

U.A. LOCAL 99

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS



125TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY
2024

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL 99 ON 125 YEARS!



ILLINOIS PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Aaron Gurnsey - President

Dennis Hahney - Secretary-Treasurer

Billy Allison - Executive Director

Ricky Terven - Legislative and Political Director

*The General Officers
of the United Association
Congratulate the Members of
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 99
on Their 125th Anniversary.*

Mark McManus
General President

Derrick Kualapai
General Secretary-Treasurer

Michael A. Pleasant
Assistant General President





PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 99

*125th - Anniversary Celebration
Dinner/Dance Gala*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024

5:00 to 11:00 P.M.

Bloomington-Normal Marriott

201 Broadway, Normal, Illinois

Entertainment and Dancing

Seated, Plated Dinner



LOCAL 99 CELEBRATES 125 YEARS THANKS TO PAST MEMBERS, CURRENT SUPPORT

Dear Members, Friends and Guests:

Tonight, we have come together to celebrate Local 99's 125th Anniversary. The skilled brothers and sisters of Local 99 have served our community for the past 125 years with pride and expertise in the plumbing and pipe fitting industry.

From the railroad fitters to the city's gas-lighting era of the 1800s, we as a brotherhood never forget the sacrifices our past members endured. Those previous members paved the way for our health & welfare, our pensions, the five-day work week and our ability to relax with family and friends.

I would also like to thank all our generous sponsors who helped to make this celebration possible.

It has been my privilege to serve the membership of this fine local.

Fraternally,

Jay Logan, Business Manager
U.A. Local 99, Bloomington, Illinois

This book was proudly produced by

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U.A. Local No. 99 at 125 Years A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS SINCE 1899

Starting a local union in the 1890s was no easy task, and we owe a great debt to those men and their families who took that risk 90 years ago. America was a very different world in the 1890s. Some people like to speak of them nostalgically as the “gay ‘90s,” full of happy songs and carefree people, but for working people it was no carefree life.

In America in 1890, child labor was rampant, with literally millions of children laboring in coal mines, factories and mills. Fifty cents or one dollar a day was an average wage, even though the worker making that wage lived below the poverty level. When hard times came there was no unemployment insurance, and many men left home during depressions and layoffs, riding freight trains to try and find a job somewhere. If you were hurt on the job, there was no worker's compensation. Your injury was your fault in the eyes of the law, and many families were reduced to poverty by an injury in that very unsafe age.

Forming a union was no easy job. National organizations were just beginning to get on their feet. Many unions were formed late at night, secretly organized, with great fear of company spies. If the boss found out you were interested in a union, not only could you be fired, but you could also be blacklisted, never to work at your trade again. A strike or job action would bring out the police and court injunctions, and bashed heads and flying bullets were not an uncommon government response to workers and their pleas for better conditions.

Despite these hard and difficult odds, workers did organize. There were no paid business agents, no union treasuries to fall back on. There was only the mutual sense of commitment and solidarity between workers to sustain them in their vision of a better life.

The founders of Local 99 had that vision. Not only did they have the determination to be united and stand together, they also had their hard-won skills and craft, which gave their labor value and made them harder to replace.

Mike Matejka, Editor, *Grand Prairie Union News*
Address to Local 99's 90th Anniversary Celebration, March 3, 1990



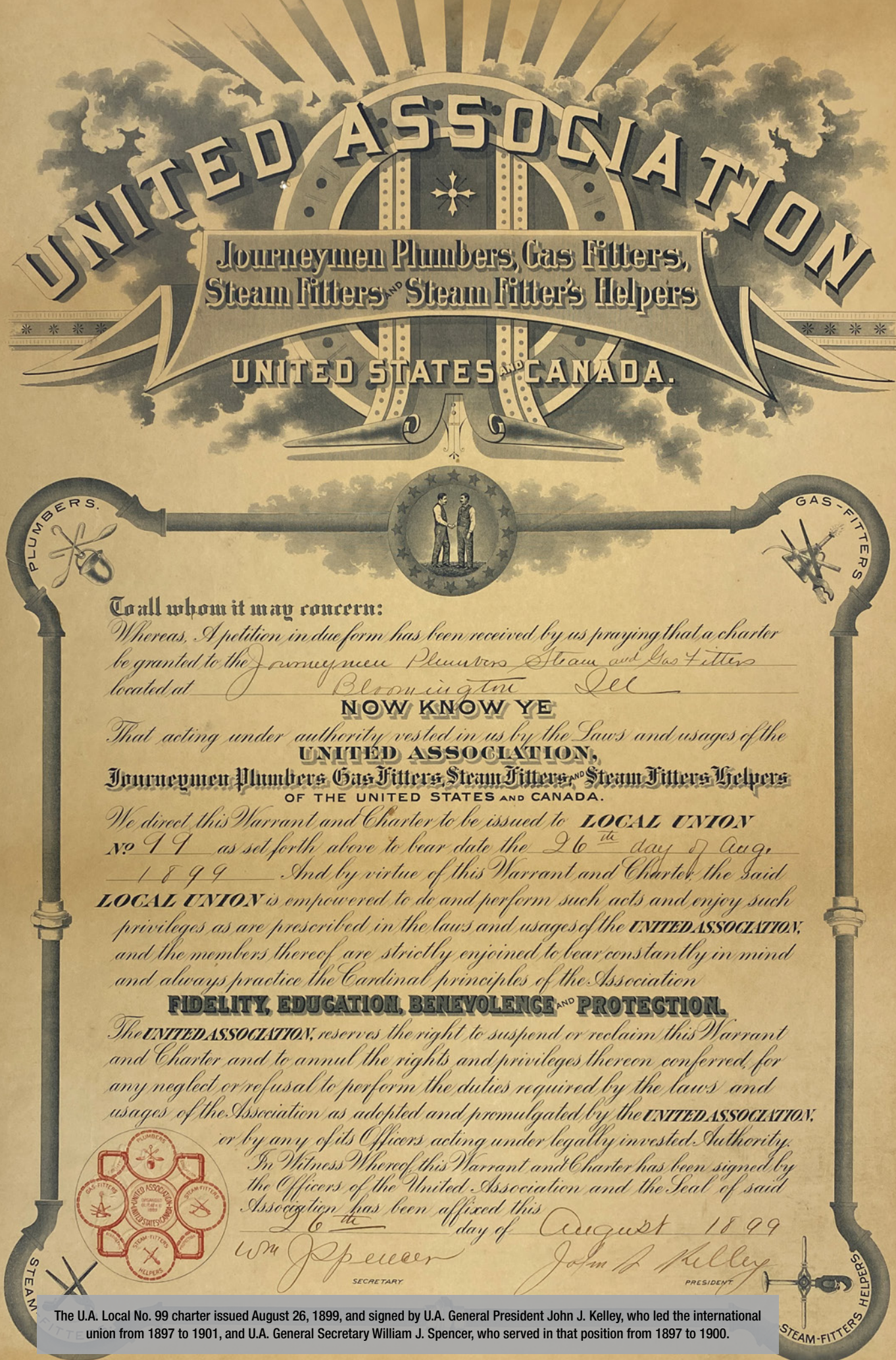
“The plumbers and gasfitters of this city have formed a union, and yesterday received their charter from the secretary of state.”

Less than one month after *The (Bloomington, Illinois) Pantagraph* newspaper made that report in its December 17, 1892, issue, that initial Bloomington union of plumbers and gasfitters had disbanded. However, the United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada (U.A.) organized a new local union in the city on January 18, 1893, with 15 members who it chartered as the **McLean County Plumbers', Steam and Gas Fitters' Union Local No. 99.**

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

While the Bloomington-based local “spared no expense” for its “first grand annual ball” on April 7, 1896, as a *Pantagraph* article reported the previous day, the U.A. suspended Local 99 the following month, possibly for not playing its dues assessments to the international union. After being reinstated shortly afterward, the local was suspended again in February 1897.

The U.A. reinstated Bloomington's plumbers and steamfitters once again – which, as it would turn out, would be the final time – and re-chartered them as Local 99 on **August 26, 1899**, with jurisdiction over the city and the surrounding McLean County.



A PERMANENT LOCAL UNION FOR GREATER BLOOMINGTON

With 11 members as it entered September of 1899, Local 99 initially held general membership meetings on the second floor of the building at **206 North Center Street** in downtown Bloomington, which it dubbed “Plumbers’ Hall,” where it would continue to meet throughout the next 17 years. At its infancy, although the U.A. only allowed locals with more than 25 members to send a delegate to its conventions, Local 99 member **Frank McCleave** attended the union’s convention that year in Peoria, Illinois, from September 25 through October 2.

Also shortly after receiving its charter, the fledgling local voted in early October 1899 to strike the construction site of the city’s new Franklin School, on which a non-union, unlicensed firm to perform the plumbing work. “By letting the contract to this firm,” Local 99 member journeyman plumber **M. J. Riley** wrote in the October 13 *Pantagraph*, “the school board is doing an injustice to the taxpayers of this community when they are not responsible bidders.”

But after three weeks, the plumbers as well as the **Bloomington Building Trades Council**, of which Local 99 was a member, abandoned the strike. There was “no settlement of any kind” that compelled the local’s members to return to work, as *The Pantagraph* reported on October 30, but instead it was “generally believed” that the action was ended as a result of the 178-member-strong carpenters local union, which was also on strike against the project, leaving the Building Trades Council the previous day.

The following month, the **Master Plumbers’ Association**, which consisted of contractors employing Local 99 members, locked out the young local’s members from jobsites as the two

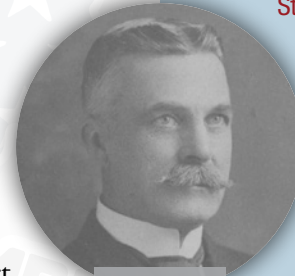
U.A. ORGANIZED OVER 130 YEARS AGO



Patrick J. Quinlan

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

Four days later, the **United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters’ Helpers of the United States and Canada** (U.A.) was born on October 11, 1889. The U.A. selected Brother Quinlan as its president, Brother Henry Collins of New York City as its vice president and Brother O’Brien as its secretary-treasurer.



Richard A. O'Brien

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

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

sides quarreled over the previous journeyman wage scale of 37-1/2 cents per hour for nine-hour workdays being continued in a new work agreement. This time, however, after one week the contractors bowed to the union and on November 16, 1899, agreed to continue to pay the scale in their contract that had expired three weeks earlier, after which the union plumbers returned to jobs that included improvement to

The U.A. Local No. 99 charter issued August 26, 1899, and signed by U.A. General President John J. Kelley, who led the international union from 1897 to 1901, and U.A. General Secretary William J. Spencer, who served in that position from 1897 to 1900.



Local 99 members pose after participating in the Bloomington Labor Day parade in 1915.

the **McLean County Poor Farm** institution for the area's poorest residents located in Bloomington Township.

Before the year was out, in December Local 99 affiliated with the **Bloomington Trades and Labor Assembly**, a local labor council of the American Federation of Labor (now the **Bloomington-Normal Trades and Labor Assembly** of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., with which Local 99 is still associated). While also maintaining its membership in the Building Trades Council, the local's affiliation with those groups helped strengthen its ability to represent and advocate for its members.

STRONG EMPLOYMENT BUT FACING MORE CHALLENGES

Into the new 20th Century, Local 99 was "in a flourishing condition financially and also as regards (to) membership," *The Pantagraph* reported on January 11, 1900. The local had also elected a new slate of officers on January 10 that was headed by **President Frank H. McClure**.

While steady employment continued into the next year, the local was soon engaged in another strike beginning May 7, 1901, after the master plumbers refused the union's request for an increase in wages from \$3 per day to \$3.50 per day for an eight-hour workday and double-

time pay for overtime work. Conversely, the contractors initially only offered to continue the current 37-1/2-cent-per-hour wage scale for an eight-hour day and time-and-a-half for overtime, which the local immediately rejected.

"The men ... claim that plumbers in all surrounding cities are better paid than those working in Bloomington. They say that their demands are only just and that their organization is thorough enough for them to win out," *The Pantagraph* reported that day. As predicted, in June Local 99 won its demands as the contractors succumbed to the walkout.

However, that decade the local and the entire U.A. faced another challenge with the emergence of a second piping-trades union, the International Association of Steam, Hot Water and Power Pipe Fitters and Helpers of America, which chartered its Branch 82 in Bloomington in 1907. A battle for control of the trade would continue between the U.A. and the International Association until the A.F.L. ordered the latter to be merged into the U.A. in 1912, at which time it also revoked the charter of Branch 82, whose members worked for the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company, and ordered it to merge into Local 99.

"Very good conditions" continued to prevail otherwise for the union plumbers and fitters of Bloomington, as U.A. General Organizer Frank



LOCAL 99 LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS

Local 99 elected its first business manager for 1964, before which the local's administrative and business functions were performed by part-time presidents and business agents.

The earliest recorded – and perhaps the first – Local 99 election of officers held on January 10, 1900, elected this slate of leaders:

President Frank H. McClure
Vice-President Enos Lederer
Recording Secretary John Sullivan
Financial Secretary Herman Lartz
Treasurer Herman Schausten

Business Agents

<none>
Aug. 1899 – Jan. 1907

Ignatz A. Lederer
Feb. 1907 – May 1911

<none>
June 1911 – June 1934

Lawrence M. Byerly
July 1934 – July 1942

<none>
Aug. 1942 – Aug. 1949

Don Ayers
Aug. 1949 – July 1951

Ross Marquardt
July 1951 – Feb. 1953

Lawrence M. Byerly
(Appointed)
Feb. 1953 – April 1954

Peter J. Veselack
April 1954 – July 1958

John Siuzdak
July 1958 – Aug. 1959

Ned Zimmerman
Aug. 1959 – Dec. 1964

Business Managers

Walter J. Petry
Jan. 1964 – June 1989

Rick S. Terven
July 1989 – Feb. 2003

Garry D. Kemp
(Appointed)
March 2003 – July 2004

Steven W. Rever
July 2004 – Dec. 2009

Darick Volz
(Appointed)
Jan. 2010 – July 2010

Patrick J. Hardesty
July 2010 – July 2020

Jay Logan
July 2020 – current

LOCAL 99 OFFICERS, 2024

Business Manager Jay Logan
Business Agent Jerry Kelleher
President Brian Kiley
Vice President Timothy Evans
Financial Secretary Chris Evans
Recording Secretary Jack Gibson

J. Kennedy reported on November 21, 1908, after visiting the city. He went on to declare in his report, which appeared in the December 1908 issue of the U.A. *Journal*, "Bloomington has one of the best-conducted locals it has been my pleasure to visit for some time."

