

THE UTILITY WORKER



UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

Volume LXIII, No. 4

October/November/December 2018



WE ARE FIRST RESPONDERS!

2018

Page 11



Election Roundup
Page 4

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Volume LXII, No. 4
October/November/December 2018

FEATURES

4

2018 Election Roundup

The results: a nationwide move toward a more worker-centric agenda

7

UWUA Joins Unions in Canada and U.S. in North American Solidarity Project

Joining forces with others committed to a strong labor movement and solidarity based on values of social unionism and an urgent need for union renewal

11

We Are First Responders!

Fires, floods, gas and steam pipe explosions, you name it, UWUA members are there

DEPARTMENTS

3

President's Message

8

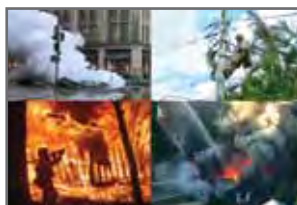
Speaking Out

What policies need to be passed by elected officials to make your life as a utility worker better?

22

Saluting Our UWUA Retirees

ON THE COVER



Clockwise from top left: NY steam pipe explosion, PR hurricane response, MA gas explosion (WCVB via AP), CA fire (AP Photo/Noah Berger, File)

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D. Michael Langford

2018 Ends on a High Note

This year is ending on a high note. UWUA members and staff mobilized like never before to elect worker-friendly candidates in the mid-term elections. Our Power for America Training Trust (P4A) just marked a major milestone in training the utility worker of the future. UWUA members are once again proving their worth as first responders. We are fighting California's devastating fires, and responding to hurricanes, floods, and gas explosions.

We live up to the motto: Reclaim, Retrain, Repower, Repair America!

"We are fighting California's devastating fires, and responding to hurricanes, floods, and gas explosions. We live up to the motto: Reclaim, Retrain, Repower, Repair America!"

Holding politicians accountable

We helped elect scores of candidates who ran on a worker-friendly platform in November. Among them is Michigan Governor-Elect Gretchen Whitmer. We were the first union to endorse her and we expect she, and the other candidates we supported, will work to reverse the anti-worker, anti-union policies that are holding workers down and destroying the middle class.

Building alliances

Our electoral gains were achieved by working together with other unions and worker-supported organizations. That's what the labor movement is all about, strength in numbers. I want to thank those of you who helped get out the vote to put people into office who will represent our interests.

Building alliances with those who share our goals is not limited to elections. For example, we are working on a strategic alliance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Their members work in all of our power plants doing overhauls, refueling, and more. Their training centers are well equipped and located throughout the country. Together we can organize and provide the opportunity to expand P4A's successful model nationwide.

Organizing to increase power

We are always looking for ways to organize to increase worker power and build better communities.

With the retirement of long-time National Organizer Larry Kelly, Local 601 Executive Secretary Valerie King joined the National Staff as an organizer and Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus. I personally want to thank Larry for his decades of work on behalf of utility workers.

Valerie will bring a lot of experience and resources to engage and activate women. Local 18007 Business Manager and Chair of the UWUA Veterans Committee, Rick Passarelli, will also be concentrating

on recruiting more women for our Utility Workers Military Assistance Program (UMAP).

Utility workers of the future

With the price of renewable energy now competitive with fossil fuels, utilities are investing in wind and solar generation like never before. While protecting current jobs, we are doing everything we can to make sure our members work in the electrical generation and storage jobs of the future.

I am happy to report that our P4A just received provisional approval from the U.S. Department of Labor to train workers in two new job classifications: wind turbine technician and renewable specialist (wind, solar and battery storage).

This puts us in a leading position nationally to make sure the jobs created in the renewable sector will result in lifelong union careers. We have the support of some important politicians and major environmental groups for this work.

As the New Year fast approaches I want to encourage you to participate in Martin Luther King Jr. Day events in your community. It is critical that we build on his powerful legacy and demand good jobs, housing, education, affordable health care, and justice for everyone!

Enjoy the holidays. Happy New Year!

ELECTION ROUNDUP



Local 132's Jorge Soto and Belinda Moreno hit the doors for worker friendly candidates.



Local 132 members phone banked and door knocked while working out of the Orange County Central Labor Council. Left to Right: Jorge Soto, Mercurio Morre, Local 132 Secretary-Treasurer Milton Davis, Sean Mitchell, Joe Moreno, Belinda Moreno, and Local 132 President Javier A. Salas. Not pictured, Victoria Daley who phone banked the final two days of GOTV.



Local 132 President Javier A. Salas and Local 522 President Kito Singleton decided to "Break - In" Local 132's new offices by hosting a "Labor 2018" phone bank to get out the vote.

The L.A. County Federation of Labor thought this was a good idea and provided phones, talking scripts and training for two days of GOTV! UWUA efforts resulted in "Wins" for 6 out of 7 targeted Congressional races! What a way to "break-in" Local 132's new House of Labor.

Photo clockwise from bottom left: Ernie Gonzalez, Field Technician Local 522; Justin Rapose, Call Center Local 132; Delia Bernal, Call Center L-132; Marvin Stovall, Field Technician L-522; Dan Parral, Field Technician L-522; Merle Bautista, Call Center L-132; Edith Moreno, Call Center L-132; Alberto Campos, Field Technician L-522; Javier A. Salas, President Local 132; Noemi Cuevas, Call Center L-132; Cindy Franco, Call Center L-132; Hugo Correa, Call Center L-132; Alma Acevedo, Call Center L-132; Karim Khalil, Call Center L-132.

2018 Election Roundup

After two tumultuous years in which domestic politics have dominated the national scene, voters at last headed to the polls this past November 6th to send a message, to hold leaders to account, and to adjust the country's trajectory for the next two years. In the run-up to Election Day, the UWUA's national leadership charted a course for the union, seeking to double and triple down on past efforts at getting out the vote, educating fellow union members on the issues, and making sure members' voices were heard.

As a result, the UWUA fielded nearly 60 release staff — members released from their jobs to work either full or part-time on electoral efforts. In addition, dozens of utility worker volunteers from across the country added their voices, pitching in whenever and wherever they were able, some even turning out for events in states far

removed from the nearest UWUA local! It just goes to show — wherever a utility worker goes, the power of the union goes with them!

