U.A. WAS 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 locals in 10 states and the District of Columbia assembled in Washington for a convention.

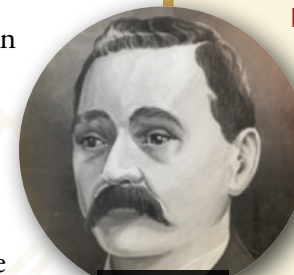
Four days later, the **United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters’ Helpers of the United States and Canada** (U.A.) was born on October 11, 1889. The U.A. selected Brother Quinlan as its president, Brother Henry Collins of New York City as its vice president 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 would clash regularly over jurisdiction – before the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) ordered the I.A. to amalgamate into the U.A. in 1912.

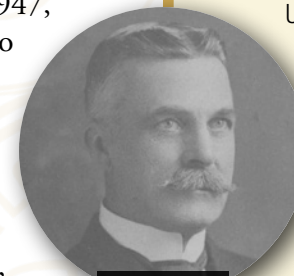
The union sustained through two world wars and the Great Depression, after which on January 1, 1947, it changed its name to the **United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada**.

all U.A. journeymen plumbers and pipefitters employed at the site at \$2.34 per hour, while apprentices were paid a range from 50 percent to 95 percent of the journeyman pay scale, based on time in the union’s apprenticeship training program.

That year, the U.A. also re-organized a local metal trades council within the Local 598



Patrick J. Quinlan



Richard A. O'Brien

jurisdiction, known as the **Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council**. But with more construction planned for the site, the local was pressed to organize all piping-trades employees working within the U.A. on production and maintenance there; as such, by May 1948, the fast-expanding local placed an additional representative in the field, appointing **Brother Robert Wright** as assistant to **Business Manager Vincent Larish** to help administer the local.

A new agreement that year with Hanford Site contractors, which by that time also included the U.A. signatory firm **Morrison-Knudsen Company**, gained the local's members an increased wage scale for work both inside and outside the "barricaded areas" of the facility. Accordingly, the contract raised journeyman pay to \$2.50 per hour effective July 1, 1948, through July 1, 1950.

Meanwhile, Local 598 and the U.A. had

engaged in a targeted organizing program aimed at maintenance and operations employees at the Hanford Site. Carried out under the direction of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.), the campaign proved successful when in February 1949 the site's maintenance and operations employees voted, 2138 to 1068, in favor of representation by the Atomic Metal Trades Council.

Facing Internal And External Challenges

The merger of Local 377 into Local 598 on March 31, 1950, expanded the Pasco-based local's jurisdiction into Walla Walla and helped grow its membership to nearly 900 in December 1950, up from about 650 just one year earlier. But delays in the start of the new, \$180-million construction program at the Hanford Site severely hindered



The 1960 U.A. Washington State Board of Negotiations and Arbitration included Local 598 Brother R. C. "Bud" Leffler (standing, second from right).



work opportunities for the local into late 1951 and 1952, during which time it experienced prevalent unemployment.

Once the Hanford program got underway, into and throughout that decade the enormous amount and scope of highly advanced work at the site regularly caused jurisdictional disputes between Local 598 and other building trades working there. Competing crafts such as the boilermakers, electrical workers, carpenters, millwrights were often found performing the work of the plumbers and fitters, occasionally causing work stoppages.

"General discussion with the committee of the local developed the fact that, while conditions in the plant maintenance continued to improve, jurisdictional questions are still a problem within the (Metal Trades) Council," U.A. **International General organizer Clayton Bilderback** reported in the February 1952 *Journal*. "Local Union 598 has been successful in working out many of their jurisdictional problems in the plant, and the reports of the Craft Committee revealed the fact that the membership of the local union is continuing to do everything within reason to

LOCAL 598 BUSINESS MANAGERS

Vincent H. Larish

December 1944 to July 1952

(Resigned due to illness)

RuDell D. "Rudy" Beames

July 1952 to January 1960

R. C. "Bud" Leffler

January 1960 to June 1968

James Y. Payne

June 1968 to July 1974

Ray McKnight

July 1974 to January 1982

(Appointed International Representative)

Don Tuttle

January 1982 to July 1983

Glenn E. Hickman Sr.

July 1983 to 1989

(Appointed International Representative)

Gary R. Barcom

1989 to August 2002

(Resigned)

Richard J. Berglund

August 2002 to April 2011

(Retired)

Pete Nicacio

April 2011 to January 2016

(Retired)

Tim Still

January 2016 to July 2016

Randall J. "Randy" Walli

July 2016 to June 2022

Nickolas A. Bumpaous

June 2022 to present

adjust their jurisdictional problems."

Regardless, Local 598 would not reach an understanding with the carpenters and millwright on jurisdictional "lines of demarcation" within Hanford Site plants until 1956, although a collective-bargaining agreement to which both unions were signed was put into place in 1948. In March 1952, a

Continued after following spread.

Local 598 Apprentice and Journeyman Education

NEED FOR SKILLED WORKERS HAS GROWN TRAINING PROGRAM

The apprentices of Local 598 have always been prepared to become journeyman plumbers and steamfitters through on-the-job training that consisted of working alongside experienced journeymen while receiving wages and benefits. Early on, the training consisted of little classroom education – in 1947, for instance, the local's "school" was held in a classroom at the old Pasco High School, and first- and fifth-year apprentices were in the same class.

At one point in 1958, the local's training program had an enrollment of only five apprentices and classes were being held at Columbia Basin College.

By the 1960s, however, a Joint Apprenticeship Committee of representatives from the union and its employers had been formed to administer the local's training program.

With 18 apprentices in 1963, Local 598 and the J.A.C. began to expand the apprentice training program when the local built a new, \$80,000, 5,000-square-foot training facility adjacent to its union hall on Road 28 in Pasco. The new building featured two classrooms, a shop area and an office, and classes were set up by the J.A.C. and certified by the State Department of Vocational Education.

Some 10 years later, by March 1973, the Tri-City plumbers and steamfitters training program was educating 60 apprentices and was also hosting about 60 journeymen in upgrade class. The five-year apprenticeship required 1,080 hours of schooling, which was taught by members of the local, in addition to on-the-job training.

"In the last 10 years, we have realized that you had to start teaching the trade, or the need for skilled workers would not be met in the future," Local 598 President Jim Payne Sr. told the Tri-City Tribune at the time.

The school was financed at the time by contributions from the union and an 8-cent-per-hour-worked contribution from

A contract signed in July 1976 between Local 598 and three Tri-City contractors provided for a **first-in-the-nation apprenticeship program for non-destructive testing firms**. Some 100 employees working for HUICO of Pasco, Northwest Industrial X-Ray of Richland and Conam, Inc., of Hanford were covered by the contract.



Local 598 apprentice contest held at the local's training center in 2013.



the employers. (In 2024, the local and its contractors continue to fund the training program.)

Increasing demands of the electrical-power industry, which were being met with construction of dams and powerhouses, and the growth of the mid-Columbia area in which Local 598 is located prompted the local to expand its training center again in 1976. With 156 apprentices that January and up to 60 to be added the following year, the local began construction of a \$300,000 addition that would include 8,760 square feet of classrooms and shop space and 2,670 square feet of new office space.

What's more, with the local busy on Hanford Site nuclear projects, the training center's former shop was used entirely for welding, as high-quality welding was needed for nuclear-reactor construction. At the time, welding was required for all of the local's apprentices.

Under its **Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** of union and employer representatives, the Local 598 Plumbers

The Local 598 became the first U.A. local in the nation to use computers in its training when in 1984 its J.A.T.C. instituted a **first-of-its-kind computer training program** for 155 journeymen and apprentices. Using 21 computer terminals at its training center, for which the J.A.T.C. paid about \$35,000, the program taught participants how to use the technology to more-quickly and accurately perform math needed for on-site piping calculations.

and Steamfitters Apprenticeship has become a five-year program consisting of 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and 250 hours of classroom instruction for each year of an apprenticeship. Apprentices still earn wages and benefits as they work to become journeyman steamfitters, plumbers, pipe-welders or HVAC-R technicians.



Local 598 pipeline training class being held at the local's training center in 2013.

strike by Teamsters Local No. 839 to protest loading and unloading work being assigned to the plumbers and steamfitters “practically closed down” the site’s expansion program, the March 13 *Tri-City Herald* reported.

Constant and at-time serious disputes over work assignments also arose during that time between Local 598 and the Instrument Workers’ Guild. In 1953, the U.A. finally negotiated a written understanding that spelled out an agreed-upon division of work between the local and the instrument workers.

Also that year, the wages for the local’s journeyman plumbers were raised to \$2.75 per hour in the “Hanford Addendum” to the U.A. collective-bargaining agreement. The following January 1, 1954, at which time roughly 1,000 U.A. members were working on the Hanford Site project, the scale was increased to \$3 per hour, and the contract also provided for a 5-cent hourly raises on the first day of July in 1954, 1955 and 1956.

Elsewhere during that time, construction of the hydroelectric **Ice Harbor Dam** on the Snake River in Walla Walla began in June 1955

and employed Local 598 members working for P. S. Lord Mechanical Contractors of Portland until its initial completion in 1961. *(Three additional generators added to the dam would be completed in 1976.)*

But work died down considerably again in late 1955, leaving a large number of Local 598 members unemployed into the following year. The situation became so concerning in early 1956, in fact, that the local stopped accepting clearance cards from traveling U.A. brothers seeking work in its jurisdiction.

An influx of pipeline installations throughout the northwest region, which would be performed by U.A. members under the union’s **National Pipeline Agreement**, provided much-needed employment beginning later that year as Local 598 had jurisdiction over some main gas-transportation lines in Oregon and Washington – including the main gas line for the Northwest that ran from the Idaho state line through Oregon to the state line of Washington. Notably, because Local 598 policed both sides of the Columbia River in the Umatilla and Pasco areas and it had an



Local 598 membership meeting, circa 1960.

understanding in place with **Local No. 296** of Boise, it did not have jurisdictional problems with work on the cross-country line and its crossings at the Snake and Columbia rivers.

Additional new projects that put members to work in the Tri-Cities area included construction of the hydroelectric **Priest Rapids Dam** on the Columbia River, which began in July 1956 and was completed with Local 598 labor in 1961. The local’s members were also employed on construction of a new **Phillips’**

Chemical plant near Pasco for the Hydro-Carbon Company beginning in 1956, by which time an increasing number of members were back working on jobs at the Hanford Site.

The following December, however, an internal “civil war,” as the December 31, 1957, *Herald* described it, came to a head after a Franklin County Superior Court judge invalidated the local’s December 12 elections for business manager. The order was the result of the local having left nominee Woodrow W. Cape off the



The Hanford Site, circa 1965. (U.S. Department of Energy photo)

FIRST PENSION GAINED BY STATE ASSOCIATION

The Washington State Association of the United Association (U.A.), with which Local 598 has long been affiliated, established a **Pension Plan** for its members throughout the state in 1962 as part of a collective-bargaining agreement with employing contractors signatory to the Washington State Labor-Management Agreement of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry. Under the terms of the contract, contractors contributed 11 cents per hour worked by U.A. members during the first year and then 16 cents per hour beginning January 1, 1963, into a **Pension Trust Fund**, which was administered by three members from management and three members from the union.

Under the plan, all members who were 65 years of age before January 1, 1962, and qualified would receive one year past service credit, providing an annuity of \$30 per month.

On December 15, 1962, in Seattle, Washington State Association President E. D. Byers presented the first checks from the Pension Plan to retired members of the 12 locals represented by the Association, including Local 598 member **Brother Alfred Burke**. Those initial checks were retroactive to January 1, 1962, and were each in the amount of \$360.

In 2024 for the first time in more than 15 years, the Washington State Association Pension awarded 13 checks during the year to Local 598 retirees. This was accomplished, in part, as the result of smart management by the fund's trustees.

ballot after he was fired as assistant business agent by **Business Manager RuDell Beames** "after a union committee found him guilty of 'shaking down' a contractor," although the charges had not yet been proven, according to the newspaper.

The local appealed the judge's decision the following February while Brother Beames remained in office despite being defeated by **Brother Arthur B. Philip** in the December balloting by 15 votes. **Brother R. C. "Bud" Leffler** subsequently ousted Brother Beames in a new election that was eventually held



December 10, 1959, with Brother Leffler garnering 275 votes while none of the six other candidates received more than 100 votes from the local's 800 members. (Cape had since been indicted for extorting \$1,000 from the A. J. Curtis Company in exchange for a promise of labor peace on a job laying a gas-distribution system in Pasco and Kennewick.)