Brother Kennedy further explained that Local 99 was one of the first U.A. locals in its section of the country to realize the advantage of a "proper restriction" on the use of apprentices on jobsites. "To this fact, more than any other," he proclaimed, "they are now enjoying the conditions that many other locals could have if they would only deal with this subject the same as this up-to-date local has."

Some five years later, after Local 99 secured a new wage scale of \$5 per day in an agreement that went into effect on August 1, 1913, General Organizer Kennedy announced in that

September's *Journal*, "The able manner in which their new agreement was brought about certainly is a credit to the members of (Local) 99."

Before the end of the local's first full calendar decade, its member plumbers walked off their jobs for the first time in eight years to enforce their request for an increase in their wage scale from \$6 to \$7 for an eight-hour workday in a new contract after the previous two-year agreement had expired on June 1, 1919. The strike was finally settled 22 days later when the master-plumber contractors agreed to an immediate \$6.50 per day scale and a raise to \$7 per day beginning September 1, 1919.



'ROARING' IN THE 1920s, TAKING ON CONTRACTORS

In the aftermath of the U.S.-backed Allies' victory over the Germany-led Central Powers in World War I (in which nine Local 99 members fought in Europe, including **Adolph Dimler**, who was the last to return to the United States in June 1919) with the signing of an armistice on November 11, 1918, construction and employment increased in Local 99's Greater Bloomington jurisdiction. The ensuing "Roaring Twenties," so called because of the decade's historic economic growth and cultural changes, would provide abundant work for the local's members – although strong anti-union governments and businesses consistently attacked organized labor in central Illinois, including Local 99.

As such, in early 1920 Local 99 put itself at the forefront of a clash between the Building Trades Council and the Building Contractors Employers Association, which was attempting to break up the council and its affiliated unions. After the contractors issued an ultimatum to all building-trades locals in the city, the union plumbers and steamfitters of Bloomington voted on April 12, 1920, to "stand by" the council, after which its employers locked out Local 99 from all jobsites beginning April 15 while the employers association shut down all lumber and material yards in the city as well.

But while the employers had declared in newspapers that they would never recognize the council, on May 17 the contractors met with union representatives and came to an agreement to put member building-trades craftsmen back to work. However, the plumbing and heating contractors, after a meeting the following day with a Local 99 committee of members **Frank Koos**, **Walter Pierson** and **Ben Irej**, refused to agree on a new contract settlement.

Ultimately on May 21, the piping contractors met with the local and, after many hours of

argument, the two sides entered into a new, one-year work agreement that provided the local with a wage scale of \$8 per day. With all other trades having already made agreements with their respective employers and the plumbers and fitters set to return to work on May 24, Local 99 was the first of the council's locals to be locked out and the last one to settle its contract.

"The employers association was licked to a standstill, and I don't believe the labor movement of Bloomington will have to go through another fight for years to come," General Organizer Kennedy announced in his report in the June 1920 *Journal* following the council's victory. "Full credit should be given to the Building Trades Council and the president of the building trades, and also to the business agent of the council, who is **Brother Arthur Hall**, and **John J. Van Huss**, both members of Local 99. No two men ever worked harder to bring about a successful termination of this lockout."

Over the ensuing years, Local 99 and its members reaped the benefits of the strong economy, with U.A. General Organizer Richard P. Walsh even declaring in the October 1922 *Journal* after visiting the local, "Bloomington was in the same condition as all the surrounding towns. Everybody was busy and the outlook promising." Three years later, Brother Walsh was able to similarly report in the December 1925 *Journal*, "President Van Huss and secretaries (**John W. Starling** and **Koos** ... reported conditions very good at present in their locality."

SURVIVING HISTORIC STRIFE AND EMERGING STRONGER

The Great Depression, the monumental economic and humanitarian catastrophe that began when the U.S. stock market crashed on October 29, 1929 (history's "Black Tuesday") brought hard times to U.A. members

Local 99 Always A Good Neighbor LENDING HELPING HANDS TO ITS COMMUNITIES

Throughout its history, Local 99 has been proud and extremely grateful to give back to the communities it serves by providing resources and skills to countless benevolent activities, functions and institutions. As such, the local's officers and members have served on various boards of charitable organizations, such as the **United Way**, **Red Cross** and **Boys and Girls Clubs**, that give back to the communities in which they live and work.

Among those endeavors, the local has regularly supported youth sports, including **Junior Legion Baseball** in the Bloomington area dating as far back as the mid-1960s and more-recently **McLean County Pony Baseball**, as well as the **Bloomington Cardinal Youth Football & Cheer** programs.

Local 99 members have also constantly donated their time and expertise to assist in a multitude of charitable construction projects, including **Habitat for Humanity of McLean County**, which provides affordable housing to families in need. Other such efforts have included repairing the **Neville House** in Bloomington for victims of domestic violence in 1990; restoring the **Falcon Lodge** at **Easter Seals Camp Heffernan** at Lake Bloomington in 1994; and installing fixtures in the shower and bath house at **Timber Pointe Outdoor Center** at the **Easter Seals** camp, a new facility for people with disabilities, in 1998.

Also that year, members of Local 99 joined other craftspeople of the Livingston-McLean County Building Trades Council in donating time and funds to rejuvenate and upgrade the dilapidated former **Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children School** for use as the new home of **Baby Fold**, a welfare agency that specializes in educating and treating children with behavioral issues, learning disabilities and emotional problems. The council would receive the **United Way's 2000 Volunteer of the Year** award for its participation in the **Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children School** project for the **Baby Fold**.

Among the many other activities of Local 99 and its membership, since 2007 they have worked the phones for the first hour of the annual **Children's Hospital of Illinois Miracle Network Telethon**. In

doing so, members have been instrumental in successfully raising thousands of dollars during the telethon for the **Children's Hospital of Illinois at OSF (Order of Saint Francis) Medical Center** in Peoria, the only full-service tertiary hospital for children in Central Illinois.



Local 99 members work on construction of a new home on Fuller Court in Bloomington in 2004 for Habitat for Humanity, which would provide the house to a needy family at a reduced cost and with a no-interest mortgage.



Local 99 members work the phones to raise funds for the annual Children's Hospital Miracle Network Telethon in Bloomington in 2014.



Local 99 pipefitters working in the Chicago and Alton Railroad rail-yard shop in Bloomington post in 1930.

across the country, including Local 99, as unemployment among their ranks soared. “Construction all but stopped, and this led to a significant decline in manufacturing,” the official U.A. history recounts. “The economies of both (the United States and Canada) spiraled ever downward, until unemployment reached extremely high numbers and workers began to give up altogether.”

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

By 1931, however, more than 700,000 Illinois workers were unemployed as the result of the Great Depression. Nearly two years later,

close to one-half of the state’s workers were still without work.

During that same period, the Federal Government passed several acts to help improve working conditions. In 1931, Congress passed the Davis-Bacon Act that gave workers prevailing wages when employed on public works projects, and just after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected, Congress passed the Norris-LaGuardia Act, which prohibits federal injunctions in labor disputes and banned yellow-dog contracts.

In 1935, Congress also passed the National Labor Relations Act, which guarantees the rights of employees to organize and bargain collectively. Three years later, Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act, which established a 40-hour workweek and the minimum wage and banned child labor in interstate commerce.

Regardless, Local 99 felt the effects of the nationwide financial collapse for much of the first half of the decade. As a result, in September 1932 the local’s roughly 30 plumbers and fitters voluntarily voted to reduce their wages from \$10 to \$8 per day effective September

1 “in order to meet the needs of the time and to stimulate the building trades,” Local 99 **President Arthur H. Ross** stated in a September 13, *Pantagraph* article.

But as it would throughout the coming decades and up to the local’s 125th charter anniversary in 2024, Bloomington-based **State Farm Insurance Company**, which was founded in 1922 and would become the largest property, casualty and auto insurance provider in the United States, provided work for the local’s membership. In particular, in 1933 and 1934 Local 99 members worked on construction of an additional five stories on the **State Farm Insurance Building** in downtown Bloomington, which served as the company’s corporate headquarters from its construction in 1929 until 1974.

What’s more, President Roosevelt’s federal “New Deal” programs instituted from 1933 through 1938, in large part, to generate construction and civic-improvement jobs throughout the country likewise provided some manhours within the local’s jurisdiction. Among projects built under the New Deal was construction of the U.S. Post Office in Normal in 1935.

As the effects of the depression began to subside in earnest during the latter half of the 1930s, Local 99 was compelled to announce in an advertisement in the March 13 and 20, 1938, issues of the *Pantagraph* the names of firms that had signed a working agreement with the local in order to help “friends of organized labor” who were having “difficulty in ascertaining at which shops they can obtain the high class of work which only organized labor can supply.” The local subsequently listed those signatory contractors: **John P. Shields, Berner & Conroy, F. J. Jacobs, Walter Schnebley, Pat S. Hall, E. E. Sendelbach & Son, Morrison Sons, H. G. Peterson, Frank A. Koos, Joe S. Smith, George S. Gildner, Elmer Herbon, A. B. Taylor and John E. McCarthy.**

Local 99 was also part of the reorganization of the **Bloomington-Normal Building and Construction Trades Council** later that year. By October 1938, 10 union organizations had affiliated with the revitalized association, which had fallen off during the depression, including the plumbers and steamfitters.

When Local 99 hosted the **U.A. Central Illinois District** convention on March 12 the following year in the Bloomington Labor Temple, *The Pantagraph* reported in its March 13 issue that the delegates of the U.A. locals in attendance “said that in their several communities the building prospects are brighter this spring than at any time in the last five years.” Subsequently, Local 99 declared in an advertisement it ran in the January 14, 1940, *Pantagraph*, in which it also thanked Bloomington and vicinity for their “consistent



Local 99 member Frank Bill works on a five-story addition to the State Farm Insurance Building corporate headquarters in downtown Bloomington in June 1934.



patronage” over the previous year, “The demand for union plumbers and steamfitters has been heavier in 1939 than for many years.”

The ad also went on to declare:

“Local No. 99 has served this community for 40 years and has kept abreast with changes and improvements in their craft and has made all the finest installations in this vicinity. ... The president or business agent will gladly furnish the names of firms that employ members of Local No. 99 and will cooperate in every way to assure you that high-class mechanics do your work.”

DISPLAYING UNION ‘STRENGTH’ THROUGHOUT GLOBAL CONFLICT

With the upheaval of the 1930s behind Local 99 and the country and construction employment increasing in Central Illinois, early in the new decade the local was compelled to respond to an article in the April 10, 1940, *Pantagraph* that warned of an impending labor shortage. In turn, Local 99 **Business Agent Lawrence M. Byerly**, noting that the local consisted at the

time of 34 union plumbers and steamfitters, three plumbing apprentices and three steamfitting apprentices, countered in a letter in the April 24 issue of the newspaper, “We have made as many apprentices as are willing to learn and can be taught the trade. ... There are 7,500 (U.A.) plumbers and steamfitters in Illinois ... We have a highly organized employment department and ... we can supply enough specialized mechanics overnight to man any size job in Illinois.”

Also to begin the 1940s, Local 99 gained a new, one-year agreement with the Master Plumbers that went into effect on August 10, 1940, and provided an increased wage rate for journeyman members of \$1.37-1/2 per hour or \$11 per day. The contract also set overtime work at time-and-a-half pay and required double-time pay for work performed on Sundays and the holidays of New Year’s Day, Decoration Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Armistice Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day – while stipulating that no work would be performed by members on **Labor Day**.

The agreement further set standards for the employment of apprentices, restricting

each contractor shop employing at least one journeyman member of the local to utilizing only one apprentice. Additionally, it specified that “at no time shall an apprentice work in a shop unless a journeyman plumber member of Local No. 99 is employed.”

Meanwhile, as an escalating war between Nazi Germany and the Allied countries led by England raged in Europe after the Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, the U.A. locals of Illinois, including Local 99, held a conference in Bloomington on September 8, 1940, to plan for meeting an anticipated increased demand for manpower for national defense construction work. In order to do so, *The Pantagraph* reported on September 10, delegates to the meeting appointed committees to organize district councils “so that all jobs could be manned in harmony” and with “even greater efficiency” (although Central Illinois already had a council of U.A. locals in place for the previous 10 years).

Indeed, the outbreak of **World War II** in Europe and then Asia finally put an end to the Great Depression as Local 99 and the United States moved into the 1940s. Almost immediately, the wartime economy substantially decreased unemployment in central Illinois and the nation.

U.A. locals nationwide – including Local 99 – also grew as a result of the work created by military production demands, which helped swell U.A. membership across North America from 81,000 in 1941 to 210,000 members, many of whom built and expanded shipyards, weapons plants, aircraft factories and other facilities to support the war effort. What’s more, a wartime agreement insured union organizations in defense industries and changes in the tax code created monumental increases in real wages for both men and women.

After the United States officially entered the war following the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on

December 7, 1941, on the homefront the skilled craftsmen of Local 99 helped build the extensive industry that supported U.S. troops and sailors. During the war, local unions also took a no-strike pledge, and among many efforts to support the U.S. military, union construction trades donated time to build a canteen at the Chicago and Alton Railroad depot in Bloomington, which served coffee and donuts to military personnel on passing trains.