Utility Workers get out the vote

Across the country, in response to this rallying cry, national staff, local officers, and UWUA members worked diligently, staffing phone banks, canvassing union households in neighborhood walks, and assisting members in getting to the polls. Examples abound including in states such as California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Members from all sectors — whether water, gas, or electric — did their part to ensure that workers were heard and the influence of working families was felt.

With coordination from state labor federations, members worked on elec-

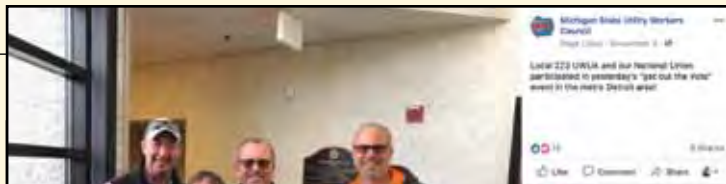
tions within their own states and, in some cases, even worked the phones to help in hotly contested races in other locations — all aimed at advancing a union message, that workers and their families must be accounted for by government at all levels. In this manner, literally tens of thousands of individual contacts were made by UWUA members, officers, and staff, whether on the phones or at the doors, meeting and talking about the issues important to working families.

Red, blue and purple — checking the map

The results are in — a shift has occurred nationwide that is more reflective of a worker-centric agenda.

As the dust settled, the election results became clear: progressive politics gained ground overall despite difficult fights and a few tough losses.

MI



Local 223 and the National Union participated in a get out the vote event in the metro Detroit area. Left to right: Jim Harrison, UWUA Sr. National Representative; Diane Hall, Political Action Director, Local 223; Mike Smith, Local 223, President and National Executive Board Member; David Radtke, UWUA National Union General Counsel.



MI Governor-Elect Gretchen Whitmer with UWUA Human Rights Committee Chair Nate Waters.



Ohio gets out the vote! Left to right, President Local 478, Bill Conley; Sr. National Rep. Rich Cossell; Ohio House District 96 Rep. Jack Cera; Sr. National Rep. Kelly Cooper; President Local 492, Bob Lewis; and President Local 436 & 436 A, Lou Fisher.

"The election of State Representative Jack Cera is a win for union members and working families in his district," says Fisher. "Jack has fought and will continue to fight Right-to-Work legislation at every turn. He has supported the coal industry and coal fired power plants, including the Sammis plant. Jack is a voice for the union men and women of his district."

OH

NJ



New Jersey members from Locals 601 and 534 joined the state's Labor Walks. Together, the volunteers knocked on 70,015 union household doors in a final effort to educate fellow members on the benefits of voting for candidates who will place the needs of working families first.

Pictured top: Local 534 members left to right: Bob Fitzpatrick, R.J. Scheidewig, Zef Kqira, Joe Boyadjian. Bottom photos: Local 601 members with Local President and National Executive Board member Noel Christmas.

At the federal level, Democrats needed to flip 23 seats going into the election to gain the majority. As of this writing, with all but one House race called, they have netted 40 Representatives, setting up a division of power in Washington. The Democrats are poised to set the agenda in the House.

In the U.S. Senate, the Republicans gained ground, flipping four seats in Florida, Indiana, Missouri and North Dakota, while losing out in Arizona and Nevada. With this net gain of two seats, the GOP is set to hold majority control of the Chamber.

As she had been a leading progressive champion for workers in the energy sector, Senator Heidi Heitkamp's loss in North Dakota will require some searching within the party for a replacement to speak out on behalf of workers in traditional energy production. With incumbents such as Sen. Joe Manchin of

West Virginia and Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio holding their seats, however, labor will continue to have friends it can look to for leadership.

Anti-worker politicians lose!

Around the country, 36 governors' seats were contested and the Democrats came out ahead overall, flipping 7 seats while the Republicans took back 1. Despite tough losses in Florida, Georgia, and Ohio, labor was successful in knocking off openly anti-union figures such as Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, and Gov. Bruce Rauner of Illinois. Both of these Governors dealt enormous damage to organized labor during their tenure in a naked attempt at breaking public-sector unions in particular. Gov. Rauner had infamously begun the state effort that ultimately led to a Supreme Court decision in *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, effectively

rendering the entire public sector a 'right-to-work' zone.

Finally, the control of state governments more broadly remains mixed, though with a definite progressive trend. Prior to the election, Republicans controlled all of state government — Governorship, House, and Senate — in 26 states, the Democrats controlled 7 and another 17 were divided. With the results now in, Republican control has shrunk to 23 states, Democratic control grown to 14, and 13 remain divided.

Looking ahead to 2020

With turnout for this mid-term election at a 50-year high, it's safe to say that Americans are watching the actions of their elected leaders more closely than ever — and demanding better results. Insurgent candidates like New

Continued on page 6

2018 Election Roundup

Continued from page 5

York Representative-Elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are knocking out long-safe incumbents, rising stars like Pennsylvania Rep. Conor Lamb are carrying an overtly worker-friendly message, and stalwart Republican districts from Orange County, California to rural Iowa are flipping blue, but threats to labor allies remain in many challenging midwestern and southern states. Suffice to say, America's political future is shifting but hardly set in stone — a lot can happen between now and the next Election Day — November 3rd, 2020.

Next time, of course, the fight will center on control of the White House with a field of Democratic Senators and Governors dominating the 'speculation machine' as to who will emerge to challenge President Trump for the top job. As utility workers, the goals will remain unchanged — every candidate for elected office must be challenged to articulate a vision for the future that is centered on working families.

In 2020, just as in 2018, union members will continue to demand safe, family-supporting jobs, access to affordable education and healthcare, the right to collectively organize and bargain, and a place at the table to ensure their voices are heard on energy, infrastructure, and other policies that impact the ability to live with dignity wherever they may work and vote. Candidates that cannot demonstrate a commitment to these principles should not receive Utility Worker support but, for those that do, the UWUA will once again turn out in force to get them elected and hold them accountable!



Local 1-2 members phone banked from the @centrallabornyc to get out the vote.



uwuaywic Phone banking from the @centrallabornyc for the upcoming election on November 6th, get out and vote. Reach out to your local unions to see who they're endorsing. #uwua #union #voting #phone-banking #aflicio @the_uwua **rickyfantasy** #Nice

UWUA Local 640 Members Mobilize for FL, IL Mid-Term Elections

Leaders and members of UWUA Local 640, which represents employees at American Water's national call centers in Alton, Illinois and Pensacola, Florida, mobilized in both states to staff phone banks during the November mid-term elections to support candidates who support working family issues.