After the election, an article in the December 13 *Herald* touted the local's progress and outlook for its future: "(Leffler) symbolizes a reform movement present in the local for several years for better employer relations, more equitable dispatching of members to jobs, smoother operation and greater economy of the local's operations."

Meanwhile out in the field, work was slow throughout 1958 and 1959 in the local's jurisdiction, resulting in an unusually long period of unemployment for much of its membership. But the start of construction on two missile bases located within the area as the decade ended began to furnish needed job opportunities to many Local 598 members.

More Large Projects And Added Benefits

Construction on what would be the final Hanford Site reactor, **N Reactor**, a dual-purpose facility that would produce plutonium for atomic weapons as well

as steam for generating electricity, began in 1959 and provided a large number of manhours for U.A. members, who among many other jobs were tasked with handling and setting the reactor's 165-ton heat exchangers. The only dual-purpose reactor in the country, it was dedicated in September 1963 – and would be the last reactor to operate on the site until it was decommissioned in 1987.

Local 598 members were also busy working at three **Titan Missile** sites in eastern Washington, two of which were in the local's jurisdiction at Larson Air Force Base and the Town of Warden, although the local and Spokane **Local No. 44** cooperated fully to furnish members to each of the three sites. However, six members of Moses Lake U.A. **Local No. 820** did briefly set a picket line in March 1962 to protest the employment of a foreman and four men from Local 598 at the Warden missile site.

With a membership approaching 1,000 by 1961, work on the N Reactor was beginning to afford increased employment for Local 598

Continued after following spread.



EVOLUTION OF THE LOCAL 598 UNION HALL

After it was chartered in 1944, Local 598 first held its membership meetings at **110 North Second Street** in Pasco into the second half of the 1940s, while its offices were located in the **Gray Building** at **107 South Fourth Street**. In 1948, the local moved its offices into a building at **West Columbus Street and Third Avenue**, which still had no auditorium for holding meetings.

Ten years later, with that location becoming too small, the local created a \$150,000 building fund with which it planned to purchase a facility of its own. Soon after, the local moved into a new office in the **Bateman Building** at **305 West Kennewick Avenue** in Kennewick.

In June 1962, Local 598 started construction of its own union hall, a 7,500-square-foot, single-story brick building that would house its offices and meeting space on a three-acre lot on the corner of Road 28 and Court Street in Pasco. The 1,200-member local moved into its new, \$100,000 building at **1328 Road 28** in late December 1962 – and continues to reside there (along with an added training center and office space) as it celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2024.

AUXILIARY REMAINS A VITAL

“Our achievements did not come in great strides, but in small steps, taken one at a time. When our efforts are looked at collectively, as in this manner, you can see what our actions can reap over the years.”

– U.A. Ladies Auxiliary No. 106, 30-Year memoir, 1987

For nearly 63 years since receiving its charter on March 27, 1957, United Association Ladies Auxiliary No. 106 has been an invaluable partner in Local 598's social, charitable and community efforts. With 57 members present at its very first meeting that day in Eagles Hall in Pasco, the auxiliary established its by-laws and purpose, which stated, “The object of this auxiliary being to cultivate a feeling of sociability and friendship among the members and their families and assist those in need.”



Those present elected Auxiliary 106's first group of officers: **Beth Rifenrath** as president; **Stella Baker** as secretary and **Nel Scheehan** as treasurer.

They also set the initiation fee at \$3 for initiation and dues at 50 cents per month, and they adopted red and white as colors. The members started a Ways and Means committee, whose first project consisted of passing an apron among members who each added a pocket with coins in the amount of their age sewn to it. The apron continued to raise money for the next few decades.



Local 598 President Charles Elkins present the charter and gavel for the new Women's Auxiliary No. 106 to its officers (left to right) Ruth “Sandy” Quast, vice president; Beth Rifenrath, president; Stella Baker, secretary; Nel Sheehan, treasurer; Evelyn Elkins, inside guard; and Barbara Herrin, outside guard, in March 1957.



A Women's Auxiliary No. 106 function during the early 1960s.

After changing meeting locations several times, in 1962, Local 598 invited the auxiliary to hold meetings in the union hall, and on January 17, 1963, they “finally had a place to call home.”

The auxiliary's achievements have grown as each year passed. It has assisted Local 598 with miscellaneous matters such as hall furnishings; painting the apprenticeship hall in 1968; food, decorations and assistance at events including apprenticeship dinners and awards, Old Timers dinners, and U.A. Tri-Cities conventions; and establishing retirement dinners, the first of which was held in 1975).

In 1976, Local 598 **Business Manager Brother Ray McKnight** thanked the ladies “for their efforts for picketing in support of negotiations in a lengthy and unforgettable strike.”

Social endeavors have included Christmas parties, sponsoring bowling teams, summer picnics, February potluck dinners, and annual dances with live music (first one being held in April 1969). Through the years, fundraisers have included rummage, bake and white elephant sales; raffles; potluck dinners; membership drives; bazaars; and bingo games. The women established scholarships for children of Local 598 members, giving them opportunities to continue in higher education.

PART OF LOCAL'S LEGACY



The 1969-1970 Women's Auxiliary No. 106 Bowling Team consisted of (left to right) Olga French, Carol Carey, Clara Wright and Mary Koskinen.

Funds the auxiliary has raised benefitted an admirable list of charitable and community causes, many of which continue today: providing Christmas and Easter baskets and Christmas stockings for members' families and those in the community in need; funding efforts for disabled children and battered wives; toy drives; Kennewick Jaycees (junior chamber of commerce); nursing homes, veterans groups, 4-H clubs; Orthopedic Children's Hospital in Seattle; Kennewick Stadium; heart, cancer and kidney funds; Salvation Army; Tri-City Mission; Muscular Dystrophy Association; Colonial Manor; Kadlec Hospital; Easter Seals; Pasco Clothing Bank; West Richland Park Fund; and Goodwill.

In 1984, the group assisted in the Local 598 Food Bank Auction that raised money for members of the local and their

families in need, and “started an ongoing contribution of canned goods at each meeting for this purpose.”

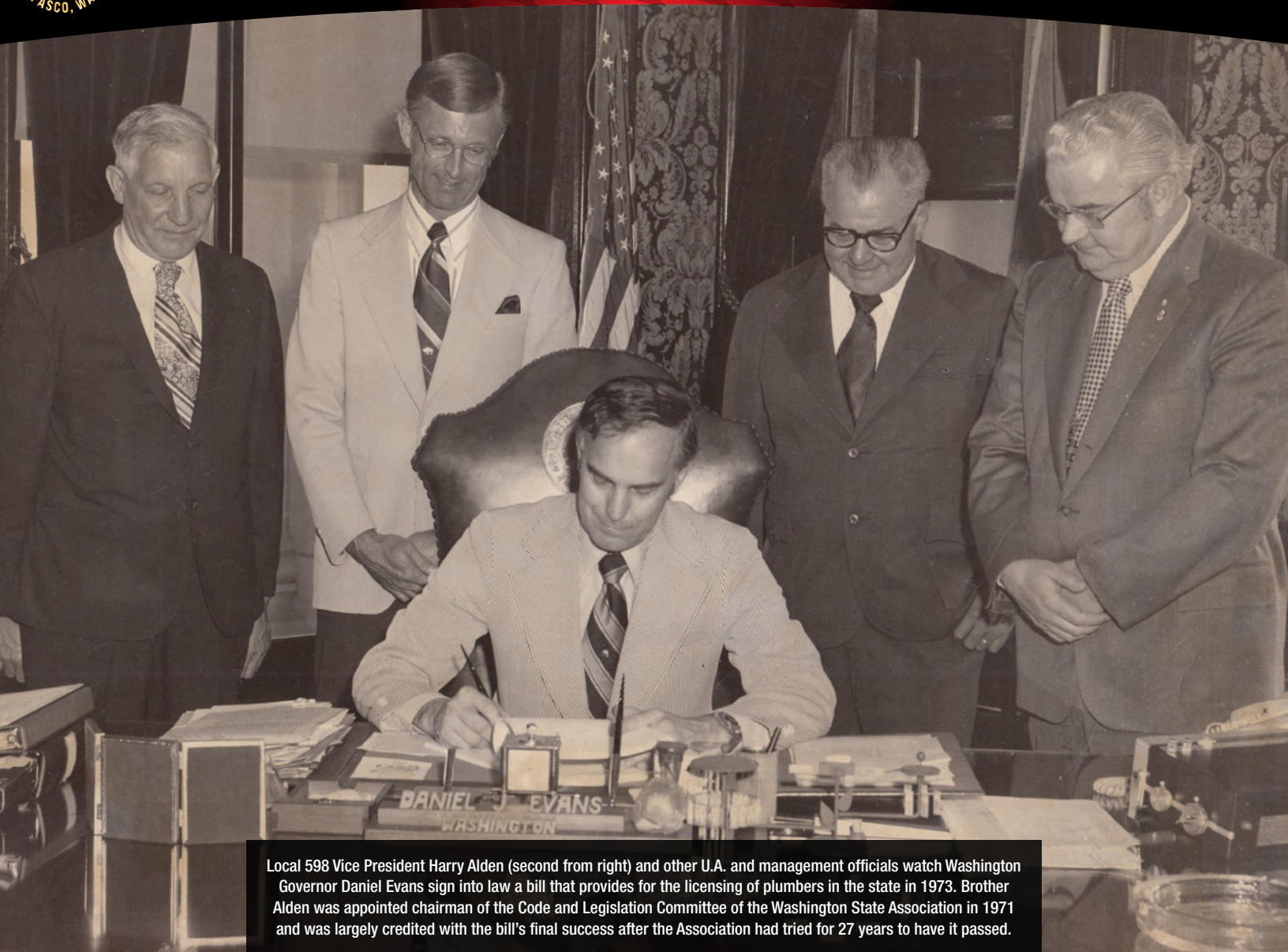
Ladies Auxiliary 160 continues its legacy of donating thousands of dollars, countless hours and priceless assistance to Local 598, its families and the Tri-Cities community, staying true to its 1957 by-laws and purpose. As such, a statement in the auxiliary's 30-year history continues to ring true today:

“As the years roll by it is with great warmth and pride that the activities and projects that were undertaken and completed by a great group of ladies is recalled and remembered ... Through all of these times we share one precious common denominator – the comradery, the friendship, or whatever emotion you choose to call it, that makes this group of ladies come together as Auxiliary 106.”



A Women's Auxiliary No. 106 function at the Local 598 union hall in 2018.





Local 598 Vice President Harry Alden (second from right) and other U.A. and management officials watch Washington Governor Daniel Evans sign into law a bill that provides for the licensing of plumbers in the state in 1973. Brother Alden was appointed chairman of the Code and Legislation Committee of the Washington State Association in 1971 and was largely credited with the bill's final success after the Association had tried for 27 years to have it passed.

members with encouraging prospects for future work. "Members of the U.A. are fortunate in that their skills will be required to a much greater extent in the construction program than in types previously constructed on this project, since this complete reactor installation requires more manhours, perhaps twice as many, as those needed in erection of the type of reactor built at that project in the past," International Organizer Bilderback explained in his report in the May 1961 *Journal*. "Although this is not a complex reactor to build, the precision of installations will be much greater than in the past."

Work on the hydroelectric **Lower Monumental Lock and Dam** on the Snake

River between Franklin and Walla Walla counties in southeast Washington then began in mid-1960, providing yet another source of jobs to Local 598. What's more, about 130 members were also employed in 1962 at the **HUICO** fabrication plant in Pasco, where they were creating pipe formations to close tolerances that were "unheard of in our industry a few short years ago," Brother Bilderback boasted in the December 1962 *Journal*.

The local's jurisdictional area also continued to increase when the U.A. merged Local 820 into Local 598 on April 30, 1961.

At the time, the local's journeyman plumbers

and pipefitters were earning a \$4.14-per-hour wage scale plus 11 cents per hour for health-and-welfare benefits and 18 cents per hour for vacations under their current collective-bargaining work agreement with employers. But a statewide strike by U.A. members beginning August 28 of that year briefly idled most all of the local's membership, including about 200 members working at the Hanford Site, before the Washington State Association and employing contractors came to terms on a new contract.