“Today, as before, our members and sons of our members are cheerfully leaving well-paid jobs to risk their lives and their futures for the principles of liberty they seek to maintain,” Local 99 Business Agent Byerly and President Ross wrote in an advertisement message in the January 1, 1942, *Pantagraph* touting the local’s support for the war effort. “Many of us too old for service will cheerfully leave our families and comfortable homes to work on defense projects, and if your plumbing and heating are not done with the same promptness and efficiency that you are accustomed to, be patient with the workmen, and if construction work stops because of priorities, take the money you would have used for improvements and buy Defense Bonds and remember that IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.”

UNIVERSITY, AREA EXPANSION PROPEL LOCAL’S OWN GROWTH

The surrender of Nazi Germany on May 7, 1945, and then Japan that September 2 brought World War II to an end, brought with it rapidly escalating construction within the Local 99 jurisdiction of McLean County and portions of Ford, Livingston and Woodford counties – as well as throughout the United States – into and throughout the 1950s. For central Illinois’ union plumbers and fitters, that subsequent rise in employment was spearheaded by work at State Farm and with the expansion of **Illinois State Normal University** in Normal, which would also remain a steady



Local 99 members pose during the local’s picnic on September 16, 1939.



LOCAL 99 MEETING LOCATIONS AND UNION HALLS

Plumbers' Hall

206 North Center Street, 2nd Floor
Aug. 1899 – Nov. 1916

Frisch's Hall

208 West Front Street
Nov. 1916 – Oct. 1922

Bloomington Labor Temple

110-1/2 West Grove Street
Oct. 1922 – Aug. 1925

Co-operative Hall

531-32 North Main Street
Aug. 1925 – March 1933

Trades and Labor Assembly Hall

Miller Building
101 North Center Street
March 1933 – 1952

Knights of Pythias Hall

408 West Jefferson Street
1952 – 1971

Local 99 Business Office

1403 East Lafayette Street
(Meetings at Knights of Pythias Hall)
1964 – Oct. 1965

Local 99 Business Office

403 West Washington Street
(Meetings at Knights of Pythias Hall)
Nov. 1965 - 1971

Local 99 Union Hall

406 South Eldorado Road
April 1971 – current



The first meeting location of Local 99 after it was chartered by the U.A. in 1899, the second floor of 206 North Center Street in Bloomington, was in the third building from the left in this view of the 200 block of North Center from the early 1920s (with the sign "Mat's," which was a clothing shop that moved into the building after the local left it in 1916). (Image courtesy of McLean County Museum of History: Architecture of McLean County; Illinois Digital Archives.)

But first, shortly after peace was made, the local continued to honor its promise and on December 30, 1945, voted against calling a general strike to gain an increased wage scale. By that time, the local numbered more than 50 members, more than half of whom had cast votes against a work stoppage.

Also by that time, Local 99 had formed a **Gasfitters' Auxiliary** of the local in 1941 in order to help protect those workers serving that field of the industry. However, the local merged those gasfitters into its main body in 1947, after which in November 1955 the 42 production and maintenance gasfitter members who were employees of the Northern Illinois Gas Company voted to be instead represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) as their bargaining agent.

But work and employment for Local 99 plumbing and steamfitting members continued to accelerate throughout the 1950s. During the decade, the local's wages correspondingly increased through a series of collectively bargained agreements with its employers.

source of manhours over the following years and decades.

*(Now **Illinois State University** {I.S.U.}, the school's original name was a nod to its roots in educating teachers since its founding in 1857, as "normal" was a traditional term for "teaching." The school would change its name to **Illinois State University at Normal** in 1964 and then to its current name in 1967.)*



By the Fifties, according to I.S.U. literature, "more tax money was invested in higher education. Economic growth resulted in the need for a more-educated workforce. The space and arms race with the U.S.S.R. was raging. The G.I. Bill sent more students to college, and there was awareness of a looming surge in the demand for higher education thanks to the 'Baby Boom.'"

As a result, Illinois State Normal experienced tremendous growth during the decade and throughout the 1960s. Among the major projects on which Local 99 members were employed on the fast-developing campus was construction of its new high-rise dormitories that opened in 1959, the original **Cardinal Court Apartments** in 1959 and **Hamilton and Whitten Hall**.

The local gained a new, two-year work agreement with the "Employers of Members of Local No. 99" that went into effect on March 2, 1953. Among its provisions, the contract

provided a wage scale for the local's journeymen of \$2.75 per hour or \$22 per day.

After considering a strike in early May 1955 as negotiations for the local's next contract stalled when its employing contractors balked at the local's demand for fringe benefits in the form of healthcare insurance, the local's members instead reported for work after the two parties reached agreement on an improved wage scale. But while the new pact called for journeyman pay to be \$3.05 per hour beginning May 1, 1955, and through September 8, 1955; \$3.10 per hour through December 1, 1955; and \$3.12-1/2 per hour through September 8, 1956, it did not contain benefits for the local's members.

Another agreement bargained by the local pushed the wages of its journeymen to \$3.25 per hour from September 8, 1956, through September 8, 1957, after which a new, two-year contract raised the pay to \$3.35 per hour from September 9, 1957, until March 1,



Local 99 charter member Frank A. Koos (left) receives his 66-year U.A. service award during a celebration banquet in September 1965. Brother Koos was 91 years old at the time.



Local 99 officers (left to right, front) Vice-President James Bennington, Brother Harry Shaw, Business Manager Walter Petry and President Ronald Holtz; and (back row) Executive Board members William Protzman, Bob Farris and Bert Slupianek, Financial Secretary Harry Farnsworth and Executive Board member Henry Salch pose during the local's charter celebration banquet in September 1965.

1958, and \$3.50 per hour through March 1, 1959 – while it also set March 1 as the local's "new contract date." That agreement also reset pay for the local's apprentices at 40 percent of the journeyman rate for the first year and an additional 5 percent for each six months of the apprenticeship.

The prosperous 1950s ended for Local 99 with another new, two-year agreement with its employers that initially increased the local's journeyman wages to \$3.70 per hour or \$29.60 per day beginning March 1, 1959. The pact then called for that scale to be raised to \$3.80 per hour or \$30.40 per day on March 1, 1960, and continue in effect until March 1, 1961.

GAINING MORE WORK AND BENEFITS FOR ITS MEMBERS

Residential and especially apartment construction in and around the "Twin City" area of Bloomington and Normal boomed as McLean County's population soared by nearly 25 percent during the 1960s, helping to keep Local 99 members fully employed throughout the decade. Those favorable conditions were further sustained by a steady and at-times significant number of smaller commercial jobs, such as building and renovating restaurants, shops and gas stations.

The ongoing growth of I.S.U. likewise provided abundant work for the union plumbers

and fitters, highlighted by construction of the 8,000-seat **Horton Field House** multi-use athletic facility that opened as the first major building in the school's new West Campus in 1963. The university continued to add residential halls built with Local 99 members as well, including **Haynie, Wilkins and Wright Hall** and **Atkin and Colby Hall** in 1962; **Hewett and Manchester Hall** in 1966; and the 28-story **Watterson Towers**, one of the world's tallest student dorms, that was built between 1968 and 1970.

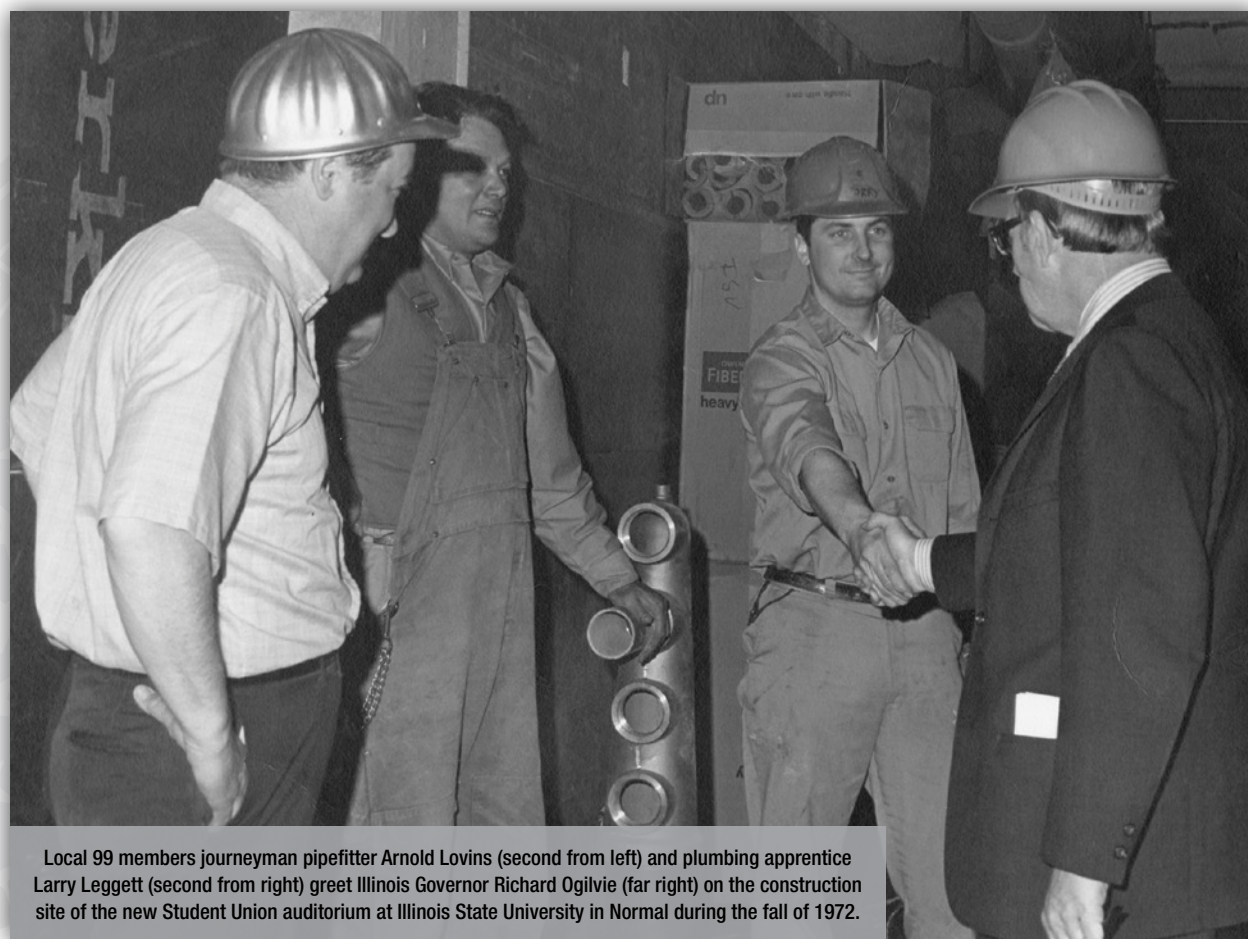
A new, one-year agreement with "Plumbing, Steamfitting, Refrigeration and Piping Contractors" that went into effect on March 1, 1961, boosted the local's journeyman wage scale to \$3.90 per hour and raised the starting pay for apprentices to 45 percent of that rate. The contract also prohibited contractors from employing a second apprentice unless they first had six or more journeymen "working steadily."

Upwards of 50 of the local's plumbers and fitters walked off their jobs, including the remodeling of the historic, 60-year-old **Illinois Hotel** in downtown Bloomington, after that agreement expired on March 1, 1962, and their employers had not signed a new contract, in which the union was seeking a 10-cent pay raise, a 10-cent contribution for a new healthcare fund and an additional \$5 to the contractors' \$10 annual payment for training. After two weeks, the striking members returned to work after the local accepted a new, one-year agreement that provided a 15-cent pay increase to \$4.05 per hour and a \$15 annual training contribution, but no additional fringe benefits.

However, after striking for nearly a month after that contract expired on April 15, 1963, Local 99 finally gained a healthcare-insurance benefit for its members in a three-year agreement that was settled on May 15 but was retroactive to April 15 and included a 17-cent-



Local 99 members Paul Garlock (left) and Norman Hall work on construction of new classroom and fieldhouse additions to Bloomington High School in November 1968.



Local 99 members journeyman pipefitter Arnold Lovins (second from left) and plumbing apprentice Larry Leggett (second from right) greet Illinois Governor Richard Ogilvie (far right) on the construction site of the new Student Union auditorium at Illinois State University in Normal during the fall of 1972.

per-hour-worked contribution by employers into the new **Local 99 Health and Welfare Fund**. Although the contract did not include a wage increase for its first year, it provided a 13-cent-per-hour pay raise beginning April 15, 1964, and another 17-cent-per hour wage hike on April 15, 1965, for the final year, during which time the local's total journeyman wage-and-benefit package totaled \$4.52 per hour.

A subsequent three-year agreement with the "Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning and Piping Contractors of the Territorial Jurisdiction of Local Union No. 99" that went into effect on April 15, 1966, and continued through April 15, 1969, eventually increased the local's journeyman wage scale to \$5 per hour beginning April 15, 1968. It also retained the 17-cent hourly contribution for health and welfare throughout its life.

In another groundbreaking gain for the local, the new contract established a new **Local 99 Pension Plan** retirement benefit for members that went into effect on April 15, 1967, with a contribution of 40 cents per hour worked from employers. What's more, it further created the **Local 99 Joint Apprenticeship Training School Fund** with 10-cent contributions from employing contractors throughout the duration of the agreement as another fringe benefit for the local's members.

During that time, construction jobs on which Local 99 members worked included the new, \$7.6-million **St. Joseph's Hospital** (now OSF St. Joseph Medical Center) on East Washington Street in Bloomington that was dedicated on March 9, 1968, and the \$3.5-million **Adlai E. Stevenson Hall for the Humanities** at I.S.U. that was dedicated in 1969. However, three

plumbers and eight steamfitters walked off the university job on July 31, 1967, according to an article in the next day's *Pantagraph*, for two days before the contractor rehired a fellow union plumber who had been fired for urinating inside the structure.