In Alton, Local 640 members turned out for AFL-CIO phone banks to support labor's endorsed candidates in Illinois, including J.B. Pritzker, the Democratic nominee who defeated incumbent Governor Bruce Rauner in a 15-point landslide.

Meanwhile in Pensacola, Local 640 members worked the phone banks for the Northwest Florida Labor Federation, calling union workers throughout the region to support labor's candidates. Although the AFL-CIO's endorsed candidates fell just short in closely-fought contests for Governor and U.S. Senate, union volunteers across Florida were instrumental in successfully passing Amendment 4 to the state constitution. The amendment restores voting rights for nearly 1.5 million Florida residents with prior criminal convictions, and will likely have a huge impact on future elections in the Sunshine State.



Pensacola, FL Local 640 members volunteering for Northwest Florida Labor Federation's phone banks. Left to right: Alonetta Mosley; Regina Coby, Local 640 Recording Secretary; Bridget Siler; and Yolanda McCreary.



Alton, IL Local 640 members staffing AFL-CIO phones. Left to right: Christine Modrovsky, Ginny Jackson, Beverly Archie, Meia Burkes, Linda Mertens, Tracey Hard, and Phil Green, Local 640 President (center front).

UWUA Joins Unions in Canada and U.S. in North American Solidarity Project



The UWUA sent a 13-strong delegation to the founding conference of the North American Solidarity Project, held in Port Elgin, Ontario from November 9-11, 2018. The Solidarity Project is an informal alliance of unions from throughout the U.S. and Canada, dedicated to finding concrete solutions for labor movement renewal based on shared values, including a commitment to rank-and-file democracy, social unionism, and international solidarity.

Nearly 150 union leaders from Canada and the U.S. attended the conference. In addition to UWUA, participating unions included the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE), National Nurses United (NNU), and Unifor Canada. Union observers from Australia, France, and Mexico also attended.

Delegates participated in a series of lively workshops during the conference, debating topics ranging from how to build effective union political and organizing campaigns; strategies to combat racism and the rise of right-wing

The UWUA delegation to the North American Solidarity Project conference included, left to right: Michael Coleman, UWUA National Secretary-Treasurer; Valerie King, UWUA Organizer & UWUA Women's Caucus Co-Chair; Amber Lalonde, UWUA Young Workers Initiative Committee; Nathan Waters, UWUA Human Rights Committee Chair, Region IV Advisor; James Slevin, President, UWUA Local 1-2; Melissa Sparks, UWUA Young Workers Initiative Committee; Reggie Davis, Senior National Representative; James Harrison, Senior National Representative; Patrick Dillon, President, Michigan State Utility Workers Council; Ursula Grant, UWUA Women's Caucus Co-Chair; Mark Brooks, Special Counsel to UWUA National President; Craig Wright, Executive Vice President, Michigan State Utility Workers Council; and Lee Anderson, National Director of Governmental Affairs. Below: Coleman, Dillon, and Slevin.

governments threatening to undermine decades of hard-won workers' rights; and how unions can move from defense to offense to build union power and advance working families' interests.

The other unions attending the conference enthusiastically welcomed the UWUA delegation on the opening day. Throughout the weekend, delegates made plans for future cooperation between unions in the alliance, including for joint meetings of the various unions' young workers committees, and a sharing of best practices for organizing and political action campaigns.

The participating unions unanimously adopted a joint statement at the closing session, calling for a "commitment to a strong labor movement and solidarity based on values of social



unionism and an urgent need for union renewal," and for a plan of action "where our unions are the counterbalancing force that can lead the fight for the world we want to live in."

What policies need to be passed by elected officials to make your life as a utility worker better?



Pat Dillon

President
Michigan State Utility Workers Council

“On a national level, I have little optimism that the change to divided rule will result in more than a stalemate of any significant legislation that will affect workers positively or negatively. The fact is that the previous Republican majority rule in the Senate, House of Representatives and the White House resulted in little more than a massive tax cut for the 1% and corporate interests, driving the country’s deficit out of control. Republicans’ solution to the ever-increasing deficit they created is to cut so-called entitlements, like Social Security and Medicare. The change in control of the U.S. House of Representatives should result in a check on one party rule and ensure that worker-earned benefits such as Social Security and Medicare are not slashed to help pay for tax cuts for the rich. That being said, the idea that significant pro-worker legislation will be agreed to by both the House and Senate is nearly inconceivable, not to mention that such legislation would still require a Presidential signature.

On a state level, in Michigan there was also a change in the Republican majority rule in the State Senate, House and Governor’s office, as UWUA-endorsed Gretchen Whitmer was elected Governor. Unlike at the national level, I am very optimistic that, with Whitmer as Governor, we can work to roll back the many attacks on organized labor that occurred over the last eight years of one party, Republican rule. These attacks included the state becoming right-to-work, the elimination of prevailing wage in state contracts, legislation that greatly restricted workers’ rights to collectively participate in the political process by limiting payroll deduction for union PAC contributions, as well as many other attacks on public sector unions.”



Timothy Jaroch

President
Local 18007

“The policy that I think needs to be passed by elected officials to make my life better as a utility worker would be to take right-to-work off the table. It undermines union finances so that we cannot fight for better benefits and higher wages. With right-to-work, workers never win. Additionally, we need policy changes to keep more work in-house and out of the contractors’ hands. They lack experience when it comes to our utility and this endangers the public and our members. Our experienced in-house union workforce should be getting all that work to make sure the job is done safely and correctly.”



Bill Chadwick

President
Local 388

“Policy and legislation that needs to be passed to make life as a utility worker better in Michigan are those that increase workplace safety, the repeal of right-to-work, the restoration of union political action contributions (PAC) via payroll deduction, restore the prevailing wage law, and campaign finance reform that is transparent and fair for all. These were all taken away as a result of eight years of complete Republican control of the state legislature. Going forward, we must become more involved in the political process and educate our membership about the importance of electing labor friendly candidates and holding them accountable, especially those that sought our endorsement and support.”

What policies need to be passed by elected officials to make your life as a utility worker better?

**Nate Waters**

Chair
National Human Rights Committee
Local 105

“It was an honor and a pleasure to volunteer and be involved in the midterm election campaign. Representing the union canvassing, knocking on doors, phone banking, attending rallies, and doing those things to ensure that our union members get out and exercise their right to vote was an awesome opportunity. I believe that we should keep the pedal to the metal and continue on to fight for that which is right. We have some politicians who are on a mission to destroy our unions and are very strategically chipping away at the moral fiber of our country.