The three-year pact beginning January 1, 1962, initially provided a new journeyman pay scale of \$4.36 per hour during the first year and the benefits contributions. Wages were then increased to \$4.47 per hour beginning January 1, 1963, and then to \$4.62 per hour beginning January 1, 1964, for the third year.

By 1963, the Hanford Site was home to nine nuclear reactors along the Columbia River, five reprocessing plants on the central plateau and more than 900 support buildings and radiological laboratories around the site, according to the Department of Energy. Jurisdictional disputes between Local 598 and other building trades continued to arise on the site and throughout the Tri-Cities region, but **International Representative Joseph A. Walsh** reported in the January 1963 *Journal*, "The officers and members of Local 598 are doing an excellent job in protecting the jurisdiction of the U.A. in this area."

What's more, as he reported in that year's September *Journal*, the Hanford Labor-Management Conference had been so effective "it is getting hard for people

to remember when the last work stoppage occurred on the project."

But severe cutbacks in Atomic Energy Commission expenditures resulted in heightened unemployment in the Pasco area by early 1964.

Local 598 then joined sister U.A. locals across the state again in a strike beginning that August 21 after negotiations between the Washington State Association and contractors stalled. With the union seeking a \$1-per-hour increase in wages, a settlement would not be reached until more than five weeks later, after which more than 500 of the local's plumbers and steamfitters went back to work on September 28 on projects that included construction of the hydroelectric **John Day Dam** on the Columbia River near the mouth of the John Day River.

During the strike, about 30 of the local's members returned to work on construction of the \$1.3-million **Seneca Grape Juice Company** plant in Prosser, Washington, in late August to help prevent significant losses for farmers in the



Pipe installed by Local 598 and other U.A. members at the Boardman Coal Plant generating station construction site in May and June 1976.



Local 598 members install piping for the construction of a Motel 6 in Pasco in 1979.

community. An editorial in the September 1, 1964, *Herald* praised the union's action, stating in part, "By taking on the work as an emergency and to prevent undue hardship, the plumbers and fitters are showing that Tri-City labor organizations do take a reasonable approach when there are problems that need special consideration. At a time when many different companies are investigating the area to see if they want to locate here, it is important that they obtain a good impression. The plumbers and fitters have helped immeasurably."

Following the strike, additional projects on which Local 598 members were employed included construction of a new **Boise Cascade paper mill** at Wallula, Washington, in 1965. Meanwhile, the local also continued its growth, and at one point that June consisted of 1,103 building-trades journeymen, 16 building-trades apprentices, 109 maintenance journeymen and 20 maintenance apprentices for a total membership of 1,248.

The local's journeyman wage effective January 1, 1965, was \$4.58 per hour, and its contract raised that scale to \$4.83 on January 1, 1966, for the coming year. Members also earned an

additional 21 cents per hour for their Health and Welfare Fund, 21 cents per hour for their Vacation Fund, 21 cents per hour for a new **Pension Fund**, 2 cents per hour for a new **Training Fund** and 2 cents per hour for a new Employers Trust.

As Local 598 members remained busy at the Hanford Site and on dam work and various other projects in its jurisdiction throughout the second half of the 1960s, another new contract gained for January 1, 1968, raised their base journeyman hourly wage to \$5.55 and their total pay package including benefits to \$6.36 per hour. The agreement would eventually pay the local's journeymen \$6.25 per hour in base wages and a total of \$7.26 per hour with benefits during the final year of the decade.

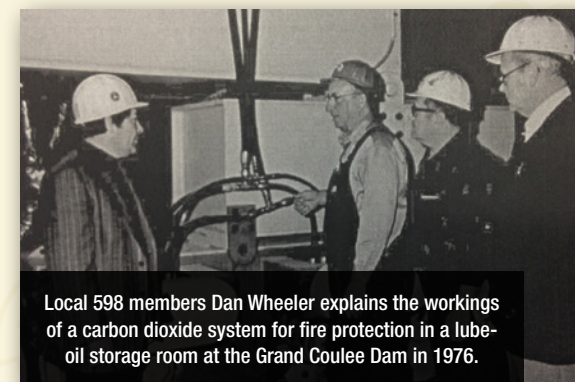
Slow Work Reversed By Fast Flux, Grand Coulee

Local 598's membership sagged to 1,000 at one point in 1970, including 911 construction plumbers and steamfitters. At the end of that year, however, the local gained a new contract that granted those journeymen wage increases of \$2.13 per hour over an

HARNESSING THE POWER OF ITS RIVERS

"For more than 40 years, U.A. members in the Pacific Northwest have been working to tame one of the world's mightiest river systems for the benefit of the entire country."

– U.A. Journal, January 1976



Local 598 members Dan Wheeler explains the workings of a carbon dioxide system for fire protection in a lube-oil storage room at the Grand Coulee Dam in 1976.

Of the 14 dams on the Columbia River and the four dams on the State of Washington portion of the Snake River, the Columbia's largest tributary, there are five dams on the Columbia and three on the Snake that are located within the Local 598 jurisdiction. Those include the Wanapum (opened in 1963), Priest Rapids (1959), McNary (1954) and John Day (1971) dams on the Columbia and the Ice Harbor (1961), Lower Monumental (1969) and Lower Granite (1975) dams on the Snake.

Completed before Local 598 was organized and chartered in 1944, the **Grand Coulee Dam** was constructed between

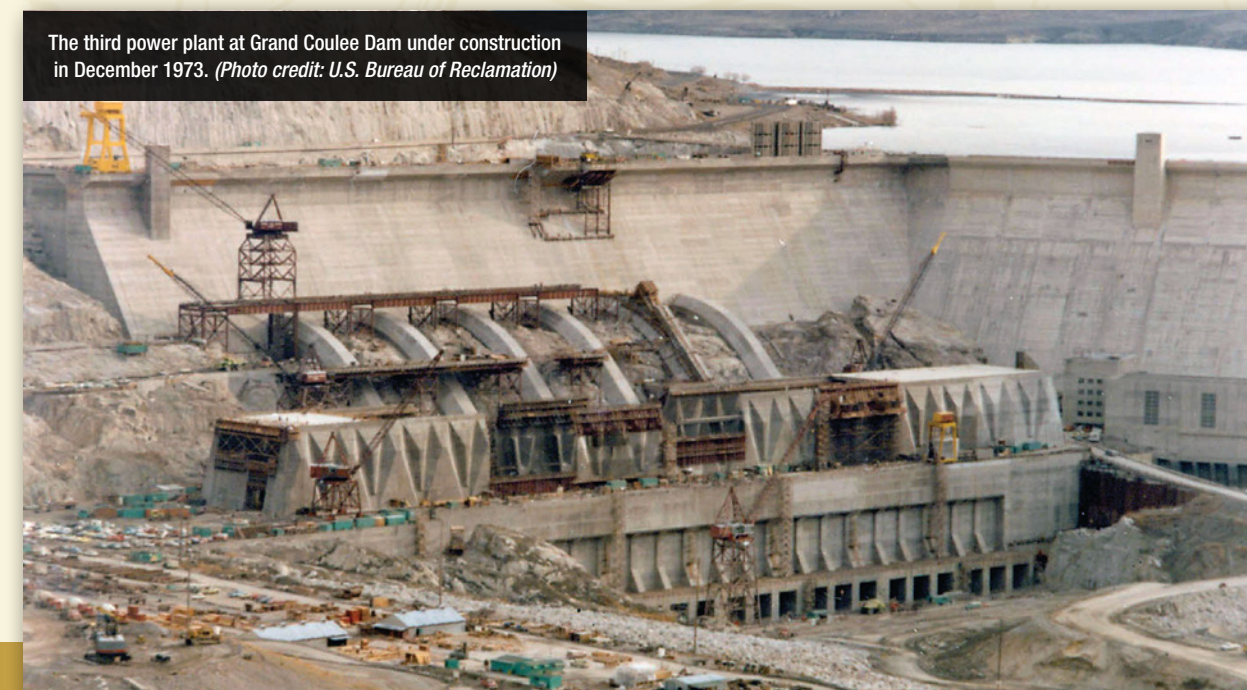
1933 and 1942 on the Columbia. The concrete gravity dam's two original powerhouses were built to produce hydroelectric power and provide irrigation water.

During the early 1970s, the Pasco local's members helped build a third powerhouse onto the Grand Coulee. When it was completed in 1974, it doubled the energy output of the dam and made it the largest power station in the United States and the largest producer of hydroelectric power in the world at 6,809 megawatts.

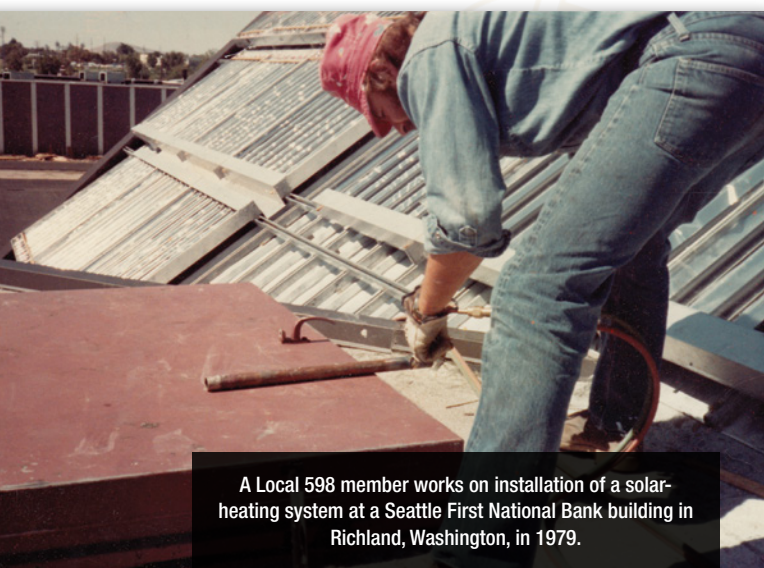
The \$460-million project to add the third powerhouse, which is longer than three football fields, added 3.9-million kilowatts to the river's power output. For just the project's cooling processes during construction, Local 598 members installed 400,000 feet of temporary one-inch aluminum tubing among other pipe.

For the powerhouse, among the work performed by the local's members, they installed the hydraulic lines that control operation of a crane capable of handling 1,900 tons that was the largest piece of equipment ever installed in a Bureau of Reclamation project.

During that time, Local 598 members were also helping to build the Lower Granite Dam, which was under construction beginning in 1970 and would ultimately provide an energy capacity of 801,000 kilowatts.



The third power plant at Grand Coulee Dam under construction in December 1973. (Photo credit: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)



A Local 598 member works on installation of a solar-heating system at a Seattle First National Bank building in Richland, Washington, in 1979.

18-month period, bringing their hourly salaries to \$8.08 on July 1, 1972, plus another 82 cents per hour in total fringe-benefit contributions.

About 150 members went on strike along with roughly 1,350 other U.A. plumbers and pipefitters in Washington and parts of Idaho and Oregon on January 11, 1971, against 15 Mid-Columbia Empire firms who would not pay the new scale (while 20 contractors honored

LOCALS MERGED INTO LOCAL 598

U.A. **Local No. 377** of Walla Walla, Washington, which was chartered by the U.A. in 1903, was merged into Local 598 on March 31, 1950.

U.A. **Local No. 634** of Pendleton, Oregon, which was chartered by the U.A. in March 1914, was merged into Local 598 on an unknown date.

U.A. **Local No. 820** of Moses Lake, Washington, which was chartered by the U.A. on April 24, 1956, was merged into Local 598 on April 30, 1961.

U.A. **Local No. 591** of Grand Coulee, Washington, was merged into Local 598 on February 2, 1972.

U.A. **Local No. 549** of Yakima, Washington, which was chartered by the U.A. November 16, 1929, was merged into Local 598 on August 31, 1973.

the contract) after the union members refused to do certain pre-fabricated piping work. After eight days, during which only about 80 of the 290 employees at J. A. Jones Construction were working at one point, the strike ended when the two sides reached a “very satisfactory” settlement, the January 20 *Herald* reported.

But work slowed again during the early 1970s, and at one point in early 1973, only half of the local’s 1,000 members were working within its jurisdiction. At the time, about 300 members were traveling to other locals for employment and about 200 were unemployed.

During that depressed period, the U.A. merged **Local No. 591** of Grand Coulee into Local 598 on February 2, 1972. The following year, the union also amalgamated **Local No. 549** of Yakima into Local 598 on August 31, 1973, further expanding its vast territory.