While the approximately 170 members of Local 99 remained busy into the final year of the decade, they voted on April 9, 1969, to strike one week later if new-contract negotiations with Bloomington-Normal plumbing contractors were not resolved by that time. Although that deadline passed without an agreement, the local, which was requesting an additional 75 cents in wages and benefits for each year of a three-year pact, did not strike as its bargaining committee was continuing to meet with the employers' representatives, who initially offered a total \$1.40-per-hour increase to the local's current \$5.67 hourly wages-and-benefits package before boosting their proposal to an additional \$1.55 over three years.

The Twin City area union plumbers and steamfitters won a total \$1.90-per-hour

wage-and-benefit increase in a new, three-year contract on April 28 that provided an immediate raise to \$5.40 per hour in wages and increases in fringe benefits to 22 cents per hour for health and welfare, 50 cents per hour for pensions and 15 cents per hour for training. Following second-year increases, for the third and final year of the contract beginning April 15, 1971, journeymen were paid \$6.30 per hour in wages plus 32 cents for healthcare, 80 cents for pensions and 15 cents for training, constituting a \$6.42-per-hour compensation package.

REAPING THE ADVANTAGES OF STATE FARM'S SUCCESS

Strong employment conditions for Local 99 persisted within its jurisdiction into and throughout the 1970s, as work on residential and small commercial remained mostly steady. What's more, many of the local's members were also kept occupied updating and expanding medical facilities in the area.



The Local 99 bowling team in 1975 consisted of (left to right) Bill Volz, Bruce Otto, Phil Rever, Joe Hardesty and Ed Komonoskie.



But it was construction of the new, \$30.9-million **State Farm Insurance corporate headquarters** complex on the eastern edge of Bloomington beginning in August 1970 that provided the bulk of the work for union plumbers and fitters in the Local 99 jurisdiction during the first half of the decade – helping the local avoid the most severe effects of a nationwide recession and corresponding inflation. As such, about 135 travelers from other U.A. locals, as well as scores of Local 99 members, were employed on the project before it was completed in mid-1973 to replace the State Farm Insurance Building in downtown Bloomington as the company's home offices.

(State Farm's "extremely rapid growth" during the 1960s led to space problems that had often plagued the firm since 1928, and by 1969 employees at its headquarters were working out of five other buildings in Bloomington, prompting the company to build its new facility, according to State Farm literature. The first home-office employees moved into the complex on July 31, 1972, and other departments moved to the new building over the next 10 months as their sections were completed, before the remaining departments, including executives, moved during June of 1973.)

During construction of the new headquarters, about three-quarters of the 400 building tradesmen on the project stopped working on December 12, 1971, because of a jurisdictional dispute between Local 99 and Operating Engineers Local Union No. 649 of Peoria. While the plumbers and steamfitters continued working as the operating engineers picketed

the job over whether pipe was being put into place, which would be the plumbers' job, or just being stored, which would be an operating engineers' job, according to a December 14 *Pantagraph* article, most other trades did not cross the picket line for two days before a mutual settlement was reached.

As work on the State Farm headquarters neared completion, still more jobs for Local 99 members came with construction of the new **Illinois State University Student Union and Auditorium**. The hub of campus activities and the connected 3,457-seat entertainment hall would be completed in the fall of 1973 after employing the skills of multiple union plumbers and fitters (after which they were renamed in 1981 to the Bone Student Center and Braden Auditorium after former presidents of the university).

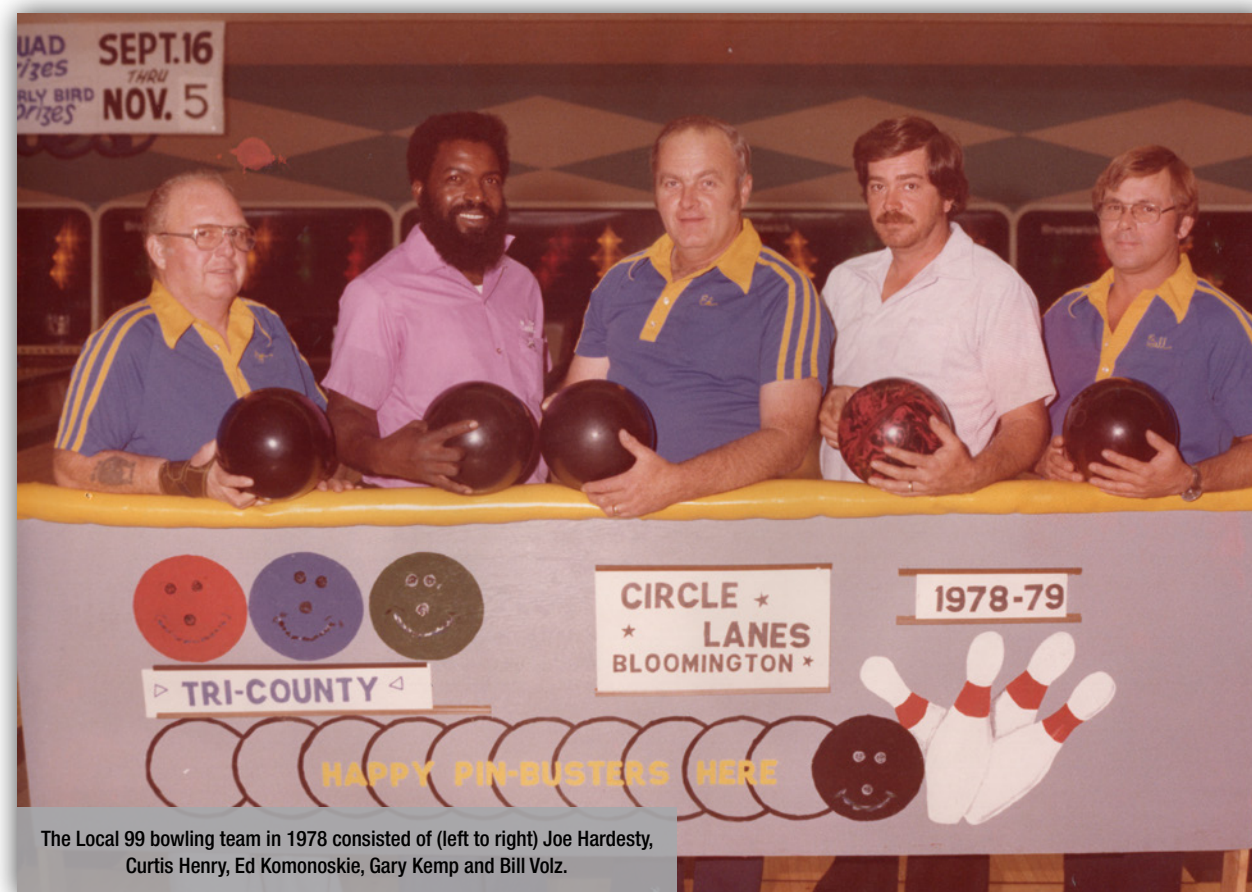
Despite the national economic stagnation that would continue into 1976, Local 99 was also able to sign a favorable new three-year agreement that went into effect on April 15, 1972, with an increased wage scale of \$6.74 per hour and contractor contributions of 32 cents per hour into the local's Health and Welfare Fund, 80 cents per hour into its Pension Fund and 15 cents per hour into its Training Fund. The contract would ultimately raise the local's journeyman wages to \$8.40 per hour beginning November 1, 1974, for its final six months, during which time contractors also paid 35 cents per hour for healthcare, 80 cents for pensions and 15 cents for training and 25 cents per hour into a new **Savings Fund**, totaling a compensation package of \$9.95 per hour.

Notably, the \$1.03-per-hour total wage increase for the third year of the contract, which the local ratified on April 28, 1974, after wage-reopener negotiations for that final year, was subject to termination of the federal government's Wage Control Board, whose oversight of wages and prices was to expire two days later on April 30, 1974. As stipulated,

LOCAL 99 TRADE CLASSIFICATIONS

Local 99 was chartered by the U.A. in 1899 as a **Plumbers and Steamfitters** local.

In 1956, the U.A. reassigned the local's trade classifications to **Plumbers and Pipefitters**.



the board terminated its control on wage negotiations with the end of federal wage and price controls that day, clearing the way for Local 99's new wages and benefits package.

The local also realized another milestone during that time when it built its new **Local 99 Union Hall and Training Center** into which it moved in August 1972. The local dedicated the \$200,000 brick and metal headquarters and school facility at **405 Eldorado Road** on Bloomington's east side – in which the local still resides as it celebrates its 125th charter anniversary in 2024 – during an open house on August 26, 1972.

Negotiating with the new Bloomington Plumbers Association, Local 99 gained another new, three-year contract that it ratified on May 29, 1975, after which the local received an increase of 50 cents in wages to \$8.90 per hour and an additional 10 cents per hour in

fringe benefits, retroactive back to May 1 (the previous contract having expired on April 30). While most of the local's approximately 200 members continued to work during negotiations with contractors, many were unable to access jobsites because of strikes by other construction-industry tradesmen.

Regardless, the new pact would increase the local's total wage-and-benefits package to \$11.90 per hour effective November 1, 1976, after which a wage-reopener would determine pay for the final year beginning May 1, 1977. Those negotiations in April 1977 resulted in immediate increases of \$1 to wages, raising that total to \$11.20 per hour, and 5 cents for healthcare, bringing that total to 50 cents per hour, effective May 1; and then another 50 cents to wages and 15 cents to healthcare beginning November 1, 1977, boosting the local's total package to \$13.60 per hour for the final six months of the contract.



Local 99 Workforce Training

EDUCATING MEMBERS TO BE THE BEST-SKILLED PIPING WORKFORCE

To help fulfill its mission to “train and provide the skilled tradesmen to continue excellence in the piping industry for today and the future,” Local 99 has instituted a system of apprenticeship since being chartered in 1899 to prepare new members to work as productive journeyman plumbers and pipefitters. Through apprenticeships, potential journeymen learn the trade by working side-by-side with veteran plumbers and pipefitters while being paid escalating percentages of journeyman wages based on their time in the program as they gain and develop their skills.

The local’s training developed over the years into a structured and standardized five-year apprenticeship program during the 1950s that is administered by a **Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** (J.A.T.C.) consisting of an equal number of union and contractor representatives. As the apprenticeship program continued to progress to meet the needs of the industry,

After an in-house survey conducted in May 1997 informed Local 99 that its **heating-and-cooling training program** needed to be upgraded to better serve customers, the local joined with nine other Central Illinois U.A. locals to secure \$100,000 worth of teaching equipment from the state union office. After being trained to run the teaching components of the new machines, that fall Local 99 members and instructors **Jack Gibson** and **Calvin Ross** would teach 96 apprentices about heating and cooling systems using the equipment.

The survey showed that 70 percent of the local’s heating-and-cooling work involved repairing existing systems. Students in the apprenticeship program subsequently would use the five state-of-the-art teaching units to learn how to repair real heating-and-cooling equipment, which simulated the systems found in buildings ranging in size from the State Farm Insurance corporate headquarters to single-family homes.

it has also been registered with and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Into the 1960s, the local’s employers were contributing \$10 each per year to help fund the training program. But by 1966, Local 99 had negotiated into its collective bargaining agreement with its contractors a fringe benefit of 10 cents per hour worked by each of its members for the **Local 99 Joint Apprenticeship and Training School Fund**.

The facilities in which the local and its J.A.T.C. have provided classrooms and labs for their students likewise have improved since the 1950s and into the 1960s, during which school was held in the basement of the Bakers’ Union Hall. In the early 1960s, training was moved into the boiler room of the old Bloomington High School, after which the local built a new union hall and **Local 99 Training Center** in 1971 – which it expanded and upgraded in 2000 to double the size of its training space.

Local 99 and its J.A.T.C. also provide **upgrade training** for the local’s journeyman plumbers, pipefitters and welders so they remain up-to-date and current on new processes, applications and technologies in the ever-advancing piping industry.



During that time, a new and abundant source of employment became available to Local 99 members with the start of construction on the new **Clinton Power Station** nuclear power plant outside the local’s jurisdiction near Clinton, Illinois, in 1975. Throughout the 12-year, \$4.25-billion project to erect the 1,062-megawatt, single-reactor facility (and continuing afterwards for maintenance, fuel change-outs and upgrades), scores of traveling Local 99 members contributed manhours to the power station while working through **U.A. Local No. 137**, which had jurisdiction over that area.

Yet another three-year agreement with its employing contractors that went into effect on May 1, 1978, moved Local 99 base pay and total compensation “well ahead” of those of other building trades unions in and around Bloomington, according to a May 7, 1978, *Pantagraph* article. For the first year, the contract increased base wages to \$12.55 per hour and

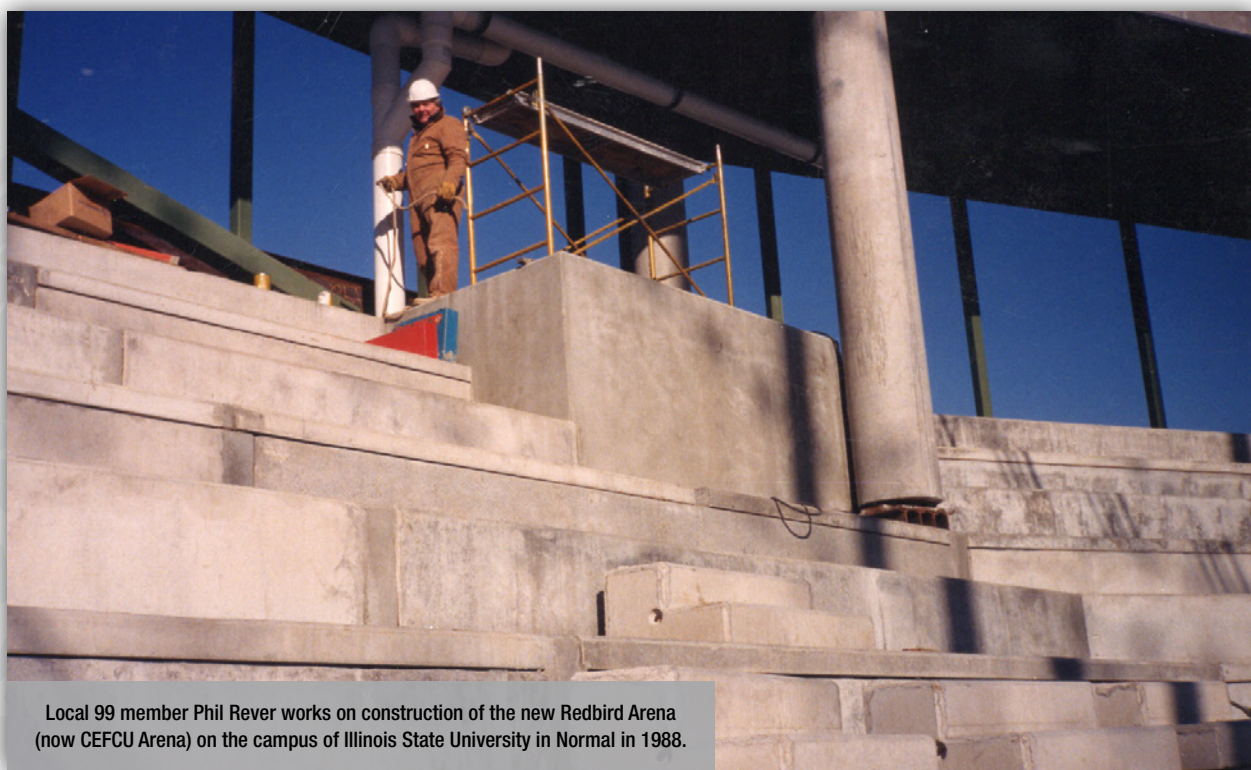
hourly contributions to \$1.15 for the Pension Fund, 70 cents for the Health and Welfare Fund and 15 cents for the Training Fund, providing a total package of \$14.55 per hour.