We must inspire and convince our membership to vote their interest, support our legacy, and strengthen the foothold union members have in the political arena. By doing so, we can get leaders elected, like Michigan Governor-Elect Gretchen Whitmer, who will do what they are supposed to do for unions. This will enable our unions to protect and serve our membership in the area of human, civil, and labor rights.

Most importantly, we must continue to encourage our fellow union brothers and sisters to look toward the 2020 elections and not take anything for granted. There is much left to do and our true work has just begun!”

**Adrian Boulay**

Executive Board Member
Local 369

“The thing that I’d most like to see is to hold the companies much more accountable for the rate relief they receive for targeted infrastructure replacement. This can be done by adopting policies and legislation that include: ‘worst first’ language to require companies to replace pipes, prioritizing those with the worst leak history, tighter operator qualification (OQ) requirements for contractors, and provisions for returns to the rate payer as maintenance and staffing costs decrease.”



MI Local 223 members helping to rebuild Lawrence, MA after the gas explosion. UWUA National Safety Director John "Scotty" MacNeill is pictured third from right.

2018

WE ARE FIRST RESPONDERS! to Natural and Manmade Disasters

For millions of people who are left helpless, no sight is more eagerly awaited than that of utility workers. UWUA members, at every level, in every job description, are both the visible and unseen forces restoring safety, dignity, and normalcy to fellow Americans.

Fires, floods, and gas explosions of unprecedented frequency and magnitude are threatening lives and straining the nation's emergency operations as never before.

No one knows this better than the Utility Workers Union of America members who first respond to these emergencies and the tens of thousands of others who could be called on next. Utility Workers know it is their duty to keep the lights on, the gas flowing, and the water running in good times and bad.

"Natural and manmade disasters require the mobilization of our members as first responders in every sector of the utility industry — electric, gas, water, and nuclear," says UWUA President Mike Langford. "This year will go down as one to remember for the frequency and severity of disasters. As a result, our members are being recognized for the work they do and included more and more in state and local disaster response planning."

The disasters of 2018 — fires in California, destructive hurricanes in Florida and the Carolinas, and a gas explosion in Massachusetts, to name just a few — demonstrate the important role UWUA members play in ensuring

Continued on page 12

public safety and restoring life-giving utility services to the population.

For millions of people who are left helpless, no sight is more eagerly awaited than that of utility workers. UWUA members, at every level, in every job description, are both the visible and unseen forces restoring safety, dignity, and normalcy to fellow Americans.

Safety first!

In recognition of the intensifying severity and increasing number of natural and manmade disasters, earlier this year, the National Union established health and safety committees at both the regional and national levels. This could not have happened at a more critical time.

"Safety has always been job number one for our union," says National Safety Director John "Scotty" MacNeill. "With the creation of national and regional safety committees, we are now better prepared to address safety issues for our members, our employers, and the communities we serve."

Although in their infancy, the national and five regional committees are already delivering results as they work together to share information that is proving vital to members who are responding, not only to emergency situations, but in day-to-day situations as well.

Water key to firefighters

California's catastrophic year of wildfires resulted in scores of deaths, burned thousands of homes and businesses, and disrupted or destroyed an untold number of lives.

Water is the most important ingredient for fighting fires. Thanks to the heroic efforts of UWUA members who work for California Water Service, fire-

fighters have had the water they need. In one of the most hard-hit areas, Local 283 members from the Chico, CA Water District left their families for days on end, but not before ensuring their safety. Some living in or near Paradise,



The Paradise, CA Camp Fire as seen from a Local 283 member's vehicle.

"Natural and manmade disasters require the mobilization of our members as first responders in every sector of the utility industry — electric, gas, water, and nuclear. This year will go down as one to remember for the frequency and severity of disasters."

— UWUA President Mike Langford

CA, had their own homes affected, yet continued their life-saving work.

"It can be really stressful," says Kevin Uraine, a Local 285 member from Cal Water who is a representative on both the Region V and National Health and Safety Committees. "We had members who, at one time or other, were the only ones out there supporting the firefighters in their area, feeding them water. Things can get real bad real quick when they don't have water to pull from a fire hydrant. They can't fill up and all they have are helicopters and planes. That's

not a good feeling for anybody."

Uraine was in touch regularly with MacNeill and National Safety Committee members, giving reports on the fires' effects and sharing valuable information on how his co-workers were responding. It was literally trial by fire for the committee.

"Your life is put on hold. All the focus is on keeping the water going. The importance of the safety committee is not just the communication between the union, the safety committee and the union members, it also gives us the support we need when we're out there," Uraine explains. "I can really see the value of the safety committees and how they can provide important backing for our members who are working in disasters and helping get things back up and running."

Gas explosion response

Meanwhile, across the continent in Massachusetts, UWUA members from a number of different gas locals around the nation are busy rebuilding the pipeline and services in and around Lawrence, MA following a series of gas explosions in September.

"We had boots on the ground within two hours of the explosion, even though it wasn't our service area," says Scott Hunter, President of Local 273, representing 300 natural gas and clerical workers serving Columbia Gas customers in 42 cities and towns in southeastern Massachusetts.

"As soon as we saw what was going on we reached out to the company and told them we were there for them. We temporarily suspended our job classifications and grievance process in this emergency until the rebuilding work is done," Hunter explains. "UWUA



OH Local G-555 members on the ground in MA.



MA Local 273 member Ray Raggiani talks about the ongoing gas main replacement with UWUA VP John Duffy, middle, and Director of Special Projects, Bob Mahoney.



Left to right: Local 273 President Scott Hunter, Local 369 President Craig Pinkham, crew leader Dave Decarvalho, Mahoney and Duffy.



Michigan State Utility Workers Council members in Lawrence, MA.



MA Local 273 members with MacNeill, right.



National Executive Board members from SoCal Gas, Local 132's Secretary-Treasurer Milton Davis, and President Javier Salas with 43-year member Larry Cassidy.

members are kind of a different breed, we take it personally when disaster strikes and people need help.”