Meanwhile, Local 598 lobbied the U.A. and in June 1973 received permission to bargain its contracts separately from other locals with the Washington State Association. **Business Manager James Payne** said at the time that the local wanted to bargain on its own because it had “separate and distinct” problems than those of other locals, the June 4 *Herald* reported – although despite withdrawing from the statewide bargaining unit, the local continued to participate in existing state and national U.A. pension plans.

Subsequently, the local’s first individual bargaining sessions with the **Washington Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors** later that month broke down when the contractors refused to negotiate separately with the local, resulting in about 500 of the local’s members going on strike for two days on June 20 and 21. After shutting down work on projects such as the Washington Public Power Supply System’s N Reactor at the Hanford Site, on which 250 plumbers had been working, the members returned to their jobs when an interim agreement was signed.

But 700 of the local’s members struck the association’s 40 contractors again just five days later for a single day on June 26 after the firms appealed the National Labor Relations Board (N.L.R.B.) ruling that the local could bargain on its own. Later, upon review the N.L.R.B. upheld its earlier decision.

With many of Local 598’s 1,200 members working on the Department of Energy’s new **Fast Flux Test Facility**, a nuclear test reactor at the Hanford Site that would be completed in 1978, Bechtel Corporation took over management of projects at the site in 1974 and recognized the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council as the bargaining agent for the 15 unions it represented. Elsewhere, other projects employing union plumbers and steamfitters at the time included a \$2-million Holiday Inn hotel and a \$1.1-million Buttrey-Osco store in Richland, the \$6-million **Battelle Northwest Life Science Building** and several commercial jobs, as well as additional projects for the Atomic Energy Commission at the Hanford Site.

But the local began a nearly two-month-long strike on August 1, 1974, after rejecting an offer from contractors for a one-year agreement

with a total \$2.15-per-hour raise. The local was asking for a \$2.60-per-hour increase and rejected subsequent offers over the next several weeks before coming to an agreement on September 30 on a two-year contract that provided a total \$3.80-per-hour pay raise, topping its journeyman scale at \$13.51 per hour in 1975.

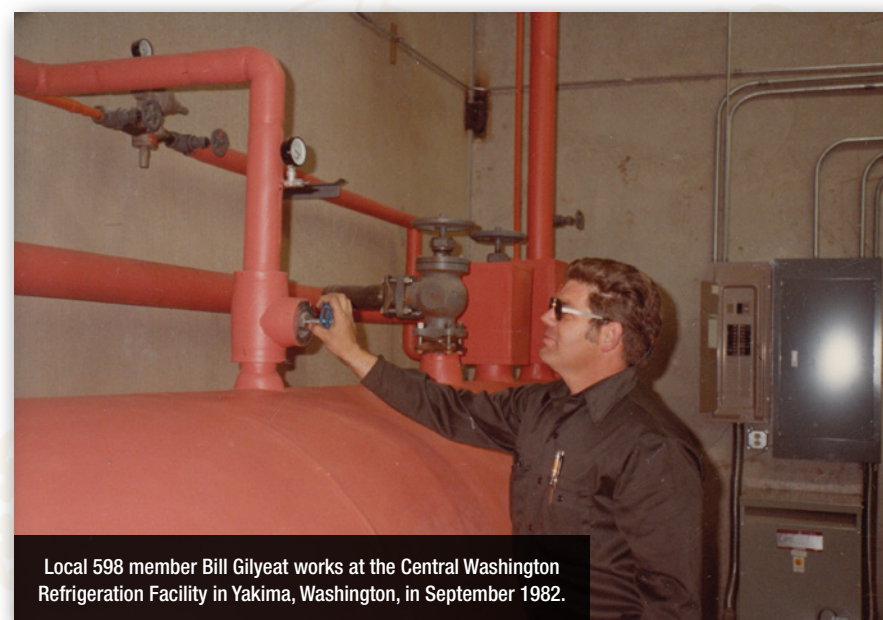
After they returned to work, additional jobs employing the local’s members during the mid-1970s included construction of the



Local 598 members Dale Dubin (left) and Grant Deline work on construction of the Lookingglass Fish Hatchery in Elgin, Oregon, in May 1981. Completed in 1982 as part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Program for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Lookingglass is used to rear spring Chinook for the Grande Ronde and Imnaha rivers.

Local 598 members (left to right) Dale Dubin, unknown, Roger Hadden and Don Johnson at the Lookingglass Fish Hatchery construction site in May 1981.





Local 598 member Bill Gilyeat works at the Central Washington Refrigeration Facility in Yakima, Washington, in September 1982.

Boardman Coal Plant power-generating station in Oregon, which would be completed in 1977. Work had also begun on the new Hanford **No. 1 Reactor**, during which Local 598 members went on strike for one day on November 13, 1975, before reaching an agreement with subcontractor Metalfab after an N.L.R.B. hearing on whether five Metalfab employees could vote on union membership was delayed.

Also in 1975, construction of the third power plant at the **Grand Coulee Dam** on the Columbia River began. The massive, \$460-million project that would generate 3.9-million kilowatts of power employed scores of Local 598 and U.A. members before it was completed in 1980.

Lengthy Strike Nets Substantial Rewards

On June 1, 1976, Local 598 began what would become an eight-month-long strike against the Mechanical Contractors Association of Washington (M.C.A.), which represented 25 contractors for which the local's members worked, over

wage and benefit terms for a new contract. Construction work tied up during the strike included Burbank High School, the new **Kennewick Middle School**, the CENEX distribution center in Pascoe, **Chevron Chemical**, UF-6 building addition by Exxon Nuclear and the power plant in Boardman.

Contractors at the Hanford Site compounded the situation the following day when they locked out the local's members from

jobsites "to prevent union members who are striking other firms from coming to work on their projects," the June 3 *Herald* reported. In



Local 598 members John Hogan (left) and Rick Kimmel help install a new geo-thermal system in September 1982 as part of the renovation of the historic Grant County Courthouse building in Ephrata, Washington.

response, the local picketed the site, halting more than \$1-billion worth of construction there that included the Fast Flux Test Facility and the Hanford **No. 2 Reactor** as more than 4,300 workers honored the local's picket lines.

As the strike dragged on, about 50 wives of some of the striking members of Local 598 staged a rally on July 26 outside the negotiation room at the Red Lion Motor Inn in Pasco. During the demonstration, the women, who were organized by the local's **Ladies Auxiliary No. 106**, held signs and marched in support of the local.

The local approved an agreement on October 2 with 80 independent contractors who negotiated separately from the M.C.A. That three-year contract provided wage raises and increased fringe benefits in the first year totaling \$1.85 per hour for a total wage package of \$15.36 per hour. In June 1977, the local's journeymen would get an additional 60 cents per hour or the cost of living, whichever was greater, and in June 1978, the contract would be reopened to negotiate new pay and benefits.

Then in early November, the Hanford Site contractor Bechtel Power Corporation, which was overseeing the Fast Flux Test Facility, signed a Project Labor Agreement (P.L.A.) to end the lockout and return 85 pipefitters to work on the job. Hanford Engineering Development Laboratory Manager Les Weber told the November 15 *Herald* that the "major problem" the contractor was having during the strike was finding fitters who were qualified as welders to work on the project.

The P.L.A. raised pipefitter pay and benefits to \$14.65 per hour effective immediately and \$15.25 per hour on January 1, 1977. Hanford No. 2 Reactor mechanical contractor Bovee and Crail signed the agreement soon after as well.

Finally on January 27, 1977, the strike came to an end when the M.C.A. signed an agreement that had been negotiated in

Washington, D.C., between Local 598 and the **Tri-Cities Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association**, which had been formed during the strike. The contract included a total pay-and-benefit package of \$15.25 per hour effective January 1.

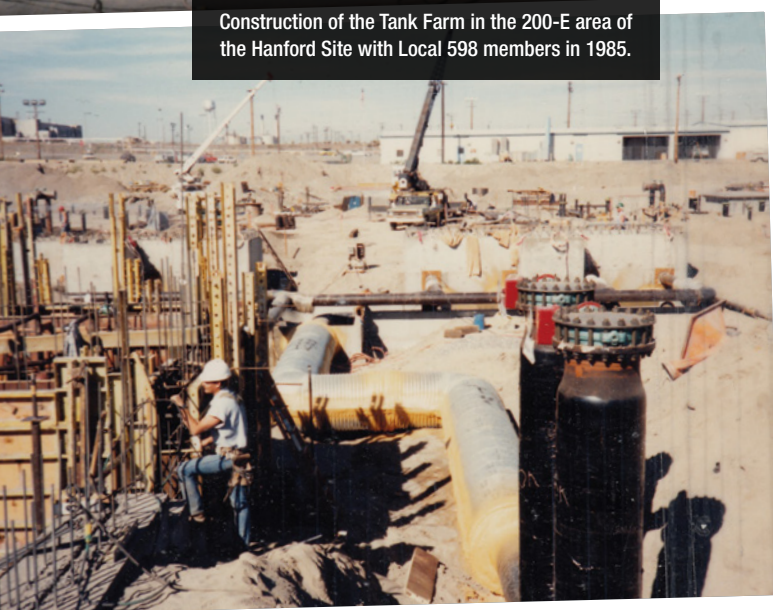
During the final years of the decade, fully 75 percent of the work being done by Local



Local 598 member Nelson Trahan works on construction of the new Lyons Ferry Fish Hatchery in April 1982.



Construction of the Tank Farm in the 200-E area of the Hanford Site with Local 598 members in 1985.



598 members was related to the Hanford Site. Simultaneously, the local's membership had grown to more than 2,000 plumbers, steamfitters and apprentices, including more than 1,700 building-trades and 100 maintenance journeymen by May 1979.

That month, the local and the M.C.A. signed a new, three-year contract that provided a 9.3-percent total wage-and-fringe-benefits increase for journeymen in the first year, effective June 1, 1979. The settlement called for an immediate increase of \$1.37 per hour in wages and 28 cents per hour in benefits, bringing the total package to \$19.33 per hour for the first year, while the scale would be renegotiated for the second and third years.

Countering Threats Of The Non-Union Sector

With its membership up to about 2,300, on May 25, 1980, Local 598 agreed to a one-year contract extension with the M.C.A. that added \$2.28 per hour to the local's total journeyman pay package.

But a drastic downturn in the national economy the following year, the continued encroachment of non-union competition and the completion of nuclear plants within the local's jurisdiction pushed Local 598 into hard times that would continue for much of the decade. As such, the local agreed to wage freezes in 1983, 1984 and 1985, and some members were forced to travel to other locals around the country for work, while members who were able to secure local employment primarily worked on smaller jobs and some hospitals in the area.

The announcement in 1982 that construction on Hanford No. 1 Reactor would be halted was a severe setback for the local. "There is no positive work that we can obtain at another location in the country for any of (our members)," **Business Manager Don Tuttle**

disclosed in the April 22, 1982, *Herald*. "There is no location we can call."

Regardless, the local signed new, two-year contracts on June 1, 1982, and again on June 1, 1984, with the Inland Empire Chapter of the M.C.A. The former pact raised journeyman earnings to \$26.41 per hour before expiring, although the local did not receive a wage increase for the second year because of the ongoing lull in the construction industry – but was given a 25-cent hourly increase in benefits payments for the second year to maintain its health-and-welfare insurance at existing levels.