The contract then stipulated a wage increase to \$13.30 per hour and a total package of \$15.40 per hour beginning May 1, 1979. Pay and benefits then would go to \$16.25 per hour on May 1, 1980, with wages of \$14.05 and benefits of \$2.20 an hour, for the final year ending April 30, 1981.

Among the work on which Local 99 members were employed during that time was construction of a new, \$1-million municipal sewer system in the **Town of Gridley**, Illinois, that began in September 1978 and would be completed early the following year. The local’s plumbers working on the job briefly picketed the site beginning December 14 to protest a supervisor “performing the duties of a plumber,” as the next day’s *Pantagraph* reported, when he



Local 99 members (center and right) Steve Kellerher and Jim Dalton work on a job at the State Farm Insurance headquarters campus in Bloomington in 1984 with assistance from an operating engineer.



Local 99 member Phil Rever works on construction of the new Redbird Arena (now CEFCU Arena) on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal in 1988.

installed a part connecting the existing water main to the new line that would run to a lagoon area, during which about 35 construction-trades workers honored the picket.

PULLED FROM THE DOLDRUMS By MITSUBISHI MOTORS PLANT

A harsh national economic recession at the beginning of the 1980s, widely considered to have been the most severe recession since World War II at the time, and a growing anti-union political climate crippled Local 99 employment during the first half of the decade. In that atmosphere, by the mid-1980s the Illinois labor industry subsequently struggled as the economy turned, forcing corporations to downsize and plants to close as thousands of jobs in steel, farm implementation and heavy manufacturing industries disappeared, creating significant challenges for workers and unions.

But with I.S.U. still providing work in the midst of that trying period, the 200-member

Local 99 was able to procure a new, three-year agreement with the Bloomington-Normal Plumbing & Heating Contractors Association, which the local ratified on May 1, 1981. The contract called for an immediate 10.3 percent wage increase, equaling \$1.45 per hour, to \$16.16 per hour in base wages and \$18.41 for the overall package including fringe benefits.

Increases of 9 percent for the second year and 8.5 percent for the third pushed the local's wage scale to \$19.76 for the final year beginning May 1, 1983. The agreement also provided hourly contributions for that third year of \$1.35 for the Pension Fund, 90 cents for the Health and Welfare Fund, 15 cents for the Training Fund and 5 cents for an **Industrial Fund** used to promote the union piping industry, giving the union plumbers and pipefitters of McLean County and parts of Woodford and Livingston counties a total compensation package through April 30, 1994, of \$22.21 per hour.

However, the effects of the persisting recession compelled Local 99 and its

contractors to prolong the final terms of that agreement through October 1, 1984. A new working contract that went into effect that day then reduced the local's base journeyman wage to \$19 per hour and, although it provided increases to pension- and healthcare-benefit funds while holding training and promotion contributions steady, totaled a reduced package of \$22.20 per hour through April 30, 1985.

The local's hourly scale remained at \$19 for the remainder of the agreement, which expired April 30, 1986. Moderate raises to the benefit funds set the local's total journeyman construction wage-and-benefits package for the final year at \$22.60 per hour – a modest increase of only \$4.19 per hour over the previous five years.

The start of construction on a new, \$680-million automobile-assembly plant in Normal for **Diamond-Star Motors Corporation** (now **Mitsubishi Motors North America**) in the spring of 1986 – the largest project ever undertaken in McLean County – brought an end to the local's distressed employment conditions. To ensure the factory, which would manufacture several models of Mitsubishi cars, would be built by union labor, the **Livingston and McLean County Building and Construction Trades Council** entered into a construction contract on October 29, 1985, with the general contractor, Kajima International Inc., with the signing taking place in the Local 99 Union Hall.



Local 99 member Dawn Iler, shown here working during her apprenticeship in 1992, was the first female to complete the local's training program, which she began in 1989, and successfully work as a union plumber through the local. Sister Iler passed away on February 8, 2011, at age 48, after bravely fighting cancer and organizing an annual golf outing and euchre tournament to raise funds for the Community Cancer Center.



Signed by 16 local trade unions that included the plumbers and pipefitters, the agreement allowed union members in McLean County for the first time ever to work under a construction agreement that guaranteed all phases of construction would be done with union labor. In return, the contract stipulated that the project would be completed on time and within budget; contained a no-strike, no lock-out clause to guarantee there would be no disruptions in construction of the plant; and required craftsmen to work on shifts of 10 hours a day, four days on and four days off, or “rolling 4-10s.”

Local 99 Business Manager Walter Petry, who was also president of the trades council at the time, explained in an article in the October 30, 1985, *Pantagraph*, that because of high unemployment in the building trades, “the traditional eight-hour work day was sacrificed in order to put more people to work.” The pact with Diamond-Star Motors also recognized existing union contracts and did not affect negotiated wages in individual union contracts.

By the time the factory was completed in November 1988, its construction had employed more than 800 union construction workers, including scores of union plumbers and fitters. As such, Local 99 placed a message of thanks in the November 10, 1988, *Pantagraph* that stated:

“We want to express our appreciation to Diamond-Star Motors for the employment of so many of our members on the construction of their plant. We wish you every success in your endeavor. Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 99.”



Local 99 members participate in the 1991 Bloomington Labor Day parade.



TAKING ON THE NON-UNION SECTOR AND NEW LEADERSHIP

The second half of the 1980s began for Local 99 with a new, three-year working contract with its employing construction contractors that began May 1, 1986, after the previous agreement expired and set an initial new wage at \$19.55 per hour and total pay and benefits at \$23.40 per hour through the first year ending April 30, 1987, as well as time-and-a-half pay for overtime work. Raises for the second and third years brought the base rate for that final year to \$20.75 per hour on May 1, 1988, and increased hourly contributions for the Pension Fund to \$2.20 per hour and the Health and Welfare Fund to \$1.80 while retaining the Training Fund at 20 cents and the Industrial Fund at 5 cents for a total final package of \$25 per hour.

The new contract also set a reduced **residential pay rate** for work on “all single-family dwellings, service work and apartments two stories above ground” at 80 percent of the regular “building trades” wage in the agreement. With that lower wage scale, the local was attempting to regain manhours in the residential field, which it had lost to non-union workers over the years.

Among the other few significant projects on which the local’s members were employed during that time, in addition to the Mitsubishi plant, was construction of **Redbird Arena** (now CEFCU Arena after Citizens Equity First Credit Union purchased its naming rights in November 2022) on the campus of I.S.U. beginning in May 1986. The \$17.4-million, 10,200-seat multi-purpose arena would be opened in January 1989 as the home of the school’s basketball and volleyball teams and would go on to host a range of events.

But the non-union construction industry and out-of-state contractors were continuing to make inroads into the Local 99 jurisdiction as the decade progressed, cutting deeply into the local’s employment. In response, in addition to the lowered residential pay scale the local stepped-up its picketing activity and set picket lines at multiple non-union construction site in its jurisdiction, including the renovation of the former Roland’s of Bloomington and Klemm’s Department Store buildings in downtown Bloomington in August 1988 and the 110-suite Blair House retirement complex at Blair Drive and College Avenue in Normal in October of that year.

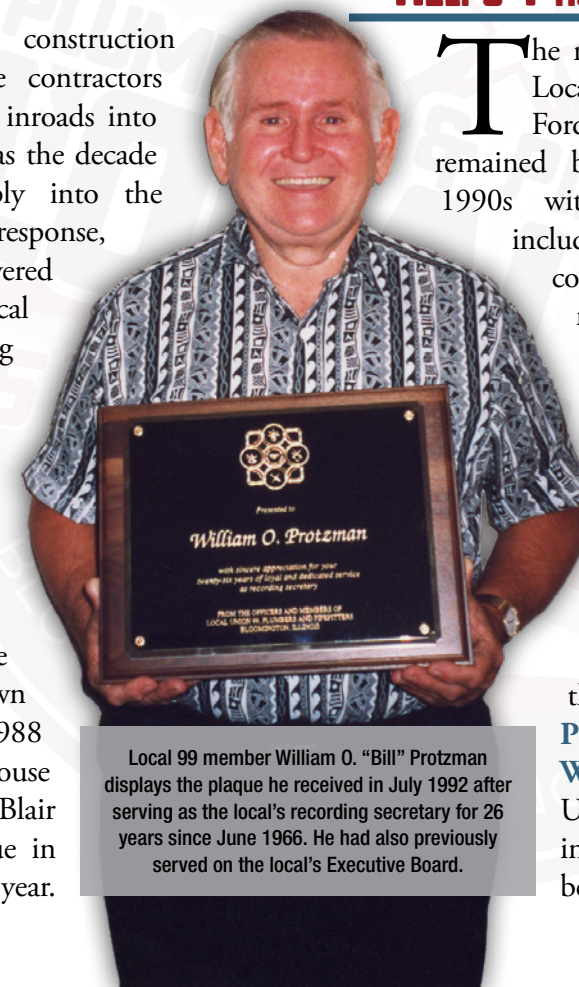


Regardless, Local 99 gained another new, three-year work agreement that went into effect on May 1, 1989, and would remain in force through April 30, 1992. By that time, the local’s journeyman wage-and-benefits package was increased to a total of \$26.95 per hour for the final year of the contract, which included a base pay rate of \$22.65 per hour, while the 80-percent residential rate remained in effect as well.

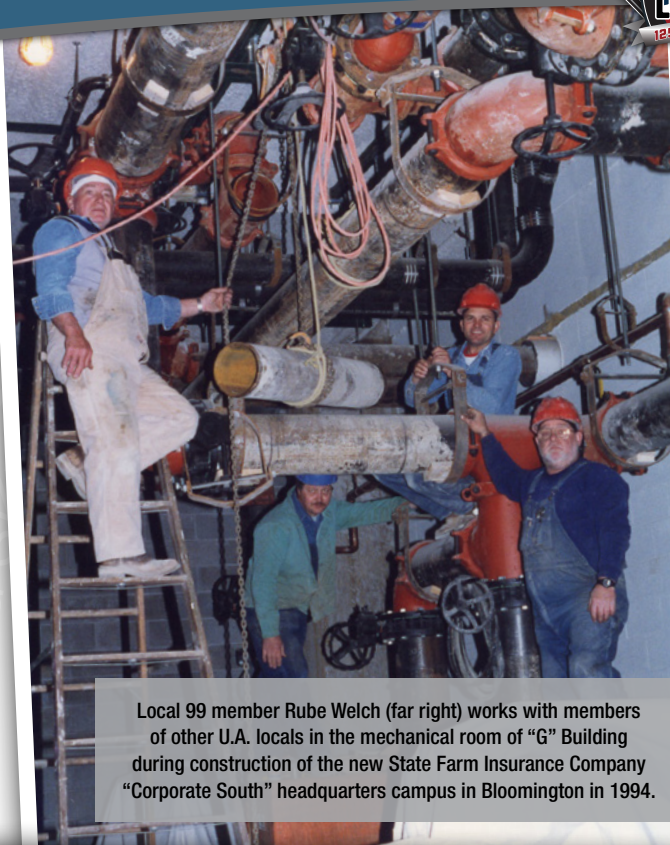
The local then also underwent a significant changing of the guard in 1989 when Business Manager Petry retired in June 1989 after serving for more than 25 years in the position. In his place, the local’s membership elected **Rick S. Terven** as its next business manager, an office he would hold for the ensuing 14-1/2 years through February 2003.

ANOTHER STATE FARM JOB HELPS PROPEL THE LOCAL

The more than 210 members of Local 99 throughout McLean, Ford, and Woodford counties remained busy as they entered the 1990s with mounting work that included a large amount of school construction, expansions and renovations throughout the local’s jurisdiction. What’s more, over the decade the local would also make great strides under the leadership of Business Manager Terven in establishing a new **401(k)** investment plan for members, joining the **East-Central Illinois Pipe Trades Health and Welfare Fund** with six other U.A. locals as its healthcare-insurance benefit and beginning **Committee On**



Local 99 member William O. “Bill” Protzman displays the plaque he received in July 1992 after serving as the local’s recording secretary for 26 years since June 1966. He had also previously served on the local’s Executive Board.