UWUA President Langford immediately dispatched the National Safety Director and two National Representatives to the area. National Executive Board member and President of MA Local 369, Craig Pinkham, and Brian Hannon, his national safety committee representative responded as well. The explosion site was toured by UWUA Vice President John Duffy and two National Executive Board members, Local 132's President Javier Salas and Secretary-Treasurer Milton Davis from SoCal Gas.

The accident occurred when a non-union subcontractor connected the low gas pressure system into the intermediate gas pressure system causing explosions where one person was killed, 131 buildings were destroyed, a number of people were injured and thousands of homes and businesses were left without gas service with winter approaching. Congressional hearings are now being held to determine what caused the accident.

When the call went out for workers to join the rebuilding effort, UWUA members responded. Michigan State Utility Workers Council members from Consumers Energy, Michigan Detroit Edison Local 223, SoCal Gas Local 132, and Dominion East Ohio Local G-555 all joined Local 369 electric and gas workers, and Local 273 members and deployed to rebuild the ravaged communities.

“Forming the safety committees couldn't have happened at a better time,” says Local 223's Leroy Huckleberry, a Region IV and National Safety Committee member who is working to restore services in

Continued on page 14

Lawrence. “The importance of having national safety reps from each industry cannot be overstated. For one thing, communication was immediately improved. Information is being shared in real time to ensure that we have what we need to get things done safely every day,” he says.

Huckleberry and UWUA members from the various locals are housed on a docked cruise ship. Although they work with their local crews, this has given them the opportunity to compare notes, share stories, and build camaraderie as they work to install 48 miles of main gas line and hook up services to hundreds of customers.

“The public is wonderful. When they see we are from another company they ask where we came from and thank us, knowing that we came all the way here, away

“Safety has always been job number one for our union. With the creation of national and regional safety committees, we are now better prepared to address safety issues for our members, our employers, and the communities we serve.”

— Safety Director John “Scotty” MacNeill



UWUA safety leaders, left to right, Jeff Jazdyk, Keith Verbosky, Jon Jordan, Safety Director John “Scotty” MacNeill, Will Breton, Greg Ball, and Dennis Hyek II at the Incident Prevention Utility Safety Conference in Orlando, FL.

from our families, to help them,” Huckleberry says.

His message to the public and other utility workers is to let them know about the need to gain first responder status to be able to perform the work better.

Restoring electricity after hurricanes, floods

If it seems storms are becoming ever more intense and devastating, that’s because they are. Higher temperatures and rising oceans are magnifying the characteristics of extreme weather events, and all the data suggest the trend will continue.

In 2018, tens of thousands of linemen from as far away as California rushed to Florida, the Carolinas and Virginia in response to hurricane Florence. Millions of people living near the coasts evacuated as massive rainfall and subsequent flooding devastated huge swaths of the states.

Failing Infrastructure Meets Intensifying Weather

What does the prospect of an intensifying litany of extreme weather events mean for utility workers? The UWUA has been grappling with these difficult issues for years. After the fiasco of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the union put forth a significant research effort that culminated in an influential white paper — one that continues to be cited by journalists and industry insiders. Since then, the union has been waging a continuous campaign for meaningful investment in infrastructure and first responder status for members.

Sandy was instructive in myriad ways. It brought home both the genuine decay and vulnerability of the physical infrastructure, and the massive underinvestment in essential human infrastructure — the working men and women who are the lifeblood of proper maintenance, repair, and response.

It also highlighted the frequently slapdash nature of hurricane recovery plans. What research found in the wake of Hurricane Sandy was that mutual assistance plans frequently brought in workers who often lacked fundamental training in an urban electric distribution system environment, and they were sent without either adequate amounts or necessary types of equipment. Moreover, it was evident that both industry and government failed to recognize the need to rebuild affected infrastructure in a more efficient and resilient form.

In the coming years, utility workers in every sector and in every classification are likely to feel the impact of increased demands, and for some, new forms and levels of risk. More than ever, it is time for regulators and elected leaders to fully acknowledge and extend legal protections to first responding utility workers.

As UWUA President Mike Langford says, “Now is a good time to talk to our elected leaders, tell them our stories, and push for the first responder protections only the law can provide.”

A mere month after Florence disabled the Carolinas and Virginia, Hurricane Michael lashed Florida with record-setting intensity. It was the third-most intense hurricane to make landfall in the United States since 1935.

“Our safety committees are building something that is going to be essential for the future,” explains Local 270’s Doug Haldi, a Region III and National Safety Committee member from The Illuminating Company of FirstEnergy in Ohio. “We are making things as transparent as possible so that when something goes wrong, when something happens, we can talk to one another about facts, not stories, but facts. What really happened and what we need to do to fix it.”

Haldi and his union brothers and sisters on FirstEnergy’s health and safety committee have successful experience that he is sharing with the union’s national committee.

Thanks to their efforts, FirstEnergy stopped using chromium, copper and arsenic poles because they were causing so many problems. “They have a metallic base that dulls equipment quickly, are very hard on your body and your knees, and are toxic, so you can’t breath the dust,” he explains.

FirstEnergy is now back to using poles treated with pentachlorophenol (Penta), which are not as bad, Haldi says.

Regarding the Regional and National Safety Committees, Haldi says, “What we’re doing is what unions do, bringing people together. The more bodies you have, the more people involved, the stronger you are and the better off everyone is. The key to it all is everybody wants to go home safely.”

UWUA Continues Push Into Renewables

NY Local 1-2 President James Slevin, right, and United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) International Representative John Murphy studying Denmark’s offshore wind industry.

As the cost of wind and solar power becomes competitive with coal and gas, the UWUA is continuing its push to represent utility workers in the renewable energy industry.

Local 1-2 President James Slevin recently traveled to Denmark with a delegation of labor officials to learn about the offshore wind industry there.

New York and other states in the northeast are on the verge of building their first offshore wind projects with several Danish companies involved. Offshore wind power will mean operations and maintenance work for UWUA members.

Offshore wind currently provides about 20% of Denmark’s energy needs and is 85% unionized, providing high quality employment for many workers.

“I learned that the success of the Danish program was in its collaborative approach to offshore wind energy with private businesses, unions, and government joining together,” Slevin said upon returning state-side. “Clearly, it is a successful model that we hope to replicate in New York State.”

The educational exchange provided labor leaders with an important opportunity to meet with Danish unions, state officials and other key organizations, tour key offshore wind manufacturing, port and



construction sites, and identify best practices for developing a robust and equitable offshore wind industry.