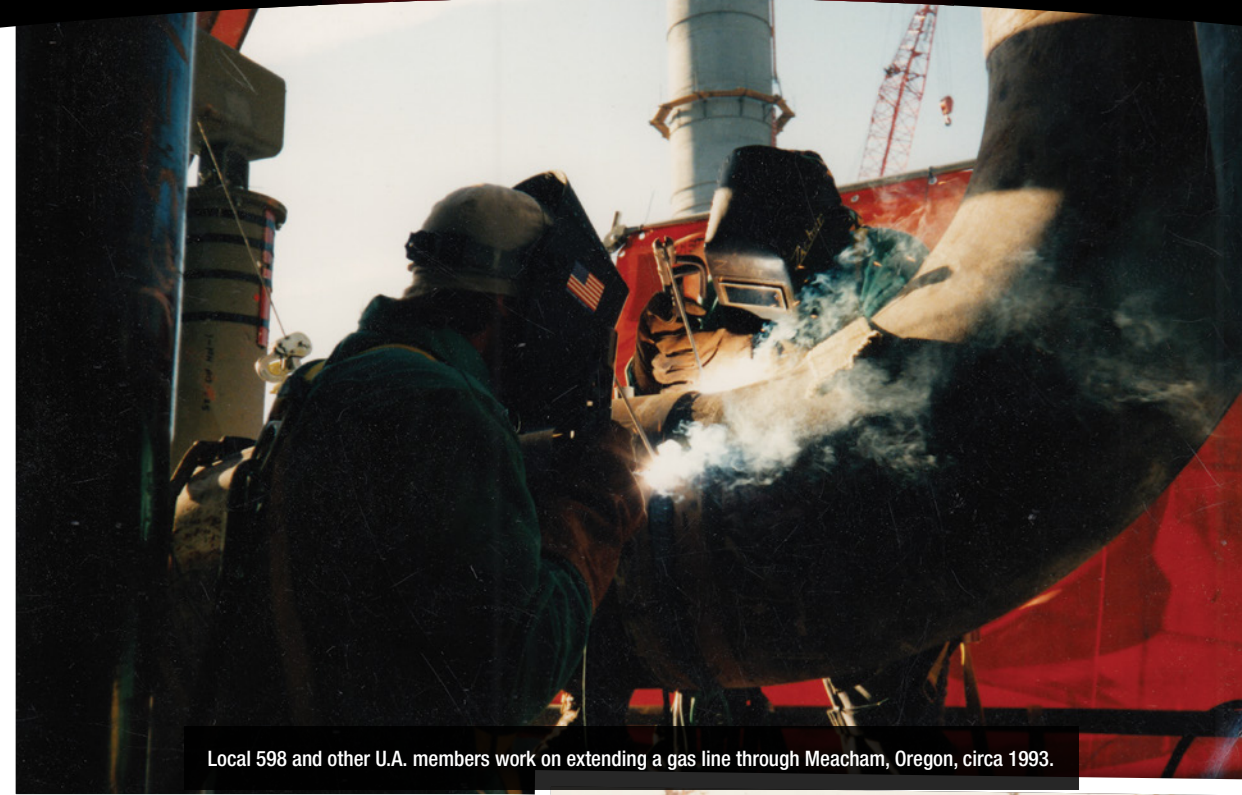
With only about 350 of the local's roughly 2,500 members working in the area, about 540 members on the local's out-of-work list and the remaining members traveling for jobs in other parts of the country, the second contract kept



Local 598 delegates to the 1991 U.A. Convention: (left to right, front row) Marty Willis, Chris Andrews, Cal Martin, Gary Barcom, Rick Berglund and Gerry Arbogast; (middle row) Bob Anheluk, Pete Nicacio, Tim O'Leary, Bob Rasmussen and Dick Baumgartner; and (back row) Rodger Langlo, Hank Tanning, Roger Tool, Jerry Arslanian, Dave Brown, Emiel Gnoza and Carson Showalter.

MEMBERS HELP MEMBERS IN DOWN TIMES

With only 10 percent of its 2,400 members working within its jurisdiction during Christmastime 1985, Local 598 members who were traveling to jobs with other U.A. locals all over the country were still donating funds to the local's **food bank** so it could continue to operate its annual **Christmas program** to provide food and gifts to the families of unemployed members. Those traveling members made it possible for the local to host a food-basket and gift giveaway with Santa Claus on Christmas Eve that year.



Local 598 and other U.A. members work on extending a gas line through Meacham, Oregon, circa 1993.

wages frozen and only provided an increase in benefits payments during its first year.

However, the agreement did set up contractor and union payments into a new **Industry Fund**, which was established “to help stave off an increase in the number of jobs going to non-union contractors and workers,” according to an article in the June 11, 1984, *Herald*. One program subsidized by the fund involved cross-training members in all facets of the piping trades and providing courses to educate them on the latest technologies to keep the union more competitive in the tight job market.

Meanwhile, the new **Hanford Site Stabilization Agreement** of 1984 froze wages and cut benefits for employees at the Hanford Site – even though non-union employees working there for J. A. Jones Company had received 24.8-percent pay raises from 1982 to September 1985, according to the September 15, 1985, *Herald*. Negotiated to make the site



more competitive with other Department of Energy facilities, the agreement was extended into 1986.

“Since 1982, most unions have held the line,” Local 598 **Business Manager Glenn Hickman** declared in the September 15, 1985, *Herald* when discussing the local’s recent contracts. “We understand the economy.”

But at one point in December 1985, only about 10 percent of the local’s nearly 3,000 members were working within its jurisdiction.

The following year, the local again extended its wage freeze at \$17.93 per hour in base pay plus \$7.23 per hour for benefits in a contract with the Southwestern Washington M.C.A., for which “regaining jobs lost to non-union workers was at the heart of the negotiations,” the June 3, 1986, *Herald* reported.

That contract also included a 10-cent-per-hour contribution to the joint trust fund for promoting union labor, which was intended to help return nearly 500 members to work and bring home about 1,500 members who were working elsewhere. With the fund, the local’s contractors would be able to offer a reduced wage rate on projects and utilize “helpers” who did not handle the technical work of skilled journeymen. “We’re trying to bring the industry back to help the economy of the Tri-Cities,” Business Manager Hickman explained in the June 13, 1986, *Herald*. “We’ll do what we have to do, within limits.”



Local 598 foreman Dan Garner works on construction of the Hanford Vitrification Plant in 2001.



Local 598 members Ray Kreuger (left) and Javier Guzman work on construction of the Hermiston Generating Plant, a 474-megawatt cogeneration facility, in 1995.

BLAZE DESTROYED PORTION OF HALL

The Local 598 union hall was heavily damaged by a fire on the morning of December 15, 2000, that caused about \$400,000-worth of destruction to the facility's second level and shop area, burning and collapsing the roof. The four-alarm blaze also forced the local to postpone its annual Christmas Party for union members' children, grandchildren and neighbors' children – but soon after the fire, the local began receiving donations of money and toys and offers to use other facilities for the party.



Local 598 members Jeff Goldsbury (top) and Ray Kreuger (bottom) inspect the hydronic heating and cooling system installed during the 2001 complete renovation of the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center, a downtown Walla Walla landmark built in 1928.



Leading The Effort To Clean Nuke Site

"Since World War II, the area had developed from a small farming community to a booming 'Atomic Frontier' to a powerhouse of the nuclear-industrial complex."

– From The Atomic West

After decades of atomic production and testing, Hanford Site began to slowly phase out uranium enrichment and plutonium breeding. Subsequently, in 1989 the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology entered into the Tri-Party Agreement to clean the site of the nuclear waste left behind.

An NBC News report on November 29, 2016, stated that the \$110-billion cleanup of 56 million gallons of chemical and nuclear waste, stored in 177 underground tanks, was expected to last 50 years. It also went on to note that some nuclear experts had called Hanford "the most toxic place in America" and "an underground Chernobyl waiting to happen."

With work at the site shifted to environmental clean-up after its last reactor, the N Reactor, was shut down in 1987 and its last reprocessing plant was closed in 1990, crews of Local 598 members were busy again at the Hanford Site throughout the early 1990s as part of the remediation program – as they would be throughout the next three decades.

However, membership in the local had again dropped and was down to just more than 1,800 in January 1990. But elsewhere, non-Hanford Site work



Local 598 crew working on the Hanford Vitrification Plant in December 2002.

was picking up in the local's area, as well, beginning a trend that would dramatically shift the local's employment to about 75-percent non-Hanford Site work by 2010.

Projects during the early 1990s such as expansion of the **Pacific Gas Transmission/ Pacific Gas & Electric pipeline**, which ran about 900 miles of natural-gas pipeline from the Canadian border south through Idaho, Washington and Oregon under a P.L.A., employed many Local 598 members within

its jurisdiction. Participation by the local in the U.A. Welder Certification Program further helped put many of its members to work on the **Coyote Springs Power Generation Project** in Boardman, a natural-gas- and oil-fired power-producing station completed 1995, and the **Hermiston Generating Project**, a natural-gas-powered power station completed in 1996.

With construction of Coyote Springs, the first power plant to be built in Oregon since the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant in 1975, Portland

BROTHERS WIN WHISTLEBLOWER LAWSUIT

Eight years after Local 598 members reported safety violations by contractor Fluor Federal Services while working at the Hanford Site atomic-waste cleanup project, a Benton County Superior Court jury in September 2005 awarded the 11 members back wages and damages for emotional distress while ruling in their favor in a years-long case against the company. The individual awards ranged from \$89,700 to \$553,700, according to a report in the September 2, 2005, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

In May 1997, Local 598 **Brother Randy Walli** (the local's current business manager), who was working for Fluor, refused to install valves because he believed they would not withstand the high pressure to which they would be subjected, according to the newspaper. Although he was eventually provided with stronger valves, Brother Walli was laid off afterward, and seven other workers were ultimately idled following the incident, the newspaper reported.

Brother Walli sued Fluor in state court in 2000 "for what he claimed was retaliation for raising safety concerns while working on a project with massive tanks containing radioactive waste buried at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation," the newspaper reported. That same year, the men challenged Fluor's actions and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration ruled in their favor, ordering the company to rehire the workers, according to the newspaper.

Other workers lost their jobs so that Brother Walli and his colleagues could return, but ultimately he was laid off again, the newspaper reported. Subsequently, 11 of the workers sued Fluor "for what they claimed was retaliation" for being whistleblowers, the newspaper reported.

Brother Walli returned to Hanford in 2005, working for a different contractor. Three of the other pipefitters who joined the lawsuit also returned with him, according to the newspaper.

REGATTA SUPPORT HELPS WIN P.R. RACE

Into the 2010s, Local 598 and its signatory contractors were working through their Labor Management Cooperation Committee Trust (L.M.C.C.T.) to improve the community's image of the union. In doing so, among the many events it sponsors is the **Tri-Cities Water Follies**, the single largest event of the year in the Tri-Cities. By helping to sponsor the event's **Unlimited Hydroplane Races**, Local 598 has received positive public relations through media coverage on TV, newspaper, radio and race programs, while the Local 598 banner has prominently been placed in the race pits during the race weekend.

In 2012, the L.M.C.C.T. supported the **Grand Prix West Hydroplane Regatta**, which is run during the Water Follies, as the event's Title Sponsor. The local and its contractors have continued its support of the Regatta.

"Our members and contractors are very proud of the communities we live and work in," Local 598 **Business Manager Pete Nicacio** said in 2012 after announcing the union would be the regatta's Title Sponsor. "Water Follies weekend is an asset for the quality of life in our community, and we want to support that."



Tri-Cities Water Follies, Grand Prix West Hydroplane Regatta, 2013

General Electric was the first utility to build its own plant in the state. With as many as 85 Local 598 and other U.A. members working on the project at its peak, the welder certifications held by most members helped complete the Coyote Springs project on time and under budget as a result of zero-percent weld defects in its piping systems, which involved more than 70,000 lineal feet of piping and tubing.

For the Hermiston job, the more than 100



Local 598 Business Manager Richard Berglund (left) stands with 60-year U.A. members (left to right) Gordon Arlt, Bob Cauble and Luther Rogers after the Local 598 retirees received their service pins during a ceremony in 2005.

COMMITTEE FORMED TO TAKE POLITICAL ACTION

Local 598 started an active **Political Action Committee (P.A.C.)** in 2011 with the intent of becoming a political power in Eastern Washington and Northeast Oregon. The mission of the committee was to educate the membership and the public on issues and candidates in local, state and national elections; to encourage members and their families to register and vote in elections and assist them in doing so; and to coordinate the local's political activities with those of other building-trades unions in the Tri-City area.

The seven-member original P.A.C. adopted by-laws and elected officers on July 5 of that year and was immediately tasked with rebuilding the local's relationship with all elected officials within its jurisdiction. P.A.C. member **Business Agent Tim Still** declared to the Local 598 membership in its October 28, 2011, newsletter, "I am sure that you will agree that it is long overdue for our great local to 'get back in the saddle' when it comes to politics."



Local 598 member Bob Cox works on one of the machines he and other members helped fabricate in 2010 for Parsons Corporation that will be used in facilities all over the country to destroy chemicals in weapons.

Local 598 and other U.A. members involved in construction of the 470-megawatt combined-cycle generation facility under Bechtel for the U.S. Generating Company benefited from the implementation of specific safety programs and profit sharing. As such, in the end the project was a model for successful labor-management teamwork.

