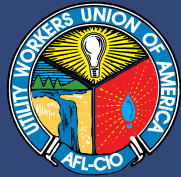


# THE UTILITY WORKER



UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

Volume LXVI, No. 3 | July/August/September 2021

**Power For America**  
**TRAINING  
IN ACTION!**  
**2021 Conference**

**Virtual  
Conference**

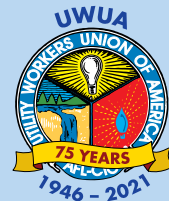
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Making History, Moving Forward

75 YEARS!



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*James Slevin*

# It's Time for Change!

**T**his summer tested us in ways we've never been tested before. As if COVID-19 and the Delta variant weren't bad enough, we've experienced unprecedented natural disasters. Extreme wildfires, hurricanes, droughts and floods are no longer an anomaly. They are the norm.

As first responders, nobody knows this better than UWUA members. We are on the front lines whenever and wherever there are natural and man-made disasters.

## Climate change is real

Superstorm Sandy was considered a 100-year to a 1,500-year storm. It was less than 10 years before Hurricanes Henri and Ida hit the Gulf of Mexico and the Eastern Seaboard, causing unprecedented flooding this summer.

I heard a firefighter in California say that the wildfires there are no longer an anomaly, they are the norm.

*The Washington Post* reported recently that approximately one-third of Americans experienced a weather related disaster over the summer.

Analyzing federal disaster declarations, the newspaper concluded, "climate change has turbocharged severe storms, fires, hurricanes, coastal storms — threatening millions." I couldn't agree more.

People are buying electric generators to power their homes during outages and putting sprinkler systems on their homes to prevent them from burning up. Is this the way we're supposed to live?

The utilities we work for must change to meet the demands of today and build for the future. They have stripped their workforces down to the bare bone. We need boots on the ground. We need to put people to work. We need to build our country back.

Rather than hiring a permanent workforce, more and more, utilities rely on contractors. They are only in it for one thing, to get paid. People who own a house,

care about the house. It's the same thing with utility workers. Whether it's water, electric or gas, people who are hired by the utility care for it better than contractors do. There's a sense of community, a sense of family in a permanent workforce.

Deregulation is at the root of today's problems. It's a disaster that needs to be fixed. When politicians decided to deregulate, they told every industry from the airlines to the utilities that rates would go down and service would be better. Neither has happened.

Deregulation works on a chalkboard, not in the field.

## Putting utility workers first

In reality, deregulation has not made for better utilities. Think about it, we're buying generators. We're putting water jugs outside our homes to collect rainwater because brown water is coming out of our taps.

They deregulated, in part, to weaken the collective power of workers. Before deregulation,

unionized workers had a bigger say in what was going on and this benefited consumers.

The change to renewable energy is inevitable. We shouldn't repeat the mistakes of the past. We need to make sure that the existing workforce is involved in the change and that the future workforce has a say as well. The only way to do that is to empower workers through their unions.

Consumers, regulators, politicians, and the industry itself need to ask: do we have an adequate workforce to address today's challenges and those we know are coming down the pike?

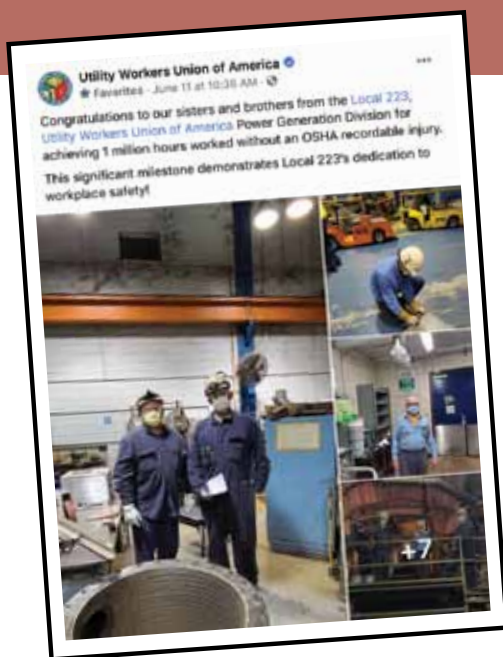
In order to do the necessary, climate-centered hardening of our infrastructure, we need to tighten up our natural gas, electric, and water systems. We need to change the way utilities work. That means putting utility workers first!

It's time for change!

**In order to do the necessary climate centered hardening of our infrastructure, we need to tighten up our natural gas, electric, and water systems. We need to change the way utilities work. That means putting utility workers first!**



## Local 223 Power Generation Division Clocks 1 Million Hours Without an OSHA Recordable Injury



Congratulations to UWUA brothers and sisters from Local 223's Power Generation Division for achieving 1 million hours worked without an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recordable injury.

This significant milestone demonstrates Local 223's dedication to workplace safety!

"Although we work around hazards every day, we are getting better at recognizing and mitigating them prior to going to work," says Erin Fitch, Local 223's Power Gen. Safety Representative and member of the UWUA National Safety Committee's Electrical Subcommittee. "I am very proud of my brothers and sisters. We are looking out for each other and together we have worked safely for over one million man hours."

"This is a powerful accomplishment, not just for members of Local 223, but also for their families who wait for them to come home every day," says UWUA National Safety Director John MacNeill. "Instead of thinking of safety as the absence of injuries and illnesses, the members of 223 think of safety as the ability to be successful under varying conditions."

Pictured on this page are members of the division who are responsible for generating electricity for DTE Energy to approximately 2.2 million customers in southeastern Michigan.



# MI Local 223 Scores Big with Wind Tech Victory

**W**ind technicians working for Michigan giant DTE Energy overwhelmingly voted to join Local 223 recently. The new 25-member unit joins the UWUA's growing number of members working in the booming renewable energy industry.

With the Local 223 victory, Michigan becomes the only state in the nation where the operation and maintenance of wind turbines owned and operated by regulated electric utilities is performed by workers who will enjoy the benefits of a union contract. UWUA locals that are part of the Michigan State Utility Workers Council (MSUWC) represent another 40-plus wind technicians employed by Consumers Energy, the state's other regulated utility.

"We welcome our newest members with open arms and are looking forward to negotiating a first contract that will show the country that good union jobs are possible in this sector and what they mean for workers and their communities in the transition to renewable energy," says Local 223 President and National E-Board member Juanita Ray.

"This is huge for the UWUA, workers in renewables, and the nation," echoes James Harrison, National Director

**"Up until now, employment in wind, solar and other renewables has fallen far short of being family-supporting, good union jobs. With our successes, and the backing of policy makers in Washington, D.C. and the states, we remain hopeful that the promise of good jobs in the transition to renewables will be kept."**

— James Harrison, National Director of Renewable Energy



Wind technicians in Michigan's lower peninsula are joining the UWUA and proving that the transition to renewable energy can result in good, family supporting union jobs. Pictured here are Local 223's newest members from DTE's wind farms.

of Renewable Energy. "Up until now, employment in wind, solar and other renewables has fallen far short of being family-supporting, good union jobs. With our successes, and the backing of policy makers in Washington, D.C. and the states, we remain hopeful that the promise of good jobs in the transition to renewables will be kept."

Recognizing the need to support organizing and representing wind,

solar, battery storage and other renewable energy technicians, the UWUA's Power for America Training Trust has created a first of its kind Department of Labor-certified Apprenticeship Program for Renewable Specialists.

The wins in Michigan grow out of the UWUA's strength there as the state transitions to electric generation by renewables. State law requires each utility to provide a detailed electric generation plan, including retirement of



Photo: DTE Energy

coal plants and investment in green energy. Local 223 and the MSUWC have worked hard to make sure their members didn't lose out in the state's transition to renewables.

Michigan now ranks as the 15th most wind producing state. Wind farms are spread throughout rural Michigan. The newly organized Local 223 members work on DTE wind farms close to Breckenridge and Bad Axe, MI.

## ***What's the most important thing you learned while going through your Power for America training?***

**Cynthia Barrientos**

Local 160 C

“With P4A’s training, I’ve learned the value of being fully present, aware of my surroundings and keeping my head on a swivel at all times. In an ever-changing environment, these skills are vital and crucially important in making sure that I can be as prepared as possible to handle whatever dangers may come my way, safely.”

**Casey Tasker**

Local 106

“I enjoyed learning from the instructors that were doing the work every day. For me, it was important to know that my instructors know what the work is like out in the field. It gave me confidence that what I was being told would help me when I was out welding on my own.”

**Josh Rambo**

Local 123

“The most important thing I learned was how to read wire diagrams and wiring schematics to diagnose and repair appliances. It gave me the confidence to do the job when I was out on my own in the field.”

**Mark Michalski**

Local 105

“I learn best when I get to use my hands. At P4A, I was in the welding lab every day getting to practice the welding techniques I use every day.”

**Jay Darden**

Local 160D

“Man, there was a lot. Let’s see: I appreciated the heat illness training that we received. Learning what the other districts with similar climates were doing to be proactive was awesome. Especially since I was going from the office into the field at the hottest time of the year. My first day reading meters by myself was 109 degrees. I felt very prepared knowing the signs of heat stroke and heat exhaustion and what to do when/if I started feeling any of those symptoms.”

**Davon Hicks**

Local 484

“The trainings that I’ve been a part of through P4A have been instrumental in helping improve the safety culture here at Cal Water. I’ve talked to many members personally who have told me that they have benefited greatly!”

# Biden Administration Aims Aid Programs at Coal, Nuclear Communities

## Michigan receives nuclear community grant

This summer, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), a branch of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, awarded a \$969,261 grant to the Southwestern Michigan Commission, a grant aimed at developing an economic recovery strategy ahead of the closure of the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station. Further, this grant will be matched with \$242,316 in state and local funds.

Demonstrating President Biden's commitment to supporting efforts to create opportunity and jobs in communities impacted by nuclear plant closures, the grant will help to create a roadmap for economic recovery to help southwest Michigan respond to the economic challenges created by the closure. With community buy-in, the investment will help ensure the region can adapt to the change and build back better than ever.

Palisades, a regional economic anchor since 1971, has employed thousands of workers, providing good paying middle-class, union jobs. As the plant prepares to close in 2022, this EDA grant will help ensure a meaningful transition, safely stop plant operations, and create new jobs along the way.

This project is being funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) via its Assistance to Nuclear Closure Communities program. Closures of nuclear powerplants throughout the United States have significantly impacted the economic foundation of their communities through job losses and a reduction to the local tax base. EDA has a track record of working

with communities facing such structural economic adjustments, including those impacted by nuclear powerplant closures. In 2020, EDA deployed a total of \$15 million to support communities impacted by nuclear plant closures. This is an on-going grant program and there are no submission deadlines under this opportunity.



The Biden Administration awarded a sizeable grant to help the southwest Michigan economy in advance of the closing of the Palisades Nuclear Generation Station.

## EDA builds out coal community assistance program

EDA's Coal Communities Commitment allocates \$300 million of the \$3 billion it received under the recently enacted American Rescue Plan to support coal communities as they recover from the pandemic and to help them create new jobs and opportunities. More specifically, EDA will dedicate \$100 million of its Build Back Better Regional Challenge funds and \$200 million of its Economic Adjustment Assistance funds to directly support coal communities.

This investment is a result of the Initial Report to the President on Empowering Workers Through Revitalizing Energy Communities developed by President Biden's Interagency Working Group, tasked by the President with developing a plan to assist energy industry communities.

EDA also aims to support these communities through its Assistance to Coal Communities (ACC) initiative. Through this program, the EDA awards funds on a competitive basis to assist communities economically challenged by the declining use of coal through activities to support economic diversification, job creation, capital investment, workforce development, and re-employment opportunities.

As there is no pre-defined list of what constitutes an impacted coal community, they include those outlined by the Interagency Working Group report as well as communities and regions that can reasonably demonstrate how changes in the coal economy have resulted in job losses in any coal-reliant sector such as mining, power generation, or transportation.

Entities that are eligible to apply for these EDA programs include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- A state, county, city, or other political subdivision engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities;
- An EDA-designated Economic Development District;
- An Indian Tribe;
- An institution of higher education;
- A public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.

While many challenges lie ahead for nuclear and coal communities as the nation's energy mix steadily evolves over time, there are resources available for those looking to re-invent their economies, attract new opportunity and chart a path to their next chapters.



SAVE THE DATE

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Training In Action!



Power For America

TRAINING  
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2021 Conference

November 8 – 10

Join us for this year's P4A Conference.

Safety and Skills training at a time that is convenient for you.  
Keep an eye out for more information as the date approaches.

Visit <https://uwua.net/> and <https://power4america.org/>

## Local 393 President Barbara Yatauro Understands What it Means to Be a Leader

Barbara Yatauro was recently elected President of Local 393, representing approximately 350 members at Suffolk County Water on Long Island, New York.

For most of her 22-year career, she worked in the new construction division of the company and is now a Senior Clerk there. A few years after joining the union, she was elected Shop Steward. She held the treasurer position for 11 years before being elected president.

*The Utility Worker* caught up with her to hear her thoughts on leadership.

"I learned early on in my career that, as a woman working in a traditionally male dominated field, it makes you work harder and smarter. I definitely have to be that much more knowledgeable about whatever it is I'm saying. And that goes for work related things; union related things, because I'm a woman.

**"I came from a union family. I firmly believe that you have to participate in whatever it is you are doing. You can't just be a bystander."**

"That means that when I give somebody an answer I'm confident that it's the right answer. I think over time people have learned that they can be confident in what I tell them.

"I became active early on. My dad was a union member. He was CSEA [Civil Service Employees Association]. So I came from a union family. I firmly believe that you have to participate in whatever it is you are doing. You can't just be a bystander.

"I encourage women to be more active within their union. Don't be intimidated. Everything comes down to education and research. Learn as much as you can. Knowledge is power.

"Be confident in who you are and work hard at it. I am passionate about helping people and having fair and



Barbara Yatauro

equal rights for everybody regardless of who they are. If that is something you are passionate about, then the union is the place for you. That's the place to really shine.

"When people see somebody who takes the time to get the right answers, who takes the time to hear them when they have a problem, I think that's what people are looking for in a leader, regardless of if they are a man or a woman."

# Contract Enforcement Brings

**P**rotecting bargaining unit work from contractors, providing a pathway to careers for veterans, training women in non-traditional jobs, and shining a light on the truth about electrification are all areas of focus for the National UWUA and many of its locals.

Each of these taken separately presents a challenge to the union, its members and their communities. In a confluence of circumstances, all of them converged on California Local 132, which represents more than 3,000 members who work for SoCal Gas, the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility. The result, an overwhelming victory.

Local 132 President Eric Hofmann explains how they won and what it means for the local.

**“As utility workers, we approach challenges as opportunities on a daily basis. By enforcing their contract, Local 132 leaders recognized the opportunity to tackle the challenges of contracted work, careers for veterans, increasing the number of women in our ranks, and protecting good union jobs in the transition to renewables. They filed a grievance, took it to arbitration and won a decision that addresses each of these challenges and will strengthen and grow the union.”**

— Jim Slevin, President, UWUA

**The Utility Worker:** Give us the background on how contract enforcement resulted in a sweeping victory.

**Eric Hofmann:** We had language in our contract that said, when it comes to gas distribution, the company can contract out up to 40 percent of the work and everything else would have to be done by company employees. We get 60 percent, they get to contract out 40 percent. We call it the 60/40 clause.

**UW:** What happened?

**EH:** They got greedy. They tried to hide the ball here; they tried to hide the ball there. We would get a call from a member at one of our local yards telling us the company was planning jobs that were going to contractors. We started seeing contractors everywhere we looked. It took us a while, but when we thought we could prove it was system-wide, we filed the first grievance.

The company denied it, of course, and we took it to arbitration. We brought in specialists to analyze the company formula for how they determine what's a reportable hour, what's not. We had a huge fight. In the end, the arbitrator found in our favor.

**UW:** Why did the arbitrator rule in your favor?

**EH:** The company argued that the work they were contract-

ing out was for “special projects” which was permitted in the contract. The arbitrator ruled that since that work was going on for six years, it was no longer a “special project.” It was routine work, our work.

**UW:** How does the arbitrator's ruling impact your members?

**EH:** As a result, all of those hours that contractors worked over the six-year period was subject to the 60/40 clause of the contract. Those hours had to come back in-house, and be calculated as our members' work.

To make up for those thousands of lost hours, the arbitrator didn't say the company has to hire X number of employees. He said the company needs to figure out a formula to make the union whole. The company agreed to being totally transparent going forward, and with the last report, it was clear that it is 60/40 the other way in favor of contractors. The company now has 2 1/2 years to hire hundreds of union members to get the formula back in balance.

**UW:** What does this mean for recruitment and training?

**EH:** We will be adding at least 200 new members. The company didn't have the capacity to train so many new employees and we convinced them that UMAP [the Utility Workers Military Assistance Program] could do it for them. The company agreed that it was in their own interest to hire through UMAP, where utility workers train veterans.



Chad Wadsworth, a Local 132 Construction Technician, performing a leak survey on gas distribution lines.

# Huge Victory for Local 132

**UW:** *How did you convince the company to partner with UMAP?*

**EH:** We made it an absolute condition when working towards a settlement and the company eventually agreed. They learned through experience when hiring that many people are unprepared for the work we do. They show up with their shoes untied and can't pass the drug test. We showed them the value of hiring veterans. It's the right thing to do.

The veterans will be hired from the communities in which they service. It will be a diverse workforce.

**UW:** *How does the arbitration settlement impact the hiring of women?*

**EH:** One of the other terms of the settlement was the creation of an entirely new job classification, Leak Survey Technician, which changed the job profile typically seen in this department with a lighter lifting requirement, allowing more opportunities for women and everyone to qualify for.

This new classification eliminates the heavy lifting requirement. It definitely provides an opportunity for women to do something that historically they have not been able to do. Once they've been in for some time, and get some seniority under their belt, they can go into other departments. We created a space where women can now come into a department that was 99 percent male.

**UW:** *Local 132 has been involved in gas safety policy and regulation since the explosion in San Bruno in 2010. It was also instrumental in getting legislation passed to reduce methane leaks. Did this have an impact on the arbitration?*

**EH:** The legislation that we passed has transformed the way the state Public Utility Commission views leaks. When we pushed for the legislation, our focus was getting more crews out there to fix leaks to address climate concerns. So far, it has fallen short of that.

Instead, the commission has taken a much more aggressive approach to finding leaks. The level of scrutiny is beyond what we had ever anticipated. This is an unintended consequence of

the legislation. While it created something totally different from what we thought, it is still getting people good union jobs to address climate change.

Now, we can really focus on hitting the commission's goals with technicians, who are trained for this specific task. And, by so doing, create job opportunities for women, and to ensure that our workforce is reflective of the communities in which we serve.



Chief Shop Steward and Veteran's Committee Chair Tony Duran: "Although many military veterans don't know about the UWUA yet, they're about to find out in the best way possible, union job opportunities. At a time when many veterans feel downtrodden and PTSD is at an all time high, Local 132 stands to help provide good paying union jobs to our veterans. This gives hope to our returning men and women."

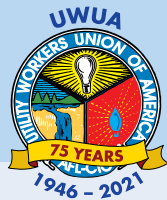


Women's Caucus Chair Andrea Nieto: "The arbitration victory will provide a real entry point for women into a department that has historically been overwhelmingly represented by men. The Leak Survey Technician classification will provide a pathway for women into gas distribution, and that has been missing for a very long time."

**UW:** *Your local is at the forefront of pushing back against efforts to electrify everything at the expense of affordable gas and good union jobs. Did the fight against electrification play a role in this arbitration victory?*

**EH:** That's complicated. While the arbitration itself had nothing to do with electrification, we believe as a union we will be able to make a better case for a transition to a more renewable fuel source like hydrogen and renewable natural gas rather than mandating building electrification with highly trained and skilled union members. Someone gave me this great analogy, that our pipeline infrastructure is like the freeways in our state. With the overcrowding and polluting of cars on the freeway, the solution isn't to tear down the freeways — it's to clean up the cars on the freeway. That's how we look at our existing natural gas delivery system, and we know we have a lot of work to do to clean it up.

Look, there is no doubt that the makeup of our energy delivery systems will look very different 20-plus years from now, but when the question is asked who is going to transform our energy delivery system into the future and keep our good paying union jobs at the forefront, we would respond to that by saying, "Who better than us?"



# 75 YEARS! Making



**“Equal Pay for Equal Work” is slogan of Boston Edison locals fighting to break barriers for women**

**Union supported Civil Rights Act passes, a victory in the fight for equality**

**President Carter signs the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, beginning deregulation of electric utilities**



**1959**

**Landrum-Griffith Act outlaws certain types of worker solidarity**

**1960**

**1962**

**MI Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant begins operation with UWUA representation**



**1964**

**1972**

**PA public employees win union rights, UWUA successfully organizes**

**1978**

**1979**

**UWUA establishes the Committee On Political Education (COPE) Fund, allowing members to voluntarily make political donations**

**T**he Utility Workers Union of America is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1946.

Throughout its 75-year history, the union’s constitution has provided the structure to empower members and their union, and, in so doing, protect families, communities, and the nation. It is as valuable now as it was when it was first written.

Today, UWUA members are being called on in ways that the founders could never have imagined. From working safely through the COVID-19 pandemic, to combating unprecedented wildfires on the west coast, hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and along the eastern seaboard, and extreme heat, tornadoes and floods in the heartland, utility workers are on the front lines, making sure people have gas, water, electricity and steam.

## Learning from history

In 1955, the UWUA, which was an affiliate of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), became an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) when the CIO rejoined the AFL to become the AFL-CIO.

At that time, the power of organized labor was growing, reaching its zenith, with some 35% of U.S. workers belonging to unions. As workers’ strength grew, profit-hungry corporations teamed up with politicians to knock the labor movement off course.

By 1955, the effects of the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act were setting in, making it more difficult for unions to win NLRB elections.

The 1959 Landrum-Griffith Act made it even tougher for workers to wield their power as it tightened secondary boycotts and outlawed “hot cargo” provisions in labor contracts. Such clauses stipulated that an employer could not handle or use goods which are not union made or which are manufactured by a company considered to be unfair by the union. This struck at the heart of labor’s ability to exercise power because it made it harder for workers to act in solidarity with each other.

Despite this, the UWUA continued to organize and secure good contracts for its members. This period was marked by real gains in wages, health and pension benefits, paid time off and other advances for UWUA members.

Victory often came through protracted battles, many resulting in members striking for what they were rightfully entitled to. More often than not, UWUA members prevailed, and the union grew in strength.

True to the UWUA constitution’s preamble, the union continued its fight for equality. This included the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the women’s movement for equal treatment and pay, and, though the National Labor Relations Act does not cover them, collective bargaining for farmworkers.

## Deregulation used to weaken unions

The corporate bosses pushed back on progress every step of the way. They believed then, as they do now, that increasing profits required weakening workers and their unions. If they couldn’t



# History, Moving Forward



**President Reagan breaks Air Traffic Controllers (PATCO) strike**

**1981**

**1986**

**CA Local 132 wins Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday**

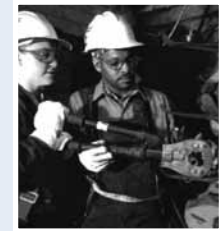


**Congress passes the Energy Policy Act, a major step towards electric deregulation. NH Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant workers join UWUA**

**1992**

**1997**

**UWUA rally to support farmworkers**



**Brotherhood of Utility Workers of New England affiliates**

**1999**

**2002**

**UWUA and SEIU agree that the UWUA would best represent all SEIU gas utility workers**



**2003**

**UWUA Health and Welfare Fund established, now has 8,200 members with \$150 million assets**

beat back worker power on the shop floor or at the bargaining table, they sought to change the rules through legislation and policy. When it came to utilities, deregulation was their favored tool to weaken organized labor.

In 1969, President Nixon began the long process of deregulating the utility industries, starting with natural gas. In 1978, President Carter signed the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, beginning the deregulation of electric utilities. And in 1992, President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act, opening the floodgates to deregulation.

The importance of participating in the political arena was embraced by the UWUA, and in 1979, the union established the Committee On Political Education (COPE) Fund to allow members to voluntarily make political donations. COPE contributions are separate from dues payments, which are not, and cannot be used for political contributions.

The 1980s and 90s was a period when the UWUA fiercely contested deregulation at the state and federal levels. Meanwhile,

because of its strength, numerous independent unions affiliated with the UWUA.

At the dawn of the 2000s, this trend continued. In 2003, the leadership of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) agreed with the UWUA leadership that the UWUA would better represent SEIU's gas workers. As a result, five SEIU locals —

69, 80, G555, 686, and 18007 — joined the UWUA, adding thousands of workers to the union's ranks.

With employers continuing their relentless assault on workers pay, benefits and working conditions, the National Union set up the UWUA Health and Welfare Fund in 2003. This supported members facing increased costs and/or cuts to their health care benefits. Today, some 8,200 members are covered by the fund, which has more than \$150 million in assets. This is

another example of how the union continues to change and adapt to meet the needs of its membership.

The next issue of *The Utility Worker* will cover historic events up to the present, with an eye toward the future.



## UWUA Constitution Preamble:

**We are an organization of men and women of every race, religion, age, and ethnicity, who are committed to a society where all workers and their families live and work with dignity; where there is an economic and political mandate for a more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth for all those performing useful service to society; where workers have a collective voice and power at the workplace; where economic well being is achieved for our members and all workers; where work is satisfying and fairly rewarded.**

# 75th Year Anniversary: Protect our Legacy—Build our Future

**A**s we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Utility Workers Union of America, I am both honored and privileged, as your National Secretary Treasurer, to assist in providing historical data for these anniversary editions of *The Utility Worker*.

Our 2021 second quarter magazine titled “Making History, Moving Forward” covered the years 1933-1955. It identified many organizational dates, including the original charter dates for our National Union as well as some of our local unions. In this current edition, we highlight events and/or milestones in our history from 1956 to 2003, including the 1979 inception of the National COPE Fund and the establishment of the Utility Workers Health and Welfare Fund in 2003.

## Witness to history

This history project has brought back many memories for me that I want to share with you. In 2002-2003, thousands of union members from several gas locals that were members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) made the choice to change affiliation to the UWUA: Locals 69-1, 69-2, 80, 686, 18007, and my home Local 555. I am proud to have been Local 555's representative/observer to physically witness this historic vote. Joining the UWUA was a no-brainer for my local. The UWUA knew our struggles and shared our concerns about working conditions, utility legislation and, at that time, deregulation, as well as having the resources to help our struggles.

Why is this significant? May, 2003 was the inception of the UWUA's Health and Welfare Fund (H&W Fund), which was created to provide health and related benefits to employees of various employers and affiliated locals.

Move forward to 2006, UWUA Local G555 was in one of the hardest and longest contract negotiations in our history. Dominion was the new employer and looking to impose their will on our membership with drastic proposals to shift medical coverage and cost from the employer to our members. Were we going to strike for the first time in over 25 years? As local leaders, we reached out to the UWUA National Officers for assistance. We strategized, shared ideas and found a way

to utilize the UWUA Health and Welfare Fund as a vehicle to cover these new out-of-pocket medical expenses.

A successful settlement was reached when Dominion agreed to contribute approximately \$4 million to the UWUA H&W Fund, to establish a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), for active and retired members. To this day, in each subsequent contract, Local G555 has negotiated additional funding.

Over 18 years, the UWUA H&W Fund has been utilized by numerous other local unions. With assets of over \$150 million it currently serves more than 8,200 participants.

## From generation to generation

What is the message? The success of our organization is not about any one individual or moment in time. It took many different labor leaders to strategize and agree to merge all those SEIU locals into the UWUA. It took solid communication with the membership for those overwhelming votes of support. It took several different administrations at both the national level and local level to formulate ideas to combat the mounting medical coverage costs we were faced with at the bargaining table. Ideas that were initiated 20 years ago are still in effect and helping our membership today. It took collective bargaining over several generations and administrations.

It is now our job to mentor the current and new labor leaders to continue to build upon this foundation while exploring new ideas and opportunities. New challenges face us today. COVID-19 presents many new issues related to working conditions, from safe PPE to remote worksites.

The wildfires on the west coast have been raging since 2016. Our brothers and sisters in Region 5 have unprecedented work related issues, from new job assignments and work/life balance considerations, to having quality air to breathe. It will take all of us fighting and adapting collectively to ensure safe working conditions for the next 75 years and beyond. Together, collectively, we will protect our legacy while building our future!



Michael Coleman  
Secretary-Treasurer

**It will take all of us fighting and adapting collectively to ensure safe working conditions for the next 75 years and beyond. Together, collectively, we will protect our legacy while building our future!**

# The Resurgence of COVID-19

Earlier this spring, as the three U.S. COVID-19 vaccines were becoming readily available, many of us thought we saw light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. As vaccination rates rose, we saw infection rates decrease and many thought that we were heading for a summer that would allow us to return to some form of normalcy. At that time, some health officials were expressing concern over a new mutation of the virus, the Delta variant. Much like the early warnings, many of us, eager to let our guard down and enjoy the activities of summer, paid little attention to these early warnings of the Delta variant. Fast forward just a couple of months and we find ourselves in a dire situation, the vaccination rate has slowed while the rate of infections has skyrocketed.

## Life cycle of a virus

What caused the Delta variant? Viruses mutate as a normal course of their reproduction. When a virus reproduces it is very common for them to produce small mutations, or differences in their DNA. Most variants do not survive, however, occasionally a virus mutation results in a variant that not only survives but also thrives.

The Delta variant thrives in large part because it is far more transmissible than the original COVID-19 virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that the Delta variant is over two times as transmissible, results in more severe illness than the original COVID-19 virus, and although vaccinated people are far less likely to have severe illness from Delta, they can still be infected and transmit the virus.

On August 23, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first COVID-19 vaccine, the Pfizer vaccine. For many, the FDA final approval was the reassurance they were waiting for before getting the vaccine. As the Pfizer vaccine received final FDA approval, we immediately saw several public agencies and employers announce plans to require vaccination of their employees. The largest of these is the U.S. military, which already requires 17 inoculations for its service members when they enter the military or before they deploy overseas.

As our children returned to school, whether K-12 or college, we saw many educational institutions, both public and private, require vaccination of employees and, in the case of colleges, students. In addition to public employers, many healthcare providers are requiring vaccination for employees.

The list of private employers requiring vaccination is extensive and one can only imagine that it is only a matter of time before utilities begin doing so. UWUA locals are reporting employers requiring notification of the vaccination status of members.

The possibility of being required to provide notification of vaccination status, or even requiring vaccination, brings with it many questions. In his June legal update for UWUA officers, staff, and local union leaders, UWUA General Counsel David Radtke summarized the legal issues related to employers requesting vaccination status or requiring vaccination. To sum it up: requests for vaccination status in most cases do not violate the ADA or HIPPA. Regarding the possibility that an employer requires vaccination, the

UWUA's position is that such a requirement should be a subject of mandatory bargaining.

**It isn't the union's place to determine to vaccinate or not to vaccinate. However, the union does have a place in determining the effects on its members, and to that end the union does not support unilateral mandates by employers or the government.**

## Understanding both sides

The UWUA knows that vaccination is a very contentious issue across the country. Our membership is no different. The UWUA understands both sides of the issue. We have members who believe that vaccination is the key to ending the pandemic, citing that vaccination has proven effective. We also have members who are hesitant or strictly opposed to being vaccinated for any number of reasons. It isn't the union's place to determine to vaccinate or not to vaccinate. However, the union does have a place in determining the effects on its members, and to that end the union does not support unilateral mandates by employers or the government. Workers' voices must be heard on all work-related subjects, most especially, on subjects related to their health.



Patrick Dillon  
Executive Vice President

# Twenty Years Later, The Many Heroic Acts On 9/11 are Still Vivid

The attacks on our country on Tuesday, September 11, 2001 were certainly some of our deadliest hours. With 2,996 casualties, they exceeded those of Pearl Harbor and comprise the deadliest terrorist attack in world history.

The tragedies that occurred in Shanksville, PA, the Pentagon and the World Trade Center changed our lives forever. It was also that day, and for many months after, we witnessed many acts

of heroism. Those acts of heroism began with passengers and crew on United Airlines flight 93 who took on the hijackers to gain control of the plane. While unsuccessful, their attempt saved many lives at the U.S. Capitol, which is believed to be the hijackers intended target.

There were many acts of heroism that day at the Pentagon as well as the World Trade Center, and for many months after.

## Where were you ...?

Everyone remembers where they were on 9/11.

As a Business Agent at Local 1-2, I was attending, along with Sr. Business Agent Harry Farrell, a safety conference at a Con Edison training center in Queens, NY. (Four years later, Harry and I would be elected President and Vice President of Local 1-2 respectively.)

Queens is one of the "outer boroughs" that surround Manhattan where the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center stood. From there, on that crystal clear day in September, we watched in horror as those towers burned and one by one came crashing down. During this time, all bridges and tunnels were shut down, fighter jets were scrambling.

My first thoughts after those towers came down was the huge loss of life for all those who worked in the towers, and all the first responders. With few exceptions, just about every first responder was a union member. And amongst all those organizations that suffered casualties, no one suffered more than the New York City Firefighters with 343 giving their lives to save others.

As utility workers we are first responders to many natural disasters such as major storms and hurricanes. Restoring life sustaining water service, natural gas and electricity in some of

the harshest conditions is part and parcel of what we do. At the World Trade Center, UWUA Local 1-2 members responded heroically as well. It's nothing less than a miracle that no members lost their lives that day. Tragically, a Con Edison Vice President, Richard Morgan, was killed when the South Tower collapsed. He died while working with Con Edison's emergency management team as a consultant after his recent retirement, trying to

reach an electrical substation and help firefighters navigate the system near the towers. He was well liked and respected by Local 1-2 rank-and-file members as well as the local's leadership.

**All across the nation utility workers continue to work around the clock to provide vital services such as clean drinking water, gas and steam to heat our homes and public buildings; providing electricity to do everything from lighting our homes, powering our electronics and many of our automobiles. The current pandemic has proven once again the importance of what utility workers do day-in and day-out.**



Sam Hollenhead/LPA

Local 1-2 members were among the many first responders to the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers.

## Heroes work here

As a Business Agent for Local 1-2, I was anxious to get out and visit our members. Once it was allowed, I visited our members several times at Ground Zero starting on Saturday, September 15. There I saw our members giving their all, around the clock, to restore natural gas, steam and electricity to lower Manhattan. Many members worked in manholes in excessive heat. More than 3,300 miles of primary cable was laid above ground as a temporary measure to re-energize the affected area allowing the New York Stock Exchange to re-open in only seven days, proving to the world that even a terrorist attack as catastrophic as this cannot keep us down.

A large area of Lower Manhattan, known as the frozen zone, was closed to the general public for months. As Local 1-2 members drove their trucks north, leaving the frozen zone, New Yorkers applauded them at the perimeter. It was certainly a proud moment for our members. I was also so proud and happy to see our members receive this recognition and appreciation they so richly deserve.

Tragically, of the over 3,800 Local 1-2 members that served heroically on September 11 and the following six months, many





# High-Risk Problem-Solving



**Billy Bleichner Retires**

Local 1-2 safety icon Billy Bleichner is retiring on October 1 with almost 50 years of service. He was a full-time Senior Safety Inspector taking care of Con Ed's electrical division in the Bronx and Westchester, New York. He is pictured here with Jim Slevin, who was president of the local at that time.

"There's been no one better to teach me the physical parts of the job as well as safety and procedures," says Local 1-2 Shop Steward Scott Adrian. "Billy is second to none, and will be a missed asset to the company and the union."



Scott Adrian, Shop Steward, Local 1-2.

The UWUA National Safety Committee regularly conducts detailed reviews of incidents that result in injury or death with the goal of correcting mistakes to prevent future mishaps union-wide. The review typically includes: an incident summary, containment of damage, causes, and corrective actions. Below is an example of such a review.

## Fall from Pole

**Incident Summary:** In the process of transferring a transformer and equipment to a new 50' foot class 4 pole, an apprentice, while drilling a hole, severed his safety strap, falling 30 feet to the ground. He was taken to the hospital with severe injuries. Fortunately, he is recovering.

**Containment:** Safety flash and safety stand down to electric operations demonstrating and explaining the cut through hazards associated with drill bits and wood pole fall restriction devices along with mitigation options.

### Causes:

- **Human Root:** Apprentice was unaware that their positioning strap was on top of the drill bit when they engaged the drill.
- **Physical Root:** Positioning strap severed into two pieces.
- **Systemic Root:** Operations was not aware the hazard existed for the positioning strap to be cut through and therefore did not have controls in place to mitigate the hazard.

### Corrective Actions:

Develop training to educate and explain the cut through hazards associated with various types of equipment and wood pole fall restriction devices. Training to include:

- The education for placement of fall protection — keeping the fall protection straps below the work location and education of the hazards associated with equipment that could damage fall protection equipment.
- This education will be incorporated in all training classes.
- Develop a standard to provide oversight and training instruction for development of apprentices.

## NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Continued

developed serious illnesses as a result of their exposure to toxic dust at the site.

All across the nation utility workers continue to work around the clock to provide vital services such as clean drinking water, gas and steam to heat our homes and public buildings; providing electricity to do everything from lighting our homes, powering our electronics and many of our automobiles. The current pandemic has proven once again the importance of what utility workers do day-in and day-out.

Working through this pandemic has been especially hard for our water locals in California that must perform their heroic duties amid massive wildfires. Doing strenuous work with an N95

mask on is enough of a challenge, but try doing it when the air quality is so bad, that even breathing without a mask is a challenge. These UWUA members are working in 9/11 like conditions that will not dissipate. For them, it's like 9/11 is happening over and over again on a daily basis. Conditions are reminiscent of the dust bowl days in the 1930s where everything was constantly covered with dust, now everything is constantly covered with ash. Like all those heroes that worked at Ground Zero, these heroes in California deserve the thanks and appreciation of the entire nation, and deserve the same medical monitoring and medical care as the 9/11 heroes!

# WHERE *UNIONS* MEET THE *OUTDOORS*!



**Yes! ✓**  
***I Want to Join***

**MORE THAN 300,000 UNION  
MEMBERS LEADING THE WAY  
TO PRESERVE NORTH AMERICA'S  
OUTDOOR HERITAGE!**

## **YOU DESERVE AN ORGANIZATION TO CALL YOUR OWN**

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) unites union members who share a love of the great outdoors and a commitment to help preserve North America's outdoor heritage. Active and retired UWUA members qualify for a **NO-COST** USA membership thanks to the support we receive from the UWUA National.



## **USA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

- ✓ 3 digital issues of the *Union Sportsmen's Journal*
- ✓ 20% discount on HuntStand Pro subscription and custom maps
- ✓ Special member pricing on the new and improved **UnionSportsmenStore.com**
- ✓ Chances to win fantastic prizes and trips all year
- ✓ Opportunity to be a guest on the USA's *Brotherhood Outdoors* TV series

**REMEMBER...  
THERE'S NO COST TO YOU!**

**JOIN OR RENEW TODAY AT [MYUSAMEMBERSHIP.COM](http://MYUSAMEMBERSHIP.COM)**





# Meet the UWUA and Union Plus Scholarship Winners

Each year, two UWUA members' children are awarded college scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NSMC).

This year's UWUA National Merit Scholarship winners are Cass Dobrowolski, child of Michigan Local 223's Daniel Dobrowolski, and Liam Ouderkirk, child of New York Local 1-2's John Ouderkirk.

Children of UWUA members are also eligible to apply for a Union Plus scholarship. Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship program has awarded more than \$5 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their post-secondary education.

This year's UWUA Union Plus Scholarship winner is Jacob Shutic, child of Local 270 member Patrick Shutic.

## Cass Dobrowolski

Cass is the son of Dan Dobrowolski, an active member of Local 223 who has

worked at the St. Clair powerplant for over 20 years. Dan currently is an operator there. Dan also sits on the Power Gen. committee for the local.

Cass graduated from Port Huron Northern as the Salutatorian with a 4.41 GPA. He was named to the all-state team for track twice for two separate events, the high jump and the 110 meter hurdles. His exceptional talents will be taking him to Hillsdale College, where he will be a scholarship member of the track team.

When asked: How has his father's experience as a UWUA member shaped his life and future, Cass replied, "It's provided me with opportunity and has shown me what a good work ethic means."



UWUA National Rep. Les Wutka, left, and Local 223's Dan Dobrowolski, with UWUA scholarship winner Cass.

## Liam Ouderkirk

Liam is the son of John Ouderkirk, an 11-year Local 1-2 member who works at the NAES yard in Astoria, Queens. Liam started the honors program at the University of South Carolina in Columbia this fall. He is majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology and hopes to attend medical school to pursue a career as a Radiologist.



Local 1-2's John Ouderkirk, UWUA scholarship winner Liam, mother Mary, and UWUA Sr. National Rep. Reggie Davis.

## In memoriam

### Joseph Mazzoni

Joe Mazzoni, who retired in 2020, recently passed away. Joe was a 30+ year member of Pennsylvania Local 164. He began his union career as a Steward for the outside commercial group. He was then elected Chief Steward and helped negotiate Local 164's current contract with the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County. He will be sorely missed by his union brothers and sisters. Joe is survived by his loving wife, two daughters and a large extended family.



## Jacob Shutic

Jacob is the son of Patrick Shutic, a 35-year member of Ohio Local 270, and his wife Janice, a former UWUA member. Jacob simultaneously earned his high school diploma from iSTEM Geauga Early College High School (ECHS), in Painesville, Ohio and Associate of Arts and Science degrees from Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio.

He is attending a four-year university this fall and majoring in aerospace engineering. Among the top students in his iSTEM Geauga ECHS graduating class, Jacob is passionate about the engineering field and pioneering new innovations.



Local 270's Patrick Shutic, Union Plus scholarship winner Jacob, and mother Janice.

"My parents have been shown the ongoing respect and appreciation for a long day of hard work," Jacob says. "My family's time in UWUA has provided me with unforgettable blessings and lessons such as the utilization of quiet diplomacy, the value of constructive debate, the usefulness of knowledge, and the self-worth to stick up for myself in a respectful manner."



## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Nate Waters, *Chair, Human Rights Committee*

# What is it Going to Take?

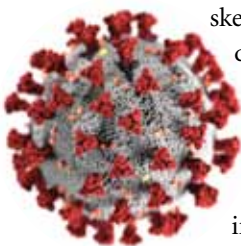
*A message from the UWUA Human Rights Chair.*

**P**eople are sick, in the hospital, and dying from COVID-19. Yet, we still have members who can take the vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones but refuse to.

The vaccines have been tested and proven to be effective. To date, the FDA has approved the Pfizer vaccine for use.

I encourage those who haven't taken a vaccine, and are able to, to look at the facts. Don't get caught up on social media and in the conspiracy theories that have no basis in fact.

I, too, was skeptical in regards to the vaccines. Most of my



skepticism was based on the Tuskegee experiments and others done to people of color, the poor, and the uneducated.

I, too, had doubts because of my lack of research and reliance on hearsay. However, now that I have done the research, spoken with medical professionals who have experienced the tragedy of this horrid virus, and most importantly, searched my own heart, I am thoroughly convinced that these vaccines are the most effective way to beat this pandemic.

What is it going to take for us to look out for our own health, the health of our union brothers and sisters and our communities? What is it going to take for us to wake-up?

Whatever your decision, I hope you know that your Human Rights chair loves you no matter what you decide.



## WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Valerie King, *Co-Chair, Women's Caucus*

# Staying the Course: Pathway to Leadership

**T**he National Women's Caucus Committee members are working on initiatives that center around the training and development of women throughout the UWUA.

Our committee members' strength and fortitude is now pouring into our workplaces as we mentor other women and guide the next generation to navigate the world around them and lead the way to make it better. We are doing this by taking the necessary steps to be supportive of each other and our fellow union sisters, by sharing our journeys, creating initiatives that recognize the impact of women in breaking barriers. We are challenging and defying the odds that are stacked against us.

### The benefits of female leadership

"It's not about men against women but there is evidence to show through research that when you have women in the decision making process, you get policies that benefit women, children and families in general," states Winnie Byanyima executive director of Oxfam International. Everyone benefits when more women are in power.

We know that for female leadership to thrive, it's important to address the disparities in education, participation, training and development. As such, the National Women's Caucus recently attended the United Association of Labor Education (UALE) summer school for women. The theme "Women Workers: Essential, Resilient, and Powerful" resonated with committee members.

This was an opportunity for committee members to network with other women leaders across a wide spectrum of unions,

worker organizations, educators, and our supporters. The objective was to build power in the labor movement through solidarity, political advocacy, and advocacy for racial equity. Developing effective communication, and acquiring advanced leadership skills were the goals.

Through networking, we collaborated with the UMASS Labor Extension Program educators and created a three-day train the trainer "Welcome to the Union" workshop. Fourteen Women Caucus members attended the training and are now equipped with the knowledge and expertise to facilitate this workshop within their respective locals.

### Building union power

Earlier in the year, the Women's Institute of Leadership Development (WILD) held a training entitled, "You Can't Pour From An Empty Cup," which focused on understanding the importance of self-care. Our work is not a 9-5 job. We must take care of ourselves in order to be effective advocates.

As we approach a season of change, we are mapping out goals for the future of UWUA women, empowering them to control their own paths to achieving success. We are cognizant of our GPS (Growth, Performance and Sustainability) to bridge the leadership gap between men and women and build gender equity by supporting the efforts of women and their contributions to the labor movement.

Harriet Beecher Stowe once said, "Women are the real architects of society." Let's build back unions by seeing the world through the lives of women and lift them up as they lead the way!





# Supporting Our Veterans and Allies

When Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15, under the leadership of its Veterans Committee, the UWUA took swift action to support the hundreds of union members who are U.S. military veterans, active-duty troops, and Afghan allies.

## An important message from UWUA officers and the Veterans Committee

On August 17, the UWUA Director of Veterans Affairs, Rick Passarelli, broadcast a message through all of the union's communications channels. It read, in part:

"On behalf of the UWUA Officers and the UWUA Veterans Committee we would like to remember all our UWUA military veterans and their families from all eras and all conflicts or wars, especially during this emotional time.

We would like you to know, especially our Afghanistan veterans, that you answered your country's call to serve and you did so with honor, distinction and courage. We are proud of you for completing your mission and protecting your country.

Please reach out to a battle buddy and check on them, give them your ear to listen and let them know their service to our country was not in vain. We have resources to help and share with others. Please take advantage of this link if needed:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/2ecff31>

We never leave a fallen brother or sister behind.

## Supporting Afghan allies

On August 19, UWUA President Jim Slevin sent a letter to local presidents, E-Board members and employers calling on them to assist the settling of Afghan allies. He wrote, in part:

"United States resettlement offices and affiliates welcome these Afghan families when they arrive in the United States. In support of this new American mission, our union's Department of Defense partners are asking for help in providing

these allies with housing, employment opportunities, and other social services so that they can thrive in their new communities and place their families on solid pathways for new lives in America. In doing so, we seek to honor the service and sacrifices they have rendered our nation at great personal risk to themselves and their loved ones.

"Accordingly, we call on all our friends and allies to stand

with us in this mission, by assisting these newest arrivals to America. The UWUA is urging all our signatory Employers / Locals / Executive Board members to play a role in reaching out to this newest of immigrant communities — people who have literally fought to defend our ideals — and to help identify opportunities to assist them in their moment of crisis.

"We are relentless in our interest in protecting the often-unseen people who make our nation great and make no distinction between those whose families have been in America for generations and those who are just arriving. Whether they are fleeing war, economic hardship, human rights persecution or simply seeking a better life for themselves and their families — like generations of immigrants before them — we are committed to assisting all people in finding and living the American Dream.

"As Americans we cannot, we must not, stand idly by if our actions could help to lift one more person, or one more family out of danger and into opportunity. Though a war may end chaotically, or without a perfect outcome, it does not mean that we should ever dishonor those who have valiantly served, whether from our nation or from others. It is our duty as citizens of America, and of the world, to take what actions we can to live up to the national ideals that have been defended by those now in need.

"[We] ask all our Employers / Locals / Executive Board members to explore opportunities where they exist. Hiring, training, sponsoring, or supporting even just a few of these brave individuals or their family members will not only change lives, it will save lives. If you feel your organization is in a position to assist in this effort in any way, please contact our Director of Veterans Affairs and Workforce Development, Richard Passarelli at [Rpassearelli@uwua.net](mailto:Rpassearelli@uwua.net) with any questions or opportunities that you believe may be available."



Irene Munoz (left) and Eloisa Janneau (right) are two of the hundreds of U.S. veterans who successfully graduated from the Utility Workers Military Assistance Program (UMAP) and are now UWUA members.

# Saluting Our UWUA Retirees

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

## Local 102

John Pardo, Jr.

## Local 105

Kurt Axford  
Kirk Davefort  
Anthony Gooden  
Mike Grimm  
Noel Koop  
Mark Morris  
Joseph Sanders  
Vern Sanford  
Guy Sheridan  
Albert Stephens

## Local 105 (2020 Retirees)

Kirk E. Davert  
Mary Domke  
Michael S. Dunn  
Grant Flewwelling  
Steven J. Gary  
Sharon K. Zimnie

## Local 106

Dave Yeager

## Local 116

Tim Bailey  
Mike Stoll

## Local 123

John J. Castillon

## Local 127

Calvin L. Brasel  
Jack Carson  
Richard McDonald  
Kirk Meredith  
Paul R. Muije  
Kim E. Rogers

## Local 144

Daniel J. Ashmore  
Mark P. Clements  
Tracy L. Hearn  
Harry M. March  
Scott E. Sarver

## Local 160-C

Terri Haag  
Matt Powers  
Terri Rockwood

## Local 164

Charles Kemerer  
Joseph Lena  
John Sweeney

## Local 223

Jon Allen  
Barry Baldwin  
Kenneth Baker  
Roosevelt Barnes  
Richard Bickerstaff  
James Biskner  
Karen Blair  
Leonard Bonney  
Steven Boron  
Rodney Bradford  
Francis Brown, II  
Samuel Conciello  
Frank Costello  
Perry Czarnecki  
Michael Distelrath  
Ronald Dlugowolski  
Thomas Duncan  
Lesley Dupree  
Rick Elinski  
Patrick Ferguson  
Edward Friedline  
Alegandro Gallardo  
Louiso Gallardo  
Mark Gayer  
Donald Gray  
Thomas Greene  
Paul Hagedon  
Anthony Hammond  
Thomas Harabedian  
Timothy Harm  
William Harris  
Gary Hinton  
Osman Hudson  
Gerard Huyghe  
John Innaimo  
Robert Jacques  
Richard Jett  
Michael Kerr  
Anthony King  
Richard Kliemann, Jr.  
Scott Klinger  
Melvin Koger  
Timothy Koppel  
Brad Krupp  
Larry Langton  
Ricahrd Lavere  
Brian Lawcock  
Phillip Lueck  
Michael Mackley  
James Mannino  
Mark Masserant  
Patrick McCormick  
James McCoy  
Tanya McCullough  
Ervin Mettie  
Barry Mugridge  
Roger Nixon  
Raymond Oleski

## Local 223 cont'd

William Philips  
Jerry Pierce  
Jonathan Piernak  
James Pietras  
Helen Porath  
Brian Quello  
Jackie Ringel  
David Ross  
Thomas Russo  
Franz Sanchez  
Ira Sapp  
Gregory Selonke  
Charles Smalley, Jr.  
Robert Smith  
Mark Stanley  
David Stanyer  
Marian Stenzel  
Kevin Stelmach  
Sidney Sova  
Charles Talaski  
Isidore Toppi  
Kevin Turner  
Martin VanBuskirk  
Dale Varty  
Martin Waitkus  
Arthur Walton  
Ernest Wargo  
Donald Watson  
Anthony Wesenberg  
Larry Williams  
Michael Willing  
Walter Wilson  
Alvin Wright  
Byron Wright  
Rafael Zavala  
Richard Zondlak

## Local 254

Ken Durkee

## Local 258

Gary Filter

## Local 264

David L. Scammell

## Local 270

Ronald Alinen  
William Bartlett, Jr.  
David Coggins  
Joseph Coughlin  
John A. Craig  
Josif Ducu  
Debra Geiger  
Nestor Jakimyszyn  
Terry Jeffries  
Cathy Johnston  
Mark Ladegaard

## Local 270 cont'd

Robert B. Likins  
Scott H. Lyon  
Bruce Mitchell  
Thomas Molnar  
Michael W. Myers  
Lawrence Nieberding  
Scott J. Robinson  
Karl Schoenbeck  
Elias Shreve  
Randall Smith  
Frank Vanthoor

## Local 283

Irma Acevedo

## Local 347

Craig Augustine  
Robert Ellery  
Roy Challenger

## Local 355

Richard Petrovic

## Local 358

Kevin Niezguski  
Floyd Robinson

## Local 393

Michael Lachance

## Local 375

Claude Lewis  
Paul Smith

## Local 406

Dennis Bonning  
Robert Schappert  
David Smith

## Local 423

Richard Farr  
Stephen Parlock  
Richard Snyder

## Local 426

John Brown

## Local 470-1

James Bates  
Mike Downey  
Joe Genite  
Rich Hansen  
Mark Hummell  
Brian Kelly  
Andy Koval  
Jen Martin  
Dario Nieves  
Jim Schumacher

## Local 470-1 cont'd

Mark Shurna  
Robert Smith  
Tim Tobey

## Local 483

Joe Armstrong  
Bob Coie  
Augie Garcia  
Armando Haro  
Henry Kanno  
Rudy Palma  
Daniel Porter  
Antonio Valenzuela, Sr.

## Local 534

Bob Fitzpatrick  
Michael P. Ratkowski

## Local 600

Janet Chadwick  
Mary Chapman  
James Hurtt  
Christine Kloeker  
Torain “Keith” Lamb

## Local 648

Brian Farrell (2020 Retiree)

## Local B310

Mike Cary  
David Clarke  
James Diggie  
Mike Hannigan  
Tom Jones  
Paul Kennelly  
Frank Luisi  
Sue McCarthy  
Jerilyn Moore  
Paul Mott  
Michael Paquin  
Marc Pouliot  
Richard Rioles  
Orlando Tabares  
Stephen White



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Rich Trumka at the UWUA Convention in 2019.



The AFL-CIO Executive Council elected Liz Shuler to serve as president after the death of Rich Trumka. Pictured here with UWUA President Slevin.

## Richard L. Trumka (1949 – 2021)

Our brother and leader Richard Trumka passed away on August 5, 2021, at the age of 72. Since 2009, Trumka served as president of the AFL-CIO representing 56 unions and 12.5 million members.

“Rich was a true friend of the Utility Workers Union of America,” said UWUA President Slevin as he paid tribute to Trumka. “With his roots in the United Mine Workers of America, Trumka knew first-hand the challenges facing UWUA members. Trumka was an outspoken advocate for social and economic justice, and the nation’s clearest voice on the critical need to ensure that all workers have a good job and the power to determine their wages and working conditions. He will be sorely missed.”

Speaking to delegates to the 2019 UWUA convention, Trumka said, **“I look around this room, and I remember why I’m in this fight. We turn bad jobs into good jobs. And, we turn good jobs into great jobs. We don’t do it for the money or the glory, the fame or the fortune. We do it because someone did it for us, and before that, someone did it for them. We do it because we’re called to. That’s who we are. We’re trade unionists.”**