As part of the union’s move into renewables, the Power for America Training Trust is working on securing a path to life-long careers in wind and solar for current and future UWUA members.

P4A’s Priscilla Peloubet has worked closely with union officers to create a renewable energy specialist training curriculum which is now going through the approval process. The goal is to get the federal government to approve the curriculum to create an apprenticeship program that can be done in any state.

“I’m collaborating with local leaders to build a future for UWUA members in renewables,” she says. “It’s exciting to get into this industry at the ground floor and build from there.”

Power! Why We Build Alliances



Michael Coleman
Secretary-Treasurer

The Utility Workers Union of America recently sent a delegation to Canada to explore participation with the North American Solidarity Project (see page 7).

The UWUA involvement with NASP is just one step in building alliances. While, naturally, we do not agree with every policy position taken by affiliation members, *the UWUA leadership realizes that through interaction with different organizations we can share ideas, gain new perspectives, and promote the interests and progress of our own members.* Below are several of our current affiliations, their stated mission and, in each case, our goal in joining.

In each instance, the UWUA has identified opportunities for cooperative action with other organizations that may — or may not — be seen as traditional allies of labor. Advancing the interests of our membership means harnessing the power of collective action wherever it may occur — it's not enough to simply look for allies in easy, obvious places. Sometimes alliances can be built between unlikely partners or, at a minimum, conflict can be minimized or resolved, allowing productive, non-partisan action to move forward. Our Union is committed to fighting for our members, in whatever form that may take, including the power of building alliances whenever they may be possible.

AFL-CIO

Who are they? The AFL-CIO is a democratically governed federation of 55 unions, each with its own distinct membership and unique voice. These unions have come together to build and support the rights of working people. Working together, the AFL-CIO affiliates fight for safe, equitable workplaces and give working people a collective voice to address workplace injustice without fear of retaliation.

UWUA Goal: Building cross-labor alliances where possible and avoiding conflict where alliance is difficult. The AFL-CIO provides informational resources on organizing, bargaining, and policy work and is very helpful in collective political action during election cycles.

BlueGreen Alliance

Who are they? The BlueGreen Alliance unites some of America's largest labor unions and its most influential environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. They are guided by the principle that America can no longer choose between good jobs and a clean environment — that actions taken to create quality jobs and to protect working people and the environment must go hand-in-hand,

and that together, we all can build a clean, thriving and fair economy.

UWUA Goal: Understanding the perspective of the national environmental movement, creating new political opportunities when and where possible by identifying common interests, and defusing conflict to prevent our political opposition from using wedge issues against the broader progressive movement.

IndustriALL Global Union

Who are they? The IndustriALL Global Union is a force for global solidarity taking up the fight for better working conditions and trade union rights around the world. IndustriALL challenges the power of multinational companies and negotiates with them on a global level.

UWUA Goal: Cooperative political activism, organizing, and collective worker action across the globe to counter the power of increasingly multi-national employers.

Republican Main Street Partnership

Who are they? The Republican Main Street Partnership is a coalition of over 70 members of Congress who stand for strong, conservative principles in economic and national security policy and who believe in governing in a thoughtful manner. All of its members share a commitment to conservative, pragmatic government as well as compassion in our communities and character in our national leaders. As a results-oriented organization, they believe that governing must move beyond partisan political rhetoric.

UWUA Goal: Create new political opportunities when and where possible by identifying common interests, while defusing conflict and preventing open opposition through work on shared issues.

Union Sportsmen's Alliance

Who are they? The Union Sportsmen's Alliance is working to be North America's largest and most effective conservation organization. They aim to engage, educate and organize union members, their families, and like-minded individuals who share a passion for hunting, fishing, shooting and the great outdoors. The mission of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance is to unite the union community through conservation to preserve North America's outdoor heritage.

UWUA Goal: Maintaining political cohesion across the labor movement through collective social activity.

Workers Banding Together in Union

Approaching the end of another year, I always like to reflect on the previous year and think about what the New Year will bring. I have to say that the results of the mid-term elections give me hope. We will work with those who were just elected to get them to improve the lives of working people, rather than helping those who don't need it.

As we prepare for the holidays let's be thankful for our union and what we have as utility workers. We are truly blessed for what we have been able to do as workers banding together in our union.

Fighting together as one

Our wages, benefits, and job security are among the best in the world. The companies do not give these benefits to us. We have to band together and speak with one voice to negotiate them. Without our union contract, our benefits and security could be changed and/or taken away at the whim of the employer. We should reflect on that and thank those who came before us. They set the bar high. Our job is to try to protect what we have and inch the bar up a little bit more.

We need to be proud of being union workers. We have what we have because we do come together as a union. Regardless of what little disagreements we have here and there, when it all boils down, when the rubber meets the road, we stand together as family and fight together as one.

Going into the New Year, we have the opportunity to move forward. As long as we stick together and fight together, we're going to be ok.

One area of our continued success is in the training of incumbent and new workers through our Power for America Training Trust (P4A). We're bringing more companies into the fund, training more workers, and hiring more instructors.

I'm happy to announce a new agreement with California Water Services Company to provide safety and skills training to UWUA members. I cannot overstate the importance of this

new relationship for our California Water Utility Council, California Water, and the public.

P4A recently hired William Komianos as a Health and Environmental Director. Bill will develop and deliver training programs, enhance existing training, and provide health, safety and environmental support to members.



Steven VanSlooten
Executive Vice President

"Looking forward to 2019 we will continue to defend existing modes of energy production but we are not going to stick our heads in the sand and let someone else do the work in emerging renewables. It is important that we keep our eye on new technologies. We're not going to stop them from happening. We have to protect what we have and prepare for what is coming."

A total of 3,200 members successfully completed P4A trainings this year: 2,100 in Health, Safety and Environmental skills, and 1,100 in Struck-By and Caught In-Between hazards.

Protecting what we have, preparing for the future

Looking forward to 2019 we will continue to defend existing modes of energy production, but we are not going to stick our heads in the sand and let someone else do the work in emerging renewables. It is important that we keep our eye on new technologies. We're not going to stop them from happening. We have to protect what we have and prepare for what is coming.

When it comes to the generation of electricity and the distribution of electricity, water, and gas, we want to make sure we are on the front lines and do whatever we can to secure that work for our members.