Meanwhile, after several years of peaceful relations between labor and management at the Hanford Site, unions including Local 598 and



Local 598 delegates to the U.A. 38th General Convention in 2011: (left to right, front row) Washington State Association Representative Randy Scott, Tim Still, Business Manager Pete Nicacio, International Representative James Moss, Danny Larsen, Pat Zorich and Scott Brown; and (back row) Randy Walli, Doug Rogers, Charlie Chinery, Randy Gosseen, Jim Rogers, Dave Hickman and Steve Davis.

the U.A. negotiated contracts with Bechtel and its partners after that group won the five-year, \$800-million “super cleanup contract” for the site in 1994.

Local 598 also remained active during the decade in protecting the union construction industry. For instance, in March 1995, the local participated in a rally of over 800 protestors in Richland’s Howard Amon Park against state and federal efforts to repeal prevailing-wage laws, which require contractors to pay construction workers the hourly compensation paid to the majority of workers in a particular trade as determined by the Department of Labor and Industries. (The **Washington State Public Works Act**, enacted in 1945, continues to require that employees of government contractors be paid prevailing wages for all public work.)

As the second half of the 1990s progressed, Local 598 members remained busy as its membership held steady at more than 1,300 plumbers, steamfitters and apprentices. Some of the notable jobs on which members worked during that time included a \$100-million **Pacific Northwest Sugar Company** sugar beet plant in Moses Lake in 1998, where fitters and welders employed by builder Process Systems voted for union representation by the local in June of that year.

The local also helped build the \$604-million **Munitions Demilitarization Building** chemical weapons incinerator at the U.S. Army



The Local 598 team plays in a softball game in 2012.

Umatilla Chemical Depot in 1999. Local 598 members were among the 800 construction workers who walked off the job on November 6 after 36 workers became ill on September 15 and Local 598 **Business Agent Lynn Norman** visited the site that day and found no air-quality monitors in use. After 30 minutes, the workers returned when officials with Raytheon, the company building the facility, “scrambled to get the necessary air monitors in the building,” the November 7 *Herald* reported,



Local 598 float and members participate in the 2013 Veterans Day Parade in West Richland.

Local 598 has been a strong supporter of **Helmets to Hardhats**, a national, nonprofit program that connects retired and transitioning military service members with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry, since it was established in 2003. Helmets to Hardhats supplemented its programs in 2007 with its **Wounded Warrior** program, which connects disabled veterans with employment opportunities in the construction industry.

waste at the site through vitrification, a method of permanently disposing of waste by mixing it with glass-forming materials, super-heating it and storing it in stainless-steel canisters.

The completed Vit Plant will process the radioactive and chemical waste currently stored in underground tanks following decades of plutonium production at Hanford, according to the Department of Energy (D.O.E.). “The decades-long project is a multi-phase operation, beginning with construction, followed by startup procedures and an eventual transition to commissioning and operation,” D.O.E. literature explains.



Local 598 members at with at the Boardman Coal Plant generating station in 2014.

while also noting, “The incident underscored the heightened concern about safety at the construction site.”

Vit, New Work, Training Advance Local Forward

The new “Y2K” (Year 2000) millennium brought with it construction of the **Hanford Tank Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant**, also known as the Hanford Vitrification (or ‘Vit’) Plant, beginning in 2001, which since has employed scores of Local 598 members – and very likely will continue to do so until and even after it is online in 2025. The world’s largest radioactive waste-treatment plant, the \$17-billion facility will process the millions of gallons of nuclear

LEGISLATIVE WORK GAINS HANFORD SAFETY NET

Sweeping legislation pushed by Local 598 and particularly member **Brother Nick Bumpaous** that would help workers cleaning up the Hanford Nuclear Reservation win approval for state compensation claims was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee on March 7, 2018. **House Bill 1723**, which was sponsored by Rep. Larry Haler of Richland, had passed the Washington State House of Representatives and then the State Senate in January.

With the new regulation, Hanford workers including many Local 598 members no longer have to prove to the state that their poor health was caused by working at the nuclear reservation. Instead, certain illnesses of the workers, who have been and are exposed to some of the most hazardous substances known to man, can be presumed to be work-related when they seek workers compensation coverage.



Local 598 accepts donations for its Bike for Tikes campaign from the local's signatory contractors (LMCCT), Specialty Welding and Bechtel in 2015.

The first nuclear facility to be built in the U.S. in decades, the 65-acre Vit Plant includes a pretreatment, low-activity waste vitrification and high-level waste vitrification facilities and an analytical laboratory built by Bechtel National. In the end, plumbers and fitters will install more than 193 miles of piping for the facility, according to the D.O.E.

Additional work for the local in the new decade included the \$38-million expansion of the **Kadlec Medical Center**. As part of that project, members installed piping for water, gasses and medical air in a new pre-operative surgery area.

But a national economic recession during the early 2000s and changes in the hiring schedule at the Vit Plant briefly hindered employment for Local 598. Unemployment within the local peaked in 2003, but work picked up throughout the remainder of the decade, as members worked on projects including data

processing centers in Quincy, Washington, and a large addition to the **Washington State Penitentiary** in Walla Walla in 2005.

By 2009, about 75 percent of the work performed by Local 598 members was on commercial projects (up from 25 percent 30 years before) such as shopping centers; office buildings; medical buildings, which often involved medical-gas piping; and schools. That year, while the rest of the country was in the middle of another deep recession, the local enjoyed a period of prosperity that would continue for the next two years as work under Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council agreements provided a surge in employment in the wake of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (the federal government's "Stimulus Plan").

At the time, building-trades work likewise climbed with the Stimulus Plan funding several projects within the Hanford Site while

BIKE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS HISTORY OF GIVING

Among its countless community and charitable activities, Local 598 and its signatory contractors have been the main sponsor of the **Bikes for Tikes** program, which continues to branch out and grow each year since it started in 2010 with 120 bikes. Since that time, Bikes for Tikes has donated 14,000 bikes and helmets to those in need in the community, touching many lives.

Some of the outreach programs that have partnered with Bikes for Tikes include United Way Attendance Matters, U.S. Marines Toys for Tots, Sacred Heart Hospital, the Edith Bishel Center for the blind and visually impaired, the Down Syndrome Association of Mid-Columbia, The Children's Network, ARC of the Tri-Cities, Teens Homeless Shelter, local libraries for the "Read a Book" program, Gold Star families, several local veterans shelters and countless other programs.

Bikes for Tikes holds its annual bike build in December, bringing together hundreds of community members and countless union members who donate their time, knowledge and experience to build bikes while working with over 500 students from the area. By the end of the build, the students have gained a new-found confidence in building things with their hands and the pride of giving back to their community.

Also assisting in the program, Griggs Ace Hardware handles the ordering, Vintners Logistics handles the transportation, CG Public House and Catering provide lunch for the golf tournament and Coke and Paradise Water help with the drinks. It also enjoys a very special new partnership with the Three Rivers Convention Center, which provides a location for the build.

Local 598 Business Manager Randy Walli was named the United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties "Distinguished Volunteer of the Year" in 2014. "He leaves an imprint wherever he goes, and inspires others to want to join in," United Way President Beverly Weber said of Brother Walli when presenting him with the award during the LIVE UNITED Celebration event on April 22 that year.



Bikes assembled for the 2012 Local 598 Bikes for Tikes campaign.



Bikes being assembled for the 2014 Bikes for Tikes campaign.





Local 598 float participates in the 2015 Kennewick Grand Parade.

work on the Vit remained steady. Private work employing members included construction of a large expansion to the **Renewable Energy Corporation** Silicon IV silane gas plant in Moses Lake that would provide silane gas for the production of high-grade polysilicon for use in solar-panel manufacturing when completed in 2010. However, funding decreased for some other government projects, including the Hanford Site's tank farms, decreasing the local's manhours.

Local 598 membership remained above 1,200, with only about 20 maintenance members, into 2010 and throughout 2012. Into that year, work at the Vit changed dramatically as Bechtel began a series of unexpected layoffs.

However, the local's members were being employed on an increasing number of smaller projects within its jurisdiction as the result of its organizing efforts and its political presence. The local was also successful in its drive to recruit out-of-town union employers to bid

LAWSUIT BRINGS HANFORD PROTECTIONS

A lawsuit filed in 2015 by Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, with which a similar lawsuit filed by Local 598 and Hanford Challenge was later consolidated, resulted in the U.S. Department of Energy promising to make additional efforts to protect workers at the **Hanford Nuclear Reservation**. The litigation was brought about "after 20 years of workers getting sick from vapor exposures despite multiple studies and reports," the Attorney General's office stated in a press release.

After more than two years, the case resulted in an agreement between the Attorney General and the Department of Energy in September 2018. In exchange for the Attorney General's Office suspending its case, the federal government entered into a legally binding agreement to complete multiple rounds of testing on a system that will destroy or capture tank vapors before they can harm workers. If testing is successful, the Department of Energy must implement the successful technology.

The agreement marked the first time in the history of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation that the Department of Energy would destroy or capture tank vapors at their source, thereby eliminating the hazard to workers, according to the Attorney General's office.

"This represents Local 598's values and commitment to its members and all working families that ensure the success of our National mission," Local 598 **Business Manager Randy Walli** said at the time. "While the future of Hanford will continue to demand our full diligence, with all its complexities and challenges, this settlement represents a positive step in the right direction. Ensuring adequate protection for the workforce and a commitment to the development and implementation of new technologies that will ultimately lead to a safe and more productive future."



Local 598 and U.A. crew at the construction site of the new, 440-megawatt, natural gas-fired Carty Generating Station in February 2015. The cogeneration plant would go online in July 2016.

and win work within the Local 598 area, along with its local contractors.

After a slow period in 2015 during which many of its members had to travel for work, Local 598's skilled plumbers and steamfitters enjoyed work in its jurisdiction over the second half of the 2010s at power plants, paper mills, food-processing plants, cold-storage facilities, data centers, silicon plants, chemical plants, gas plants, carbon-fiber plants and miscellaneous manufacturing facilities. Those included a new, 300-million-pound-per-year French-fry processing plant for **Lamb Weston** in Hermiston, Oregon, completed in 2019.

The local's members also continued to maintain the large, vital hydroelectric dams they built over the years while continuing to erect the Vit Plant. What's more, at its 75th charter anniversary in 2019, the local was one of just 16 out of 274 U.A. locals that had jurisdiction over **mainline pipeline** work, another source of manhours.



Aerial view of ongoing construction of the Hanford Vitrification Plant in 2017. (Photo Credit: Bechtel National, Inc.)



The 2018 Local 598 Scholarship winners following an award ceremony at the local's hall.

Local Trends Upward To Its 80th Anniversary

In the aftermath of the initial and most severe years of the deadly global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that first hit the United States in January 2020, after which it would claim the lives of more than 1 million Americans in three years, Local 598 recovered and in 2022 entered a period of unprecedented growth that was driven by the construction needs for the emergence of artificial intelligence (A.I.) computing, new hydrogen technologies, advancements in commercial nuclear energy production and next-generation battery technologies. As a result of new jobs created by those evolving industries, significant investments by the local's membership, its organizing efforts, its political action and its industry reputation for quality, the local significantly expanded its membership

during the years leading up to its 80th charter anniversary in 2024.

What's more, in 2023 the local secured through collective bargaining the largest wage-scale increase it had gained in a new working agreement with its employing contractors in more than two decades. Also beginning that year and continuing through 2024, the growing Local 598 membership enjoyed full employment thanks to the local's ability to attract industry into its jurisdiction, its political involvement and the investments of the Federal government in nuclear, data centers, hydrogen and other technologies.

For the first time in its history, Local 598 in 2023 also adopted a **hybrid block training schedule** for apprenticeship-training classes, which allows apprentices to attend classes on Thursday nights and Fridays and Saturdays for 10 hours, one weekend each month and 10

TRADESWOMEN'S COMMITTEE

WOMEN OF LOCAL 598 LEAD THE WAY

The U.A. has long been a cornerstone of skilled trades, fostering a community of dedicated professionals who build and maintain the infrastructure that powers the world. In recent years, the importance of women in the U.A. has become increasingly evident, as they bring unique perspectives, skills and leadership qualities that enrich the organization and the industry as a whole.

Women in the U.A. are breaking barriers and challenging stereotypes, proving that the skilled trades are not just a man's world. Their contributions are invaluable, from the precision and attention to detail they bring to their work, to the innovative solutions they offer on the job site. Women in the U.A. are not only skilled tradespeople but also mentors, leaders and advocates for diversity and inclusion within the industry.

In the summer of 2022, Local 598 Business Manager Nickolas A. Bumpaous was proud to partner with the local's members to establish the **U.A. Local 598 Tradeswomen's Committee**. This group of dedicated women has shown exceptional leadership and skill, earning the admiration and respect of their peers – while the committee's efforts to promote the inclusion of women in the trades have not only empowered individual members but have also strengthened the entire union.

Local 598 is incredibly excited and proud of the achievements of the U.A. Local Union 598 Tradeswomen's

Committee. Its success is a testament to the power of diversity and the importance of providing opportunities for all members to thrive. As the local looks to the future, it is confident that the continued inclusion and support of women in the U.A. will lead to even greater accomplishments and advancements in the skilled trades.

"The importance of women in the U.A. cannot be overstated," Business Manager Bumpaous declared. "Their presence enriches our organization, drives innovation, and fosters a more inclusive and dynamic workforce. We celebrate the leadership and skill of the Local 598 Tradeswomen's Committee and look forward to a future where women continue to play a vital role in shaping the skilled-trades industry."





Local 598 Business Manager Nickolas A. Bumpaous (right) and his wife, Kathleen, pose with future Governor-elect Bob Ferguson (left) during his gubernatorial campaign kick-off hosted by Local 598 in 2023.

months each year, instead of weeknights after work and Saturdays. This has further allowed the local to organize members from all over its jurisdiction into its apprenticeship program while ensuring a more-effective apprenticeship learning environment.

Most recently, in 2024 Local 598 successfully helped get legislation passed that allotted \$25 million from the State of Washington to support the construction of new, advanced **modular nuclear reactors** in the City of Richland. Importantly, the construction of the reactors will result in additional employment for the local’s members.

With the largest membership it has had in nearly 30 years, as it celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2024 Local 598 and its signatory contractors continue to work together to serve the piping industry and communities in 21 counties in eastern Washington

and eastern Oregon. The local’s continued success in the region is a direct result of its commitment to investing over \$2 million annually in training programs for apprentices and skill-upgrading programs for its journeymen, ensuring they remain at the forefront of industry excellence – a posture the local will maintain as it moves into its future while the local also remains devoted to improving the quality of life of its members, their families and its communities. ■

In 2024, Local 598 Business Manager Nickolas A. Bumpaous points out the future site of advanced nuclear reactors to be built in Richland, Washington, the construction of which will employ scores of Local 598 members.



(Left to right) Energy Northwest C.E.O. Bob Schuetz, Local 598 Business Manager Nickolas A. Bumpaous, X-Energy C.E.O. Clay Sell and Energy Northwest Vice-President Greg Cullen attend the Amazon press conference in Washington, D.C., in 2024 announcing a \$500-million investment to build advanced nuclear reactors in Richland, Washington.

U.A. LOCAL 598 LIFE MEMBERS (THROUGH 2024)

Alvin Anderson	Glen Daily	Richmond Lee	Charles Rogers
Raymond Andrews	Norman Derrick	Richard Mathews	Lawrence Saltz
Gerald Arbogast	Jack Desoto	Harold Maxwell	Heinz Schulz
John Bailey	Keith Dickman	Rodney McDonald	John Schumacher
Samuel Bailey	Pat Doolittle	Kenneth McGuffey	Joseph Scrofne
George Barcello	Earl Durbin	James McKinnis	Robert Seigfreid
Richard Baumgartner	Aubrey Enloe	Michael McKnight	Kerry Shatell
Stephen Benningfield	Charles Flood	Louis Medford	James Shoman
Gary Bills	George Gana	James Meyers	Carson Showalter
Randy Black	Emiel Gnoza	Steven Moody	Michael Sisemore
Mack Bland	Merlin Goddard	Bobby Morgan	Tom Sitton
E. Blankingship	Robert Grillo	Earl Morgan	Donald Skvarek
Mark Borgmier	Brian Harding	Allen Morris	Courtland Smith
Darrel Borton	Donald Harris	Ernest Nelson	George Solomon
Robert Brown	Thomas Harris	William Nerpel	Richard Stephens
Scott Brown	Ronald Hartley	Lynn Norman	James Stirling
Wm. Brown	Craig Haymaker	Tommy Norton	John Stokes
Stuart Budes	Joe Herrin	Larry Olson	James Stotz
Charles Cable	Larry Hickman	Frederick Overstreet	John Stowers
George Canuel	Newell Holland	Roy Palmer	Forest Taylor
William Capobianco	Charles Hooper	Melvin Parker	Michael Taylor
Fred Carpenter	M Howard	James Payne	Clifford Teslow
Ronald Cauble	Billy Hutchins	James Payne	Ben Thomas
Herb Chambliss	Roger Ibarra	Carl Pettijohn	Gary Thompson
Herbert Champlin	Steven Jasper	Jimmy Philpott	Randy Tinsley
Samuel Cheves	Thurston Johnson	Robert Ramsey	Roger Tool
Gary Clark	Jarrett Johnston	Melvin Ratliff	Duane Ulsh
Danny Clouse	Robert Kauer	John Rauner	David Unieski
Richard Connolly	Gene Kinsey	William Redmond	Aczael Valdez
Neal Cox	Terry Kirkwood	Raymond Richardson	Robert Webb
Robert Cox	Rodger Langlo	Cecil Riley	Milo Woollum
Dale Crosby	Danny Larsen	James Riley	Leslie Wulff
Robert Culbert	Gregory Larson	Dennis Riste	Don Zacher
John Curran	Waymon Lathrom	Harold Roan	



The Local 598 crew working at the Hanford Vitrification Plant in Richland, Washington, in 2024.



Local 598 members working at the Apollo Fabrication Shop in Pasco, Washington, in 2024.



The Local 598 leadership team and officials with Atlas Agro stand in 2024 at the Richland, Washington, site of the future Pacific Green Fertilizer plant, which the local's members will help build.



Local 598 Business Manager Nickolas A. Bumpaous speaks in 2024 with U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse about the working men and women of his 4th Congressional District.



Local 598 members working at the McKinstry Fabrication Shop in Pasco, Washington, in 2024.



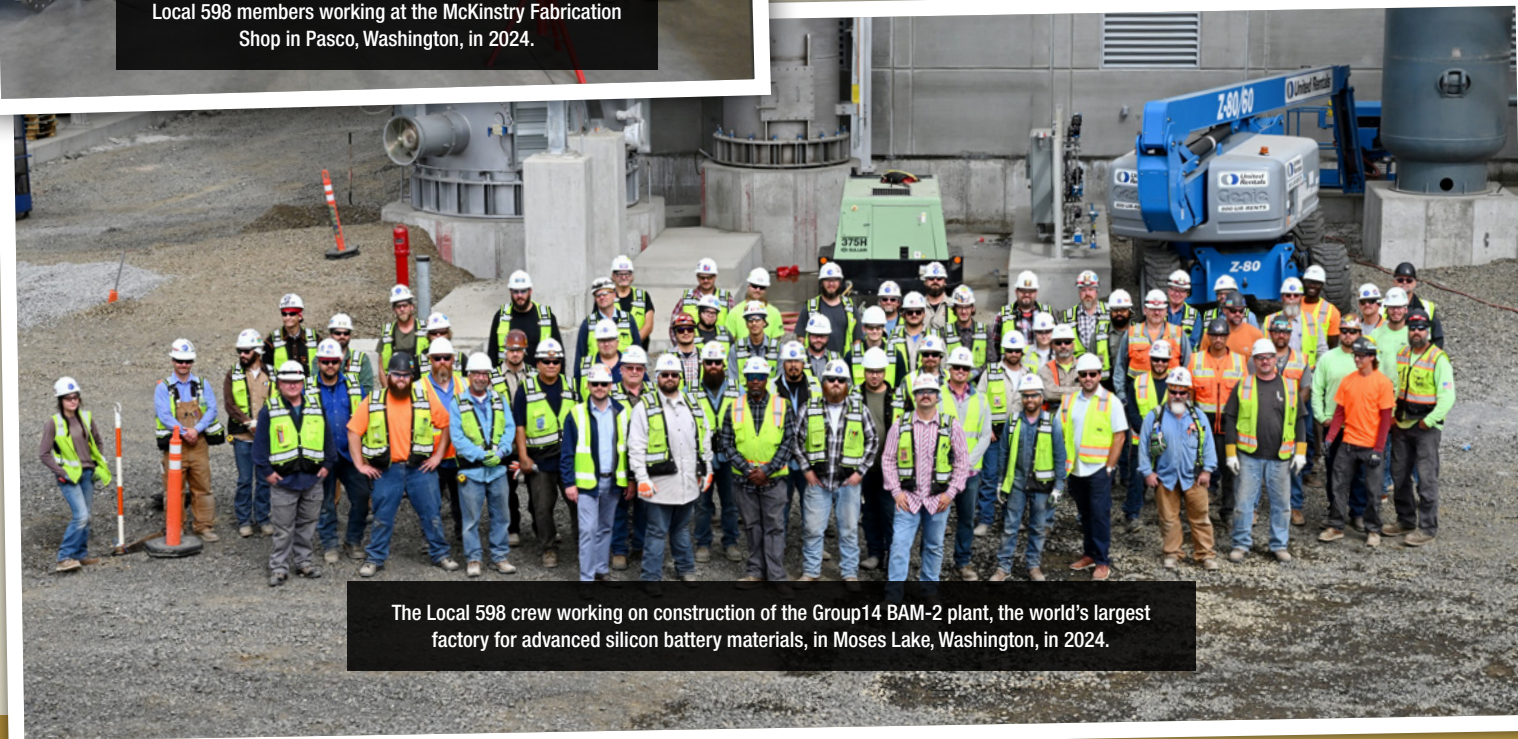
The Local 598 crew working on the Sila Nano "Titan Silicon" manufacturing plant in Moses Lake, Washington, in 2024.



Local 598 Business Manager Nickolas A. Bumpaous addresses the American Nuclear Society in 2024 about the importance of union labor in the nuclear industry.



Local 598 Tradeswomen Committee Chair Alia Worley (left) gifts a 598 Tradeswomen shirt to U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell in 2024.



The Local 598 crew working on construction of the Group14 BAM-2 plant, the world's largest factory for advanced silicon battery materials, in Moses Lake, Washington, in 2024.

Gold SPONSOR

Silver SPONSOR

Congratulations

Local 598 on 80 Years

**Serving the State of Washington and its
Pipe Trades Industry!**



**Best Wishes from the
Washington State Association of the U.A.**

PROTECTING OUR MEMBERS

WWW.WASHINGTONPIPETRADES.ORG



THE MEN AND WOMEN THAT BRING YOU

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

ELECTRICITY GENERATION

MICROCHIP PRODUCTION

MEDICAL GAS SYSTEMS IN HOSPITALS & DOCTORS OFFICES

LAB GAS SYSTEMS IN LABORATORIES & RESEARCH CENTERS

PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION

FROZEN AND REFRIGERATED FOOD STORAGE

INTERNET SERVICE

WEB AND CLOUD BASED STORAGE

CELLULAR SERVICE

AND SO MUCH MORE

AND YOU THOUGHT YOUR JOB WAS IMPORTANT!

WWW.STEAMFITTERS-602.ORG



CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 598

**BNB Mechanical Wishes You
Many More Years of Success**



Locally owned and operated; providing all your
Industrial, Commercial, and Mechanical Plumbing needs.

www.bnbmech.com



HASKELL
CORPORATION

Constructors since 1890

Silver SPONSOR

Silver SPONSOR

Silver SPONSOR



Brnze SPONSOR

The Officers, Members and Staff of
The Washington State Building &
Construction Trades Council

Congratulates

Plumbers & Steamfitters Local No. 598

In Celebration of
80 Years of Service



Todd Mitchell
President
Heather Kurtenbach
Executive Secretary

UNION HISTORIES™

unionhistories.com

Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions

Union Histories hails UA Local 598 for
80 Years of Service to Your Members,
Contractors, Industry and Community!

We were honored to serve you in producing
this book for your anniversary celebration.



unionhistories.com



Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations UA Local 598 on 80 Years of Service!



**Here's to another 80 years of excellence!
BeneSys thanks you for your partnership.**

 **BeneSys™**

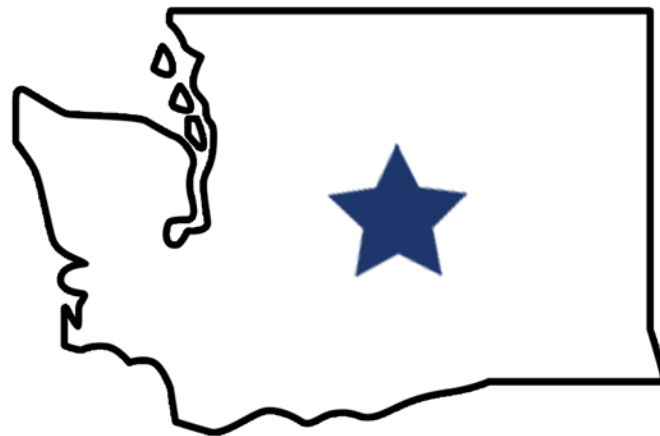
ED WOLYNIEC
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LEE CENTRONE
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

MIKE JOKELA
PLAN MANAGER

WE SALUTE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF LOCAL 598!

**Best Wishes for the Next 80
Years and Beyond!**



**From Your Brothers and Sisters
of the Central Washington
Building and Construction
Trades Council**

ROBBLEE DETWILER

Congratulations to Local 598
on your **80th Anniversary**

from the

Attorneys of
Robblee Detwiler PLLP

Partners

Kristina Detwiler

Bradley Medlin

Angelo Cruz

www.robbleedetwiler.com



**CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL 598
ON 80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!**

From Your U.A. Brothers & Sisters serving
“Charm City” and the Surrounding Region

WWW.UALOCAL486.COM

*Local 72
congratulates
its sister local
**UA LOCAL
598**
on its 80th
anniversary!*





is proud to support UA Local 598 at their 80th Anniversary Dinner.

Congratulations on this great milestone and thank you for all your work to create family-sustaining opportunities for your members.

Sean McGarvey
President

Brandon Bishop
Secretary-Treasurer

North America's Building Trades Unions
815 16th St. NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC



NWPS is proud to serve Local 598's supplemental pension plan and wishes them continued success.
Happy 80th!



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO LOCAL 598 ON**

80

YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!

FROM EVERYONE AT



National Cooperative Rx[®]

**Congratulations on 80 years,
Local 598!**

Thank you for trusting
National CooperativeRx
with your pharmacy benefit needs.

**PROUD PHARMACY
BENEFIT PARTNER
TO LOCAL 598
SINCE 2012**

Learn More About Our Not-For-Profit Cooperative
www.nationalcooperativerx.com



**Local Union #25
Plumbers & Pipefitters**

4600 46th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201 309-788-4569

HAPPY 80TH ANNIVERSARY LOCAL 598!



Matthew T. Lienen
Business Manager/FST

Gary Beer - Business Agent
Ben Carpenter - Business Agent
Chet DeSmet - Business Agent
Jake Nelson - Business Agent
Jason Stomberg - Business Agent
Brett Swanson, Business Agent



Visit our website @www.lu25.org and....
like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Local25>

PLUMBERS LOCAL 55

**WISHES TO CONGRATULATE
PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 598
ON THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY**



SHAWN GRAY
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

FRED HUGGARD JOHN HODGE
Business Representatives

MIKE REDLIN JIM FATICA
President Vice President

ROBERT NIMRICHTER TIM WHEELER
TIM O'CONNELL TYRONE TAYLOR
Executive Board

JASON SHANK
Training Director



UA LOCAL 38

PLUMBERS, STEAMFITTERS & HVAC/R
SAN FRANCISCO, MARIN, SONOMA, MENDOCINO & LAKE COUNTIES



**The Officers & Members of
UA Local 38**

**Salute
Plumbers & Steamfitters**

**UA Local 598
on 80 years of
Being Union Strong**

Larry Mazzola Jr.
Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer

***Congratulations
to U.A. Local 598***

On Your 'Ruby' 80th Anniversary!



***From the Plumbers, Pipefitters
and Service Technicians
Of the Oldest Union
in Birmingham, Alabama!***

www.ua91.org

PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 208

EST. 1902 DENVER, CO

CONGRATULATES

PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS

LOCAL 598

ON 80 YEARS

GARY ARNOLD, BUSINESS MANAGER
CECIL COURTNEY, BUSINESS AGENT
SERGIO CORDOVA, BUSINESS AGENT
JOE MARTINEZ, BUSINESS AGENT
JUAN HERNANDEZ, BUSINESS AGENT



**STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 475
WISHES TO CONGRATULATE LOCAL 598
ON THEIR 80TH RUBY ANNIVERSARY**

SHAUN SULLIVAN - Business Manager
TOM MANNING - Business Agent

TIM McCONWAY - Business Agent
JON SINNOTT - Business Agent

Steamfitters Local Union 475 • 136 Mt Bethel Road • Warren NJ
07059 908-754-1030 • ualocal475.org

Congratulations

United Association Local 598

For 80 Years of Excellence in Service to your
Members and Community

Steven Beringer

Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Barry Kenny

Business Representative

Dan Goar

Business Representative

Ron Attig

President

John Bennett

Business Representative

Sean-Keoni Ellis

Organizer

Curtis Montag

Vice-President



www.ualocal230.org

Congratulations on 80 years!

From: Pipe Fitters' Association Local Union 597

Chicago, Illinois

Chris Hernandez

Business Manager

Joseph Vellenga
President

Dennis Hahney
Financial Secretary

Chris Quinn
Vice-President

Tim Gillooley
Recording Secretary

Business Representatives

Mark Antczak
Tim Gallagher
Tim Hartnett
John Kotel

Tony Munoz
Scott Perez
Bob Passarella
Adam Swan
Larry Weaver Jr.

Thomas Elkins
Doc Gregory
Bill Hennessy
Harrison Mailey

CHICAGO
Pipefitters
LOCAL 597

PLUMBERS UNION LOCAL 690
CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL 598
ON YOUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY!

BUSINESS MANAGER
SECRETARY-TREASURER
GEORGE C. PEGRAM

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER
THOMAS P. GOLDEN

BUSINESS AGENTS
P. DARBY DOYLE JOE MCMONIGLE
JIM FRIEL JOE MULHOLLAND,
 DON SNYDER



ORGANIZER
STEVEN KEENAN, JR.

ADMINISTRATOR
KEVIN DEAN

TRAINING DIRECTOR
MIKE LAVELLE

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
PATRICK A. CROWTHER

TRAINING INSTRUCTORS
BRIAN GILBERT JOHN QUIRK, JR.

WWW.PLUMBERS690.ORG
2791 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19154
215-677-6900

UNION MEDIA™
A UNION HISTORIES™ STRATEGIC PARTNER

Services Exclusively for the
UNION CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



BRANDING



VIDEO



WEBSITES

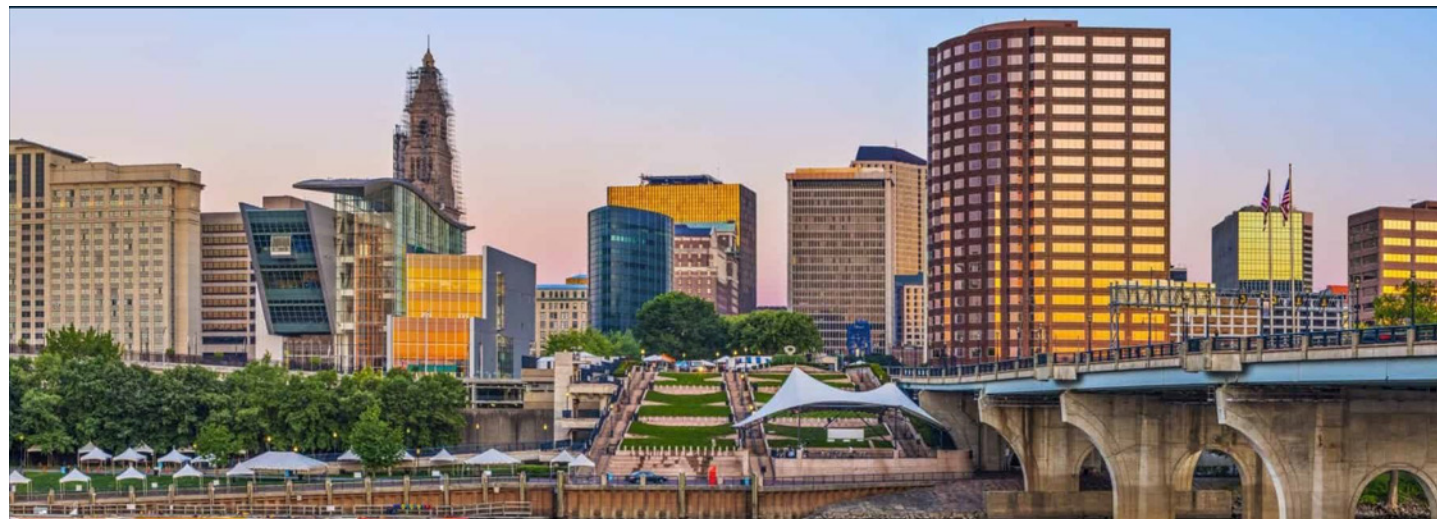


MARKETING

WWW.UNIONMEDIA.US



CWA
MEMBERS



UNITED ASSOCIATION
Local 777
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS

Congratulations
United Association Local Union 598
for attaining 80 years of continuous service

This remarkable milestone stands as a testament
to your dedication to the labor movement.



HIGHLAND
Capital Advisors

Congratulations On 80 Years
to our clients and friends at
UA Local Union 598

From your partners at

 **Milliman**

milliman.com/Solutions/Services/Multiemployer-service



CHEERS, LOCAL 598, FOR 80 YEARS AND MORE!

We applaud your service to your jurisdiction and membership with true Labor Spirit

From the Officers and Members of U.A. Local 101, Belleville

Business Manager Dan McKenna
Business Agent Matt Biekert
Training Coordinator Rich Fuess

We were chartered on August 17, 1898, to serve the piping needs of Belleville and Metro-East St. Louis, Illinois

Congratulations UA Local 598 on your 80th 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 ON YOUR 80TH YEAR OF SERVICE!



From the Officers and Members
of Plumbers, Pipefitters
and HVAC Service of
Colorado Springs, Colorado

local58.org

~ Best Wishes ~

PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 9 CENTRAL NEW JERSEY



Business Manager
MICHAEL A. TRANBERG
Assistant Business Manager
JOHN E. BOYLE III
Business Agents
EDWARD F. BURNS
DEAN FEASEL
MARK REULBACH
PATRICK M. SCHARNITZ
CHARLES F. WHALEN IV
Organizer
WILLIAM K. GRAYBUSH
President
BRIAN W. THOMS
Vice President
ROBERT J. DILL
Executive Board
MICHAEL BELL
CHARLES GELOSO
TODD MONTGOMERY
THOMAS F. PANCONI, JR.

There Is No Substitute for Skilled U.A.
Building and Construction Trades Craftsmen

2 IRON ORE ROAD AT ROUTE 33, ENGLISHTOWN, NJ 07726
Telephone: (732) 792-0999 • Fax: (732) 792-1999
Website: www.ualocal9.org



CONGRATULATIONS LOCAL 598

ON 80 YEARS OF STRENGTH AND SUCCESS

Todd Schiavo
Bus. Mgr./Fin.
Sec'y-Treas
Andrew Davie
Organizer
Tom Aten
Zak Noonan
Business
Agents
Rick Bertacchi
President



Congratulations on 80 Years Of Pride and Solidarity!

From Your Brothers and Sisters of
U.A. Local 572
Nashville, Tennessee

Doing it RIGHT the First Time
Since November 18, 1915!

local572.com

AN INVESTMENT IN TRIDEC IS AN
INVESTMENT IN THE TRI-CITIES

Promoting economic
strength and diversity
since 1963!

CONGRATULATIONS UA LOCAL 598!

For eight decades, UA Local 598 has built a legacy of craftsmanship, safety, and excellence—setting the standard in our community and beyond.

Thank you for your commitment to training, community involvement, hard work, and dedication to the Tri-Cities.

Here's to many more years of
success and impact!



www.TRIDEC.org | (509) 735-1000 | @TCDevCouncil

Congratulations on 80 Years Best Wishes for The Future

TSG

TURNER, STOEVE & GAGLIARDI, P.S.



Thank You
TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR

