

THE UTILITY WORKER



UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

Volume LXIV, No. 3 July/August/September 2019

Meet the New Team



31st

Constitutional Convention
Coverage

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ON THE COVER



UWUA National Officers, left to right, Secretary-Treasurer Michael Coleman, Executive Vice President Pat Dillon, President James Slevin, and Vice President John Duffy.

Photo by Kaveh Sardari

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James Slevin

An Honor to Serve You!

Brothers and Sisters, as your new president I want you to know right off the bat that I am honored, humbled, and proud to be elected to represent each and every one of you at the national level.

I will continue the legacy of those utility workers who came before me, those who built the UWUA into the strongest union representing workers in gas, electric, and water utilities.

I particularly want to thank former president, now President Emeritus Mike Langford and former Executive Vice President Steven VanSlooten for their years of service to our members and the larger labor movement. They set us on a path for the 21st Century and it is now up to each and every one of us to continue to move this union forward.

Moving forward

As utility workers, we're working more hours than ever before, and our families and country are suffering. When my mother and father were alive, this country wanted to build families, not destroy them. I believe that the labor movement is going to reverse the attack on working families and their unions. My focus will be on growing the UWUA and continuing to strengthen the labor movement.

In order to do that, we have to change, not just union officers, but rank-and-file members too. We have to get more involved, and more vocal, whether it is in the union hall or in the voting booth.

We have to tell employers, "I deserve respect. I came into work today and at a minimum I want to be thanked for the work I do." I don't see CEOs waking up at 2:00 in the morning to rush in when outages happen, water mains break, or there's trouble with a gas line. We do and we should be recognized for that.

Be change

Our industries are changing faster than ever before. We will either be on the forefront of that change or we will be left behind. I will make sure that we are moving forward, not just for you, our members, but also for the labor movement. We must never forget that it was the blood, sweat, and tears of working people just like you and me that built the middle class of this great nation. To strengthen the labor movement and move our country in

the right direction we must all get involved and get active.

We understand the rapid change that is happening in the utility sector because we experience it every day. Contact your elected representatives and let them know that you understand the change and that they must make sure your perspective, the worker's perspective, is central to their decision making. That is the only way that the changes taking place in our industries will benefit all Americans.

We do the work

You hear a lot of talk about a Green New Deal. Utility workers care for the environment as much as anyone. We also like a safe workplace and wages and

benefits that will support our families. For a Green New Deal to succeed, it must include us. It must protect our jobs — those doing the work today — and all of the gains unions have made in wages, benefits and working conditions. And it must provide more good union jobs for utility workers of tomorrow.

As your president, I want you to know that I will not stand still or stop moving. I will demand that of other officers and staff. The most valuable things in my life are my family and my membership. If you need help, call.

In solidarity.

My focus will be on growing the UWUA and continuing to strengthen the labor movement. In order to do that, we have to change, not just union officers, but rank-and-file members too. We have to get more involved, and more vocal, whether it is in the union hall or in the voting booth.

Water Workers Choose UWUA, Rack Up Victories!

Unorganized Water and wastewater workers are seeing the benefits of UWUA membership as shown by the growing number of organizing and first contract victories in water utilities.

The UWUA Organizing Department is always on the lookout for opportunities to bring new members into the union through organizing campaigns, neutrality/card check agreements, internal organizing drives, and other innovative campaign strategies.

Sanexen Water workers organize and win first contract!

“We had enough of management’s promises and not having things in writing,” said Shawn Smith with Sanexen Water about why he and his co-workers recently joined the UWUA.

It took some time to organize, and the company stonewalled throughout negotiations, but, he says, “Now we have a contract, an agreement on



paper that is enforceable and cannot be messed with.” The Sanexen workers are now members of Local 609 and Smith is their chief steward.

He and his 25 co-workers install Aqua-Pipe structural liner across the United States for Sanexen, a Canadian-owned American company specializing in the trenchless rehabilitation of drinking water mains. The UWUA

has the exclusive collective bargaining rights to represent Sanexen workers nationally. The replacement or rehabilitation of water pipes is high on the list of the country’s infrastructure needs.

So far this year, Smith and his crew have worked in Vermont, Maryland, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia, with New York on the list of states before the end of the year.

“I love being a UWUA member,” Smith says, “the brotherhood, the backing from the national union, and the power that comes with it.”

NJ Suez Water workers stay strong, win big!

Local 503 President Shawn Galbreath, working with UWUA National Organizing Director Bob Houser and Sr. National Rep. Shawn Garvey, recently organized and won a first contract for seven new members working at Suez Water’s Matchaponix shop in New Jersey.

Negotiations were very tough as Local 503 battled Suez Water for almost nine months before securing a first contract for these new members. In the end, Suez agreed to a five-year contract with wage increases of 2.75 percent, 2.75 percent, 2.75 percent, 3.00 percent, and 3.00 percent. In addition to other improvements, members won wage adjustments resulting in new members receiving between \$2.50 - \$3.75 per hour increases starting on the date the contract was ratified.

The organizing and first contract victory grew from the outreach Galbreath did with the Matchaponix workers, who are also part of Suez’s Mid-Atlantic region. “Anytime I talk to someone in this industry I ask if they are organized,” he explains. “My message to my UWUA brothers and sisters is, ‘Stay strong. Don’t give up. And organize anywhere you can!’”

A colorful poster for a UWUA Mass Meeting. At the top, it says "ELECTRIFICATION IS HERE AND IS THREATENING YOUR JOB" and "DON'T ZAP! US!". Below that, it lists "LOCAL 132", "LOCAL 483", and "LOCAL 522". The main text reads "MASS MEETING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2019 10:00AM - 2:00PM PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER 300 E. GREEN ST., PASADENA, CA 91101". It also lists speakers: "DR. GREGORY HONIG - FORMER SECRETARY OF ENERGY", "BRYCE LANE - CEO OF SOCAL GAS", "JIMMY LANGFORD - UWUA NATIONAL PRESIDENT EMERITUS", and "JOHN HOFFMAN - PRESIDENT UWUA LOCAL 132". At the bottom, it says "ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE UNION OFFICE (909) 305-9802" and "UWUA Local 132 www.UWUA132.org".

California Locals 132, 483, and 522 are fighting against electrification, which would eliminate affordable, reliable, and clean natural gas. At the upcoming Nov. 9 mass meeting, UWUA members will be joined by supportive elected officials to solidify a plan to keep union jobs and affordable energy in the state.

How Sweet It Is!

Field Lab Techs Win First Contract at MI Consumers Energy

Almost two years after winning an organizing election by one vote, members of Consumers Energy's Electric Field Lab (EFL) group voted 38 to 2 on May 17 to ratify their first contract, thereby gaining equal standing with the rest of the organized members of the Michigan State Utility Workers Council (MSUWC) at the company.

One month earlier, after nearly two years of negotiations, the MSUWC reached an agreement in principle with Consumers Energy regarding the inclusion of the EFL employees into the existing Operating, Maintenance and Construction (OM&C) Working Agreement between the parties.

Statewide meeting jumpstarts organizing

For many EFL members, the agreement marked the final step in their years-long attempt to organize and gain equal footing with the long-organized employees of Consumers Energy. Attempts to organize the EFL date back to the early 1990's, but the MSUWC was not able to obtain a majority interest in organizing within the group until late in 2016 when some senior members of the group joined the effort to organize.

In April 2017, a core group of EFL members organized a statewide meeting of the group with the MSUWC. During the meeting they explained their interests and concerns about organizing. The driving forces were significant pay inequity within the group and in comparison with existing union employees doing similar work, the pigeon-holing of employees preventing advancement, and significant differences in healthcare costs compared to their union counterparts. After hearing the EFL members, the MSUWC committed to helping the



Michigan State Utility Workers Council President Craig Wright, second from right, with Consumers Energy's Electric Field Lab Negotiation Committee members, left to right, Rich Keene, Brian Layman, and Scott McCullough.

“For years I saw the union make gains while we were losing ground, and finally as a group we said, ‘enough is enough,’ many of us have wanted this for a long time.”

— Rich Keene

group overcome these issues if they authorized the UWUA to bargain on their behalf.

Persistence pays off

After obtaining over two-thirds of the group's authorization cards, the MSUWC petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for an election, and on May 24, 2017 the union won the election by one vote. Considering a one vote win is by no means a mandate, the MSUWC knew they had their work cut out for them if they were going to get an agreement the group would ratify.

A negotiation team was assembled, including members of the MSUWC

Executive Board and three of the EFL's more senior and respected members. EFL's, Brian Layman, Scott McCullough, and Rich Keene, one of the organizing efforts strongest supporters, all joined the negotiation team.

The group developed a plan that included bringing the EFL under the existing OM&C Working Agreement. Throughout negotiations, the company resisted the idea of bringing the EFL into the OM&C Agreement, but the bargaining committee refused to waiver, demanding the members of the EFL receive all the benefits of other organized members with Consumers Energy. Their persistence paid off.

“What do we have to do now to build our union for the future?”



Tim Furlong

Local 102
Pennsylvania

“We have to find a way to get younger members involved and to understand the importance of the union and that we are their friend and not the company. A lot of these guys have been brainwashed and they are afraid to speak out against the company. The thing that helped me come along was the old guys reached out to me and brought me along and said ‘here’s what we can do for you.’ They looked out for me when I was afraid to speak up. Then I realized that it’s ok to speak up. We need to reach out to the young guys the same way and maybe push them a little bit and tell them, ‘hey, you can’t let the company get away with that and here’s what you have to do.’”



Prudencia Williams

Local 1-2
New York

“I feel there should be more communication with members, between stewards, officers and even management. Sometimes people come to me and I have to run to find answers. I don’t have a problem doing that, but it helps if information is available so that when they come to me I can give an answer.”



Dan Kunzman

Local 270
Ohio

“We need to give our members the tools to keep their personal house in order. Learn how to achieve work/life balance. Being at a nuclear power plant we run into issues where the plant shuts down and I was leaving and 10 minutes later I’m on a 12-hour night shift for the foreseeable future with only one day off a week. That puts a lot of toll on your family.

“I talk to the guys and we discuss things like family life and how to make the time you spend with your family count and not give it all to work. As a union leader I do preach to my guys about short-sighted decisions and not selling your soul for money, that there are a lot of things in our contract that we fought for that don’t necessarily financially pay in the short run but in the long term are very beneficial for you and your family.”


Craig Connolly

Local 369
Massachusetts

“We need to continue to protect and enhance wages, benefits and working conditions for our members, as well as involving and educating our young members about unions. We need to encourage our young members to get involved because they are the future. I was very fortunate coming up, I had some great guys take me under their wings. I had a mentor say to me, ‘Kid if you want to be a good union guy then you need to know your job and do your job.’”


Austin Swenglish

Local 433
Pennsylvania

“We must explain all of the sacrifices that were made to win all of the articles and provisions in our contracts. The union fought for these, they weren’t given by the company. Then we must carry this message to anyone who’s not union to show them the union way is the better way!”


Ann Durham

Local 175
Ohio

“We need to get good young people in the field involved. They are the next generation and we need to focus on them. Bring them in; teach them the job and the safety that goes with the job. Push for women to come in because women really get out there and work hard. I tell new members how important the union is. It will protect you and protect your job.”


Tremere Grant

Local 335
Missouri

“Continue to grow and connect with one another and get involved with the youth and women’s caucuses to develop leaders moving forward. I’m a young local vice president and I’m trying to get as many young people involved as I can. I explain that everybody has a voice and opportunity to be what you can be in the union. I always invite and implore women to step up and into their positions. I currently have a woman as a chief shop steward and we have designated areas for women to grow with opportunities in our union. Developing young workers and women and giving them opportunities is key.”

Bernie LaBelle, Region II Senior National Representative, Retires



Bernie LaBelle with National Officers and E-Board members.

Bernie LaBelle, the UWUA's long time national representative for Region II, officially retired at the close of this year's convention. Outgoing President Langford paid tribute to LaBelle while presenting him with a plaque for his years of service to utility workers everywhere.

"Bernie is a truly outstanding and amazing National staff member," Langford said. "Being the dedicated and passionate union man that he is, I'm sure he will still be taking calls when one of

his locals or members has a problem. But I understand they may have to pull him off the golf course to take those calls!"

Bernie started as a pipeline worker in 1970 and was hired by a water utility in May 1977 to direct crews in the maintenance construction department in Williamsport, PA.

At Local 407, he became steward in 1978, vice president in 1980, and president in the 90's. In 1999 he organized his first local of 100 water workers in Williamsport.

From 1999 to 2005, Bernie was a part-time organizer and went full-time in April of 2005 as a national organizer. A few years later he became a national representative and then senior national representative.

Over the course of his career Bernie serviced over 40 locals in Region II.

Bernie is responsible for many organizing, collective bargaining, and arbitration victories over the course of his career to the benefit of thousands of UWUA members.

One of Bernie's favorite battles took him out of Region II when he went to New York to support his Local 1-2 brothers and sisters who were locked out by Con Ed. Bernie spent a month there, morning, noon and night tirelessly picketing with members and doing anything and everything he could to help Local 1-2's members find victory with a new contract.

Bernie has some advice: "You don't have to be smarter than your opponent, you just have to outwork them. And you have to gain people's trust to follow you."

Meet the New E-Board Members

In addition to the election of National Officers at the Convention, UWUA delegates elected new National Executive Board members. They are:



Stephen Kowolonek
Region III
President, Local 600



Robert Ritsema
Member-At-Large
Vice President, MSUWC



Eddie Hall
Member-At-Large
President, Local G-555



Allan Bathon
Member-At-Large
President, Local 335



31st Constitutional Convention Coverage



For four action packed days in July, utility workers convened at the 31st Constitutional Convention to chart a course for the union for the next four years and elect new national officers.

The election of James Slevin as president and Patrick Dillon as executive vice president topped the proceedings as Mike Langford and Steven VanSlooten retired from their positions as president and executive vice president respectively to hand leadership off to the next generation of UWUA leaders.

Secretary-Treasurer Michael Coleman and Vice President John Duffy were re-elected to round out the national leadership team.

The theme of this year's historic 31st Constitutional Convention, *Our Mission: Protecting Our Legacy, Building Our Future* was embraced by delegates and alternate delegates, the guest speakers who addressed the participants, and the hundreds of other guests who attended the convention.

"I will make sure that we are moving forward, not just for our members but also for the labor movement which, through blood, sweat, and tears, built the middle class of this great nation."

— Jim Slevin, president, UWUA

Top officers take office

Upon being elected president, Slevin addressed the convention saying, "I am honored, humbled, and proud to be elected as your president. I will continue the legacy of this great union. Our industries are changing faster than ever before. We must be on the forefront of that change. I will

make sure that we are moving forward, not just for our members but also for the labor movement which, through blood, sweat, and tears, built the middle class of this great nation."

In his acceptance speech Executive Vice President Dillon said, "It is an amazing honor to be elected executive vice president of this great union. Having the opportunity to see Mike Langford and Steve VanSlooten leave their positions on their own terms this week and to celebrate everything they have done for this union is a wonderful thing. I know that together with Secretary-Treasurer Coleman, Vice President Duffy, and our new National

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Antonio DePina Receives 2019 Utility Worker Hero Award!

On his way to work one morning, Local 369 member Antonio DePina encountered a woman coming out into the street with her arms full. After taking a closer look, he noticed she was carrying an unconscious infant. DePina took action immediately, positioning his vehicle in the street so as to block traffic and dialed 911. Once he approached the woman, he could see the baby was blue. Instinct took over. Utilizing the skills he learned in a class at Ever-source just a few months prior, he started to perform CPR. As soon as he started doing compressions, the 11-month-old child began to spit out water. He put the child in the recovery position as he had learned in training.

According to DePina the child is in his life forever now and he sees her every now and then. "To save a baby's life that's a big thing to be able to do," DePina said of the incident. "I'm glad and grateful it had a positive outcome."



Convention By the Numbers

318 Convention Delegates

96 Alternate Delegates

114 Locals

41,152 Members Represented

414 Guests

28 Resolutions Passed

1 Special Resolution honoring retiring President Langford and Executive Vice President VanSlooten



Honoring Langford and VanSlooten

After nearly 13 years leading UWUA, Mike Langford and Steven VanSlooten retired at this year's convention. Together, they left an indelible impact on the organization, taking the union into the 21st century, securing benefits that uplifted members and working to bring diverse new voices and perspectives into the organization. They received a huge "thank you" for their remarkable leadership, dedication and solidarity from delegates and guests at the convention. The thanks included a special convention resolution recognizing them for their years of service to UWUA members and the labor movement. For more on their impact on the UWUA, visit www.UWUA.net and check out a tribute video honoring their legacy.



Constitutional Convention Coverage | Continued from page 9

President James Slevin we will guide this union on the path that Mike and Steve have laid out before us."

National Committees add energy and purpose

A summit of the UWUA's National Committees — Human Rights, Health and Safety, Young Workers Initiative, and the Women's Caucus — added energy and purpose to the proceedings and brought everyone together in an unprecedented show of support for the committees' work.

In recognition of utility workers as first responders, the second National Hero Award was given to honor those who went beyond the call of duty since the last convention.

The convention is the highest policy-making body of the union, with the power and authority to elect national officers, modify the constitution, and set policy.

Go to visit www.UWUA.net for complete coverage of the historic convention.

The fiery remarks of this year's keynote and special guest speakers at the convention connected UWUA members to the larger labor movement in the United States, Canada and further abroad. Here are excerpts.



Richard Trumka
President, AFL-CIO

"Working people built this country from the ground up. We keep her running every day. In 2020 we are demanding from a president the same thing we demand of ourselves: hard work, integrity, honor, guts, grit and sacrifice. This is our time. This is our moment. We are the American labor movement!"



Kelli Coogan-Gehr
National Nurses
United

"Employer sponsored health insurance is unsustainable. Workers and employers cannot afford it. Will we do what's morally right and choose the path of solidarity with working families across America and fight for Medicare for all? The values that undergird Medicare for all, fairness, equity, universality, are the same values that originally built the union movement. Let's return to these core union values in Medicare for all and revitalize our labor movement."



Newton Jones
President, International
Brotherhood of
Boilermakers

"I am truly excited about the prospect of the Utility Workers and the Boilermakers working together for the greater good of our members. I can think of no other labor union that is so similar to the Boilermakers with the ideals, strengths and goals that match so well than those of our two unions."



Demaurice Smith
Executive Director, NFL
Players Association

"We are here because we believe in the right to organize. We believe that we have to fight for what is good for people and we know there is a hell of a lot more that brings us together than separates us."



J. David Cox
President, AFGE

"The time of 'I pay my union dues, so you do it for me' has come and gone in this country. Every member, every rank and filer, has got to do something. Our enemies are banking on one thing: the apathy of our members."



Mari Manoogian
MI State Rep

"I'm proud to say that this is my 6th UWUA constitutional convention. My first was back in 1995 when I was 3 years old when my father was president of Local 223. This union is a family. Like families we have each other's backs. In good times and in tough times this union was there for my family. And my hope is that many more families will have opportunities to experience that kind of bond, that kind of love that we all share with one another."



Kemal Ozkan
Assistant General
Secretary IndustriALL

"Greetings from the 50 million workers from 140 countries who are members of your IndustriALL Global Union. Our agenda is to organize and build the collective power of workers around the world. The global economy has failed working people because of multinational corporate greed. Our answer to this is to organize with you on a global scale. Let's stand up together, let's speak up together, let's fight back together!"



Jerry Dias
President, UNIFOR

"I stand here with you in international solidarity. Your struggles are our struggles. We have joined with you in the North American Solidarity Project to shape our futures together. Let's take back our countries to make sure that working class people have good union jobs and a strong voice. Let's get this done!"



Elise Bryant
President, Coalition
of Labor Union
Women

"Read the first line of the Constitution of the United States, 'We the People, in order to form a more perfect union.' They didn't say 'organization,' they didn't say 'association,' they said union because they understood that if the 13 colonies stood against each other they would be easily defeated. United we stand, divided we fall. And that's why unions are the backbone of this nation and we will stay that way as long as it exists."

10 Questions for President Slevin

Q: What would you like people to know about you?

A: I'm a utility worker, the son of two immigrants and my father was a utility worker. I saw the struggles they went through. Same as the next person, I am continuing to work toward the American Dream.

Q: What are you excited about in this new role?

A: I'm excited about learning and listening. I'm always trying to learn more. Right now, I'm doing a listening tour of our locals across the country and trying to meet with as many of our members as possible.

I'm hearing a lot about the issues our members face on the East Coast and the West Coast and everywhere in between. For example, our members have been impacted by everything from Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast to the wildfires out west. I'm really hearing about what happens to the utility workers lives and their families when these kinds of things hit.

Probably one of the biggest reasons I got into the labor movement is seeing the struggles of working families. So, I'm always thinking about how we can make a better workplace and better life for our members.

Q: How do you see the utility industry changing over the next 5-10 years?

A: It's changing today, not five years from now. The technology revolution happening today is faster. Climate change is impacting everything we do and that's why we have to be engaged. We can't have corporations dictating policy changes. We have to steer the ship. We can't sit back and see what happens.

We have some great minds and we have to work together. The truth is the utility industry isn't going to be the same in every capacity. Deregulation was fast moving, but what we're experiencing now is moving even faster.

Q: How are we as an organization meeting those challenges?

A: Changes are going to happen and we're not sitting back. We're engaged and working to understand what that means for workplaces and our members' livelihoods.

We're engaging in discussions about climate issues, advocating that workers and communities are considered as policies are written. We're on the doorsteps of the elected officials making decisions and ensuring our rights are protected in collective bargaining.

Q: What is your top priority over the next several months?

A: Getting out to meet members and listening, that's my top



UWUA President James Slevin is on a "listening tour" to hear directly from members.

priority. We have some talented people out there and I want to hear their sides of it. The two most valuable things in my life are my family and my members and letting them know their value.

Q: What was your favorite moment of the convention?

A: There were two. One was seeing all of the new members at their first convention stand up and seeing how many there were.

The other is hearing a story from an individual who attended a Power for America (P4A) conference. Attending that conference really inspired him to be more involved in the labor movement and become an advocate for safety in his workplace. That showed we're doing some things right.

Q: What's your favorite snack?

A: I like all foods.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: For movies, I like old humor like "Dazed and Confused," "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and "Superbad."

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: One of my hobbies is that I like to cook.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a member of the UWUA?

A: Being part of this organization, when events happen we're on the forefront of it. We don't get enough respect for the work that our members do, making sure people have the electricity, gas and water they need. When wildfires or storms come through, we're there and being part of the union and seeing men and women act as first responders it makes you proud.



Labor Day 2019!



Focusing on Our Mission

At the Utility Workers Union of America's 31st National Convention, I had the extreme honor of being elected to the office of National Executive Vice President. Not only is it an honor to join the national leadership of this great union, but stepping into the shoes of retiring President D. Michael Langford and Executive Vice President Steven VanSlooten, carries enormous responsibility.

That responsibility was defined and memorialized with the passage of 28 resolutions during the convention that all centered around the theme of the convention, *Our Mission: Protecting Our Legacy, Building Our Future*. This mission has been a guiding principle of the UWUA for many years, however, today's rapidly evolving utility industry makes it all that much more important to focus ourselves on this mission.

Attacks on nuclear and coal

One need look no further than the effects of the energy industry's response to environmental concerns over climate change to see the need for the UWUA to not only protect our legacy, but also build our future.

For example, for years the UWUA has supported, defended and lobbied for the production of electricity through the use of nuclear energy. Although electricity produced with nuclear energy remains among the most efficient and cleanest sources of electricity, the constant attacks by anti-nuclear groups, coupled with the decreased cost of electricity produced with fracked natural gas, has caused owners of nuclear power plants to commit to permanently shut down of those plants. In Massachusetts, New York and Michigan, Entergy has announced plans to shutdown its UWUA represented nuclear plants, even though these plants remain profitable and provide a significant percentage of electricity in all three states. Although the UWUA continues to lobby to keep these plants online, our efforts are running out of time as evidenced by the shuttering of Entergy's Pilgrim Nuclear Plant in Massachusetts last May and the planned closing of the others only a few short years away.

The story is similar for UWUA's coal-fueled electric generating plants. For years, coal plants have been affected by constant attacks from environmental groups resulting in changes to environmental protection laws. Today, as in the example of nuclear plants, the abundance of relatively inexpensive fracked gas is

causing the owners of coal generating facilities to close them.

Threat of 'electrification'

Meanwhile, in California and other West Coast states, the attacks have

begun on natural gas, and not just on the use of natural gas to produce electricity. Recently proposed state legislation and ongoing local government actions in California aim to not only eliminate the use of natural gas to produce electricity, but also to prevent the new installation of gas infrastructure in new construction. These efforts, referred to as "electrification," represent a monumental threat to our members' livelihoods, and it is incumbent on the UWUA to protect its legacy by being actively involved in opposing these efforts. The leadership and members of Locals 132, 483 and 522 in California are actively opposing statewide and local

legislation that seeks to limit or restrict the installation of new gas infrastructure.

Opportunities ahead

With the efforts to address climate change negatively impacting the livelihood of so many UWUA members, it can be very difficult to see any positives. However, as the production of electricity and the energy industry change, opportunities are created. At the same time that the Utility Workers are supporting and defending their members and the work they have traditionally performed, the union is actively working to gain representational rights within new areas of the industry. On the East Coast, the Utility Workers are working with several potential owners of offshore wind farms, to ensure that UWUA members will operate and maintain them. In Michigan, the Michigan State Utility Workers Council and the Power for America Training Trust Fund are working together to develop a renewable training center to equip Utility Workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to operate and maintain all forms of renewable energy including, wind, solar, and battery storage.

As the utility industry evolves, workers within the industry have a choice, to bury their heads in the sand and let what happens happen, or, as the UWUA will do, protect our legacy while building our future.



Patrick Dillon
Executive Vice President

As the utility industry evolves, workers within the industry have a choice, to bury their heads in the sand and let what happens happen, or, as the UWUA will do, protect our legacy while building our future.

Bring Your Energy!

This summer, UWUA members from across the United States gathered in Las Vegas for our union's 31st Constitutional Convention. Once again, we collectively upheld our duty to honor our past, assess the current moment, and plan our union's move into the future. Our convention theme, *Our Mission: Protecting Our Legacy, Building Our Future* captures the spirit of what we, as life-long trade unionists do every day, recognizing those who brought us to this point, and uniting around new leadership, and new energy to carry us forward.

Convention resolutions guide us forward

As a part of this, our membership passed 28 convention resolutions, forming a map of the issues most important to our union, issues grounded in experience, and pointing the direction for the work ahead. Across a union as diverse as ours, every one of us can identify with at least some of the issues raised in these resolutions and, with the convention behind us, now is the time for each of us to ask ourselves how we can make a difference, how we can be a part of the solution for advancing at least a piece of the work mapped out in those 28 resolutions.

For example, many of us can relate on a personal level to the issues described in the resolution seeking to address the opioid crisis, a resolution that serves as a national call to action for those willing to put in the time and effort. An issue such as this is often intensely personal and emotional for those who can relate to the suffering of a relative, a friend, or a co-worker. Those who are so affected are called to harness those feelings and turn them into power. There are a number of efforts to address the opioid crisis underway at the community, state, and national levels to help affected persons, to build programs, to pass legislation, and more — efforts that those of us with the will to act should seek to join.

Whether it's working with a community group, talking with state legislators, or even traveling to Washington, DC to share your personal experience at the highest level, we all know that it is only through the power of action that change can be affected. Ask yourself, what can you do? What can your UWUA local do? What can your community do to push for action on opioids, an issue of such importance to so many?



Michael Coleman
Secretary-Treasurer

Whether it's working with a community group, talking with state legislators, or even traveling to Washington, DC to share your personal experience at the highest level, we all know that it is only through the power of action that change can be affected. Ask yourself, what can you do? What can your UWUA local do? What can your community do to push for action on opioids, an issue of such importance to so many?

We have the power to make change

Across the span of 28 resolutions, we can all see ourselves, and our experiences reflected in at least some. Are you concerned about retirement security, family leave, labor rights, energy policy, clean water, rebuilding infrastructure, or supporting workforce training? All these issues and more, were captured at our convention as values that our union, and ourselves as trade unionists, have fought for in the past and will continue to advance into the future.

With the convention behind us, now is the time to put meaning into our union's theme, *Our Mission: Protecting Our Legacy, Building Our Future*, and our resolutions by identifying the issues of greatest importance to each of us and taking action.

Honor the work done by those who have gone before us by picking up the baton and carrying it forward. Get engaged with your local, with the national union, with elected officials and community leaders. Our voices, united as working people within the UWUA, hold the power to change our society, and our world, for the better.

Educate yourself on what you don't know and educate others on what you do know. As the UWUA moves forward under new national leadership, remember that by demonstrating the power of collective action, by lifting our voices, we can all be leaders in our communities and in our union. Scan the list of resolutions at www.UWUA.net. Find your issue, get engaged.

Labor Day Origins Remind Us of the Neverending Battle for Justice



John Duffy
National Vice President

Back in the late 1800's, when the United States was experiencing huge economic growth through the industrial revolution, there was also another revolution going on. It was a revolution by the workers who made industrialists at that time incredibly rich. The wealth of people like John D. Rockefeller, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Henry Ford, and Andrew Carnegie would by today's standards be measured in the hundreds of billions of dollars — far more than tech giants like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and even Jeff Bezos, the wealthiest individual in the world today.

Industrialists' greed

While those industrialists were becoming rich beyond belief, many of the workers whose labor they profited from, worked a mandatory 12-hour day, seven days a week. "If You Don't Come in Sunday, Don't Come in Monday" was the phrase of the day from the bosses.

Prior to it becoming a national holiday, the first unofficial Labor Day parade took place on September 5th, 1882 in New York City with thousands of workers marching from City Hall to Union Square. However, the organizers, New York's Central Labor Union (today's Central Labor Council chartered by the AFL in 1920) had a big problem: The first Monday in September was not recognized as a day off work. The issue was solved temporarily by declaring a one day strike in the city. All striking workers were expected to march in a parade and then eat and drink at a giant cookout afterwards. It was later celebrated in other cities and towns before it was signed into law as a national holiday 12 years later on June 28, 1894 by President Grover Cleveland.

While today, the parade is seen mostly as a celebration of the contributions working people have made to this great country. Back then, it was also used as a means of drawing attention to the plight of workers. Along with brutally long work hours

and low wages, unsafe working conditions resulted in many workplace fatalities. Between 1881 and 1900, 35,000 workers per year lost their lives in accidents at work, while more than 100,000 workers went on strike each year. In fact, in 1892, two years before Labor Day became

a federal holiday, 1,298 strikes involving some 164,000 workers took place throughout the country.

Every gain that workers have made in this country is the direct result of working men and woman fighting hard for it. So every time Labor Day rolls around, as we stand proud and celebrate our daily contributions to this country through our labor, let us not forget the struggles and great sacrifices of the trade unionists that came before us, and remain ever vigilant in preserving and improving on those gains.

Workers force bosses to bargain

Naturally, those labor wars continued into the 20th century. But for all those years until 1935, workers did not have the legal right to form unions. The recognition of unions by employers and the eventual collective bargaining agreement were all brought about by brutal strikes. The labor wars got to such a point that Congress passed, and President Franklin Roosevelt signed, The National Labor Relations Act in 1935. The Act forced employers to recognize labor unions and to bargain in good faith with them. Prior to that, it was solely the workers themselves who forced the boss to the bargaining table.

The Social Security Act was also made law back in 1935. Imagine trying to pass such legislation today? Millions of Americans rely on Social Security in retirement. Especially the millions of people who don't have union negotiated retirement benefits.

Every gain that workers have made in this country is the direct result of working men and woman fighting hard for it. So every time Labor Day rolls around, as we stand proud and celebrate our daily contributions to this country through our labor, let us not forget the struggles and great sacrifices of the trade unionists who came before us, and remain ever vigilant in preserving and improving on those gains.



SAFETY CORNER

Scotty MacNeill
John.macneill@uwua.net

Focus on Safety Training Coast-to-Coast

Led by National Safety Director Scotty MacNeill, the UWUA National Safety Committee has members working in the water, gas, and electric industries from each of the UWUA's five regions. They are busy coast-to-coast, making sure that UWUA members continue to be the safest, most productive, and highest skilled workers in the world.

Their recent activities include:

MacNeill's visit to Wyoming to meet with Local 127 President Jim Schmidt, Financial Secretary Chauffe Schirmer, also a National Safety Committee member, local members, and management to discuss safety programs and the Utility Workers Military Assistance Program (UMAP).

And in California, Local 132 President Eric Hofmann, the safety committee and members participated in a Safety Congress with SoCal Gas. The unfortunate death of Local 132 member Wade Kilpatrick added urgency to the day-long event.

UWUA, P4A and American Water focus on safety and training

The UWUA continues to work closely with American Water and the union's Power for America (P4A) Training Trust to ensure its members are the safest, best-trained water workers.

Most recently, Local 648 and Pennsylvania American Water (PAAW) held their first Union Management Safety Summit. The summit included a full day of safety exchanges and was an important first step in the PAAW training partnership with the UWUA's P4A Systems of Safety and Safety Leadership program. The event was kicked off by Jeff McIntyre, PAAW president and UWUA National Vice President John Duffy. P4A Executive Director Jon Harmon and MacNeill followed them



Local 648 Systems of Safety trainers and Peer-to-Peer team at the PA American Water Safety Summit with National Safety Director Scotty MacNeill, seated far left, and P4A Executive Director Jon Harmon, standing second from left.



Local 686 Safety Leadership Training: Jesse Gil, Joe Cipparone, Ryan Campbell, Brian Horsey, Ed Carter, James Genna, and Bruce Schmitt. President Keith Holmes, fourth from left.

with a presentation on the UWUA/P4A Safety Leadership program and the union's peer-to-peer safety program. A Systems of Safety training session rounded out the program. Local 648 President Ed Kastreva and his leadership team organized and conducted a safety survey which was also reviewed at the safety summit.

Safety leadership training at Local 686

Local 686 President Keith Holmes has put together a local safety committee and tapped MacNeill to put them through the National Safety Leadership program. Congratulations go to the local's National Safety Committee mem-



WY Local 127 Area Representative Chad Smith, daughter Alyssa, and wife Andrea, at the Jim Bridger Power Plant Safety Day 2019.

ber Jesse Gil and his team. Local 686 represents members at Philadelphia Gas Works, the country's largest municipally owned gas company.

Union Sportsmen's Alliance, UWUA, Together for Good

Local 104 member pursues whitetail on national TV

A wind power technician and member of UWUA Local 104, Jordan Winans, services wind-driven turbines high above the earth to help keep the lights on in homes across the grid. When his boots are on the ground, Winans spends as much time as possible pursuing largemouth bass and walleyes, but his favorite pastime is scouting and bowhunting Michigan's whitetail deer.

In early 2018, Winans was chosen by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) to appear on its national outdoor TV



Jordan Winans, UWUA Local 104.

series, "Brotherhood Outdoors." Last fall, he traveled to the legendary bluff country of Buffalo County, WI, and Winona County, MN, to fulfill his dream of matching wits with a monster buck.

Nestled in the rugged yet fertile Driftless Region untouched by glaciers in the last Ice Age, the counties are famous for producing record-book bucks. The breathtaking terrain where Winans' adventure occurs is unlike anywhere he's hunted in his home state, and the bluffland bucks are considerably older and wiser, too. With the aid of his Schuhter's Outpost host, he sets out in search of a giant.

After the whitetail hunt, the cameras follow Winans back home to Michigan where he and his father host a military veteran during the annual Walleyes for Warriors fishing event on Saginaw Bay.

Did you miss Winans' episode on Sportsman Channel? Watch "Brotherhood Outdoors" and the best outdoor TV anytime at MyOutdoorTV.com. Plus, watch your fellow union brothers and sisters each week on "Brotherhood Outdoors" on Sundays at 11 a.m. ET on Sportsman Channel.

Want to be a guest on the show? Apply today at www.brotherhoodoutdoors.tv/apply.

Local 335 member receives conservation steward of the year award

The USA awarded the 2019 Utility Workers Conservation Steward of the Year Award to Allan Bathon, president of UWUA Local 335, for his exemplary commitment to conservation and community service.

Bathon, of Florissant, MO, championed the revitalization of public access to the Meramec River at Minnie Ha Ha Park in Sunset Hills, MO. The effort began in 2017 when Bathon spearheaded a USA Work Boots on the Ground project in which union volunteers from Missouri American Water and UWUA Local 335 tore out and replaced the original ramp, which was in poor condition.

When catastrophic flooding damaged 90 percent of new structure, Bathon



USA Director of Membership, Marketing and Communications Brian Dowler, left, presenting Local 335 President Allan Bathon with the 2019 UWUA Conservation Steward of the Year Award.

helped devise a new design to stand up to future flood waters and rallied union volunteers to rebuild the ramp. In all, volunteers donated more than 500 hours of labor to make the new ramp a reality.

Funded through a \$35,000 grant from the American Water Charitable Foundation, the new facility was named the Ron Schneider Boat Ramp to honor a longtime UWUA member who aided the initial rebuild. Bathon also organized the ramp's official dedication celebration in April of 2018, which included a family outdoors day that drew more than 250 participants.

Bathon explained that creating opportunities for community members to enjoy the outdoors was a major motivation for he and other union volunteers. "We're blessed with natural resources like the Meramec, Mississippi and Missouri rivers in our area, but work needs to be done for people to access them," he said. "We decided to step up our game and start making it happen."

"I am honored to receive this award," Bathon said. "But it's not my honor alone. It belongs to everyone who put in a lot of hard work on this project."

Roswell Members Achieve 11 Percent Wage Increase Over Two Years

Membership mobilization and political action continue to pay dividends for UWUA members in Roswell, NM, as Local 51 recently ratified a new collective bargaining agreement posting solid wage gains and providing that UWUA members will have substantial input into safety and health issues affecting city workers.

The contract, ratified this summer following contract reopener talks, guarantees over 4.8 percent in wage increases for all bargaining unit members during 2019. Under the contract, city employees were scheduled to receive a 2.8 percent cost-of-living increase in July, followed by a 2 percent step increase in December.

"This is the first time in years that Local 51 members have been able to win fair

"This is the first time in years that Local 51 members have been able to win fair wage increases without having a major fight with city administrators. These gains are a direct result of the member mobilization campaign we have conducted in Roswell over the past three years."

— Jerry Acosta, UWUA National Representative

wage increases without having a major fight with city administrators," noted UWUA National Representative Jerry Acosta. "These gains are a direct result of the member mobilization campaign we have conducted in Roswell over the past three years."

The new contract also provides for Local 51 to appoint bargaining unit employees from each of seven departments

for the past two years.

The union took the city to arbitration to successfully restore the step and bonus payments in February 2017, and then won contract language later that year guaranteeing the payments in the future. In 2018, UWUA organized a coalition of all unions in Roswell to elect two new, union-friendly members to the city council.

throughout city government to attend all City of Roswell safety committee meetings. UWUA committee members will attend the safety meetings with pay whenever they take place during normal work hours. Compounded with the wage gains now secured in the 2019 contract, Roswell employees have gained an average of 11.5 percent in wage increases

RETIREE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Name: **Brian J. Murray**

Title: **Service Specialist with Local 18007**

Industry: **32 years in the gas industry**

Date of Retirement: **August 1, 2019**

How long have you been a member of UWUA?

Around 10 years.

What has being a UWUA member meant to you over the course of your career?

UWUA gave me great opportunity to get more involved on the safety aspects of this job. Working with Scotty MacNeill, we launched a peer-to-peer program at Peoples Gas. It's a process where a fellow union member goes out and talks to a fellow member about various safety concerns. It's a no-name, no-discipline conversation between members about safety that helps us to address blind spots. I've also helped to implement this idea at other locals also.

Outside of that, throughout my career I responded to many carbon monoxide calls and gas leaks. We as union members make a big difference doing that, and we're also saving lives and protecting public safety.

What's next for you?

The best part of my retirement is working for the Power for America Training Trust (P4A) training veterans and working with Rick Passarelli, who was my mentor. It's an honor to work with veterans who have served our country. I'm a trainer there working with about 45 veterans at a time. I'm very happy to be doing this.

Do you know a retiring UWUA member who deserves to be spotlighted? E-mail nominations to ebzymek@uwua.net.



DoD, UWUA, P4A Partnership Creates Pathway to Utility Industry for Veterans

Recently the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) and Department of Defense (DoD) entered into an historic agreement that connects troops leaving the military with training and employment opportunities in the utility industry.

The agreement signed by UWUA President Jim Slevin and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Education and Training Fred Drummond, officially recognizes the UWUA as a Career Skills Programs (CSP) training provider and an endorsed SkillBridge Provider by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans deserve careers

“What differentiates this program from many others out there is that we don’t just provide veterans or transitioning service members with training and leave them to navigate the hiring process on their own,” Slevin said. “We offer individuals who are seeking a new career pathway a job and the opportunity to earn a good living in the utility industry.”

The program will be administered through UWUA’s Utility Worker Military Assistance Program (UMAP) and its Power for America Training Trust Fund (P4A). Service members will have the opportunity to receive on-the-job training before they fully separate from the military — a model that aims to make the transition from military to civilian life go as smoothly as possible. UMAP’s record of nearly 100 percent job placement provides troops with the option to receive training in the utility industry including in-demand renewable energy sector and gas industry jobs.

“Programs like UMAP give veterans the opportunity to translate the skills they learned in the military to a civilian career opportunity,” said Drummond.



“Programs like UMAP give veterans the opportunity to translate the skills they learned in the military to a civilian career opportunity. They’re getting a valuable skill that will lead to a job and in some cases they are even earning academic credits that can be applied if they advance their educational opportunities.”

— Fred Drummond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Education and Training

“They’re getting a valuable skill that will lead to a job and in some cases they are even earning academic credits that can be applied if they advance their educational opportunities.”

No cost to service members

Grants through the Department of Labor and other allied organizations fund supportive services — including bus passes and other scholarships — making it possible for veterans to participate at no cost to them. UMAP and P4A have

found unique support among service members and their families going through the programs.

Besides this exciting opportunity the union is also working to certify UWUA’s renewable energy apprenticeship program. Once this process is complete, veterans will have the option of using the GI bill to enroll in the apprenticeship program and work in operations and maintenance of solar and wind farms and battery parks.

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

Thomas M. Carroll
James E. Darnley
Michael Draskin
Bill Grove
Laurel Hodge
Ferenc Karoly
Joseph Laselva
Saheri Ni Amen
Ronney Paul
John Ponziani
Steven Symbouras
Leonard Taylor

Local 102-D

Terry D. Heydorn

Local 102-G

Thomas A. McKahan
Mark A. Williams
Perry L. Williams

Local 102-I

Joel R. Kellner

Local 102-Q

Robert L. Aleshire Jr.

Local 102-S

Leslie K. Spade

Local 102-180

Eugene F. Cymbor Jr.
Patrick D. Graham
Kyle S. Grenz
Joshua A. Lindsay
Zackary L. Mauk
Joshua F. Twaroski

Local 104

Thomas Allen
James Keel
Mike Sharp

Local 106

Robert Albright
Luis Cruz

Local 107

Eugene ‘Geno’ Alfaro
David Miller
John Phenix

Local 123

Thomas N. Andersen
Delora M. Spagnuolo
Theresa M. Stieve

Local 127

Robert Aberle
Jesse Abney
Thomas Berg

Local 127 cont’d

Raymond Bougsty
Daniel Esquibel
John R. Kenfield
Mark Preston
Leonard Wempen

Local 144

Carl A. Fry Jr.
Donald J. Charbonneau
Robert L. Gillmore
John G. Holiday
Richard D. Pratt
Timothy G. Reiber
Michael A. Schaefer
Terry L. Sharp
Michael A. Smith

Local 164

Gary Maceno
David Pilipovich
Kevin Solomon

Local 175

David J. Ault
Cathy J. Bocko
Laura L. Branham
Jackie Jerome Fails
Debra Leonard
Paul Denney McQueen
Monty L. Montgomery
Katherine J. Shepherd
Gary Lee Spence
Linda Stacy
Mark E. Stephenson
Kathleen A. Supinger

Local 270

Mark A. Paolillo

Local 223

Carl Ausland
Steven Carder
Maureen Fix
David Folk
Anthony Harper
Rick Hetzel
Vernon Johnson III
Charles Lacolla
William Lange
Richard Lentz
Randy O’Connor
Roger Pace
David Papke
Bruce Raupp
Larry Rocker
Gary Steinhaus
Kevin Theisen
Percella Vinson
Joseph Walker

Local 258

Thomas G. Meinke

Local 270

Dennis R. Rigden
Ed Santos

Local 335

Lee Haas
Brian K. White

Local 347

Donald Denning
Virginia Horton
Michael Leppek
Todd Raven
Michael Somers

Local 358

Dennis Edwards
Michael Pretzer

Local 365

James Ahearne
Kevin Laudage

Local 369

Timothy Aiello
John V. Almeida
Michael Andrews
Vinhtrung Auduong
Richard Avery
Kenneth A. Bartolo
Mando Borgatti
Ronald Bowen
Daniel Bowman
Marion Briggs
William Buckley
Jeffrey Burns
Robert Byrne
Francis Callahan
Michael Cardinal
Donna Casella
George Cassell
John Chamberlain
Thomas ‘Dave’ Clancy
Bernadette M. Clark
Sharon D. Coleman
James Conlon
Robert F. Constantine
Paul Corcoran
Hector Cordeiro
James A. Cummings
John Cunningham
John Daly
Michael D’Amico
Linda Davenport
William Davenport
Bernard P. Desrosiers
Camillo Dinunzio
William Duggan
Ann Feeney

Local 369 cont’d

Francis Feleciano
William Finnigan
Patrice Fitzgerald
Anthony Flaherty
David Fountain
William Frazer
Karlyn Fuller
Donna Furtado
Robert Gage
Ann Gomes
Kenneth A. Hallman
Daniel R. Harris
Joseph Healey
Bernice Henderson
John Hendy
Christopher Hickey
Eric Hinxman
William J. Horne
Brian Howell
Ralph Jameson
Debra Johnson-McIntosh
Michael Jones
Gene Kaiser
Jonathan Kamataris
Deborah M. Keegan
Robert A. Kelland
Theresa Kelleher
Richard Kiley
Brian King
Yun Kee Ko
Carol A. Leblanc
Edward Labo
Paul Lanouette
Karen Larson-Sullivan
Richard Lawless
Debra-Ann Leavitt
Larry Loomis
Daniel Lucas
Norman S. Macleod Jr.
Jennifer Mann-Dicristofaro
David Martin
Catherine McCoy
Terence McDonough
Agatha ‘Nicky’ Meegan
James Miketa
Ronn Miller
Edward R. Moore
Lloyd Moore Thimas
Donna Morris
Kevin M. Naylor
William Nicholson
Kelly O’Brien
Michael J. Oliver
Gary Olson
Michael Olson
Joseph Pace
Gerard Pothier
Diane Ramsey
Normand Raymond
Sheila Reynolds
Eileen Richards
David A. Ricker
Alexander Robertson
Marie E. Ryan
Peter H. Saniuk
Michael Santos
Cindy Sears
Lothar Seehaus
Richard Shea
John R. Sheehan

Local 369 cont’d

Richard Sherman
David Siereveld
Stephen Smith
Donald Smyth
James J. Sweeney
Wong Szeto
Brian Szyndlar
Michael Thornhill
Sandra Trask
Edward Varmette
David Williams
Murray Williams
Christopher Wilson
Mark Wirtanen
Thomas Wonsey
Kevin Yetman
John Yingling

Local 375

Ralph Lopez

Local 388

James Martin
Steven VanSlooten

Local 393

Vincent Ammirati
Cynthia ‘Cindy’ Flynn
Peter Gevinski
Constance Hobson
Fred Hulse III
Oscar Montalvo III
Richard Neumann
Scott Stephani

Local 416

David Burns
Lynda Jones

Local 426

Mark Parsons

Local 430

Jerry L. Wade Jr.
Keith R. Wiseman

Local 433

Dorothy Lackovic

Local 470-1

Willie Harriott
Calvin Teel

Local 478

James A. Carman
Matthew J. Fields
Judith A. McGuire
Lawrence L. Oliver
Jeffrey L. Suto

Local 582

Ron Ribbink
Lee Warner

Local 600

Linda Adams
Jim Deering
Pam Foltz
Leila Ligon



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Name	Local #		
New Address	City	State	Zip Code

Moment of Silence Observed in Honor of Fallen Members

Over the last several months the UWUA family tragically sustained two work-related fatalities. On Tuesday, August 27, National Officers asked locals nationally to hold a moment of silence during all of their respective shifts.

On July 15, Wade Kilpatrick, age 31, a member of UWUA Local 132 and a Lead Construction Technician with SoCal Gas was tragically killed when the home where he was investigating an outside gas leak exploded. Wade is survived by his mother and eight siblings. Wade enjoyed target shooting, fishing and the Dodgers.



Wade Kilpatrick



Paul Germano

On August 12, Paul Germano, age 50, a member of UWUA Local 369 and a Dig Safe Technician for 13 years with National Grid, passed away with his family by his side from injuries he sustained when he was struck by a car on July 31. Paul was locating lines when he was struck. Paul leaves behind a daughter and a grand-daughter, Aviano "Who was the light of his life." Paul was an avid Boston sports fan and enjoyed golfing. He was a bodybuilder who was in the gym everyday.