There are a lot of tracts being put out for bids for offshore windmills. We want to be the ones operating and maintaining those sites. We want to be the ones doing that work.

We're not giving up on fossil fuels but with companies moving into offshore wind and other renewables we want to be the ones who are working, doing the training through our P4A, building training centers, and getting those workers into the union. That's going to be on the fast track going into 2019.

Let me close by wishing each and every one of you the best this holiday season. Here's to the New Year!

Key Labor-Dense States See Positive Results With Mid-Term Elections



John Duffy
National Vice President

Back in 2010, the mid-term elections dealt a severe blow to the labor movement.

Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio saw a complete takeover of their state legislatures and governorships by extreme right wing, anti-labor politicians. With complete control of the legislative process, those politicians made it a priority to attack working people in their respective states.

It was the middle of the great recession. Many state and individual Wall Street retirement investments took a big hit. The right wing strategy was to draw a false connection between the economic meltdown and working class union members: blame those who earn good pay and benefits, rather than the Wall Street fat cats who actually caused the problem.

Gov. Scott Walker attacks workers

The first attack on workers and their unions took place in Wisconsin. Newly elected Governor Scott Walker was the driving force there, repeatedly expressing his admiration for President Ronald Reagan and his firing of over 12,000 air traffic controllers during their PATCO strike in 1981. (It's worth noting that PATCO had endorsed Reagan in his successful bid for the White House, and that it took several years, and billions of dollars, for air travel to return to pre-strike levels. All at a cost much greater than settling with the PATCO union.)

Wisconsin's Act 10, also known as the Scott Walker Budget Repair Bill, radically restricted and, in some cases, eliminated collective bargaining rights for Wisconsin's public sector workers. The Act prohibits public sector workers from bargaining over anything except wages, ended the practice of automatic dues deduction from workers' paychecks, and requires yearly votes for a union to remain certified. The bill requires 51% of all members to vote for the union every year. In other words, anyone who doesn't vote, gets counted as a "no" vote against the union. Mandatory dues payment for public sector workers was also outlawed, effectively enacting a right-to-work law for the public sector. For University of Wisconsin Hospitals' and Clinics' employees, and University

of Wisconsin faculty and academic staff, collective bargaining rights were completely eliminated. In order to divide and conquer workers, police and fire unions were strategically carved out of all these anti-union measures. Continuing the attack on Wisconsin workers, in 2015, Walker signed into law a right-to-work bill for the private sector.

Soon after passage of Walkers Act 10, the well-planned right wing assault on organized labor spread to other states such as Michigan and Ohio. In Michigan, right-to-work laws for both the private and public sector were enacted. Other bills passed making it harder for workers and unions to picket, and easier for employers to hire workers to replace striking employees. These bills increased fines against picketers to \$1,000 per person per day and \$10,000 per day for an organization or union involved in a picket deemed to be an illegal mass picket. Another bill repealed a law that required employers to include information about an ongoing strike when they advertise to hire employees who will

replace existing employees who are on strike.

In Ohio, anti-union legislation (SB-5) was passed but was successfully beat back in a ballot initiative. And in Pennsylvania, Democratic Governor Tom Wolf was elected in 2014. He has consistently vetoed anti-worker legislation and was re-elected this year. Gov. Wolf is a good friend of utility workers and has spoken at our Regional Conferences.

Walker sent packing

Although I've reported on these historic anti-union attacks in the past, they bear repeating on the heels of the 2018 mid-term elections. Wisconsin and Michigan voters elected pro-worker candidates to state houses and governorships. They are no longer under the complete control of those whose agenda it is to break unions and hurt the working class as a whole. Ohio will be in play in 2020.

To see Scott Walker, who led the charge to destroy the American labor movement, being sent packing by the voters of Wisconsin was simply the icing on the cake.

"Wisconsin and Michigan voters elected pro-worker candidates to state houses and governorships. They are no longer under the complete control of those whose agenda it is to break unions and hurt the working class as a whole. Ohio will be in play in 2020."

Fearlessly Winning!

Women across the country have made monumental strides in the political realm letting their voices ring loudly, changing the landscape in government and the labor movement.

The 2018 midterm elections paved the way for unprecedented firsts for women. Sharice Davids, elected in Kansas' 3rd District is the first openly gay Native American woman in Congress. Jahana Hayes is the first black woman in Connecti-

cut history to be elected to the House of Representatives. El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia, a Houston Democratic state senator, are Texas' first-ever Latina women in Congress. Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar are the first Muslim women elected to Congress. And the youngest woman ever elected to Congress is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who just turned 29 years old.

Incredible challenges create unique opportunities to find solutions for serious situations. There was a concerted effort and a strategic alliance formed where women decided to fight back and come out swinging in the 2018 elections. Women won a record-breaking 256 House and Senate primaries, 234 for the House and 22 for the Senate. While not all races have been decided as of this writing, at least 128 women will serve in Congress with 23 in the Senate. All together, women will make

up at least 23% of the seats in Congress, a record.

Our sisters have declared that they are taking an active role in decision making to improve the lives of this generation and the future for the next generation. We are seeing bold, aggressive leadership!

Transformational change is on the horizon. Significant milestones are being achieved. Women not only build unions, women build nations! Women are demanding their dream become a reality. This is a year of WOMEN! A pipeline of transformational leaders are taking a seat at the table on their own terms. World game changers. What is your narrative? Prepare the next generation of leaders. Refuse to sit on the sidelines, build bridges, unite and show up.

We tell the story! When we make up our mind that things need to change, that's when things will change. Connect and advocate for women globally! We are in a relay race. I ran my leg in the race. To whom amongst UWUA women can I pass the baton?

— Valerie King recently joined the UWUA National Staff as an Organizer and Women's Caucus Co-Chair



Valerie King
Co-Chair, Women's Caucus



“When we make up our mind that things need to change, that’s when things will change. Connect and advocate for women globally!”



Top: Women's Caucus Co-Chairs Valerie King and Ursula Grant.

Bottom: At the North American Solidarity Project Conference, left to right: Ursula Grant, Michigan State Utility Workers Council members Melissa Sparks and Amber Lalonde, and Valerie King.