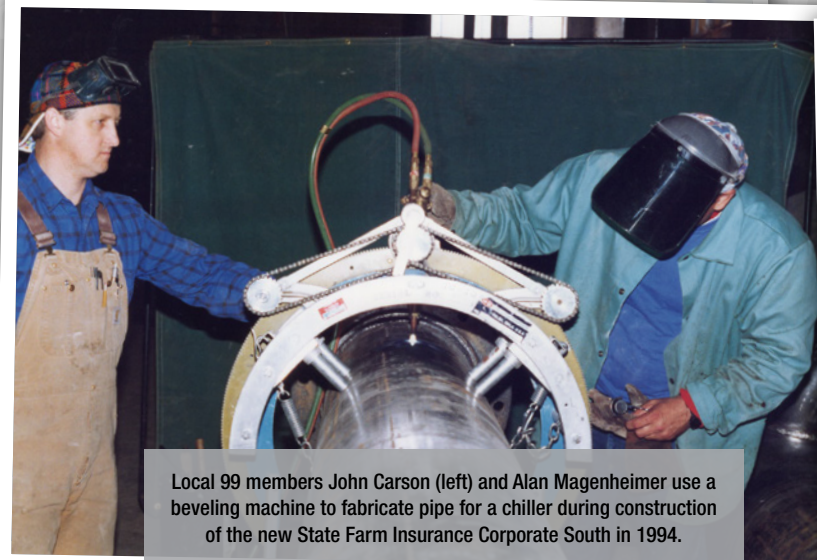


Local 99 member Rube Welch (far right) works with members of other U.A. locals in the mechanical room of "G" Building during construction of the new State Farm Insurance Company "Corporate South" headquarters campus in Bloomington in 1994.

Political Education (COPE) and its **Political Action Committee** programs to foster greater political participation by its members.

"Local 99 paid a lot more money per hour for much less benefits for its previous health and welfare fund, so joining the East-Central Illinois Pipe Trades Health and Welfare Fund as part of that coalition actually was a win-win for the members immediately, as the benefits were much greater and the cost much less," a since-retired Brother Terven recalled in August 2024. "By joining the E.C.I.P.T. fund, we had six local unions working together, sharing with each other to strengthen the fund and sharing the workload together."

"We were able to put the extra money we used to pay to our fund back on the check to our members, and it allowed us to start the



Local 99 members John Carson (left) and Alan Magenheimer use a beveling machine to fabricate pipe for a chiller during construction of the new State Farm Insurance Corporate South in 1994.



(Left to right) Local 99 member Steve Kelleher, President Garry Kemp, Business Manager Rick Terven, U.A. International Representative Thomas Patchell and Business Agent Ray Merrill stand on top of "G" Building during construction of the new State Farm Insurance Corporate South in 1994.



U.A. members from Local 99 and other locals working on construction of the new State Farm Insurance Corporate South in 1994.



voluntary 401(k)," he continued. "The new 401(k) also gave another choice for retirement to go along with the Defined Benefit Plan (pension) that guaranteed lifetime benefits and has consistently grown over the years."

But first, the local signed a new, three-year contract with the Bloomington-Normal Plumbing & Heating Contractors Association that went into effect on May 1, 1992, with a \$23.40-per-hour base journeyman wage as part of a \$27.97-per-hour total compensation package. During the third year of the agreement, that local's journeymen earned \$24.40 in wages and a total of \$29.97 per hour including fringe benefits through April 30, 1995.

With Local 99 and all Bloomington-area building trades having by the 1990s developed a strong partnership with State Farm Insurance over the years, construction of the company's new, nine-building **State Farm Corporate South** complex was built beginning in 1992 with a 100-percent union project agreement. Fifteen building-trades locals signed the work agreement with George Hyman Construction Company for the first phase of the company's office and computer operations campus, construction of which employed as many as 180 U.A. members from Bloomington and more than 20 other locals at its peak, on June 9, 1992, at the Local 99 Union Hall.

Completed in two phases, the massive, approximately \$250-million project included six office buildings, two power plants and a maintenance facility occupying over 2 million square feet on 217 acres. At the time, it was the largest self-funded commercial project being built in the United States.

"State Farm made it clear that they wanted the job to be of the highest quality with no cutting corners," Business Manager Terven explained in the August 1994 U.A. *Journal*, "and for this reason, they turned to the building trades unions, including the United Association, to ensure excellence and craftsmanship."



Local 99 members, including one dressed as a "scab" non-union rat, picket a dentist's business in Lexington, Illinois, in December 1996 for employing non-union labor to build a new office.

Phase 1 of the project was finished at the end of 1994 and Phase 2 was completed in mid-1995. Mechanical work on the complex was split up among four main contractors for the water main, storm and sanitary sewers; the first phase of the project including the piping for the two power plants, all the site heating pipe, three of the office buildings and the maintenance building; for the plumbing on the second phase; and for heating on the second phase.

U.A. members tied together piping from the two power plants, where most of them worked throughout the job's three-year span, in the main building to carry hot and cold water. Because of State Farm's desire for the highest quality in all aspects of construction, the U.A. were well-prepared to work with lead solder – which required a higher level of skill that the union welders could provide.

Shortly after the building trades inked the State Farm project agreement, on November 24, 1992, Local 99 and 10 other local unions also signed a contract with construction firms in McLean and Livingston counties



The Local 99 float commemorating the local's 100th charter anniversary is displayed in the 1999 Bloomington Labor Day parade.

that formed the **McLean and Livingston County Construction Council** to promote construction by union contractors. Initial goals of the effort, reported in the next day's *Pantagraph*, were to enhance the image of union construction in the two counties, improve trust and understanding among contractors and workers, establish the council as the local construction industry's economic development arm and organize the council as a forum to discuss construction industry labor-management issues.

Out in the field, there was a growing list of projects that provided manhours for the Local 99 membership aside from State Farm leading up to the second half of the 1990s. Among those was construction of the new, \$23.6-million **Normal Community West High School** that was completed in the fall of 1995.

DOWN, UP END TO DECADE, CENTURY AND A MILLENNIUM

Work slowed for the 320-member Local 99 into the second half of the 1990s after State Farm Corporate South was completed, leaving many members unemployed or traveling to other U.A. locals

for jobs in 1996 and 1997 – a stark contrast to years past when other U.A. members were traveling to the Local 99 jurisdiction because of its abundance of work. Among projects that did employ the local's members “at home” during those years was construction of the \$6-million **Prairie Central Junior High School** in Forrest, Illinois.

As sluggish construction persisted into January 1997, at one point during that month 24 members were on the local's “out-of-work list.” Before the end of the year, although some minor jobs were providing work at State Farm, the Pontiac Prison, the Caterpillar Plant and Mitsubishi Motors, among other places, the local had several travelers in Peoria, Rock Island and Naperville.

But a significant amount of employment was provided throughout much of the balance of the 1990s by major jobs that included replacement of the plumbing in the 2,200-student Watterson Towers dormitory at I.S.U. during the summer of 1998. Members were further gainfully employed at numerous other locations such as the Bridgestone and Mitsubishi plants and **Heartland Community College** in Normal.



The local also ended the decade, the 20th century and the “second” millennium with a new, three-year work agreement with its employing contractors that began May 1, 1998, after the previous contract ended with a \$27.45-per-hour wage rate and a \$34.67-per-hour total package for the first year. Subsequent annual increases would set the base pay at \$29.30 per hour and hourly contributions to the Pension Fund at \$3.70, the Health and Welfare Fund at \$3.05, the Training Fund at 75 cents, the Industrial Fund at 35 cents and the **U.A. National Apprenticeship Fund** at 5 cents for a total package by the end of the agreement on April 30, 2001, of \$37.22 per hour.

As employment conditions continued to flourish, construction of a new, \$7.36-million elementary school for the **McLean County Unit District No. 5** school district put several Local 99 members to work in 1998 and 1999. Other sizable projects during that time included upgrades at State Farm that employed upwards of 40 union plumbers and fitters.

Before the 1990s were complete, Local 99 marked the 100th year since being chartered by the U.A. on August 26, 1899. The local

celebrated the milestone anniversary with a dinner/dance on November 6, 1999, in the I.S.U. Bone Student Center Ballroom.

Business Manager Terven summarized the latter part of the decade when he announced during the local's December 15, 1999, general membership meeting, as he often had over the previous few years, “Work in our local is good.”

FAVORABLE CONDITIONS GET LOCAL THROUGH RECESSION

With construction and maintenance jobs within its jurisdiction thriving and, consequently, its membership increasing during the early years of the new “Y2K” (Year 2000) millennium, in 2000 Local 99 completed an expansion and modernization of its Union Hall and Training Center that nearly doubled the size of the school facility. The dramatic rise in work opportunities and membership dictated the need for the additional training space to prepare the local's workforce to meet the demands of the current employment climate and anticipated future conditions.



Bloomington Mayor Judy Markowitz (holding ribbon, left) and other local elected officials join Local 99 officers and members, including Business Manager Rick Terven (holding scissors), and Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association officials for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the local's newly renovated Union Hall and Training Center in 2000.



Newly elected Local 99 officers in June 2007 were (left to right, front row) Tom Kennedy, Todd Rever, Steve Rever, Mark Henry, Jerry Kelleher, Darick Volz and Chad Brucker; and (back row) Scott Holmes, Mark Moss, Marty Schuler, Jack Gibson, David White, Mark Blanchard, John Protzman, Tim Evans, Mike Krutke and Charles Gillenwater.

The local was also continuing to meet the growing non-union threat in Central Illinois head-on. For instance, on a cold Saturday morning in March 2000 its members were among more than 100 unionized construction workers who protested the use of non-union labor erecting an apartment building across the street from I.S.U.'s Hancock Stadium in Normal, holding signs, as the March 19 *Pantagraph* described, "decrying the use of non-union labor."

But a renewed focus on **organizing** jobs, contractors and new members into the union helped bolster employment conditions for the local. Expansion, upgrade and maintenance projects at multiple sites throughout McLean County, including the Mitsubishi Motors auto factory, schools, I.S.U. and the **Bridgestone/Firestone** plant in Bloomington, likewise contributed to the local's robust work opportunities.

What's more, the local's 42 maintenance employees at Bridgestone/Firestone ratified a new, four-year contract with the company in November 2000 that included a 3.5-percent pay increase over the life of the agreement, free medical coverage for the employees and their families and increases in their 401(k) retirement

packages, while also granting concessions requested by the company. "This was a very positive agreement for both (workers and the company)," Business Manager Terven declared in the November 11, 2000, *Pantagraph*. "This contract is good for labor and management."

With strong employment conditions persisting, Local 99 did not directly feel the effects of the major recession that struck the United States throughout 2001. To the contrary, despite the slumping economy the local's membership enjoyed steady employment within its jurisdiction throughout the early years of the decade while as many as 60 travelers from other U.A. locals were working through Local 99 at one point in June 2001 to staff all the jobs in its area.

Those projects included the **Heartland Ridge** subdivision in Normal, where, according to a July 6, 2001, *Pantagraph* article, the number of building permits issued in June 2001 set a record. In Bloomington, U.A. plumbers and fitters helped build a \$24.2-million, 84,211-square foot critical-care facility addition to St. Joseph Medical Center in 2002 and 2003.

During that time, the local also secured a new, three-year working contract that increased the local's base journeyman pay to \$29.90 per

hour and its overall wage-and-benefits package to \$38.12 per hour for the first year beginning May 1, 2000. For the third year beginning May 1, 2003, and continuing through April 30, 2004, annual raises lifted the journeyman wage to \$32.40 per hour and hourly employer contributions for pensions to \$4.90, healthcare to \$3.5, training to 95 cents, industry promotions to 35 cents, national training to 20 cents and a **Residential Insurance Fund** to 2 cents for a total package of \$42.22 per hour.

But as the local and the entire Bloomington-Normal community waited on a planned expansion to the Mitsubishi plant that would never come and most projects large and small within the Local 99 jurisdiction were completed and few others were started, in 2003 employment for the local's membership diminished significantly. In a report that would be practically echoed to the local's membership during its monthly general meetings throughout the remainder of the 2000s, new **Business Manager Garry D. Kemp** (who was appointed to the position after Business Manager Terven resigned in February 2003 to become executive director of the Illinois Pipe Trades Advancement and Promotion Program) told the June 25, 2003, meeting attendees, "Work is slow. If you get a chance to travel (to other locals for employment), you should consider it."

Another three-year agreement with employing contractors that went into effect May 1, 2004, set the local's wage scales at \$31.70 per hour and total compensation package at \$43.25 per hour through April 30, 2007. The pact ultimately provided a total increase to wages and benefits of \$2.10 per hour for its third and final year that boosted its package to \$48.50 per hour from May 1, 2006, through April 30, 2007.

UNEMPLOYMENT STRUGGLE BEFORE POWER PLANT RELIEF

With 50 Local 99 members on the out-of-work list at one point in February 2005 and several others traveling outside of their jurisdiction for employment with U.A. locals throughout Illinois in cities such as Rockford, Joliet, Chicago, Springfield and Murphysboro, the Bloomington local experienced only occasional reprieves from the sagging construction industry in its jurisdiction. As such, for much of the second half of the decade, the business manager's reports to the local's general membership meetings continued to include the statement, "Work is slow."



Local 99 members and their families march in Bloomington's 2008 Labor Day parade.





After entering the Local 99 Plumbers and Pipefitters Joint Apprenticeship & Training program in 1977 and graduating in 1982, member **Rick S. Terven** served as the local's business manager from July 1989 until December 2001. He also served as an instructor in the local's training program for many years and president of the Livingston McLean Building & Construction Trades Council from 1996 until January 2009.

Brother Terven was elected in October 2002 as executive director to oversee the Illinois Pipe Trades Advancement and Promotion Program, which directed all of the organizing, marketing and political activities for the Illinois Pipe Trades covering the state of Illinois, part of Indiana and part of Iowa.

On June 30, 2008, U.A. General President William P. Hite selected Brother Terven to work as a special representative for the international union's Legislative and Political Affairs Department. He was then appointed on January 1, 2009, as legislative and political affairs director for the U.A.

In August 2011, Brother Terven was elected an international representative for the U.A. during its national convention. General President Hite then appointed him as executive vice president for the U.A. on January 1, 2012, a position in which he served until retiring on December 31, 2016.



Those brief respites from poor employment were primarily supplied by school work within the public-school systems of Bloomington-Normal, I.S.U. and Heartland Community College. What's more, into 2007 "a higher number of hotel projects than normal" were under construction in the Twin Cities, according to an article in that year's March 10 *Pantagraph*, which provided work for Local 99 members on jobs that included the new **Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Conference Center**, in Bloomington.

Local 99 also began to focus more on obtaining residential work during the mid-2000s, as a

large percentage of the construction in Bloomington and Normal at the time was in the residential industry. **Business Manager Steve Rever** even declared during the local's March 23, 2005, general meeting, "We need to gain the residential market back."

Subsequently, in April 2006 the local embarked on an advertising campaign that featured a **five-year residential warranty** offer for residential work done by a Local 99 contractor. The program featured a plan "to protect your new home with a five-year mechanical warranty on plumbing, piping, heating and cooling workmanship" on original installations and all subsequent plumbing work performed by union craftspeople.

As work for the local's membership had slightly improved, bolstered at one point by a maintenance shut down in late 2006 at the **Nestle** candy plant in Bloomington (which would be sold in 2018 to Italy-based candy-company **Ferrero**), Local 99 and its contractors agreed on another new, three-year contract that went into effect on May 1, 2007, and provided total hourly wage and benefit increases of \$1.50 the first year and \$1.35 the second and third years. With those raises, the local's total pay-and-benefits package for the final year of the agreement from May 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010, was \$52.70 per hour.

But construction in the local's jurisdiction quickly diminished soon after that agreement was signed and just as the year-long national "Great Recession" began in 2008. The lack of work quickly took its toll on Local 99 to the point at which Business Manager Rever had to announce during its general meeting on July 23, 2008, that the local's "finances are low and adjustments are being made."

While the poor employment conditions continued throughout the final years of the 2000s, many Local 99 pipefitters were

among the 800-some U.A. journeymen and apprentices who, beginning in the fall of 2007, helped build the 1,600-megawatt **Prairie State Energy Campus** at Lively Grove Township near Marissa, Illinois, within the jurisdiction of U.A. **Local No. 101**.

One of the largest and most technically advanced coal-fired power plants in the country, the \$4-billion electric-generating station and coal mine was completed in November 2012 after union pipefitters installed approximately 400,000 linear feet of pipe above ground and 140,000 linear feet underground.

HARSH CONDITIONS REMAIN AS NEW PROSPECT EMERGES

By one point in April 2010, 51 Local 99 members were out of work as stagnant construction remained in the local's jurisdiction. The high unemployment would be the standard for the local throughout the decade as its out-of-work list reached 70 members in February 2012.

The local was still able to gain a nearly three-year work agreement from contractors that began on May 18, 2010, after negotiations stalled and resumed past the termination date of the previous contract. The new settlement set the local's total wage-and-benefits package at \$54.45 per hour through April 30, 2011, then increased it to \$56.20 per hour for the following year and to \$57.95 per hour for the final year from May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013.

A bump in construction in the area as the early 2010s progressed created a brief spike in manhours for the local while many traveling members were also working at the **Prairie State Energy Campus**. Those "at-home" jobs included construction of the new, \$16-million **Livingston County Law and Justice Center** in Pontiac that would house that city's court-related offices such as judges, the state's attorney,

the public defender and the circuit clerk when it opened in November 2011; and upgrades and maintenance for the 100-year-old **Pontiac Correctional Center**, the second-largest employer in Livingston County, including updating its heating system.

Work in the jurisdiction slowed considerably again, however, when those and other projects were completed, and employment would remain stagnant for much of the remainder of the first half of the 2010s, with smaller jobs primarily allowing some members to work within their own jurisdiction. As a result, at one point in November 2014 the local had 62 members on its out-of-work list while another 39 members were traveling for employment, although some of its plumbers and fitters in 2013 and 2014 helped build a \$9.7-million, 35,000-square-foot addition to the **Community Cancer Center** in Normal, the only cancer treatment center in Bloomington-Normal area.

In a sign of the times, Local 99 and its employing contractors signed a contract for May 1, 2013, that covered only the following two years. It did, however, provide raises in six-month increments for the local's journeyman plumbers and pipefitters beginning at \$39 per hour in base wages and \$58.60 per hour in total package for the first half year, after which the wage-and-benefits package was ultimately increased to \$60.65 per hour for the pact's final six months ending April 30, 2015.

The local then agreed to a first-ever five-year contract that went into effect on May 1, 2015, and continued through April 30, 2020, with an initial base salary of \$40.85 per hour and total pay package of \$61.15 through April 30, 2016. Over the final year of the agreement beginning May 1, 2019, the local's journeyman combined wages and employer contributions for pensions, healthcare, training, industry promotion and national training would total \$65.95 per hour.

Compounding the poor employment conditions during that period, Mitsubishi





Local 99 retiree Curtis Henry (center) is flanked by Business Manager Jay Logan (left) and Business Agent Jerry Kelleher as he displays his U.A. award for more than 50 years of service to the union in 2021, at which time he was the local's longest-standing member. The first large job in Bloomington on which Brother Curtis worked was installing sewers at the State Farm Insurance headquarters campus, and he also worked on Bloomington High School as well as newly constructed buildings on the campus of Illinois State University in Normal.

Motors closed its Bloomington-Normal plant in early 2016 after several years of declining car sales. Soon after, the Local 99 roster of travelers spiked in April 2016 to 44 members and its out-of-work list contained 46 members, after which the local's out-of-work "bench" never completely cleared during the balance of the 2010s.

However, there was a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. The year after Mitsubishi shuttered its operations, its vacant 2.6-million-square-foot plant was purchased in 2017 by Detroit-based **Rivian**, an electric-vehicle company that in late 2019 secured a contract with online-shopping giant Amazon to make 100,000 delivery vans.

BOUNCING BACK STRONG INTO 125TH YEAR OF SERVICE

In the throes of the global, lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that struck the United States beginning in January 2020 and continued into 2023, by which time it had claimed the lives of more than 1 million Americans, Local 99 and the Bloomington-

Normal Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning and Piping Contractors of the Territorial Jurisdiction of Local Union No. 99 negotiated and signed a new, three-year working agreement that went into effect on May 1, 2020. The contract continued to escalate compensation for the local's members, setting their base wage at \$43.85 per hour and their total package at \$67.80 per hour for the first year before eventually increasing their total pay and benefits for the final year ending April 30, 2023, at \$71.50 per hour.

The contract, as previous versions had stipulated, also set wages for supervisory roles performed on jobsites by the local's members, with superintendents receiving an additional 20 percent above the journeyman rate, general foremen receiving an additional 15 percent and foremen receiving an additional 10 percent. It further set apprentice wages at 45 percent of the local's journeyman scale for the first six months of apprenticeship and then increased those wages in regular increments until apprentices were earning 85 percent of the journeyman rate in their fifth and final year of training.

With upgrade and build-out work on the new Rivian automobile-production plant leading the way – "Rivian is a big deal," Local 99 **Training Coordinator Scott Spaid** declared in a September 5, 2021, *Pantagraph* article outlining the work being performed by union labor in and around Bloomington-Normal – employment for the local's 385 members soared during the 2020s and leading up to the local's 125th anniversary celebration in August 2024. The ensuing building "boom," with Rivian at its epicenter, included work at State Farm, OSF HealthCare/St. Joseph Medical Center and the Ferrero candy plant, as well as jobs for smaller-scale commercial operations such as restaurants and bars.

Meanwhile, as many of the local's members remained involved in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors, as well

as pipe-fitting water mains and treatment facilities, others have maintained a large presence in maintenance at Illinois State University. The local's construction members have also been a part of "an exceptional amount of construction happening on I.S.U.'s campus," as David Gill, university director of Facilities, Planning, Design and Construction, described in a November 15, 2023, news release.

The Federal Government's \$3-trillion Infrastructure Act, a decade-long economic development program, and Governor J.B. Pritzker's 2019 \$45-billion "Rebuild Illinois" program have also created jobs in McLean County. Subsequently, Local 99 grew its training program from an average of 30 to 72 apprentices per year to strengthen its workforce in order to staff the work.

What's more, the local has developed a large and steady workforce of members handling commercial and industrial service for numerous

institutions in the 2020s in addition to I.S.U. Those customers include **Illinois Wesleyan University**, Heartland Community College, the Pontiac Correctional Center, Bridgestone/Firestone, and **St. James Hospital**.

As employment skyrocketed as Local 99 approached its 125th anniversary, it has remained committed to training its membership so it can continue to provide the skilled tradesmen required to continue a legacy of excellence in the piping industry. The local's relationship with its contractors' association, which contains many members who have held office in the local and went through its apprenticeship program, has further enhanced the local's ability to continue to serve its Central-Illinois jurisdiction of Bloomington, Normal, Pontiac, Leroy, El Paso, Fairbury, Heyworth, Chenoa and Lexington and surrounding areas – as it is committed to doing well into the future. ●



Local 99 members (left to right, front row) Sean Doty (first-year apprentice), Business Manager Jay Logan and Business Agent Jerry Kelleher; and (back row) Drayton Cast (fourth-year apprentice), Ryan Reynolds (second-year apprentice), Schuyler Spencer (U.S. Navy, third-year apprentice), Ben Wells (first-year apprentice), Brently Defebaugh (second-year apprentice), Justin Hinshaw (first-year apprentice), John Haislip (first-year apprentice), Braden Reilly (first-year apprentice) and Bradley Stewart (U.S. Army, first-year apprentice) pose after laying wreaths at the gravesites of fallen U.S. Armed Services members at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington on December 18, 2021.





U.A. LOCAL 99 MEMBERS YEARS OF SERVICE, 2024

(With Initiation Date)

Seventy Years

Glenn Hill
7/22/1953

Sixty-Five Years

Thomas L. Brennan
10/26/1955

Leland E. Holtz
5/27/1959

Sixty Years

Harry R. Hill
1/27/1960

Phillip H. Rever
12/26/1962

Richard A. Schulz
2/26/1964

Robert G. Veselack
2/22/1961

Fifty-Five Years

Harvey Black
5/24/1967

James D. Brennan
2/23/1966

Steven Chestney
2/28/1968

Benton G. Haney
2/22/1967

Steve P. Hermes
4/24/1968

Charles E. Hicks
4/24/1968

Richard G. Kiger
4/28/1965

Larry O. Leggett
2/26/1969

William J. Myers
2/28/1968

Earl B. Otto
2/22/1967

Nicholas J. Petri
2/23/1966

William G. Tay
10/22/1965

Terance J. Tay
2/28/1968

Fifty Years

David W. Bean
2/28/1973

Daniel P. Hall
2/28/1973

Gary D. Huppert
2/28/1973

Glendon C. Iler
1/24/1973

Bruce E. Koerner
8/26/1970

Mike Krutke
3/22/1972

James D. Laskowski
1/24/1973

Paul E. Richardson
3/22/1972

Michael L. Schulz
2/28/1973

Robert M. Walsh
1/11/1972

Forty-Five Years

Michael J. Bacon
10/22/1975

Mark T. Blanchard
2/22/1978

Terry J. Born
9/28/1977

Gerald J. Bradford
9/28/1977

Matthew R. Brennan
2/22/1978

John B. Carson
4/25/1979

Douglas L. Cummings
2/23/1977

L. Stephen Dennie
10/22/1975

Hugh A. Evans
2/26/1976

Patrick J. Hardesty
2/23/1977

David James
9/27/1978

Michael D. Mocilan
4/25/1979

Edgar T. Moore
2/23/1977

Michael J. O'Connell
10/22/1975

Mike R. Otto
2/22/1978

John M. Prather
2/22/1978

James V. Quinn
9/28/1977

Steve W. Rever
2/22/1978

Clinton Shafer
9/27/1978

James B. Spaid
2/26/1975

Rick S. Terven
2/22/1978

Gerard E. Thoennes
4/25/1979

James V. Thorpe
4/28/1976

Larry Watson
10/27/1976

Alan W. Watson
10/27/1976

Robert K. White
9/28/1977

Louis W. Yonker
9/27/1978

Forty Years

Dennis S. Augsburger
9/24/1980

Arthur L. Garrison
9/24/1980

J. Ernest Gillenwater
9/24/1980

Steven R. Hill
9/24/1980

Richard C. Menken
9/24/1980

Larry L. Milton
2/24/1982

Kevin St. Hilaire
3/3/1980

Tom Thomas
6/12/1980

Theodore White
8/8/1980

Gerald L. White
8/1/1980

Thirty-Five Years

Anthony W. Aberle
3/25/1987

Robert E. Brown
4/22/1987

Keith M. Graybeal
3/25/1987

Scott Holmes
11/10/1986

Michael E. Holtz
9/24/1986

Richard L. Philpott
5/26/1988

William Roach
10/1/1985

Mark A. Watson
3/25/1987

Thirty Years

Robert L. Adcock
1/24/1990

Ed Alexander
3/24/1993

Harry G. Berner
6/29/1994

U.A. LOCAL 99 MEMBERS YEARS OF SERVICE, 2024

(With Initiation Date)