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- Ground transportation
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- Bass Pro Shops Shooting Academy sporting clays package for two
- Dogwood Canyon wildlife tram tour for two
- Guided fly fishing for two at Dogwood Canyon
- Round of golf for two at Buffalo Ridge OR spa service for two
- Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium tickets for two
- \$1,000 Carhartt gear package
- \$500 Bass Pro Shops gift card
- \$500 spending money

RUNNER-UP PACKAGE - 5 WINNERS

\$580 value each

- Carhartt Buckfield package (field jacket and pants)
- Carhartt Storm Defender® fishing package (angler jacket and bibs)



REMEMBRANCE

Jim Farrington



On Friday, October 5, 2018, the Utility Workers Union of America lost a member in the line of duty. Jim Farrington, a 51-year-old Journeymen Lineman with Local 347 in Traverse City, Michigan, was fatally injured when the boom of the digger derrick he was working on made contact with a 7,200-single phase primary line. Jim was an employee of Consumers Energy at the time of the accident and had been with the company for the previous ten months.

Prior to his time with Consumers, Jim was a member of UWUA Local 295 with Traverse City Light and Power from 2007 to 2017. Jim began his career as a Lineman with IBEW Local 352 with the Lansing Board of Water and Light in 2000.

In honor of the passing of brother Jim Farrington, the UWUA held a nationwide moment of silence at 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 11.

A celebration of Jim's life took place on that same day.

Donations in honor of his life can be sent to The Fallen Linemen Organization.

Fallen Linemen Organization
PO Box 1453
Madisonville, LA 70447
<http://fallenlinemen.org>

SALUTING OUR UWUA RETIREES

The UWUA wishes all our retirees health and happiness during your “golden years.” Enjoy it — you’ve earned it!

Local 1-2

Vito Carbonara
Dorothy Curry
Bruce Farina
Gary Guiliano
Edmund Parham
Anthony Pedagna
Manuel Perez
Ansel F. Plymale
Joseph Randazzo
Robert Russo
John Stadtmuller
Ariel Velez
Nicholas Zuzulo

Local 101

Harry Baltimore
Debbie Glaspie
Mike Maxwell
Hollis Sanders
Earl Swihart

Local 102-180

Jay R. Fagans

Local 102-N

David R. Roschli

Local 105

Eric Domke
Rodney Johnson
Gary Reamer

Local 119

Jerry Becker
Catherine Ebel
Lisa Krause
David Matheson
Ron Mitchell
Doyle Pletcher
John Provost
Eddie Smith
Allen Wagner

Local 126

Anthony Hawk
Mark Menhorn

Local 127

Scott Andersen
Dennis Dusel
Charles Makar

Local 175

Sue Ann Frith
John Fuller
Edwin L. Grooms
Cheryl A. Kerr
Gary L. Mason

Local 175 cont'd

Charles W. Morgan
Albert L. Porter
Rickey L. Shiveley
John M. Zweigart

Local 223

Gregory Braunlich
Stanley Crockett
David Dandron
Stephen Drouillard
Cathy Ehred
Bruce Fick
Annie Fisher
Ronald Fuller
Donald Gadille
James Gougeon
Jean Marc J. Goulet
Thomas G. Ingerson
Lorraine Johns-Parker
Chris Mancina
Leanne McAllister
Jane Ogden
Daniel Richileau
Carol Schmidt
Jeffery Sims
Susan Taylor
William Wells
John Yokom

Local 270

Brian F. Bowens
Thomas Hanuschak
Dave Zrubek

Local 273

Mark Campana
Robert Hannon
Robert Jaruse
Kenneth Lessard
William McRae
Mark Peterson
Michael Savignano
Charles Smith

Local 283

Gino DeLorenzo

Local 335

Jeffrey D. Azar
Mark S. Holtschneider
Anita M. Seger

Local 347

Edward Carnahan
James Richert

Local 369

Robert Clancy

Local 369 cont'd

Steven Perry
Thomas Wood

Local 375

Steve Cirino
Richard Downes
Richard Folkers

Local 416

Michael Kozak
Thomas Lavrich
William Steuernagel

Local 417

Martin Hotchkiss

Local 423

Kevin Maloney
Ozzie Rosser

Local 425

John Beard

Local 430

Larry J. Ball
Ricardo L. Bolin
Paul N. Dingess
Tony R. Grimm
Randy J. Hysell
Wanda S. Jordan
James E. Preston
Lisa A. Saunders

Local 433

Robert M. Carey

Local 470-1

Ivy Bass
Lascelle Stewart

Local 478

Robert A. Morris
Mark S. Roth
Michael E. Summers

Local 534

John Stuart

Local G-555

Dale A. Andes
Richard S. Baranski
Dennis L. Beam
Margaret E. Bevel-Jeter
Edward C. Budd
Kenneth W. Carr
Shirley D. Crislip
Ralph J. D'Amico
Carl M. Douglas
Gregory J. Falatok
Dean A. Fisher
Steve D. Fisher
John P. Fishley
Paul P. Gingo
Rodney A. Guerriero
Joseph Steven Hernandez
Carol Y. Hewlett
William Hommel Jr.
James M. Kline
Jeffrey L. Korn
Kevin J. Kumazec
John W. Kutnar
David Jeffrey Kyker

Local G-555 cont'd

David M. Mattiuz
Mary Anne McGinness
Fletcher L. Molden Jr.
Joyce L. Morales
David D. Moyer
Bonita C. Newell
Dannie L. Newland
Richard A. Paone
Gene A. Potter
John Michael Quinn
John T. Quinn
Vicki L. Rhiel
William B. Risner
Nicholas Salvo
Frederick A. Schmitt
Robert F. Schneider
Michael J. Scianna
Thomas P. Sheehan
Michael D. Skwarski
William Smith
Kenneth J. Sray
William J. Straka Jr.
Timothy D. Sullivan
Benjamin F. Tillman
William J. Twigg
Paul A. Vorisek
John A. Wanda
Terry Lee Watt
William D. Webken
Arthur A. Wesley
Bonnie S. Wightman
Gregory L. Williams
Clyde D. Wolfe
Patricia Ann Zembycki

Local 175 Nominations and Election of Officers

The nominations for officers of Local 175 will take place at the March membership meeting scheduled for March 14, 2019. Nominations will be accepted for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Trustee
- 3 – Service Operation Representatives (Divisions 1, 2, 3)
- 2 – Gas Representatives (North and South)

Nominations may be made in person at the March membership meeting, or may be submitted in writing and signed by the member placing the nomination, to the Secretary/Treasurer during the 30 days prior to the membership meeting.

Elections will take place in April.



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