Matthew T. Brownfield
3/11/1994

Christian Chestney
7/29/1990

Darren J. Darr
6/7/1994

Greg A. Ditchen
6/30/1994

Ronald Elliott
10/29/1993

Timothy A. Evans
9/30/1992

Jack P. Gibson
9/23/1992

Jeffrey S. Hardesty
7/29/1990

Philip Henderson
7/1/1994

William Higgs
11/20/1991

Kenneth E. Holt
4/25/1990

Daniel L. Horine
2/26/1992

George D. Jones
6/24/1992

Jeff Kaufman
2/26/1992

Thomas A. Kennedy
9/23/1992

Scott Lynso Kletz
4/25/1990

Joseph Leitschuh
7/27/1994

Jay A. Logan
12/22/1993

Thomas L. McWhorter
10/27/1993

Michael D. Murphy
6/28/1994

Wade A. Myrick
8/31/1992

Glen Pride
12/22/1993

John W. Protzman
9/23/1992

Phillip T. Rever
9/23/1992

Ricky Roberts
11/19/1990

Larry Salvator Jr.
7/29/1990

Vincent C. Savers
7/25/1990

G. Martin Schuler
9/23/1992

William K. Stoops
7/29/1990

Brett Eric Walk
3/5/1994

Maurice Watson
9/28/1990

James M. Wheeler
5/13/1993

Herbert Wilkins
3/24/1993

Twenty-Five Years

Timothy W. Auten
7/22/1998

J. Richard Beschoner
10/28/1998

Scott Blair
2/25/1997

Jeff A. Brown
8/26/1998

Joshua Mac Chestney
6/28/1995

Michael J. Cleary
12/23/1994

Troy Dwyer
4/22/1998

Chris Evans
9/23/1998

Bryan Fisher
6/28/1995

Bryan Keith Graybeal
6/28/1995

Cliff M. Grill
10/26/1994

Gerald Harms
3/27/1996

David Scott Hester
3/26/1997

Kenneth E. Jones
9/26/1994

David E. Kelleher
6/28/1995

Jerome K. Kelleher
3/27/1996

Timothy W. Kemp
9/23/1998

Joseph Krutke
11/26/1997

Mark Moss
3/26/1997

Randall G. Murphy
7/22/1998

Timothy W. Outlaw
3/27/1996

Larry E. Raglan
9/27/1995

Brian Redd
9/23/1998

John J. Rever
3/10/1997

Daniel Roberts
9/23/1998

Jeffery S. Sandage
3/27/1996

Kent Short
9/14/1995

Steve Stielow
11/10/1995

Jesse L. Tanner
7/25/1996

Mark Terven
12/20/1996

Darick A. Volz
3/27/1996

William Volz Jr.
6/28/1995

Brian L. Wheeler
6/28/1995

James M. White
9/29/1995

Todd J. Whitworth
9/10/1997

Twenty Years

William Antonio
11/25/2002

Yvan J. Bacon
5/24/2000

Joe Berner Jr.
3/28/2001

Scott Betsworth
3/28/2001

Jason C. Boehm
5/24/2000

Chad A. Brucker
3/28/2001

Charles Brush
4/26/2000

Jami L. Carver
9/25/2002

Tim Cavinder
3/28/2001

Anthony Cottone
10/27/1999

Nicholas A. Cottone
3/28/2001

Jeremy Dodson
11/25/2002

Joel D. Dodson
11/25/2002

Chip Givens
5/26/2004



U.A. LOCAL 99 MEMBERS YEARS OF SERVICE, 2024

(With Initiation Date)

Curt G. Gore 9/22/1999	Tracy L. Peveler 3/24/2004	Thomas J. Cullers 11/15/2006	Dareck D. Otto 6/28/2006
Matthew Hagglund 12/16/1999	Rory P. Quinn 11/25/2002	Timothy C. Cummings Jr. 8/18/2008	Matthew J. Paczak 3/4/2008
Christopher K. Hardesty 12/15/1999	Taplia W. Renfrow 9/23/1999	Jesse J. Cusac 2/22/2006	Patric Pfister 5/28/2008
Chris Hawkins 10/27/1999	Eric E. Rients 9/22/1999	Thaddeus R. Donovan 5/23/2007	Clifford Philpott Jr. 10/26/2005
Casey M. Heinold 3/28/2001	Brady F. Sant Amour 9/22/1999	Brian L. Edwards 9/28/2005	Kevin Ricketts 6/22/2005
Terry A. Hendren 9/22/1999	Stephen Schmidt 12/26/2000	Ryan T. Gentes 9/27/2006	Daniel E. Riddle 12/20/2006
Gregory J. Henry 3/28/2001	Jason T. Snavelly 3/28/2001	Mikel D. Graves 6/28/2006	Jonathan A. Robinson 10/24/2006
Shane C. Hoffman 3/28/2001	Bart Spaid 12/15/1999	Mark N. Holderby 8/25/2004	Calvin Dale Ross 11/20/2008
Jason A. Hudson 3/28/2001	Scott E. Spaid 3/28/2001	Brian Kiley 6/26/2008	Branden M. Sholty 6/27/2007
Carol A. Ishmael 3/28/2001	Jonah L. Vissering 3/28/2001	Michael A. Kiley 8/23/2006	Thomas B. Shrum 6/27/2007
Douglas S. Kelleher 7/31/2002	Fifteen Years	Brian J. Koch 6/28/2006	Lanny R. Steele Jr. 1/24/2007
Terry Kidd 11/22/2000	Robert A. Arnold 8/27/2008	Ryan T. Koepfel 6/28/2006	Samuel J. Stoops 1/28/2009
Jeremy J. Laskowski 9/22/1999	Michael D. Bailey 6/28/2006	Kevin L. Lambert 6/27/2007	Patrick B. Sweeney 4/25/2007
Jeremiah D. Mahoney 11/25/2002	Joe D. Barth 8/23/2006	Richard E. Lord 3/22/2006	Brian Trainor 4/26/2006
Richard S. Marr 10/27/1999	Richard P. Bina 1/24/2007	Richard E. Lord 3/22/2006	Daniel D. Weir 6/28/2006
Charles R. Matthews 4/25/2001	Jacob T. Brennan 6/27/2007	Arthur C. Luebke 6/27/2007	Daniel D. Weir 6/28/2006
Todd Messenger 1/14/2000	Chris O. Brown 5/25/2005	David R. McNeely 6/27/2007	Christopher J. Wheat 8/27/2008
Antonio S. Montoya 4/25/2001	Paul J. Brush 8/25/2004	Mark R. Medley 7/25/2007	Michael D. Woggon 6/28/2006
Tim Neff 6/25/2003	William Earl Collins 10/24/2007	Ten Years	
Ryan J. Peters 11/1/2002	Jason S. Collins 6/27/2007	Robert E. Blythe 4/10/2013	Robert E. Blythe 4/10/2013
	Lonnie M. Conaway 9/30/2006	John L. Monical 7/26/2006	Domingo Carranza 10/10/2012
		James L. Nichols 10/23/2006	Jesse L. Carter 6/22/2011



U.A. LOCAL 99 MEMBERS YEARS OF SERVICE, 2024

(With Initiation Date)

Brad A. Clark 2/13/2013	Kenneth Moreau 6/12/2014	Matthew Blaetz 2/13/2019	Jacob Alan Kemp 3/13/2019
David A. Clark 2/13/2013	Kenneth W. Morris 3/28/2012	Zachary Thomas Brockman 9/16/2015	Levi Prince Manley 10/14/2015
Michael Curley 5/23/2011	Zachary P. Moss 8/24/2011	Richard D. Cattani 9/14/2016	Brace Martin 8/9/2017
Michael P. DeWeese 2/22/2012	Robby J. Nevius 6/12/2013	Christopher Chestney 9/10/2014	Adam J. Martin 10/11/2017
Christopher D. Dewey 4/10/2013	Anthony Norton 5/22/2014	Tyler Cusac-McKay 7/1/2019	Erik John Mitchey 9/16/2015
Jodi M. Draper 12/15/2010	Jeremy Tyler Ogden 8/24/2011	Ryan W. Darnell 7/11/2018	Joshua L. Mullis 5/8/2019
Kevin L. Fogle 4/10/2013	James A. Richter 9/28/2011	Kyle C. Day 8/10/2016	Timothy G. Ries 9/14/2016
Robert J. Friedrich 8/24/2011	Tyler E. Salisbury 6/22/2011	Charles Dolbert 10/8/2014	Nicholas D. Rohlf's 12/14/2016
Brian K. Green 8/24/2011	Brent Stewart 11/14/2012	Edward Ehrat 9/10/2014	Lucas Duane Salvator 9/13/2017
Edward P. Hany 11/14/2012	Nicholas R. Stockweather 12/12/2012	Charles M. Fleming 4/12/2017	Amour Hunter Sant 9/13/2017
Robert D. Hardman 8/26/2009	Daniel A. Wagner 9/12/2013	Evan Goodyear 7/8/2015	Patrick Alan Sixt 5/10/2017
Brett Higgs 1/29/2010	Otis T. Washington 3/13/2013	Aaron Gregory 9/10/2014	Reid Thomas Starkey 9/16/2015
Ryan S. Hill 8/26/2009	Marcus J. Watson 9/12/2013	Tony B. Haney 10/11/2017	Robert Strawser 1/14/2015
Tyler D. Jones 9/12/2013	Kevin W. Watson 9/12/2013	Aaron G. Haney 9/12/2018	Andrew S. Terven 12/9/2015
Joshua D. Kemp 8/24/2011	James Wright 3/1/2010	Kendall Hansen 9/10/2014	Jason Timmerman 5/13/2015
Barton A. Lamont 9/8/2010	Five Years	Bryant A. Hanson 9/13/2017	Mykel R. Toliver 5/8/2019
Brenda N. Lang 12/12/2012	Nicholas R. Anderson 1/11/2017	Dale R. Hilsabeck 7/8/2015	Dustin Wall 11/18/2015
Christopher R. Maaks 2/22/2012	Brandon F. Atkins 1/18/2016	Tyler R. Howard 9/14/2016	Joshua Alan Waller 10/10/2018
Sean D. Miller 6/13/2013	Noah R. Bachman 9/10/2014	Donald J. Hubly 4/13/2016	Travis A. Weber 10/12/2016
Chance A. Mills 9/28/2011	Nicholas Beall 9/10/2014	Matthew A. Jamison 4/12/2017	Justin C. Williams 7/11/2018

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Business Manager

JOHN P. HOSTY
Secretary-Treasurer



PATRICK F. McCARTHY
Recording Secretary

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JAMES A. MANSFIELD
MICHAEL E. SHEA
PAUL J. HINTERLONG
PETER C. OLSON
WILLIAM A. WILKENS, III
PATRICK C. BROOKS
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Randy Allen, *Business Manager*
Ryan Marshall, *Business Agent*
Ryan Tracey, *Business Agent / Organizer*



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On their 125th Anniversary**

Bryan LaRoche
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

William Hincks
Vice President
Robert Cline, Jr.
Michael Coughlin
Jack Kennedy
Business Representatives
Patrick Sharpe
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Business Manager/FST**

Gary Beer - Business Agent

Chet DeSmet - Business Agent

Ben Carpenter - Business Agent

Jason Stomberg - Business Agent

Jake Nelson - Business Agent

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James McManus – Secretary-Treasurer
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Kevin Lindsey – Business Rep.
Nick Feipel – Pres/Business Rep.
Robert Flynn – Marketing Rep/ Organizer

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Local Union 597
Chicago, Illinois



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Business Manager

Joseph Vellenga
President

Chris Quinn
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Dennis Hahney
Financial Secretary

Tim Gillooley
Recording Secretary

Business Representatives

Mark Antczak
Tim Gallagher
Tim Hartnett
John Kotel
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on Your 125th Year

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Christopher Brown
Business Agent

Kent Prosser
Business Manager

Les Zimmerman
Business Agent

Congratulations to the Officers & Members Of Local 99 on your 125th!

From all of us at
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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
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125th Year Celebration Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 99



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125th
ANNIVERSARY

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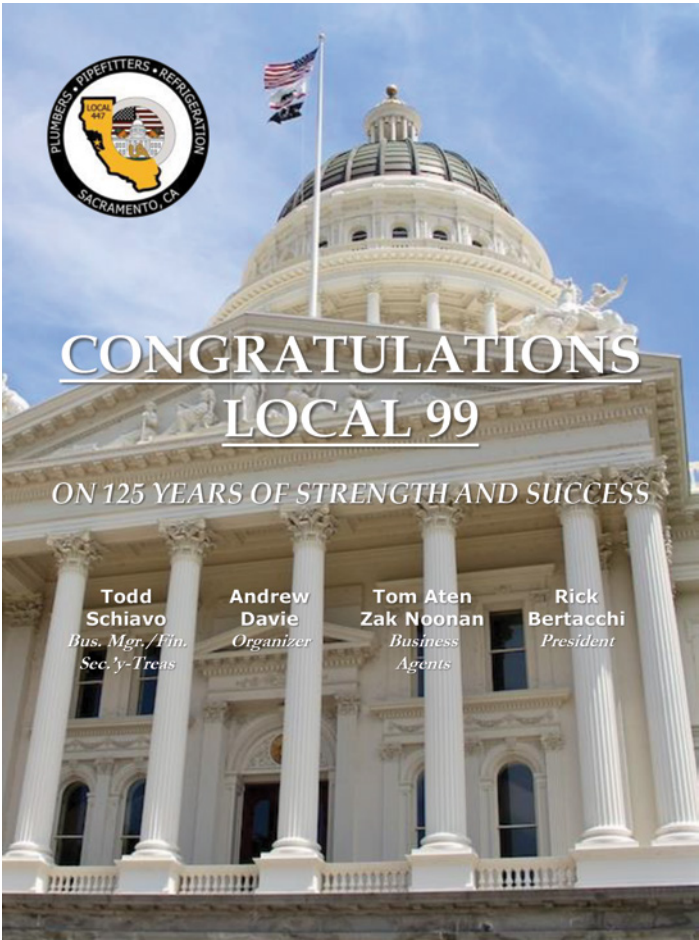
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Plumbers & Pipefitters
on their
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Mack Schmitt
President

Steve Kohlberg
Recording Secretary

Charles Bailey Jr.
Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer

John Passiglia
Assistant to the Business Manager
Vice-President

Jason Reed
Inside Guard

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EAST ST. LOUIS

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Mike Bailey
Mike Stepping
Pat Bailey
Matt Cates

Finance Board
Kile Bailey
Michael Stepping
Justin Snyder

Executive Board- Kile Bailey, Michael Stepping, Justin Snyder

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #172
South Bend, Indiana

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for 125 years of service to the membership,
the community, and the United Association.

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UNION LOCAL 172 PROUD

Broc Buczolic
Business Manager

Ira Fox
Business Agent

CONGRATULATIONS

PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 63



from
Plumbers Local 63

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125TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY

