

SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION

# SMART

THE MEMBERS' JOURNAL | SUMMER 2023

THIS IS  
**OUR TIME**

6

**NEW SMART GENERAL PRESIDENT BRINGS HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION TO MEMBERSHIP**

8

**SMART ENDORSES PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN FOR SECOND TERM**

15

**KANSAS RAILROADERS SECURE TWO-PERSON CREW LAW**



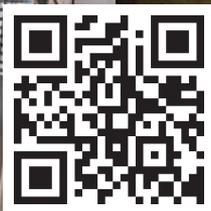
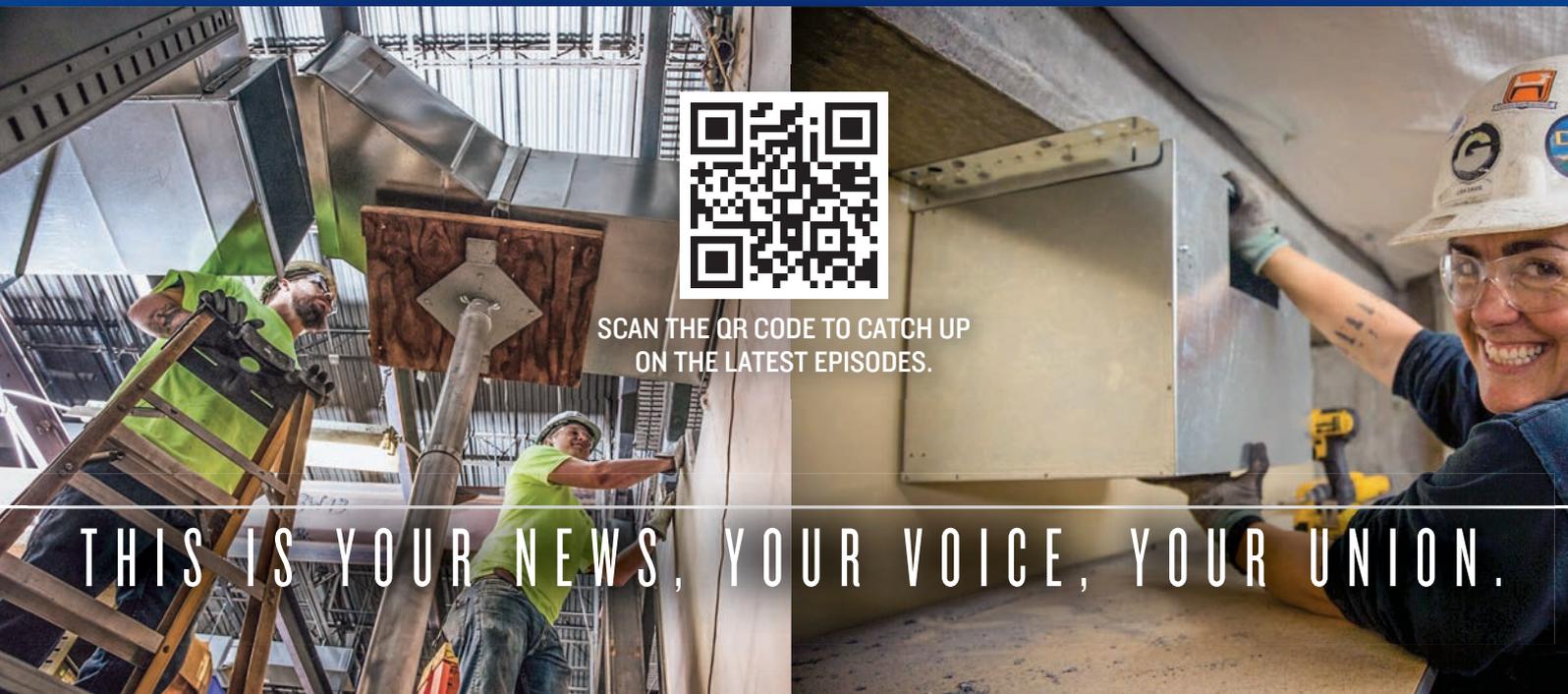
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# CONTENTS

## SUMMER 2023

### **2** General President's Message

The time is now

### **3** General Secretary-Treasurer's Message

Now is our time to prepare for a  
changing world

### **4** TD President's Message

### **5** FRA issues safety advisory for long trains

### **6** New GP Coleman brings leadership, innovation to members

### **8** SMART endorses President Biden for second term

### **9** SMART-TD brings member voices to nation's capital

### **10** SMART RME report: Larry Holbert

### **11** SMART pushes forward at NABTU Legislative Conference

### **13** Local 104 business rep. on trailblazing career

### **15** Kansas passes two-person crew

### **16** The five skills of the BE4ALL leader

### **18** Former GP Sellers honored by Mikva Challenge

### **20** SMART councils hold productive week in Memphis

### **22** Bipartisan relationships benefit members

### **23** Canadian Affairs Update

### **24** Special Focus: The time is now

**26** Strong labor standards  
create union jobs on  
megaprojects

**27** Heavy Metal Summer  
Experience boosts  
recruitment

**28** Minn. members win  
sheet metal and  
transportation victories

**29** Railroaders negotiate  
historic tentative  
agreements

**31** SMART leaders visit  
Tenn. megaproject

### **33** Local News

**33** Local 36 hosts Bass Classic

**34** Local 25 honors retiree

**34** Local 104 secures work hours

**34** Local 105 supports Autism  
Spectrum Athletics

**35** Local 854 helps neighbor  
in need

**35** Local 464 honors retiree

**36** Local 22 recognizes  
Memorial Day

**36** SMART-TD Md. helps  
fix school

**37** Local 3 wins signatory  
campaign

**37** Local 33 service awards

**38** Local 218 member sculpts  
metal tree

**39** Service awards

### **42** Let Us Always Remember



## GENERAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GENERAL PRESIDENT  
MICHAEL COLEMAN

# The time is now

**B**rothers and sisters, I want to start by saying that it is the honor of my lifetime to represent you, the men and women of SMART.

This great union has given me and my family everything we have; I promise to dedicate myself to ensuring every member, current and future, has the same opportunity. And make no mistake: Thanks in no small part to General President Sellers, this is a time of unprecedented opportunity for workers in North America.

In the sheet metal industry, we are seeing an extraordinary amount of new work across our two nations: dozens of megaprojects with strong labor standards, the return of manufacturing in America, a new emphasis on indoor air quality and more.

Following the disaster in East Palestine and increased media pressure, the SMART Transportation Division is seeing real movement on rail safety for the first time in years, both at the state level and with the steady progress of the federal Railway Safety Act.

Transit operator safety is making headlines in states across the country, from Los Angeles to Philadelphia, providing the public

awareness and momentum to finally secure real change to the unacceptable status quo.

This is our moment. But only if we *act*.

### **The time is now to grow:**

Megaprojects are creating workforce demands that are nearly unheard of — and that's not even mentioning our core work. On both the International and the local level, we need to ensure that we are recruiting and welcoming people from all the communities in which we live and work: women, people of color, LGBTQ+ workers, veterans, the formerly incarcerated and more.

### **The time is now to get involved:**

SMART-TD is on offense. But momentum and media attention are not constant; we cannot wait to make our presence felt in our communities and in the offices of our elected officials. Push your elected representatives and U.S. Senators to vote for a strong, pro-worker Railway Safety Act, and connect with your local union to find out what legislation, regulation or organizing is happening in your area. One example: On April 26, the Federal

Transportation Agency (FTA) posted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding public transportation agency safety plans; SMART-TD has worked with bus members and vice presidents to submit a compelling argument on members' behalf.

### **The time is now to organize:**

We cannot expect to apprentice our way into the growth we need to secure our future. By organizing nonunion workers across all crafts and industries into SMART, we will bolster our collective bargaining power, increase our market share and help communities across our two nations realize the value of union membership: family-sustaining pay, meaningful benefits, a strong pension and dignity on the job.

Brothers and sisters, the actions we take today will determine the future for our communities, our families and our union for decades to come. The time is now — let's take advantage of it.

In solidarity,

**Michael Coleman**  
General President



**The actions we take today will determine the future for our communities, our families and our union for decades to come. The time is now – let's take advantage of it.**



# Now is our time to prepare for a changing world

I want to begin by congratulating Mike Coleman on his election by the SMART General Executive Council to serve as our General President. I have worked with Mike for years and look forward to where he will lead us as we move forward together, in solidarity.

In this pivotal moment, we stand at the crossroads of opportunity and challenge. The 2024 election looms ahead, presenting us with a chance to continue to shape the course of our nation's future. At the same time, rapid technological advancements are revolutionizing the way we live, work and connect. We must seize this moment to prepare for the upcoming election, embrace the promise of technological innovation and position our union to navigate the changes that lie ahead.

The 2024 election will influence our nation for decades to come. We need to elect allies who stand by our union and work with us to improve the lives of SMART members, our industries and our families. There is too much at stake for us to turn back to an administration when we were constantly defending ourselves from attack after attack on the standards we set for generations of Americans.

Now is the time to engage in active political participation, to become informed about the issues that matter most to us as union members and to exercise our right

to vote. By understanding the platforms and policies of political candidates, we can make informed choices that align with our union values. This means voting for those who stand with us on rail safety, new work opportunities for sheet metal workers, bringing back domestic jobs and ensuring working people are treated fairly.



**Now is our time to act and position our union for a future of progress and prosperity. Let us come together, transcend differences and work towards a common**

**goal: a dynamic union that thrives amidst change, that embraces innovation, and that uplifts each and every one of its members.**

In parallel, technological innovation has become an integral part of our daily lives, transforming industries and societies alike — and we must prepare ourselves for what lies ahead. Investing in training for the sheet metal industry of tomorrow is crucial for SMART to remain

at the forefront of innovation. By promoting our role in rebuilding America's infrastructure through new data centers, electric battery plants and microchip plants and improving the quality of air in our schools, we will ensure our union is equipped to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities that the future holds.

Lastly, we must strive to build a united and inclusive union. Nurturing our solidarity through programs like I Got Your Back and embracing diversity and inclusion are vital to our growth, our competitiveness and our collective efforts to fulfill the core goal of our union — representation for all members. Doing this puts us on the forefront of creating a society that is fair and just for all, addressing systemic issues and securing equal opportunities for everyone.

Now is the time to act and position our union for a future of progress and prosperity. Let us come together, transcend differences and work towards a common goal: a dynamic union that thrives amidst change, that embraces innovation, and that uplifts each and every one of its members.

In solidarity,

**Joseph Powell**  
General Secretary-Treasurer



**PRESIDENT –  
TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION'S  
MESSAGE**

PRESIDENT – TRANSPORTATION DIVISION  
JEREMY R. FERGUSON

# Our bus and transit members deserve protection

**B**rothers and sisters,  
I am writing this column with mixed emotions. SMART Transportation Division has seen historic successes in 2023 and at the same time, we face some unprecedented struggles. Since the last publication, many of our freight rail members have won major victories with new contracts including paid sick leave, increased schedule predictability and pay increases. Two-person crew and other rail safety bills have been passed in statehouses around the country, and the United States Congress maintains its focus in the face of carriers' intense opposition to take overdue action that gives our members' safety and quality of life the credence that they deserve.

On the flip side of that coin, our bus members' safety has never been more at risk. On May 18, a SMART-TD bus operator from Local 1715 (Charlotte, N.C.) was involved in a shoot-out with a disgruntled bus passenger, an incident that sent both men to the hospital with what were described as life-threatening injuries.

Less than a week later, on May 24, another SMART-TD bus operator out of Local 1608 (Chatsworth, Calif.) was stabbed multiple times in the neck and back while working his assigned route in Los Angeles.

There have been news reports of gunfire on buses, angry parents going after school bus drivers, road rage incidents. The list is extensive.

The United States Federal Transit Administration (FTA) put out a study in December 2022 entitled "Update on Transit Worker Assault Prevention and Mitigation." This report looked at data from 2008 through 2021. In those 13 years, the FTA reports that there was an average of 241 assaults per year on transit workers throughout the country.

This study itself points out that, "This data includes only the most serious events, and may **significantly** underestimate the total number of assaults."

You cannot tell me that it is acceptable that on two out of every three days in this country one of our transit

workers is violently assaulted. These men and women are the lifeblood of our economy, getting Americans to work and improving their quality of life day in and day out. They deserve to be heard and protected like the essential workers that we know they are.

We've had two members on both sides of the country in the hospital fighting for their lives as a result of violent incidents. Last year, also in Charlotte, one of our members was killed by gunfire while on the job. It's not time for a government study. It's not time to discuss increasing next year's safety budget. Our men and women deserve and demand immediate and definitive actions to ensure their physical safety.

On a positive note, our general chairpersons on multiple rail carriers have a lot of momentum going into the summer. To the GCs who have been on the front lines negotiating these quality-of-life improvements for our rail members, you have both my gratitude and support.

SMART-TD has also spent the spring and early summer kicking ass on the legislative front. Our skilled group of state legislative directors and our National Legislative Department have been producing great results in state legislatures and on the hill in Washington, DC.

As an organization, SMART-TD is on the right path and emerging stronger each day as the nation's biggest and best rail labor union. I appreciate your hard work and want you to know that your union is in the fight with you. There is much that needs to be accomplished, and you can rest assured that we are doing everything that can be done to advocate for you and your family.

In solidarity,

**Jeremy R. Ferguson**

*President, Transportation Division*

# FRA issues safety advisory for long trains

**O**n April 27, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Amit Bose issued a safety advisory regarding carriers' operation of longer trains.

The recommendations by FRA include that carriers review their operating rules and existing locomotive engineer certification programs to address operational complexities of train length, take appropriate action to prevent the loss of communications between end-of-train devices and mitigate the impacts of long trains on blocked crossings.

"It is known that the in-train forces longer trains experience are generally stronger and more complex than those in shorter train consists," the advisory states. "FRA is issuing this Safety Advisory to ensure railroads and railroad employees are aware of the potential complexities associated with operating longer trains and to ensure they take appropriate measures."



The submitted advisory appears via the QR code, with the final version to be published in the Federal Register. ■



## Darrell Roberts takes on new challenges as assistant to the general president



**D**arrell L. Roberts is now assistant to the general president at SMART. Previously, he served as the SMART director of organizing and spent nearly 14 years as the executive director of Helmets to Hardhats (H2H). He has served in the United States Navy as a hull technician and attained the rank of petty officer second class. He served in the Army National Guard as a staff sergeant. In March 2003, he was activated for a yearlong deployment to Kosovo, where he served as an infantry squad leader.

"I consider my position as assistant to the general president to be the latest in a long line of opportunities," Roberts said. "I look forward to serving SMART members and their families in this new capacity."

Darrell worked in the field for many years as a union sheet metal worker. He serves on the U.S. Department of Labor Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO), as well as the Veterans Advisory Committee on Education (VACOE) for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a lifetime member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion, as well as a board member of the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT). He holds a master's degree in executive leadership from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the National Labor College. Darrell resides with his family in southern Maryland. ■

# New SMART general president brings history of leadership, innovation to membership

**N**ew SMART General President Mike Coleman has been stepping up for his fellow members since his days as a rank-and-file sheet metal worker in Cleveland. He worked as a foreman shortly after becoming a journeyman, then decided he wanted to represent his brothers and sisters in the local.

“I realized very early on I wanted to be a leader in the industry,” he said. “I wanted to help represent

the membership — that’s what led me into becoming an elected official, just my desire to represent the members.”

Coleman became a business representative at Local 33 in his early thirties; as time progressed, he decided to run for business manager to ensure member voices took priority in northern Ohio. There, he garnered a reputation for innovation: pursuing groundbreaking strategies in order to recruit more

members, effectively structure local funds, provide greater flexibility to members and more.

Local 33 Business Representative Corey Beaubien, Director of Partnership Development Eli Baccus and International Representative Tom Wiant specifically praised changes Coleman made to the local’s scope of work and organizing — from building out Local 33’s fire life safety capacity, to devising special agreements and intra-local travel



incentives to maintain work during economic slowdowns, to restructuring the organizing department to maximize cohesion and effectiveness. The result: steady growth at the local.

“Every decision that he’s made, it’s always been about the members first,” Beaubien said. “He was very successful in pushing us in organizing as a leader, and with the success he had in Ohio, I believe it’s going to translate to the whole country.”

Current Local 33 President and Business Manager Tim Miller agreed, pointing to the redirect fund Coleman conceived to give members more choice in the disbursement of health and pension funds.

“The members love it to this day,” he said. “It works, and it’s an example of how Mike just doesn’t take no for an answer. He knows there’s a solution to the problem, and he continues until he finds that solution and then he implements it.”

After several years leading Local 33, Coleman moved to Washington, DC to work as SMART’s director of business and management relations. Mere months later, General President Sellers asked Coleman to become assistant to the general president, a position in which he served until May 31, 2023. He played a crucial role during SMART’s second-ever General Convention in 2019, serving as secretary of the Constitution Committee and shepherding through 114 proposed amendments — helping to facilitate the democratic process of our union. He also worked side-by-side with Sellers to push for legislation that positions SMART members for future success.

That work is now beginning to bear fruit. “It’s our time. Now is our time,” Coleman declared.

In the short term, he explained, the dozens of megaprojects breaking



### Retired General President Sellers honored by SMART-TD

Retired SMART General President Joseph Sellers, Jr. received a rail lantern in appreciation of his service at the Transportation Division Board of Directors meeting on April 4, 2023. From left are: Bus Department Vice President Calvin Studivant; Vice President John Whitaker; Vice President Chad Adams; SMART General Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Powell; TD President Jeremy Ferguson; GP Sellers; Vice President Brent Leonard; Vice President Jamie Modesitt; Vice President David Wier Jr., Vice President Joe Lopez and Bus Department Vice President Alvy Hughes.

ground across North America present local sheet metal unions with both unprecedented opportunity and workforce challenges. At the same time, rail and transit operator safety has become a headline issue from California to Charlotte, presenting SMART Transportation Division members with the chance to go on offense and secure lasting legislation and regulation. Key to both sets of priorities, Coleman noted, is the need to recruit and retain workers across crafts and industries, no matter their background.

“This is an opportunity to organize; organize like I don’t know I have ever seen before,” he said. “We have a chance to grow, to strengthen our numbers, to become a force in markets, communities and government offices across our two nations. We need to reflect the communities we all live in, and we need to ensure every member of this union — regardless of race, creed, beliefs, place of origin,

sexual orientation or anything else — knows that they belong.”

With opportunity comes great challenges, Coleman added. Staffing megaprojects while maintaining core sheet metal work requires a new scale of organizing and recruiting, and the flighty winds of politics mean that nothing can be taken for granted when it comes to securing meaningful transportation safety legislation. Nevertheless, momentum is on our side.

“The members are the union — that was the core value of this union when I joined in 1985, and it remains the foundational principle of SMART to this day,” Coleman said. “When we come together to fight for our jobs, our communities and our families, we cannot be stopped. I want all members to understand that we’re going to continue with our representation, and we’re going to continue coming up with new initiatives that make their lives and their families’ lives better.” ■

# SMART endorses President Joe Biden for second term

**O**n May 23, 2023, the SMART General Executive Council (GEC) voted to endorse United States President Joe Biden for a second term.

The GEC is elected by members of SMART local unions.

SMART workers joined fellow union members in Philadelphia for an endorsement event on June 17, where the impact of the Biden administration's pro-labor economic policies was clear for all to see.

"President Biden's first term has been a transformative one for SMART members and working people across our nation," said SMART General President Mike Coleman. "His unapologetically pro-worker agenda led to the passage of laws that protect union members' retirement security, invest unprecedented dollars in our industries and ensure that SMART members will be on the job for decades to come."

During his first term, President Biden kept his campaign promises to SMART members and working families, putting workers first with the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act and the

Inflation Reduction Act, as well as an executive order requiring project labor agreements on federal projects that cost more than \$35 million and a partnership with SMART on improving air quality in buildings.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, a wave of new megaprojects is employing SMART sheet metal and production members by the thousands, while a pro-labor National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has helped hold bad-faith employers accountable and benefited union organizing and recruiting efforts. The Biden-Harris Federal Railroad Administration has proposed a regulation requiring two-person crews on all freight trains, and federal funding has put SMART sheet metal members to work on critical infrastructure projects that will better the working conditions of SMART Transportation Division members.

"We know that the job isn't finished," Coleman said. "Even as the American economy continues to grow from the bottom up and the middle out, anti-labor politicians and their bad-faith benefactors are intent on stifling that growth and returning to an economy ruled from the top down. We have progress to

make, from passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to securing real rail safety regulation."

"With Joe Biden as our president, we are confident that we will continue to make progress for working people," he added. "SMART is proud to endorse President Biden for the 2024 United States Presidential Election, and we look forward to mobilizing in support of the president and pro-worker candidates down the ballot." ■



# SMART-TD leaders bring rail members' voices to Washington, DC

Under ordinary circumstances, SMART-TD's National Legislative Department relies on National Legislative Director (NLD) Greg Hynes, Alternate National Legislative Director Jared Cassity and Legislative Department Chief of Staff Jenny Miller to educate our nation's lawmakers on rail safety. But on this year's "Railroad Day on the Hill" — held annually on the legislative calendar — 35 men and women representing 15 different states answered the call, traveling to Washington, DC to advocate for railroaders.

This formidable group of SMART-TD representatives conducted more than 100 meetings with legislators: sharing the gospel of the Railway Safety Act of 2023, shorter trains, increased quality of life and better safety inspections of rolling stock with any Congress member or staffer willing to listen.

In addition to holding this important series of meetings and reaching out to over 100 members of the House and Senate, SMART-TD representatives attended a press

conference in support of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) as he announced the introduction of the Healthy Families Act. This legislation includes provisions ensuring that every company with over 100 employees provides a minimum of 7 paid sick days to its employees. This bill has language in it that speaks directly to railroad companies.

The Healthy Families Act indicates the progress our union made in the 2022 national contract negotiations. In December 2022, Sanders pushed for similar legislation that was strictly aimed at railroaders — and though it won a majority of votes in both the House and Senate, it failed to get the 60 votes needed to carry a filibuster-proof supermajority and make it to President Biden's desk to be signed into law.

With the ramifications of this bill's success weighing heavily on the quality-of-life improvements that SMART-TD continues to seek for our members, Sen. Sanders reached out to SMART's Legislative Department and made a point of inviting our representatives to his press conference.

Following the successes of the day's events, NLD Hynes expressed his gratitude to the army of SMART-TD leaders who made the trip.

"These men and women went above and beyond the call of duty to be here today, and because of them, we had a fantastic show of force in the halls of Congress. The validity of our issues speaks for itself, but when leaders from these different



states show up to meet with their congressional and senate delegations, it makes an impact on these lawmakers," he said. "They hear from Jared Cassity and me all the time, but when someone from home comes to meet with them in DC, it puts a face to our issues in a unique way.

"I want to thank each and every one of them for making the effort to come out this year, and with your help, we will deliver on the promise of the Railway Safety Act, the REEF Act, and all the issues that speak to the quality of life our members deserve and the dignity of the work they do each day." ■



# Railroad, Mechanical and Engineering Department Report

This issue's Rail, Mechanical and Engineering (RME) Department Report is from International Representative Larry Holbert.

**D**uring my 40-plus years as a railroader, I have always sought out opportunities to participate in my union, not only in the General Committee or at the International level, but also at my local union. As a lot of you have heard me say: At every level of our organization, we are only as strong as our local unions. While I've certainly seen a lot of changes in the last 40 years, this is one thing that has not changed — the local anchors us both to our fellow members and to our craft.

Attending local meetings over the years, I have always been fascinated when looking at each union's original charter and reading the names and signatures of the brothers and sisters who drew on said charters to establish our locals, hold the first elections of officers and join their fellow workers in the International. The work confronting these past members required their commitment and dedication: They built their locals to be financially responsible, they drafted and adopted bylaws to govern their affairs, and they eagerly trained on their obligations at the International and on compliance with the law, learning to navigate the Department of Labor, IRS and various other regulatory agencies. Most importantly, they chose who they wanted to enforce their contracts, settle grievances, protect the rights of their members and ensure their work jurisdiction — electing their officers and, when necessary, stepping up to serve in elected roles.

The strength of our locals and the directions they have taken have always been determined by the consensus reached by membership when a local met — it was not just three or four members at meetings making decisions for the rest! Participation in one's local not only helps members to look out for and support each other, but also builds a stronger and more resilient workforce and

protects our trade. You might decide that you have better things in life to do than to attend a meeting, but when you find yourself injured on the job or terminated for not having your PPE on, you're hoping a fellow member will be there to lend a hand. Or when the carrier gets the idea to remove all the sheet metal workers from the service tracks, you're hoping you'll have all your local brothers and sisters there to prove that it's you and your fellow workers who make the trains run — not dangerous and cynical cost-saving measures.



Brothers and sisters, you need to get involved in your union, you need to serve as officers and continue getting educated; without dedicated officers, there would be no union to speak of. It's easy to blame our current issues on past officers, but in my opinion, all it comes down to is the proper filing of claims and grievances and to the good retention of documents. Railroad

workers have an excellent and effective process for handling claims and grievances under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act. Although I fully agree that nowadays this is much harder than it used to be — with the carriers assigning "labor relation experts" with very limited knowledge of the work we do to respond to our grievances — this only proves that now is the time for our local union leaders, armed with all the training and support that has been made available, to help build competitive and strong locals that are able to stand up to the carriers.

Local officers are the ones who are in the shops every day; they alone can see whether or not a contract is being lived up to, not your general chairperson and not the International. There are a lot of opportunities in this department to change things. We're just waiting for you to get involved. ■

# SMART members push for pro-worker legislation at NABTU Legislative Conference

**S**MART members from across the United States and Canada gathered in Washington, DC on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) 2023 Legislative Conference. Throughout the week, workers and elected union leaders came together to push for legislation that prioritizes union members, as well as hear from elected officials, industry stakeholders and others.

The April 25<sup>th</sup> plenary session began with a keynote address from NABTU President Sean McGarvey, who introduced and emphasized the 2023 conference theme: "Empowering the Infrastructure Generation." Unprecedented investment — spurred by pro-worker federal legislation like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, the Inflation Reduction Act and more — is creating tens of thousands of jobs and sparking the renewal of America's infrastructure. This presents opportunity for the workers of today and tomorrow,



McGarvey said, and it's vital that unions push for legislation like the National Apprenticeship Act to ensure we can train the workforce to meet demand and bring workers of all backgrounds — rural, urban, women, people of color, the formerly incarcerated, veterans and more — into unions like SMART.

"Our model makes sure workers aren't just trained for a project, but equipped with the highest skillsets for a long and meaningful career," McGarvey explained. "This is our time to make sure we are building the opportunity pipeline to maximize private investment with public dollars and reach communities large and small."

McGarvey was followed by various pro-worker officials, including former Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin. Walsh discussed his time working with the Biden administration and the importance of making our voices heard in the halls of power — and the need to



spread the word about how pro-labor elected officials are benefiting working families.

"Who you vote for has consequences," Walsh said. "This is how we restore and expand access to the middle class in this country: through good, union jobs."

Following Walsh, NABTU attendees were joined by Governor Pritzker, who has overseen a transformative pro-worker shift in the Prairie State — including the passage of the Workers' Rights Amendment, project labor agreements on more than 1,000 construction projects, a \$50 million Illinois Works pre-apprenticeship program and the passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, a

pro-worker clean energy law that covers climate infrastructure projects with project labor agreements.

“Workers’ rights are gaining strength,” Pritzker declared. “Supporting workers’ rights is about investing in Illinois’ most precious resource, our nation’s most precious resource: our people.”

Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin has been a steadfast advocate for the union apprenticeship model, recognizing the potential unions have to lift workers of all backgrounds into the middle class. She explained the continued significance of union apprenticeships as policy and technology shift the way the world works, and declared to NABTU attendees her intent to continue the fight to reauthorize the National Apprenticeship Act.

“There’s one tried and true method that has lasted and stood the test of time, and that’s apprenticeships,” Baldwin said.

The day concluded with a fiery address from President Joe Biden, who took the stage hours after announcing his intent to run for reelection. Throughout his speech, Biden focused on the steps taken by his administration to create an American economy that grows from the bottom up and the middle out — and emphasized that “we need to finish the job.”

“I learned a long time ago: There’s labor, and then there’s UNION labor,” he declared.

Biden explained how his administration’s pro-worker agenda has led to the passage of laws including the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Together these laws helped protect multiemployer pension plans; invested heavily in HVAC, energy efficiency, production, transit, rail infrastructure and other SMART

sectors; created more than 800,000 manufacturing jobs; capped insulin copays at \$35 per month for those covered by Medicare; and much more. The president also referred to his executive order requiring project labor agreements on federal projects that cost more than \$35 million — a policy that amounts to an investment in union labor.

“I’ve said it many times: Wall Street didn’t build America. The middle class built America, and unions built the middle class,” Biden said.

“For decades, trickle-down economics hollowed out the middle class. America rewarded wealth, not work. ... As jobs were lost, something else was lost as well: a sense of pride, a notion of who you are, a sense of self-worth, earning your way,” he added. “My economic plan is a blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America, and that’s what we’re doing: rebuilding America.”

The April 26<sup>th</sup> plenary saw remarks from a range of bipartisan speakers, including Rep. Nikki Budzinski, Republican Congressmen Don Bacon and Brian Fitzpatrick, Senator Raphael Warnock, Senate Leader Chuck Schumer and others. Once again, the focus was firmly on the future — and how unions like SMART need to ensure we meet the workforce demands of this moment for generations to come. From making sure people

of all backgrounds have pathways into union apprenticeships, to passing legislation that helps fund ever-evolving apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, now is the time to secure our future.

“Thank you for building the strongest and most robust country in the world,” Bacon said during his speech. “You deserve fair wages for a hard day’s work; pension when you retire and safety at work.”

“You are at the center of America,” Warnock added during his remarks. “We need to hear your voices and countless efforts you’ve made to build this country. As you continue beating that drum, I will keep looking for every opportunity I can to stand up and protect our working people.”

Following the speaking agenda, SMART members joined representatives from the rest of the building trades on Capitol Hill to lobby for legislation that benefits our members.

“SMART has proudly gathered with our fellow building trades unions at the annual NABTU Legislative Conference for decades, and in recent years we have seen first-hand how conditions for workers have changed under the Biden administration,” SMART General President Mike Coleman said. “We will continue to work with pro-labor allies and push for policies that put our members to work.” ■



# First woman business representative at Local 104 discusses her career in the trade

**S**M Local 104 (northern California) Business Representative Alicia Mijares — the first female business representative in the local’s history — was born into the labor movement.

“Three of my grandparents were union members, both of my parents and my stepfather were union members, both of my brothers, my only sister and my wife are all union members,” she said. “I walked my first picket line in front of a Safeway with my mother, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers.”

Mijares was not, however, born into the sheet metal trade; she entered the industry almost by accident. As a high school graduate without a clear vision of her future, she worked at a pizza restaurant and in a precision sheet metal shop, where the best-paid employees made \$12.50 an hour. (“It’s funny how that sounded like great money back then,” Mijares recalled.) One day, a customer picking up a pizza order asked Mijares if she liked her job; she replied that it was the second job she’d worked that day that she didn’t like. In response, the customer passed her his Local 104 business card.

“When I read ‘sheet metal,’ I thought it would be something similar to the precision shop where I had been working,” Mijares



remembered. “I didn’t realize at the moment that it was construction, so I went down, took the test, passed it and began as a pre-apprentice.”

Mijares immediately took to life as a union sheet metal worker. She worked in both the shop and in

the field, treasuring the contrasting stability and variety of each respective setting. But it’s not just the hands-on elements of the craft that she finds appealing; her favorite part, Mijares says, is the impact SMART sheet metal members have on their communities.

“Air is life, and we make people’s lives healthier and more comfortable by bringing in hot and cool air, and filtering it on the way.”

Mijares threw herself into Local 104 union activities from the start — growing up in a union household, she knew that the members are the union. She participated in precinct-walking and phone-banking efforts as an apprentice and as a journey person, helping support pro-worker candidates and policies, and she served her fellow members as a shop steward and on Local 104’s Executive Board. It was during her time as shop steward that she noticed a fomenting disconnect — the members weren’t necessarily aware of the work that their elected representatives and organizers were performing on their behalf. Now, as Local 104 business representative, Mijares wants to

bridge that disconnect; to remind the membership why we call each other brother and sister.

“We always want to go after project labor agreements, we always want to bring in more work for the membership — that’s the top priority — but what I would like to do is improve member participation,” she said. “Members pay to be in the membership — [not engaging with the union] is like writing a check to a gym and never setting foot inside.”

Mijares is currently serving in her first term as business representative. One of the highlights, she said, is when she gets to dispatch members: “Being able to make that phone call and say, ‘hey, are you ready to go back to work?’ It’s always a happy conversation.”

She also values the opportunity to advocate for the trade — something

she was already doing as a rank-and-file member.

“I participate in a lot of outreach, whether it’s career fairs or anything else, because a lot of young women are starting to approach our table and say, ‘what is this about?’ So I talk about how great the trade is; I’ve been able to buy a home in the state of California, I’ve been able to travel.”

Mijares makes sure not to sugar-coat the industry — sheet metal is hard work, from the drafting and math required to pass the apprenticeship test to the early starts and long hours on the job. But she always tells potential apprentices a motto that applies as much to union leadership as it does to sheet metal work: “Hard is what makes it great. If it was easy, anybody would do it.” ■

## SMART recognizes top 31 Political Action League contributors



**D**uring SMART’s reception at the NABTU Legislative Conference, former General President Joseph Sellers presented plaques to the previous year’s top 31 contributors to the SMART Political Action

League (PAL). PAL contributions by local union members enable SMART to support candidates who act on members’ behalf. Congratulations to the top 31! Scan the QR code to view pictures from the reception.

1. Local 293 (Honolulu, Hawaii)
2. Local 40 (Hartford, Conn.)
3. Local 66 (Seattle, Wash.)
4. Local 137 (New York, N.Y.)
5. Local 27 (southern New Jersey)
6. Local 25 (northern New Jersey)
7. Local 17 (eastern Massachusetts)
8. Local 71 (Buffalo, N.Y.)
9. Local 265 (Dupage County, Ill.)
10. Local 36 (St. Louis, Mo.)
11. Local 435 (Jacksonville, Fla.)
12. Local 22 (Union, Morris, Somerset, Sussex counties, N.J.)
13. Local 88 (Las Vegas, Nev.)
14. Local 399 (Charleston, S.C.)
15. Local 112 (Elmira, N.Y.)
16. Local 15 (central Florida)
17. Local 441 (Mobile, Ala.)
18. Local 44 (northeastern Pennsylvania)
19. Local 206 (San Diego, Calif.)
20. Local 63 (western Massachusetts)
21. Local 20 (Indianapolis, Ind.)
22. Local 105 (Los Angeles, Calif.)
23. Local 104 (San Francisco, Calif.)
24. Local 33 (northern Ohio)
25. Local 80 (Detroit, Mich.)
26. Local 218 (Springfield, Ill.)
27. Local 54 (Houston, Texas)
28. Local 28 (New York, N.Y.)
29. Local 12 (southwestern Pennsylvania)
30. Local 38 (Westchester and Rockland counties, N.Y.)
31. Local 7 (Lansing, Mich.) ■

# Kansas railroaders secure two-person crew law

**O**n Monday, May 1, Kansas became the 10<sup>th</sup> state in the country to secure two-person crew (2PC) as the minimum train crew size in the state.

Two-person crew law has been the goal of SMART Transportation Division Kansas State Legislative Director Ty Drago for years. When asked about how he made it happen, Brother Drago cited persistence and patience as the keys, along with some out-of-the-box thinking.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat who began her second term in Topeka in January, has been a friend to rail labor throughout four terms in the state senate as well as in her first term as governor. Throughout her public service, she's accomplished quite a bit for rail members and their families in Kansas, and during her first term as governor, she and SMART-TD thought that 2PC had been made the law of the state.

On July 27, 2020, Kelly signed a safety rule establishing a minimum railroad crew size — making Kansas the ninth state in the country to have accomplished this goal. Just one formality stood in the way of that being a reality.

When Kelly signed the rule sent to her desk from the Kansas Department of Transportation, the state's attorney general was Derek Schmidt, a Republican who was in the beginning stages of campaigning to challenge Kelly for governor in 2022. In an effort to flex his political muscle and block his future opponent from the accomplishment, Schmidt opted not to

sign the safety rule, allowing it to die on his desk.

What did not die that day was the drive of Brother Drago and his team of legislative representatives (LRs) to secure the conductor craft in Kansas.

As the political fight card for Kansas's statewide races coalesced for the 2022 election cycle, it was no surprise to see Schmidt squaring off against Kelly to take the reins. SMART-TD and the Kansas labor movement worked hard to secure Kelly's narrow, 11,000-vote reelection in 2022. As a bonus, Schmidt's failed gubernatorial ambitions meant that he forfeited his seat as the state's attorney general.

Having learned the hard way that having a rail labor-friendly governor in office was not enough on its own to get a 2PC rule into state law, Drago and his team of LR's also got involved in the state's race for the attorney general's office.

In that race, rail labor had the luxury of having two candidates who advocated for rail safety. In an unconventional move, SMART-TD endorsed both Democrat Chris Mann and Republican Kris Kobach. Political party affiliation is not what qualifies someone to earn our endorsement; a commitment to rail safety is. On May Day, Kobach didn't forget about his labor support.

Dragoo and the Kansas State Legislative Board had secured the needed support in both offices to solidify the 2PC rule, so when Gov. Kelly again sent the state Department of Transportation's proposed safety rule to the attorney

general's office, it was signed and sealed into Kansas state law.

"We always need to remember that elections have consequences all the way up and down the ticket," Brother Drago said, "SMART-TD and labor in general cannot allow ourselves to confine our thinking to the standard way of doing business in our state capitals. This holds especially true in red states that are traditionally less friendly to our causes."

Dragoo went on to say: "This is the proudest day of my career. It took every one of our LR's in the state to get this done, and I'm eternally grateful to my team as well as Gov. Kelly, Attorney General Kobach and their staff for safeguarding our members and the public through the work they have done on this regulation."

SMART-TD is very proud of the work being done in Kansas. Not only have Kansas members cemented the two-person crew law in the state this year, but in the 2023 legislative session in Topeka, they also presented a noteworthy 13 bills in their efforts to bolster safety on the state's railways.

Time will tell if these bills have the legislative support to be signed into law in the future, but if the past two years have taught us anything, it's that Brother Drago doesn't take no for an answer very well, and these bills will be given every opportunity to be considered one way or another.

For more on SMART-TD's rail safety efforts, watch SMART News at [YouTube.com/smartunion](https://www.youtube.com/smartunion). ■

# The five skills of the BE4ALL leader

The theme of the 2023 SMART Leadership Conference was “This Is Our Time!” In recognition of this important moment — for both our union and the industry — we invite SMART members to practice the five skills of the BE4ALL (Belonging and Excellence for All) leader.

These core skills help to create welcoming workspaces that foster belonging for all. They are also consistent with the vision and mission of BE4ALL, a joint initiative supported by SMART, SMACNA and the International Training Institute (ITI).

## The five practices:

**1. Intergroup contact.** BE4ALL leaders make intergroup contact a daily practice. Intergroup contact requires that leaders step out of their comfort zone to engage people who are different (or those they perceive to be different). If done on a regular basis, this practice can be life changing. In the book *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*, author Jennifer Eberhardt, a Stanford social psychologist, notes that “personal connections can override the power exerted by implicit bias.” There are several ways to practice intergroup contact. In the workplace, the strategy may involve regular lunch meetings or check-ins with coworkers in which two people get to know each other beyond job titles and roles. In private life, intergroup contact could take the form of participating in a diverse social club or community association.

**2. Micro-affirmations.** BE4ALL leaders also practice micro-affirmations. Micro-affirmations are small — but important — ways that we can acknowledge the humanity, dignity and worth of others. They include:

- **Name recognition.** Asking a person for their name, and then remembering and repeating their name later, is one of the most powerful ways that we can signal to another person: “I see you.” “You matter.”
- **Life events.** Inquiring about important events in people’s lives. These include birthdays, anniversaries and important holidays. You can record the dates in your calendar — then, when an important date arrives, take a moment to acknowledge the person by sending a card, email or text.
- **Feedback and affirmation.** Take time to give other people feedback (positive or otherwise). But remember, for feedback to be effective, it needs to be specific and genuine. It’s also important that you have enough of a relationship with the other person that they will be open to receiving what you have to say.

**3. Non-biased decision-making.** In the *Bias and Belonging* training sessions conducted by the ITI, instructors offer several tools to assist with non-biased decision-making. These tools include the use of mental scripts. A simple mental script goes like this:  
*What if I’m wrong, and what’s happening in this situation is not (what*

*I think it is)? But, instead, it’s (something else).*

For example, what if the reason why the apprentice has been late three days in a row has nothing to do with a lack of work ethic? Instead, maybe the person is homeless and sleeping in their car.

Mental scripts invite us to pause and challenge our assumptions before making a decision.

**4. Courageous conversations.** BE4ALL leaders regularly practice *courageous conversations*. A *courageous conversation* is an exchange between two people. Usually, the conversation is initiated in one of two situations: a) when we feel that we have been wronged by another person and/or; b) when we have done or said something (real or perceived) to wrong another person.

In a recent article, we laid out the seven “As” of a *courageous conversation*. But there are two that are foundational for every leader. They are:

- **Anchoring:** Preparing yourself — mentally and emotionally — before the conversation. This provides a reserve of energy to tap into for what can be a long and uncomfortable process. Preparation may include listening to music or going for a walk or run.
- **Acknowledging:** Share with the person ways that *you* may have contributed to the problem or tension. To do this, simply say: *“I want to acknowledge that, at times, I can be (or I may have done) \_\_\_\_\_ . And this may*

*have contributed to the problem or tension we have.*

The above practice is often referred to as *looking in the mirror* leadership versus *looking out the window* (where we blame and point fingers at others).

**5. Remembrance and repair – the two “Rs” of history.** Finally, the effective leader takes the time to understand the history of diverse groups. In BE4ALL *Learning Journey* sessions, we often talk about the two “Rs” of history — *remembrance* and *repair*. Remembrance is the practice of reflecting on the past, and looking

for lessons that we can apply to the future. Repair is the practice of taking action — as individuals or through our organizations — to repair any harm caused by the past, and to ensure that the past does not repeat itself.

One of the easiest ways to practice remembrance is by visiting museums, either in person or virtually. Below are several resources — each with virtual exhibitions, teaching resources and more that can be accessed via each resource’s website — that leaders can use to support their practice work. Do not just “visit” the exhibits once. Instead, make it a ritual. ■

### The exhibits and resources are:

- **National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).** The NMAI collects and preserves the world’s most expansive collections of Native artifacts and is committed to serving the greater public as an honest and thoughtful conduit to Native cultures – present and past – in all their richness, depth and diversity.
  - NMAI educational resources: <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/lessons-resources/search-resources>
  - NMAI online resources: <https://americanindian.si.edu/online-resources>
- **Asian Pacific American Center (APAC).** Bringing history, art and culture to you through innovative museum experiences and digital initiatives with the goal of enriching the American story with the voices of Asian Pacific Americans: <https://smithsonianapa.org/>
- **LGBTQ+ History.** Resources curated by the Smithsonian with LGBTQ+ connections, including archival collections, videos and online exhibits: <https://americanhistory.si.edu/topics/lgbtq-history>
- **National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).** Devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history and culture. Digital resource guide: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/nmaahc-digital-resource-guide>
- **American Women’s History Museum.** Decades in the making, the American Women’s History Museum’s physical location is not yet complete. With a digital-first mission and focus, the online museum amplifies a diversity of women’s voices, highlighting contributions women have made to America’s most defining moments: <https://womenshistory.si.edu/>.
  - Collections: <https://womenshistory.si.edu/collections>
- **Museum of the American Latino.** Currently being built to recognize the accomplishments, history and culture of Latino communities: <https://latino.si.edu/>.
  - Teaching and learning resources: <https://latino.si.edu/learn/teaching-and-learning-resources>
- **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.** A living memorial to the Holocaust, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum inspires citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred, prevent genocide and promote human dignity.
  - Curator stories: <https://www.ushmm.org/collections/the-museums-collections/curators-corner>

# DIRECTORY OF VARIOUS FUNDS

Dan McCallum,  
Executive Director  
ITI, NEMI & SMOHIT

### Sheet Metal Workers National Health Trust Fund and SMW+

3180 Fairview Park Dr., Ste. 400  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1449  
(615) 859-0131

### Sheet Metal Workers National Pension Fund

3180 Fairview Park Dr., Ste. 400  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 739-7000  
1-800-231-4622  
(For Plan Participants Only)

Lori Wood,  
Funds Administrator  
[smwnpf.org](http://smwnpf.org)

### National Energy Management Institute

3180 Fairview Park Dr., Ste. 400  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 739-7100

Lisa Davis, Administrator  
[nemionline.org](http://nemionline.org)

### SASMI – Stabilization Agreement of the Sheet Metal Industry

3180 Fairview Park Dr., Ste. 400  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 739-7250  
1-800-858-0354

Ken Colombo, Administrator  
[sasmi.org](http://sasmi.org)

### International Training Institute for The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Industry

3180 Fairview Park Dr., Ste. 400  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 739-7200

Michael Harris, Administrator  
[sheetmetal-iti.org](http://sheetmetal-iti.org)

### Sheet Metal Occupational Health Institute

3180 Fairview Park Dr., Ste. 400  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 739-7130

Aldo Zambetti, Administrator  
[smohit.org](http://smohit.org)

# Former General President Sellers honored with Mikva Legacy Award



**N**orth America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) hosted the Mikva Challenge's annual "Democracy is a Verb!" celebratory reception on Sunday, April 23 in Washington, DC. During the reception, Mikva Challenge — whose mission is "to develop youth to be empowered, informed, and active citizens who will promote a just and equitable society" — honored former SMART General President Joe Sellers with the organization's Legacy Award, recognizing his contributions to and support for the program and local communities.

Sean McGarvey, president of NABTU, introduced Sellers. "Joe is very involved in apprenticeship and training, since back at Local 19. Some of the progressive programs he put together at SMART have been fantastic." He added that Sellers "is like a steady rock. He's always there. He's always there with you. He's been there for SMART members, and he extended that to groups like Mikva."

Sellers then took the stage, telling Mikva Challenge: "Your civic

engagement is unmatched, and the issues you're working on are vitally important to not only your neighborhood but our country. Listening to what you do enthused me to make a difference in the way you're making a difference."

Founded in 1998, the Mikva Challenge began as a small pilot program with an all-volunteer staff in four Chicago schools; 23 years later, Mikva has grown to serve over 17 states, 3,200 teachers and 135,000 students annually. According to the organization's website, Mikva has spent the last two decades developing an education model based on the principles that: 1. Youth voice matters; 2. Youth are experts on the issues that affect them; 3. Our communities and schools are stronger when youth leaders are involved in all aspects of civic life.

"I am impressed with how you create goals and you follow those goals with action plans," Sellers remarked to reception attendees. "And there is nothing that gets me more jazzed up than action plans!"

The Mikva Challenge provides schools with strategies and tools to engage young people in high quality, student-centered learning about the democratic process — an objective that aligns with the way SMART provides state-of-the-art training to apprentices while encouraging members to engage with their local union. Mikva's programs are designed to develop social and emotional skills, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. The organization also focuses on improving school and community culture while enhancing teacher effectiveness through inquiry-driven, project-based study, creating opportunities for engaging in democracy.

Sellers concluded his remarks by addressing Mikva students.

"Make sure you understand about our apprenticeship programs," he said. "Our goals are aligned with yours, and with an apprenticeship you can go back and harness your power as a union member to amplify your voice." ■



# Get up to \$600 for preventive care through SASMI

**S**ASMI now offers an Annual Physical Benefit, designed to encourage you and your family to stay on top of your preventive care. This is an **annual** benefit, so it is available each year!

## How much is the benefit?

Benefit amounts are per calendar year and depend on whether the person getting the exam is a member, spouse or dependent. The maximum amount you can receive for your family in a calendar year is \$600. Your benefit will be directly deposited into your bank account, and you can use it however you would like.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE	ANNUAL BENEFIT AMOUNT
You	\$200
Your spouse	\$100
Your dependent child(ren)	\$100 per child
Maximum calendar-year benefit per family is \$600	

## Who's eligible?

You must be eligible for SASMI benefits both during the stabilization period in which you (or your spouse or child) get the preventive care *and* at the time you apply for the benefit.

## What's covered?

For purposes of this benefit, a physical examination is a routine test your primary care provider (PCP) or OB/GYN performs to check your overall health. A PCP may be a doctor, a nurse practitioner or a

physician assistant. The exam is also known as a wellness check.

An annual physical exam may be a general annual physical exam, a well woman exam or an annual well child exam.

## What's not covered?

The benefit does not apply to annual eye exams, dental cleaning or dental visits.

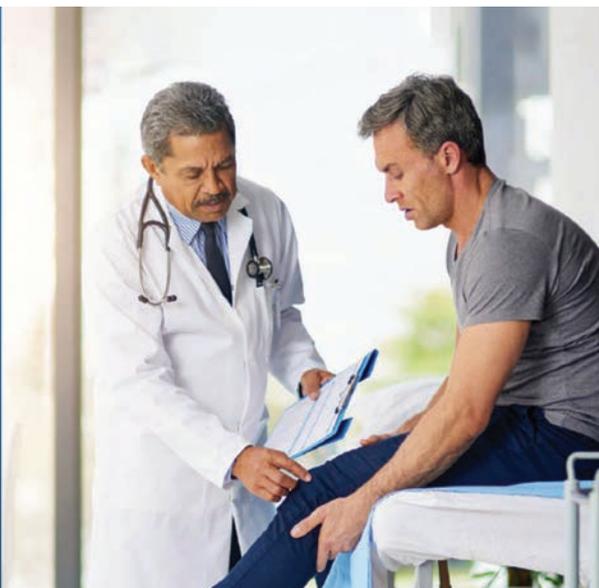
application for the benefit after December 15, it will not be processed until the next calendar year.

To get started, visit [www.sasmi.org](http://www.sasmi.org), log in to the member portal and click on "Applications" and then "Annual Physical Benefit" to access the form you'll need to submit. You will need a copy of your SMART-affiliated health and welfare fund's Explanation

Don't Leave  
**MONEY**  
on the Table!

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Have you gotten  
your physical  
this year?



The benefit is not for doctor visits to treat an illness or injury, or a visit that is scheduled because you are having symptoms of an illness or injury.

## How do I get the benefit?

Once you get your checkup or screening, you have 12 months from the date of service to claim your benefit. If you submit your

of Benefits (EOB) that shows that you (and/or your family member) received the preventive care from a qualified professional, as well as your bank routing information for direct deposit.

## Questions?

Visit [www.sasmi.org](http://www.sasmi.org) for more details about this benefit, how to get it and FAQs. ■

# SMART councils hold productive week of meetings and events in Memphis

From May 15–19, 2023, the SMART Recruitment and Retention Council — along with the Roofing and Building Enclosure and Production and Sign Councils — met in Memphis, Tennessee, where SMART leaders from across the United States and Canada reviewed and planned out activities for the year and beyond.

With the continent-wide need for workers at a generational high, now is the time for locals to recruit new members and apprentices for upcoming megaprojects in both nations. Lauren Sugarman and Lark Jackson from Chicago Women in the Trades discussed recruitment strategies to build a

diverse pool of potential members to strengthen the union. Tiffany Finck-Haynes from the SMART Government Affairs Department gave an overview of federal funding available to local JATCs to assist with recruitment and retention of members from across all ethnic and gender backgrounds. Darrell Roberts, SMART’s assistant to the general president, and Josh Garner from the SMART International Organizing Department led a presentation on recruitment tactics, while SMART-TD Chief of Staff Jerry Gibson led a discussion on recruitment and retention and its unique role in the industries the SMART Transportation Division represents. He was joined by John Pitts

(organizer from SMART-TD Local 608), James Sandoval (general chairperson for SMART-TD Local 0023) and Chad Yokoyama (SMART-TD Local 1687).

Attendees at the Roofing and Building Enclosure Council meeting were also updated on cutting-edge tools and training for new panel systems. These will give SMART architectural sheet metal workers and roofers a leg up over the nonunion competition as SMART continues to expand market share and collective bargaining power for members.

The Production and Sign Council heard from Michael Childers, the department cochair of the School for Workers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Childers spoke about the collaboration between the labor movement and civil rights movements, and how that solidarity translates to work being done today as SMART looks to spread our message of opportunity to people of all races and backgrounds. Local 464 (Ponca City, Okla.) Business Manager Mechelle McNew, a longtime leader on the council and founding member of the SMART Women’s Committee, was also honored at the close of the council meetings for her contributions to the organization as one of the first woman leaders in the SMART sheet metal industry.





Former SMART General President Joseph Sellers and General President Mike Coleman addressed attendees at all three meetings and updated them on progress at the International level. Each committee later honored General President Sellers for his contributions to the union and the substantial progress made during his time in office. Among the items Sellers received was a fishing rod to use during his retirement, when he will have the chance to spend time with his family.

Remarking at the end of a presentation from the SMART Women's Committee, whose members were also in attendance, Sellers noted that he "looks forward to seeing the work you continue to do, because you're shaping SMART."

### SMART Army lands in Memphis

On Thursday, May 18, members of SMART Local 4 in Memphis were joined by SMART members across North America for a community litter cleanup in historic Soulsville, where union members also helped repair and plant in Urban Forest and Community Garden. Following the event, the SMART Army presented a \$21,100 check to Memphis City Beautiful, the nation's oldest beautification commission.

"As part of our Recruitment and Retention Council, Roofing and Building Enclosure Council and Production and Sign Council meetings in Memphis this week, we decided to collectively do what our union does best: uplift working



families in local communities," said SMART General President Mike Coleman, who participated in the volunteer event. "We are proud to partner with organizations like Memphis City Beautiful and the Urban Forest and Community Garden to give back to the neighborhoods in which our members live and work." ■

# SMART NABTU reception shows strength of congressional relationships



Mikie Sherrill (D-N.J.)



Valerie Hoyle (D-Ore.)

**S**MART's political advocacy has paid off during recent years, as pro-labor members of Congress voted to invest in our jobs and our industries with the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure law, the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. International and local union leaders continue to forge political relationships in order to benefit members across the country — and in April, the strength of those relationships was made clear, as

congressional leaders from both parties stopped by SMART's reception during the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) Legislative Conference.

SMART members in attendance heard from Reps. Mikie Sherrill (D-N.J.), Angie Craig (D-Minn.), Nannette Barragán (D-Calif.), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) and Valerie Hoyle (D-Ore.). Members in each representative's respective state turned out in force to put those candidates in office; in return, each candidate has acted on our behalf: from introducing legislation to bring labor to the table on workforce training standards, to voting to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

"I'm standing here today because of labor," Craig said before urging Local 10 (Minnesota) members to leave to watch the Minnesota Wild playoff hockey game. "You knocked so many damn doors, and I promise I will be here for you every damn day."

"I can guarantee to all of you that I'm never going to stop fighting for you," Hoyle declared later. The former UNITE HERE member added: "If you come into my office, I've got hard hat stickers from SMART, I've got my AFL-CIO posters up — you walk into my office, you know it is a union office."

SMART members also heard from Local 19 (Philadelphia, Pa.) President and Business Manager Gary Masino, who is currently running for city council to represent

Northeast Philadelphia. Masino was born and raised in Northeast Philly — he knows from experience that working people need a champion for their interests in office. As councilmember, he vowed to work tirelessly for safer streets, jobs that pay livable wages and to invest in Philadelphia schools.

"I'm going to fight for labor and do everything I can to make Philadelphia a union town again," Masino said. ■



Angie Craig (D-Minn.)



Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.)



DIRECTOR  
CHRIS PASWISTY

# Raising the standards for all workers

**O**n March 28, the Government of Canada released the 2023 Federal Budget, which included strong investments to build Canada's green economy. The definition of prevailing wage outlined in this budget is one of the strongest in Canada's history. Tying incentives to a prevailing wage that incorporates union compensation, including benefits and pension contributions, will raise workers' living standards, maximize benefits for the entire economy and create good-paying, middle-class jobs as Canada transitions to sustainable energy.

The government has an opportunity to make significant progress towards Canada's net-zero goals. We applaud Natural Resources Canada for obtaining and considering the diverse perspectives and impacts its net-zero strategy may have; now it is time to make bold moves to decarbonize buildings. Canada is falling behind on its Pan-Canadian Framework measures, and an increase in retrofit rates, from 1% to 3-5%, is required to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. For Canada to meet its goals, regulations must include time-bound commitments for net-zero emissions and energy efficiency standards.

Industry is ready to support this transition. We are ready to grow and meet the demand by welcoming Canadians into the skilled trades,

and we will collaborate with the government to continue driving Canadians towards a career in the trades. Students, minority groups, new Canadians and transitioning workers should continue to be a priority.

The Canada Green Buildings Strategy cannot leave any Canadian behind and must include cooperation with provincial, municipal and Indigenous governments, as well as appropriate provisions of support. Without a strategy to support low-income Canadians, Canada will not achieve net-zero emissions. These five million Canadians have been largely left out of the energy transition to date – even though low-income family dwellings tend to account for a significantly higher proportion of emissions in housing building stock. The green buildings strategy must also consider the unique characteristics and needs of Indigenous housing. We must continue to make this a priority.

On June 15, forward progress continued when the government tabled Bill C-50, which addresses Canada's transition to a carbon-neutral economy while supporting workers and creating sustainable jobs. Among other things, this bill would create a sustainable Jobs Partnership Council to encourage sustainable job creation and support workers and communities, as well as establish a Sustainable Jobs

Action Plan and Secretariat. As Canada pursues the retrofitting of *all* buildings to hit net-zero emissions by 2050, SMART members will play a critical role. HVAC uses 35% of the energy in buildings (up to 65% in the residential sector); energy efficiency improvements will reduce carbon emissions. We must use our expertise and be a resource for local, provincial and the federal government in achieving sustainability goals.

To close: On behalf of all Canadians, I would like to thank retired General President Joseph Sellers for his years of dedication and service during a career of passion and advocacy, of representing workers in all sectors, from the local to the International level. You have been a strong leader and a voice for the inclusion of all workers in our organization, ensuring that we have each other's back. The programs and initiatives that you fostered and promoted will be a great legacy for SMART. We wish you a long and healthy retirement, enjoying time for yourself and Beth along with friends and family!

I remain, fraternally yours,

**Chris Paswisty**  
*Director of Canadian Affairs*

# THE TIME IS NOW

## SMART MEMBERS POSITIONED FOR UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY

- STRONG LABOR STANDARDS CREATE UNION JOBS ON MEGAPROJECTS
- HEAVY METAL SUMMER EXPERIENCE BOOSTS RECRUITMENT
- MINN. MEMBERS WIN SHEET METAL AND TRANSPORTATION VICTORIES
- RAILROADERS NEGOTIATE HISTORIC TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS
- SMART LEADERS VISIT TENN. MEGAPROJECT

p. 26

p. 27

p. 28

p. 29

p. 31

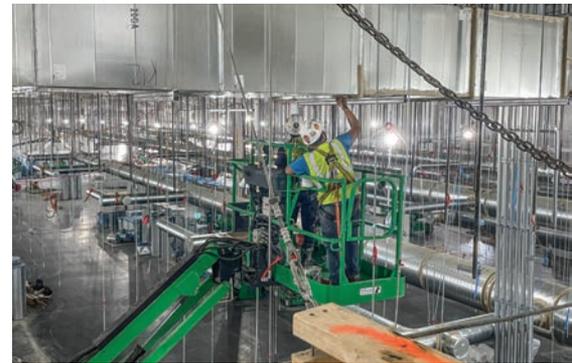
WATCH RETIRED GENERAL PRESIDENT SELLERS AND GENERAL PRESIDENT COLEMAN DISCUSS THE OPPORTUNITY AHEAD:



**A**cross all the industries and crafts represented in our union — HVAC installation, railroading, indoor air quality, transit operation, architectural sheet metal, production, sign work, bus operation and beyond — SMART members are positioned for generational growth. Now, we need to seize these opportunities.

### Political advocacy pays off for sheet metal workers

Unprecedented investment in the sheet metal industry — much of it due to strong labor standards and incentives included in federal legislation in the U.S. — paired with ongoing core work is creating incredibly high demand. SMART local unions now have the chance to organize and recruit aggressively to meet workforce needs. *More on page 26.*





# Strong labor standards tied to federal funding help create union jobs on megaprojects

**S**MART's relentless political advocacy over recent years has helped foster massive infrastructure investment on both public and private projects. From New York state, to Central Ohio, to Arizona and well beyond, megaprojects are creating tens of thousands of jobs for SMART sheet metal workers — all with a presidential administration that is pushing hard for these projects to include strong labor standards that create union jobs.

"Right now we're tracking close to 300 megaprojects — we know that there will be about 60 that will break ground, are currently started or will be starting this year," said SMART Chief International Representative Scott Parks. "It wasn't that long ago that a \$1 million sheet metal job was very exciting; now we have 60 megaprojects in the pipeline. It's a good time to be a sheet metal worker."

Much of the public funding for these projects comes from legislation passed by the Biden administration: the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Due to the unprecedented role labor has played in the passage and assembly of those laws, companies hoping to take advantage of funding and tax incentives are being pushed to build with strong labor standards in place, bringing good, union jobs to projects breaking ground from coast to coast.

Importantly, Parks pointed out, these jobs require a consistent sheet

metal presence, keeping our members at work as technology advances, during retooling and reorganization, and during outages and shutdowns. And the specific skills and crafts required on such projects cover nearly all the sheet metal positions that SMART represents: from frontline supervisors, to testers and balancers, to welders, to everyone else.

"If you can imagine balancing a project that could require 100 balancers — geographically, you may only have 100 balancers in two states," he explained. "So we're going to be challenged to make sure we tool up our members so that they're prepared to take care of these projects."

The bounty of work on the horizon has created an unprecedented moment of opportunity. According to Parks, the current number of megaprojects breaking ground means one can almost make a projection 10 years out — a far cry from the post-2008 years, when SMART leadership balked at speculating even two or three years into the future. But with that opportunity comes new responsibility.

"We are not going to be able to apprentice our way into the workforce we need to meet these demands — we are not going to be able to do things the way we have always done it in the past, period," explained SMART General President Mike Coleman. "We have got to put an exceptional focus on organizing, recruiting and retaining in every community."

SMART members and local unions know the differences between a union career and a nonunion gig: stability, family-sustaining pay and benefits, solidarity and safety on the job, to name only a few. Now, with hundreds of huge jobs breaking ground from Oregon to Atlanta — *on top of* SMART local unions' core work — the time is now to bring members into our union.

"When it comes to organizing and recruiting, we're organizing shops, we're organizing projects — folks who want to be union sheet metal workers, we'll bring them in," Parks explained. "If they're in an apprenticeship program that may not be a sheet metal apprenticeship program, we're bringing them in so they have the best chance of success moving forward. If someone comes in as a nonunion journeyman, that's great too — we want everyone."

*Many of these projects may provide SMART members in other locations with the opportunity to travel for work. For more information on traveling to jobsites, contact your local business manager and visit the SMART sheet metal job bank. ■*



Local 4 (Memphis) members at work on the Blue Oval City megaproject in Stanton, Tenn.

# Heavy Metal Summer Experience positions unionized sheet metal industry for future growth

The explosion of megaprojects in North America, combined with ongoing core work in the sheet metal industry, is creating previously-unheard-of workforce demands for local SMART unions across the continent — not just in the next few years, but the next several decades. In response, SMART, SMACNA, the International Training Institute and other industry stakeholders have launched a variety of initiatives to bring young people into the trade and expand beyond recruiting through word of mouth.

“The industry is going to change moving forward, and it’s vital that we evolve with it,” remarked SMART General President Mike Coleman. “If we are going to achieve the growth required in upcoming years, we need to make sure we’re recruiting in all the communities in which we live and work, bringing in apprentices from all backgrounds.”

One program has already proven successful in that regard.

The Heavy Metal Summer Experience (HMSE) is a six-week-long summer career exploration camp that introduces high school students and recent graduates to careers in the building trades through hands-on projects, working alongside skilled tradespeople and discovering local apprenticeship training opportunities. Founded by Angie Simon, past president of SMACNA and retired CEO of Western Allied Mechanical, the program seeks to engage young



people who may not otherwise know about our trade and give them the opportunity to learn directly from SMART sheet metal workers, among others. This can be particularly beneficial for young people in underserved areas — giving our union the chance to establish a foothold in communities where we may previously have been absent.

The camp began as a trial program at the Hermanson Company in Seattle, Washington in 2021. Since then, it has expanded across the country, producing success stories along the way. *SNIPS NEWS* recently profiled Alejandra, a Local 66 (Seattle) apprentice who found her way to the trade via HMSE.

“I didn’t know exactly where I was going. I didn’t have the funds to go to college or university, and I heard about this program, the Heavy Metal Summer Experience,” she told *SNIPS*. “I attended and they introduced me to the trades — more sheet metal focused — but they did touch on most trades. They told me

that they would pay me to learn, and I was sold.”

Alejandra’s experience demonstrates the importance of programs like Heavy Metal Summer Experience in raising public awareness and providing pathways into the trade for women, people of color and others from historically underrepresented communities. By bringing in those members, local unions can expand their reach and grow their strength well into the future.

“These megaprojects and the organizing and recruiting we do now won’t just impact the next few years — these are chances to provide good, family-sustaining careers for generations to come,” Coleman concluded. “By engaging with programs such as Heavy Metal Summer Experience, local unions can help secure a legacy in their communities for the long term.”

Local unions and interested members can find more information at [hmse.org](http://hmse.org). ■

# Minnesota members win legislative victories across sheet metal and transportation



**S**MART sheet metal and Transportation Division members mobilized throughout the 2023 legislative session in Minnesota, emerging with massive victories that will provide work opportunities and increased on-the-job safety for years to come.

On May 24, Minn. Governor Tim Walz signed HF 2887, making two-person crews on freight trains the law of the land in the state. The massive transportation omnibus bill was passed by the state legislature on May 21 and, along with the minimum crew size provision, includes infrastructure dollars to bring passenger rail jobs to Minnesota.

“The Minnesota Legislative Board began working on minimum crew size in 2015,” said SMART-TD Minnesota State Legislative Director (SLD) Nick Katich. “At that time, Phil Qualy was director, and I was his assistant. We passed it in the house once and the senate once, but never together.”

Minimum crew size began as its own bill in the state senate, with a companion bill in the house. (The legislation was later moved into the omnibus bill due to time constraints.) The bill passed through all committees despite the railroads actively opposing it.

“It was difficult when the railroads were testifying to keep a straight face,” commented Katich. “Some

of their claims were so false or misleading it would make you sick. Our job was to help the lawmakers see through the smokescreen, and we did just that.”

In addition to minimum crew size, the omnibus bill fully funded the Northern Lights Express, Amtrak’s passenger service between Duluth and Minneapolis, at \$194.7 million. This allows access to matching funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and means more work opportunities for our members. The legislation also included two more state rail safety inspectors, additional funding for passenger rail corridor studies and railroad-provided first responder training.

“I would like to personally thank the SMART-TD Minnesota Legislative Board for their unwavering support and confidence, the local officers who volunteered to pitch in and the members and retirees for keeping track and sending encouragement,” Katich added. “I would also add that I would like to thank our friends in the Minnesota AFL-CIO. They had our backs and watched for the railroad lobbyists lurking around where they shouldn’t be.”

Minnesota sheet metal workers notched a job-creating victory the same day, when Walz signed into law the energy, environmental and natural resources omnibus bill passed by the house and senate. As part of the sprawling legislation, which also includes rebate programs for heat pumps, the

law stipulates that the Minnesota Department of Commerce must establish and administer an air ventilation program to award grants to public school boards in Minnesota, with the grants covering work such as testing and balancing, HVAC and energy efficiency upgrades and much more. Importantly for SMART members, the bill specifically includes strong prevailing wage language that requires work covered by grants to “be performed by a skilled and trained workforce that is paid the prevailing wage rate ... and of which at least 80 percent of the construction workers are either registered in or graduates of a registered apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation.”

“We see this program as a win, win, win,” said Local 10 (Minnesota) Business Manager Matt Fairbanks. “Jobs, clean energy, cost savings and human health. This program is dedicated to the work our members do day in and day out, starting with the front-end assessment that will

identify deficiencies and flow into future system upgrades.”

“Not only will this provide our members with future hours and food on their plates, but it will also shine a light on our members’ stewardship to the community,” he added. “I think providing healthy air to children, cost savings for adults and clean energy for the environment is a pretty big deal!”

Such legislative wins would never have been possible without the votes and advocacy of members across the state. In the 2022 midterm elections, pro-worker candidates took control — albeit with a slim majority — of the Minnesota House and Senate, with Walz winning reelection, and immediately passed a slew of laws that will benefit SMART members. That includes what most in the Minnesota building trades consider the most expansive prevailing wage enhancements in state history: from increased enforcement, to attaching the law to state funds, programs, energy projects and more. The legislature also passed paid sick leave for all workers;

the banning of anti-union captive audience meetings; new protections for meatpackers, construction workers and Amazon employees; a huge expansion of paid family and medical leave; the largest increase in state history to the Minnesota work compensation system’s permanent partial disability fund; a universal free school breakfast and lunch program for the kids of working families; and more.

“Politics is a slow-grinding machine, and we ask our members to participate in all kinds of different ways: from volunteering in phone banks, to door knocks, lit drops, parades and — most importantly — voting,” Fairbanks added. “Because of our members’ trust and dedication, we got to see the tree bear fruit, and that feels great! Not only did our state see a historic session for workers’ rights and investments, we get to witness firsthand that hard work does pay off. Thank you to all the Local 10 members that stood with us and helped get so many things done this year.” ■

## Railroaders negotiate historic agreements

**A**s a result of last year’s national rail negotiations, some TD freight rail members have gained — for the first time — paid sick leave benefits for T&E workers for U.S.-based carriers on the East Coast.

In late April, GO-049 Mid-Atlantic District members ratified the first agreement for freight rail operating employees to receive paid sick days.

The agreement with CSX set a historic precedent, providing for five paid sick days, adding an option to convert personal days to sick days and cashing out sick time at the end of the year.

The lack of paid sick time within the railroad industry was highlighted in the media in 2022, when workers rejected a tentative national agreement that covered most railroad carriers and labor organizations, almost leading to a shutdown of the nation’s vital supply chain.



The operating crafts (which include engineers, conductors and trainmen) have what is perceived as the most demanding of working conditions of the railroad crafts due to the travel requirements, extreme weather conditions and the on-call nature of their positions. This agreement establishes a benefit in the railroad industry that many American workers already enjoy.

In addition to paid sick time, the agreement, which covers approximately 2,400 conductors and trainmen on CSX Northern line, also adopts the current attendance policy put in place by CSX into the collective bargaining agreement. Railroads in the past have been reluctant to negotiate attendance; this is another first for the operating workforce, as it subjects the former policy (now agreement) to negotiations if any changes are desired by either the carrier or the employees in the future.

“It’s refreshing and impressive to see the overwhelming support of the membership on this tentative agreement. It is also encouraging that SMART-TD and CSX leadership were able to sit down at the table and reach a consensus on items as important as these. I am hopeful this momentum will carry forward in future negotiations and help us collectively improve the working conditions and overall morale at CSX,” General Chairperson Richard Lee said.

Two other CSX committees, GOs 513 and 851, also reached similar tentative agreements in late May.

All Norfolk Southern operating general committees have ratified an agreement and completed negotiations with the carrier gaining five paid sick days, additional financial compensation and addressing scheduling and quality-of-life concerns. Yardmasters also reached an agreement that provides paid sick time.

### **UP GO reaches crew-consist agreement**

Out west, GO-953 ratified a crew-consist agreement, preserving the in-cab role of the conductor until national negotiations reopen. The ratified agreement provides for a substantial signing bonus, work protections and no rules changes regarding road/yard switching.

General Chairperson Luke Edington of Local 286 (North Platte, Neb.) negotiated the successful agreement with assistance from Vice General Chairperson Zach Nagy and Vice President Brent Leonard.

GO-953 has members in 48 TD locals and represents workers in Union Pacific’s Eastern, Pacific Northwest and Idaho territories (former Chicago-Northwestern Railway Co.), Kyle, Nebraska Central and Portland Terminal railroads and the Wichita Terminal Association.

Property-specific negotiations continue with BNSF and remaining segments of CSX and UP, while talks

with Norfolk Southern have concluded. Visit the SMART website for the latest information about the continued negotiations and the substantial gains these agreements bring to our members’ quality of life. ■



### **CSX fact box**

- Five paid sick days with option to convert two personal days
- Unused sick days converted to cash
- Incorporates more lenient carrier attendance policy
- Covers ~2,400 members

### **UP fact box**

- A \$27,500 signing bonus upon the contract's ratification
- Continues to require the conductor's position as being based in the cab of the locomotive
- 30 years of protections for brakemen/switchmen, with assignments abolished

### **NS fact box**

- T&E workers get five paid sick days with the option to convert up to two personal leave days to on-demand sick days
- Unused personal leave days can now be carried over and accumulated indefinitely, with no limitations
- Yardmasters get four paid sick days with the option to convert up to three personal leave days

# SMART leadership visits Tennessee megaproject

Fifteen SMART signatory contractors employing over 250 sheet metal workers are currently working on Ford's Blue Oval City project in Stanton, Tennessee. The massive automotive facility, sitting just a dozen miles outside Memphis, will be the foundation of a manufacturing ecosystem in Tennessee that will create more than 11,000 new American manufacturing jobs. There are 3,000 union construction workers currently on site, including members of SMART Local 4 in Memphis.

In May, former General President Joseph Sellers joined General President Mike Coleman for a tour of the massive project with workers at Ventcon, one of the array of unionized sheet metal contractors mobilized for this project. While there, they were able to meet with SMART sheet metal workers from a number of different firms who were employed at the project. In addition to the 250 SMART members employed at Blue Oval City, another 900 sheet metal workers are expected to be needed by September of this year.

The \$5.6 billion battery and vehicle manufacturing campus will be the largest in the iconic auto manufacturer's history, one which is built to last for the remainder of the century and will deliver millions of electric power cars to consumers across North America.

According to company press releases, Ford is investing more than \$50 billion worldwide through 2026 to develop a new generation of electric vehicles. The company plans to manufacture them at scale at a run rate of 600,000 electric vehicles globally by late 2023 and 2 million by 2026. Ford, as of summer 2022, had already secured 100% of the annual battery cell capacity needed to support the 2023 target and 70% needed to support the 2026 target.

The completion of this facility is central to that goal, one that will not only affect the future of the company, but also the future of the North American auto market. SMART sheet metal workers are once again at the forefront of this industrial revolution.

Blue Oval City consists of 13 buildings. The heart of the campus is the Tennessee Electric Vehicle Center, which will produce the next-generation Ford truck. The battery plant itself will be over 4.1 million square feet, with ductwork being installed by Ventcon. Because of the nature of the manufacturing work that will be performed at the

site, humidity and climate control — and, consequently, the quality of the sheet metal worker performed — will be central to ensuring the success of operations at the facility. Outside wall panels are being installed by API, another signatory with Local 4 in Memphis.

"The future is now, and it will take every union sheet metal worker, present and future, to make sure we are at the forefront of bringing back our industrial capacity," said General President Coleman. "I could not be any prouder of the work we are going to do to make that happen."

If you or another member you know are interested in traveling to this massive, long-term project — along with the dozens of others across North America — be sure to visit the SMART Job Bank at the QR code or at [smart-union.org/job-bank](http://smart-union.org/job-bank).



Signatory contractors working on Blue Oval City: Ventcon, FM Sylvan, HM White, Midsouth Industrial, Durr, McShane Mechanical, API, Universal Wall Systems, Christen Detroit, Schreiber, CS3, Damon-Marcus, Systematic Testing and Balancing, Ralph Jones Sheet Metal. ■



# Introducing a new SASMI benefit...

## Sure to put a smile on your wallet



## It's the Active HRA!

We're pleased to present a brand-new, valuable SASMI benefit for active members: A Healthcare Reimbursement Account (HRA) that's funded through employer contributions. This new benefit is effective as of July 2023.

An HRA is a special account that you can use to pay for prescription drugs and other eligible health items at your local retail pharmacy counter. There's nothing you need to contribute. To get started, just visit the member portal to register for your HRA debit card.



Visit [sasmi.org](https://sasmi.org) for  
more information.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Local 36 hosts 2023 Bass Classic

Local 36 (St. Louis, Missouri) hosted its annual Bass Classic in April — and thanks to extenuating weather, the fishing was even more eventful than usual.

“We had a HAIL of a time this year,” the local wrote on Facebook, “braving not one, but two hail storms over the course of the tournament. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen, and congrats to everyone who weighed fish.” ■

**FIRST PLACE: 14.3 LBS**

Sam Partain – Wyatt Knuckles

**SECOND PLACE: 10.22 LBS**

John Dubrouillet – Glen Livaudkis

**THIRD PLACE: 9.41 LBS**

Brian Granger – Greg Bunton

**FOURTH PLACE: 6.65 LBS**

Fred Hubler – Brian Hubler

**BIG BASS 1: 4.58 LBS**

Steve Zambruski – Ryan Zambruski

**BIG BASS 2: 4.29 LBS**

Sam Partain – Wyatt Knuckles

**LOCAL 36 FISH: 3.54 LBS**

Andy Smith – Jake West



## Local 25's Frank Creegan honored for 59 years of service

**S**M Local 25 (northern New Jersey) President/ Business Manager Joe Demark presented Frank Creegan with a plaque in honor of his 59 years of service, including as a trustee for the local's Welfare, Annuity & Vacation Funds. Congratulations, brother! ■



## Local 104 secures opportunity in Pittsburg, Calif.

**O**n April 18, 2023, Local 104 (northern California) members joined a coalition of local tradespeople to secure 360,000 union construction hours in the city of Pittsburg, California. Local 104 member Mousaab Atassi spoke to city officials, providing the voice and perspective of working families. Great work, Local 104! ■



## Local 105 supports Autism Spectrum Athletics tryouts

**T**he Local 105 (Los Angeles) SMART Army turned out to help Autism Spectrum Athletics (ASA) with its baseball tryouts in April. ASA, which was established in 2012, offers community-based socialization sports programs that are designed to be stress free and non-competitive, with positive peer support. ASA Chief Executive Officer Manny Zapata is a Local 105 member.

Business Manager Steve Hinson and Business Representatives Donny Sappington, Tim Hinson and Erik Villegas helped facilitate ASA's baseball activities, demonstrating the power of union solidarity to bring fun and happiness to all. ■



## TD Local 854 SMART Army steps up for neighbor in need

Members of the SMART-TD Local 854 (Portsmouth, Va.) SMART Army mobilized in early May to help a neighbor in need. Sophia Alvarez, a young Virginian with autism, was unable to play outside at her home — there was no fence around her yard to keep her safe, Virginia State Legislative Director Ronnie Hobbes explained. That’s why Local 854 donated materials and labor to build a fence; “she can now enjoy a little time in the backyard,” Hobbes said.

Great work, Local 854! ■



## Local 464 member retires after 46 years of service

Local 464 (Ponca City, Okla.) member RJ Warren retired on April 28, 2023, bringing an end to 46 years of service as a tool and die maker at Air System Components/JCI.

“He has been with this production plant through many owners and a loyal union member since February, 1977,” explained Local 464 Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer Mechelle McNew.

McNew presented Warren with a retirement watch on his last day of work. Congratulations, brother! ■





## Local 22 honors Memorial Day with flag placement

**S**MART Local 22 (central New Jersey) celebrated Memorial Day weekend with its annual flag placement in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“The veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy,” the local wrote on Facebook. “They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment.” ■



## SMART-TD Maryland members help rejuvenate Baltimore elementary school

**S**MART-TD members in Maryland mobilized on short notice to serve their community in April, joining a CSX and City Year Service Day spent rehabilitating and sprucing up Curtis Bay Elementary School near Baltimore.

“CSX asked all their employees to be there, and this was really kind of last minute — they hadn’t done these in about two years because of COVID,” said Johnny Walker, SMART-TD Maryland State Legislative Board secretary. “This was an opportunity for us to go ahead and do something in the community.”

Despite the lack of long-term planning, SMART-TD Local 610 discussed the service opportunity at its local union meeting, and six members and their families turned

out at Curtis Bay Elementary. Members painted the inside of the school, spread mulch in the outdoor area, cleared brush from the school’s garden area and even helped fix the school parking lot. They also had the chance to meet management on neutral ground, including new CSX CEO Joe Hinrichs.

“Overall it was a great opportunity for all of us to get together, take a break from what we do in transportation and really give back to the community,” Walker added.

To Walker, SMART Army events and other service opportunities are most important because of the role they play in local communities. But they also demonstrate how vital union workers are in cities, towns and neighborhoods across the country — both on and off the job.



“Unions are still here, and we do things more than just get good contracts and good benefits for our workforce,” he explained. “It’s really important for us to show everybody that we’re more than a sheet metal worker, a train conductor, a bus driver. We really care about the communities that we live and work in.”

That union solidarity will benefit the students and teachers at Curtis Bay Elementary for years to come. ■

# SMART Local 3 uplifts area workers with signatory organizing campaign

**S**MART Local 3 (Omaha, Nebraska) won a huge victory for area workers in May 2023, partnering with newly formed contractor Christopherson Plumbing, Heating & Air to bring the business into union signatory status. And unlike many organizing campaigns, this one was initiated by management.

“Approximately two and a half months ago, I was approached by Matt Christopherson, owner of Christopherson Plumbing, and Brian Wilhite, owner of Wilhite Services,” explained Local 3 Business Manager Jason Kirchhevel. “They came to me and explained how they were going to merge their respective companies.”

Christopherson had worked as a nonunion plumber for 15 years before starting his own business; when he became a contractor, he

signed with Plumbers Local 16 in Omaha, where he experienced firsthand the value of organized labor and the union training model. When Christopherson and Wilhite decided to merge, Christopherson immediately began explaining the benefits of being a union contractor — the meeting with Local 3 soon followed.

“We set up a meeting and tour of our training center,” Kirchhevel added. “After several other meetings, giving tours, explanations of wages, benefits and training to the employees, everything fell in place. As of May 1, 2023, we signed the contract and created the partnership.”

Such signatory campaigns demonstrate the fact that union labor helps all parties — both employees and employer. Great work, Local 3!

**Picture:** Back row, left to right: Brian T. Wilhite (fifth-year



apprentice), Steve Terwilliger (Local 3 business rep.), Jason Kirchhevel (Local 3 business manager/financial secretary-treasurer), Brian D. Wilhite (owner/member), Matt Christopherson (owner), Dustin Blessing (Local 3 journey person), Mitchel Anderson (first-year apprentice), Tyler Fox (journey person), Joshua Ross (Local 3 organizer). Front row, left to right: Treyton Foutch (pre-apprentice), Noah Nienaber (pre-apprentice), Michael Labenz (first-year apprentice), Anthony Davis (journey person). ■

# SMART Local 33 (Parkersburg district) service awards



Pictured from left to right: Josh Wagoner (15 years), Mike Varner (15 years), Mike Glodowski (15 years), Mark Downey (15 years), Chris Braniff (25 years), Tim Lynch (25 years), Frank Byrd (25 years), Larry ‘Red’ Sadler (40 years), Lee Boyles (40 years), Tim Buckley (40 years), Melvin Buckley (60 years), Randy Gombos (business representative), Harry Oiler (retired business representative). A special acknowledgement to Melvin Buckley and his son, Tim Buckley: Between the father and son, they represent 100 years of continuous service!

## Local 218 member demonstrates union craftsmanship with metal tree sculpture



Skilled, union labor plays a vital role in communities across North America, from ensuring indoor air quality to fabricating complex HVAC systems. In the spring of 2023, Local 218 (Springfield, Ill.) journeyman Meghan Reynolds showed that union craftsmanship isn't only for function, but for beauty as well — creating a durable, ornate metal tree sculpture for her uncle.

"He wanted a piece of art for his yard," she explained, "something that would withstand weather and change."

In some ways, the sculpture was years in the making. Reynolds originally got into the union — and the sheet metal trade — in the early 2000s. After moving from Illinois, to Indiana, then back to Illinois, her friendship with a Local 218 business agent led her to begin working

in residential HVAC service; when the company she was working for went under, she started at King-Lar Company in Decatur, Ill., switching her specialty as well. That was in 2004 — she's been a proud union sheet metal worker ever since.

"I love being a sheet metal worker because it's something different all the time," she said. "It's not the same humdrum thing every day, and I love building things. And I think the union is really great — it's really cool that King-Lar gave me a chance, and I've grown into a very skilled

worker. So I like to pass that on to young people: Anybody who's new, who's willing to listen and learn, I'm willing to share with them and pass that knowledge on."

Reynolds' skill is on full display with her uncle's tree sculpture. She started the project with a carbon slug she found in the burn table, then gathered stainless steel strips, some scrap stainless mesh, embossed copper "and a whole lot of welding wire." She started tacking the steel strips to the slug, forming what would become the tree's limbs and branches. Then she got to welding.

"Each strip has three to four passes," she said. "The wire mesh makes up the smaller branches. The leaves are soldered to 14-gauge stainless steel wire and tacked to the branches."

All told, the project took two months' worth of breaks, lunches and a few Saturdays. But the end result was well worth the time. It's a shining testament to the skill and expertise that defines union labor: a sturdy, winding metal tree with glistening leaves that will last for years to come.

And, Reynolds said, this tree won't be the last.

"I'm going to do another one," she declared. ■



# Local 124 (Oklahoma City, Okla.) service awards



## 15-year pin recipients

Pictured left to right: Jerry Hovarter (business manager), Hank Reaves (president), Raymond E. Cornsilk, Cody A. Thomas and Michael Mooney (international representative)



## 25-year pin recipients

Pictured left to right: (Front row) Dean T. Lee, Christopher B. Harless, Neil D. Cosgrove and Trent M. London. (Back row) Jerry Hovarter (business manager), Hank Reaves (president) and Michael Mooney (international representative)



## 40-year pin recipients

Pictured left to right: Hank Reaves (president), Jeff J. Jubenville, Jerry Hovarter (business manager) and Michael Mooney (international representative)



## 50-year pin recipients

Pictured left to right: (Front row) Billy R. Hovarter, Ronald D. Hill, Paul A. Francis, and Michael L. Kindrick. (Back row) Jerry Hovarter (business manager), Hank Reaves (president) and Michael Mooney (international representative)



## New journeypersons

Pictured left from right: (Front row) Thomas A. Parra, Nicklas T. Morrison, Kimberly D. Fuentes, Jason E. Clark & Robert W. Whitehead; (second row) Joshua C. Geimer, Emilio S. King, Tavan C. Stagner, Joshua D. Pridemore, Ashley N. Gosney & Richard D. Withey. (Back Row) Jaime Hickman (Coordinator), Michael Watson (committee member), Hank Reaves (president), Jerry Hovarter (business manager), Michael Mooney (international representative) and Trent London (ITI representative)



## H. Parker "Whitey" Sneed Outstanding Apprentice of the Year

Pictured left from right: Jaime Hickman (coordinator), Jerry Hovarter (business manager), Robert W. Whitehead and Jim Brown (contractor committee member)

## Local 28 (New York, N.Y.)



### 70-Year Pins

Donald A. Porzio, Felix Napolitano (received by Anthony Napolitano), Sheldon Jackman, Robert J. Beluzzi (received by retired Business Representative Butch Keane)

Also pictured: President/Business Manager Eric Meslin, Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary Salvatore Starace



### 60-Year Pins

Thomas J. Doherty, Arthur J. Fitzpatrick (retired business representative), John W. Greeff, Theodore J. Holmberg, Richard C. Kunz, Philip G. Probeck, James J. Starace, James E. Tyler, Remo Valentini, Robert A. Rotolo (retired business representative)

Also pictured: President/Business Manager Eric Meslin, Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary Salvatore Starace, Business Representative Robert C. Rotolo



### 40-Year Pins

Joseph C. Bertone, Anthony Botta, Christopher Clingen, Peter Coyle, Donald P. Edington, James F. Fitzpatrick, Jeffrey Forgione, Stephen C. Gerdik, Jr., John Hovorka, Lawrence Maraldo, Kevin McCrea, Frank Nitto (retired business representative), Donald Postolowski, Philip G. Probeck III, Joseph Rosa, Robert C. Rotolo (business representative), Peter Sumski, Rafael Vazquez, Thomas Walsh, Michael Kramer, Donald Pietrowski

Also pictured: President/Business Manager Eric Meslin, Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary Salvatore Starace



### 25-Year Pins

Kesner A. Adams, Caesar W. Beckett Jr., Aleksander Furman, Christopher C. Meslin (Executive Board), Derek A. Ordway (former Executive Board), Jorge A. Resto Sr., Joseph Rojas (business representative), Robert Sanchez, Brian Nigro (business representative)

Also pictured: President/Business Manager Eric Meslin, Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary Salvatore Starace



### 15-Year Pins

Anthony D. Cicero, Courtland Coleman, Daniel S. Cruz, Daniel J. Dibble, Mario Echavez, Elias Filpo (JATC instructor), David D. Frith, Gregorio Jimenez, Steven J. Rodriguez, Regi C. Varghese, Anthony Colon, Tamara L. Mitchell (trustee)

Also pictured: President/Business Manager Eric Meslin, Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary Salvatore Starace

# Local 38 (Westchester and Rockland Counties, N.Y.) service awards

*All members pictured with Michael Colombo, president/business manager (received 25-year pin), Eric C. Hofbauer, vice president/financial secretary-treasurer (received 15-year pin), James Malaspina, business agent, James Nester, business agent, Tom Picheco, business agent (received 15-year pin) and Eugene Barbieri IV, organizer.*



## 15-Year Pins

Joel S. Joyner, Richard A. Fernandez, John Laber, Jeffrey B. Sutter, Dayl J. Wise, Jason M. Yehl, Robert D. Hogue, Francois Soljour, Victor Diaz, Peter G. Sudol, Thomas M. Picheco, Eric C. Hofbauer



## 25-Year Pins

William H. Fuller, Anthony J. Hanner, Frank S. Perri, Michael P. Keon, Michael Costello, Kevin P. Dobbins, Michael P. Colombo, Brian K. Eisele, Kevin L. Pratley, William R. Fuller, Charles E. Whelan, David W. Sabia



## 40-Year Pins

Patrick P. Dutczak, Jay Bartomioli, Timothy J. Tyrrell, John A. Colombo, Barry D. Hanusik, Fred C. Hofbauer, Jr., Donato Terlizzi



## 50-Year Pins

Richard F. Pareti, Robert E. Thate, John Lukavic, Stephen M. Quaranto, Norman F. Carleton, John J. Perri, Dennis E. Parker, Raymond J. Perron, Timothy J. Dempsey (award accepted by son, William Dempsey)



## 60-Year Pins

Eugene Rekos, James S. Douglas, Eamonn Lynch, Robert H. McCullough



## 70-Year Pins

Richard Antonelli, Charles V. Hertel



# Let Us Always Remember...



NAME AGE DECEASED

AS REPORTED BY SHEET METAL LOCALS  
THROUGH JUNE 26, 2023

### Local 1 - Peoria, IL

Kurschner, Bernard ..... 96 . 12/16/2022  
 Fox, James L ..... 86 . 12/25/2022  
 Hill, Dean L ..... 88 . 3/11/2023  
 Thornton, Thomas G ..... 82 . 12/23/2022  
 Bosch, Ronald ..... 75 . 10/28/2022  
 Bodie, David L ..... 86 . 3/26/2023  
 Heard, Larry R ..... 79 . 1/18/2023

### Local 2 - Kansas City, MO

Webb, Clay R ..... 92 . 5/5/2023  
 Graham, Jerry D ..... 86 . 5/5/2023  
 Sprung, Kenneth E ..... 85 . 11/17/2022  
 Heitman, William L ..... 87 . 12/22/2022  
 Galbraith, Chas J ..... 86 . 10/13/2022  
 Wagner, George R ..... 78 . 5/7/2023  
 Zearley, Albert J ..... 83 . 10/22/2022  
 Geraci, James S ..... 77 . 6/11/2023  
 Dark, Gerald E ..... 80 . 3/30/2023  
 Franklin, Robert G ..... 75 . 2/13/2023  
 Contreras, George S ..... 74 . 4/7/2023  
 Belobrajdic, Daniel J ..... 75 . 5/4/2023  
 Couch, Kenneth W ..... 62 . 12/11/2022  
 Hidy, Scott M ..... 60 . 4/22/2023

### Local 3 - Omaha, NE

Hoffman, James J ..... 92 . 12/20/2022  
 Holdren, John G ..... 89 . 4/11/2023  
 Johnson, Kenneth O ..... 91 . 1/6/2023  
 Strong, Cheryl ..... 79 . 1/4/2023

### Local 4 - Memphis, TN

Winton, Dan H ..... 87 . 12/14/2022  
 Hoggard, Billy D ..... 88 . 1/28/2023

### Local 5 - East Tennessee

Weaver, Johnnie E ..... 92 . 1/10/2023  
 Summers, Fred L ..... 89 . 1/17/2023  
 Snyder, James E ..... 90 . 2/22/2023  
 Stafford, Fred W ..... 92 . 12/16/2022  
 Buckner, Larry L ..... 75 . 3/26/2023  
 Ridenour, Douglas C ..... 79 . 11/25/2022  
 Logan, Allan N ..... 74 . 4/25/2023  
 Corum, Jr., Curtis M ..... 72 . 10/15/2022  
 Gregory, Jr., Larry G ..... 63 . 11/7/2022  
 Strickland, Sonya J ..... 49 . 2/10/2023

### Local 7 - Lansing, MI

Oke, Kenneth L ..... 98 . 11/21/2022  
 Judd, Dennis ..... 78 . 2/19/2023  
 Wooley, Paul ..... 93 . 2/19/2023

### Local 9 - Denver, CO

Hersch, Timothy E ..... 80 . 3/9/2023  
 Shaver, James M ..... 79 . 3/3/2023  
 Thomas, John D ..... 74 . 10/25/2022

### Local 10 - Maplewood, MN

Schema, Charles F ..... 89 . 5/7/2023  
 Kreutter, James R ..... 80 . 4/27/2023  
 Bowman, James J ..... 71 . 12/9/2022

NAME AGE DECEASED

Olson, Richard N ..... 75 . 12/25/2022  
 Chalkline, Harold H ..... 79 . 4/20/2023  
 Gordon, Daniel J ..... 70 . 3/25/2023  
 Olson, Kathy A ..... 55 . 5/14/2023

### Local 12 - Southwestern PA

Greiner, William A ..... 103 . 3/11/2023  
 Carlson, Gordon L ..... 93 . 4/13/2023  
 Dale, Chester R ..... 89 . 12/9/2022  
 Bradford, Jr., William ..... 85 . 1/1/2023  
 Spillers, Carlton J ..... 83 . 1/26/2023  
 Myers, Charles ..... 91 . 11/7/2022  
 Pugliese, Vincent ..... 89 . 4/20/2023  
 Thurner, Jr., William G ..... 78 . 1/31/2023  
 Winters, Charles ..... 88 . 2/11/2023  
 Kachmar, Paul F ..... 93 . 12/11/2022  
 Hill, Clyde E ..... 92 . 2/7/2023  
 Sekscinski, John ..... 73 . 11/11/2022  
 Shine, Larry ..... 79 . 10/20/2022  
 Bohaski, Gerald ..... 64 . 10/23/2022  
 Michaels, Henry J ..... 69 . 10/16/2022

### Local 15 - Central FL

Kerton, Jr., Buell G ..... 97 . 12/22/2022  
 Newton, Roger A ..... 80 . 12/4/2022

### Local 16 - Portland, OR

Thieme, Donald D ..... 90 . 2/19/2023  
 Hodson, Clinton C ..... 81 . 4/21/2023  
 Smock, Shonnie B ..... 85 . 1/19/2023  
 Gordon, Phillip D ..... 72 . 10/28/2022

### Local 17 - Eastern MA

Tirone, Paul A ..... 99 . 2/10/2023  
 Mackie, Arthur H ..... 75 . 3/21/2023  
 Bourgeois, Albert M ..... 76 . 1/13/2023  
 Lavalliere, David S ..... 43 . 4/19/2023

### Local 18 - Milwaukee, WI

Mosser, Jack L ..... 93 . 2/2/2023  
 Pfister, Douglas R ..... 85 . 2/25/2023  
 Cronce, Roger F ..... 87 . 3/2/2023  
 Neumann, Allan T ..... 80 . 5/10/2023  
 Schultz, Laverl D ..... 91 . 4/4/2023  
 Zeman, Ronald ..... 80 . 5/8/2023  
 Kuebler, Terry H ..... 80 . 2/25/2023  
 Smith, George L ..... 84 . 4/28/2023  
 Taddey, Melvin L ..... 87 . 4/12/2023  
 Keslin, Lorenz ..... 84 . 3/16/2023  
 Grabowski, Paul H ..... 75 . 4/26/2023  
 Moen, Michael J ..... 76 . 10/26/2022  
 Gensecke, Guenther R ..... 82 . 4/20/2023  
 Pillsbury, Joseph C ..... 72 . 3/2/2023  
 Miller, Kurt M ..... 55 . 1/19/2023  
 Regan, Jeffery D ..... 63 . 5/1/2023  
 Zilisch, Kelly R ..... 60 . 5/7/2022

### Local 19 - Southeastern PA

Cottrell, James L ..... 89 . 2/18/2023  
 Brennan, Michael P ..... 89 . 4/16/2023  
 Barndt, James ..... 88 . 12/8/2022  
 Bielli, Thomas F ..... 75 . 12/8/2022

NAME AGE DECEASED

### Local 20 - Indianapolis, IN

McCarthy, James R ..... 94 . 4/15/2023  
 Russell, Sr., William L ..... 88 . 4/15/2023  
 Rollett, Robert L ..... 86 . 4/8/2023  
 Alumbaugh, Jerry E ..... 84 . 4/17/2023  
 Sugg, Hugh A ..... 89 . 3/31/2023  
 O'Dell, Donald L ..... 89 . 3/28/2023  
 Zigler, Jr., Palmer ..... 85 . 2/4/2023  
 Lash, Edward R ..... 79 . 1/4/2023  
 Teitge, Robert E ..... 81 . 3/1/2023  
 Hoover, Richard C ..... 82 . 3/15/2023  
 Koedyker, Thomas L ..... 81 . 2/24/2023  
 Eldridge, Charles B ..... 85 . 12/1/2022  
 Kesler, Richard J ..... 93 . 4/21/2023  
 Ballou, Harold ..... 85 . 3/12/2023  
 Dayton, Michael S ..... 75 . 2/13/2023  
 Carson, Fred K ..... 79 . 2/3/2023  
 Calhoun, Wayne M ..... 75 . 1/17/2023  
 Thomas, Matthew M ..... 60 . 3/25/2023  
 Schmidt, William A ..... 73 . 12/27/2022  
 Goodson, Kelse E ..... 72 . 2/12/2023  
 Atkinson, Douglas D ..... 63 . 2/4/2023  
 Tongate, Jonathan D ..... 63 . 3/18/2023

### Local 22 - Union Morris Somerset Sussex Cos NJ

Blanchard, Robert E ..... 89 . 1/2/2022  
 Melnyk, Walter ..... 51 . 8/31/2022

### Local 23 - Anchorage, AK

Nicks, Ivan W ..... 87 . 3/24/2023  
 Jensen, Wayne D ..... 82 . 5/6/2023

### Local 24 - Southern OH

Reisiger, Francis B ..... 92 . 1/31/2023  
 Soloman, Donald K ..... 82 . 1/4/2023  
 Abbruzzese, Paul T ..... 85 . 2/14/2023  
 Downing, Robert J ..... 80 . 3/31/2023  
 Angel, Donald E ..... 79 . 3/26/2023

### Local 25 - Northern NJ

Leone, Eugene J ..... 93 . 10/13/2022  
 Listo, Patsy R ..... 92 . 3/29/2023  
 Genova, Anthony ..... 89 . 10/10/2022  
 Garafano, Robert ..... 85 . 12/25/2022  
 Balsamo, Thomas ..... 87 . 10/16/2022  
 Omullan, John J ..... 84 . 12/12/2022  
 Baetz, George A ..... 82 . 12/30/2022  
 Huey, Willy G ..... 86 . 1/27/2023  
 Snell, George M ..... 60 . 10/15/2022

### Local 26 - Reno, NV

Dilworth, Dee T ..... 94 . 2/20/2023  
 Heisser, Shawn P ..... 57 . 1/25/2023  
 Kiger, James D ..... 58 . 4/10/2023

### Local 27 - South NJ

Clickner, Richard L ..... 89 . 10/31/2022  
 Gonzales, Armando B ..... 81 . 1/25/2023  
 Vincent, Edward ..... 81 . 11/1/2022  
 Knowles, Jr., Harry L ..... 88 . 3/15/2023  
 Newsom, Thomas ..... 69 . 11/3/2022

### Local 28 - New York, NY

Fischer, Joseph ..... 95 . 12/4/2022



# Let Us Always Remember...



NAME	AGE	DECEASED
Yongen, Russell C.	92	10/25/2022
Ozimek, Joseph S.	90	11/5/2022
Bohlig, Leonard	88	4/14/2023
Wolf, Murry	86	2/12/2023
Sullivan, Daniel E.	81	11/11/2022
Thomas, Stephen G.	82	2/3/2023
Corso, John	84	11/6/2022
McCabe, Wayne	75	4/21/2023
O'Brien, Kevin E.	78	5/28/2023
Peterson, Daniel	72	11/16/2022
Ebinger, James L.	71	4/5/2023
Aarne, Edward	68	4/7/2023
Meslin, William J.	63	3/8/2023
Casey, John P.	64	3/30/2023
Mandriota, Joseph	64	12/27/2022
Maynard, Elvis M.	64	4/28/2023

### Local 29 - Wichita, KS

Carson, Daryl H.	89	6/5/2023
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### Local 30 - Toronto, Ont., Canada

Haskey, Peter	90	5/13/2023
Lorne, Robert	92	6/2/2023
Smith, Graham B.	81	6/7/2023
Kirk, James F.	77	3/28/2023
Collins, Ronald D.	76	4/7/2023
Petitpas, Alyre J.	90	6/15/2023
Hawkins, Paul S.	66	5/11/2023

### Local 33 - Northern OH

Smith, Richard	93	5/22/2023
Greene, Henry G.	98	10/22/2022
Simpson, David L.	91	4/7/2023
Pilny, Wayne S.	88	12/15/2022
Kiraly, Joseph W.	85	5/22/2023
Orr, William E.	82	7/12/2022
Heater, Charles E.	82	1/18/2023
Rogerson, Wayne R.	80	2/28/2023
Eckerfield, William P.	81	2/15/2023
Fagan, Robert F.	85	4/12/2023
Frost, Kenneth E.	80	5/23/2023
Leon, Emanuel	96	3/19/2023
Powell, David A.	79	1/22/2023
Rauscheder, Lawrence G.	79	1/7/2023
Abraham, Bruce K.	78	1/13/2023
Klima, Dale A.	78	2/19/2023
Elliott, Kenneth R.	78	4/25/2023
Alestock, Johnny R.	74	8/18/2022
Slowbe, Burt T.	74	1/4/2023
Jones, Rex R.	67	3/2/2023
Wells, Jr., Harry D.	56	3/24/2023
Sterling, Aaron L.	63	12/31/2022
Morrison, Sr., David C.	55	11/26/2022
Davis, Blaine K.	47	5/19/2023

### Local 36 - St. Louis, MO

Reavis, Winfred M.	93	11/4/2022
Chadwick, Buck T.	89	10/13/2022
Wedemeier, Walter R.	73	3/24/2023
Purtle, Robert T.	62	12/22/2022

### Local 38 - Westchester & Rockland, Cos., NY

Walkley, Donald G.	97	2/10/2023
Tenaglia, James	95	5/9/2023

NAME	AGE	DECEASED
Barry, Bryan F.	75	1/9/2023
Turner, John R.	79	2/12/2023
Robertson, George R.	74	6/10/2023
Bradley, Jr., Douglas J.	72	5/8/2023
Berndt, William M.	61	12/21/2022
Gonzalez, Angel G.	63	6/1/2023

### Local 40 - Hartford, CT

Bartholomew, Robert	91	3/10/2023
Whitford, Jr., Howard B.	91	3/10/2023
Doucette, Eli	93	4/26/2023
Boncek, Randolph	85	2/12/2023
Migliaro, John C.	90	3/2/2023
Petersen, Gary	81	12/21/2022
Guiglielmo, Charles	80	2/5/2023
Mauro, Jr., Thomas J.	75	3/13/2023
Phillips, Jr., William	76	3/9/2023
Mauro, Joseph	74	11/30/2022
Levesque, Lee P.	62	3/24/2023

### Local 44 - Northeastern PA

Gendimenico, James D.	81	12/29/2022
Birk, Donald B.	77	3/9/2023
Lehman, David C.	70	11/18/2022
Local 45 - Des Moines, IA		
Perry, Martin G.	86	2/20/2023
Catron, David A.	76	2/23/2023
Bruch, John D.	72	12/8/2022

### Local 47 - Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Labreche, Gilles	82	1/21/2023
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### Local 48 - Birmingham, AL

Johnson, Jr., Joseph L.	71	11/29/2022
McMurtrey, Travis W.	65	12/25/2022
Blair, Theodore	70	1/1/2023
Garrett, James G.	58	2/26/2023
Combs, Arnold S.	68	12/7/2022
Robbins, Charles T.	66	2/10/2023

### Local 49 - Albuquerque, NM

Abeita, Jr., Tom	90	8/21/2022
Fredenburg, Oliver H.	79	11/9/2021
Ortega, Danny	76	12/21/2022
Chappell, Howard L.	78	1/3/2023
Mancha, Juan R.	76	11/28/2022

### Local 54 - Houston, TX

Jenkins, Ronald W.	85	4/9/2023
Jackson, Travis W.	81	10/13/2022
Hamilton, James B.	83	1/3/2023
Melchor, Joe A.	73	8/30/2022

### Local 55 - Pasco, Washington

Cooper, Gene R.	83	2/2/2023
Grytness, Giles R.	79	3/26/2023
Stickelmeyer, Brad J.	63	4/6/2023

### Local 58 - Syracuse, NY

Borowve, Stephen T.	81	5/1/2023
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### Local 63 - Western MA

Beriau, Wilfred A.	104	12/26/2022
Pinkos, Stanley	96	2/13/2023
Letourneau, Thomas C.	97	11/27/2022

NAME	AGE	DECEASED
Strogopeti, Jr., Michael J.	78	11/4/2022
Andrews, Donald R.	77	11/26/2022
Croze, Robert J.	79	11/13/2022
Timoneda, Genaro P.	69	9/13/2022

### Local 66 - Seattle, WA

Dale, Endre A.	96	3/18/2023
Snyder, Eugene L.	96	4/19/2023
Mellott, Duane E.	87	2/10/2023
Reigel, Richard G.	83	1/10/2023
Graham, Thomas	96	3/22/2023
Holsman, Keith S.	81	4/12/2023
Crawford, Bobby D.	91	3/26/2023
Bowman, Melvin A.	75	3/12/2023
Feaster, Robert D.	70	10/16/2022
Husby, Dale R.	85	4/22/2023
Evenson, Donald R.	65	2/21/2023
Thatcher, Jr., Dennis W.	46	4/16/2023

### Local 67 - San Antonio, TX

Bishop, John E.	85	3/25/2023
Oates, Freeman D.	87	10/15/2022
Martinez, Rodolfo	88	11/23/2022
Jackson, William H.	84	3/9/2023

### Local 71 - Buffalo, NY

Engelhaupt, Joseph	90	1/18/2023
Markowski, John A.	86	1/6/2023
Boller, Larry W.	71	4/15/2023
Abramo, Randy J.	63	1/2/2023
Healy, Michael P.	61	3/19/2023

### Local 73 - Chicago & Cook County, IL

Litt, Ronald	93	5/12/2023
Barbosa, Joseph	92	3/1/2023
Oreskovich, Robert	87	4/8/2023
Caputo, Tulio R.	98	4/15/2023
Gillenwater, Joseph E.	89	4/7/2023
Rosenbeck, Richard R.	88	5/18/2023
Mohai, Imre	84	5/10/2023
Keller, Gerald A.	95	4/23/2023
Magno, Jr., Joseph A.	88	4/16/2023
Strasser, Jr., Franz	82	4/16/2023
Thorn, John W.	84	2/2/2023
Defebaugh, Robert E.	84	4/3/2023
Denz, Robert H.	83	4/10/2023
Everhart, Richard T.	87	5/24/2023
Schober, Clifford H.	82	11/10/2022
Knaperek, Charles V.	93	5/19/2023
Lange, Howard E.	85	3/29/2023
Lavine, Anton	81	2/27/2023
Smolucha, Thadeus	87	4/21/2023
O'Brien, Kevin T.	76	2/9/2023
Seidlitz, Frederick H.	78	2/13/2023
Haggie, Michael E.	71	4/15/2023
Nielsen, William K.	67	5/26/2023
Kolecki, Dan J.	54	5/6/2023

### Local 83 - Albany, NY

Micheli, William J.	93	1/29/2023
Smith, Sr., Edward T.	91	4/15/2023
Gregory, Daniel	91	2/22/2023
Hogan, Daniel J.	81	11/13/2022
McDonald, David E.	75	10/24/2022



# Let Us Always Remember...



NAME AGE DECEASED

### Local 85 - Atlanta, GA

Dewberry, Fredrick W ..... 79 .. 1/30/2023  
Allen, Jr., Willie E. .... 70 .. 1/30/2023

### Local 88 - Las Vegas, NV

Geloff, Peter D ..... 86 .. 3/14/2023  
Garcia, Ralph ..... 71 ... 5/1/2023  
Tanner, Rex D. .... 79 .. 11/11/2022

### Local 91 - Rock Island, IL & Davenport, IA

Lemaster, Richard D ..... 76 .. 2/20/2023  
Owens, Chris W. .... 72 .. 10/6/2022

### Local 100 - Washington, DC & Vicinity

Jarrett, Earl K ..... 88 .. 3/19/2023  
Mattox, William R. .... 80 .. 3/17/2023  
Hambrick, Walter L. .... 74 .. 2/21/2023  
Jenkins, Gary L ..... 71 .. 12/28/2022  
Gaines, David E ..... 51 .... 1/6/2023

### Local 104 - San Francisco, CA

Costa, Albert ..... 98 .. 11/9/2022  
Vine, Robert C ..... 90 ... 5/1/2023  
Sota, William L. .... 88 ... 1/10/2023  
Carrabino, John ..... 93 ... 5/8/2023  
Carlson, Delbert R ..... 94 ... 5/3/2023  
Cawley, Edmund ..... 86 ... 5/8/2023  
Garcia, Edwin B. .... 89 .. 11/28/2022  
Carnahan, Robert C ..... 84 ... 4/19/2023  
Gardella, Ronald O ..... 85 ... 3/15/2023  
Bass, Albert E ..... 79 .. 12/23/2022  
Bopp, William E ..... 86 ... 2/22/2023  
Ertl, Friedrich ..... 80 ... 5/19/2023  
Hansen, Douglas E ..... 78 .. 2/24/2022  
Paulo, Henry J ..... 77 .. 4/24/2023  
Provencio, Frank L ..... 83 .. 12/23/2022  
Costa, David F ..... 81 ... 4/8/2023  
Camarena, Benjamin ..... 82 ... 3/29/2023  
Haner, III, Alfred W ..... 81 ... 1/31/2023  
Smith, Michael ..... 74 ... 2/27/2023  
Tobin, Michael J ..... 75 ... 4/20/2023  
Amigable, Ben ..... 76 ... 1/5/2023  
Chu, Arthur ..... 90 ... 5/1/2023  
Hall, Gerald E ..... 73 ... 3/17/2023  
Chau, Jackson ..... 66 ... 3/4/2023  
Martin, Hadley ..... 65 ... 3/27/2023  
Payton, Michael W ..... 70 ... 5/1/2023  
Smith, Larry D ..... 78 ... 3/25/2023  
Thompson, James ..... 54 ... 7/28/2022  
Strom, Kevin L ..... 57 ... 5/21/2023  
Bridges, Mark D ..... 55 ... 5/5/2023  
Smith, Jeffrey M ..... 53 ... 4/2/2023  
Wukman, Barbara A ..... 85 ... 5/14/2023  
Crowley, Mark D ..... 64 ... 5/11/2023  
Nguyen, Sau V ..... 75 ... 4/29/2023

### Local 105 - Los Angeles, CA

Lawson, Charles M ..... 94 ... 5/9/2022  
Watts, Jack L ..... 90 ... 4/8/2023

NAME AGE DECEASED

Romero, Richard R ..... 92 .. 10/19/2022  
Brean, Robert W ..... 92 .. 4/21/2023  
Buschmann, Jr., Robert E ..... 90 .. 12/19/2022  
Phillips, Hans E ..... 86 ... 3/9/2023  
Fish, Rodney R ..... 87 ... 2/17/2023  
Schaum, Dale E ..... 84 .. 10/27/2022  
Cantu, Cesar ..... 87 .. 11/18/2022  
Acuna, Richard B ..... 84 ... 2/12/2023  
Smith, Terrell ..... 87 ... 2/6/2023  
Lanier, Robert W ..... 81 .. 12/28/2022  
Selby, John R ..... 79 ... 8/31/2022  
Masters, Richard A ..... 86 ... 9/10/2022  
Wilson, Keith A ..... 78 ... 2/22/2023  
Peterson, Alan C ..... 81 ... 4/22/2023  
Ryan, Robert P ..... 79 ... 3/10/2023  
Crosier, Thomas E ..... 82 ... 2/2/2023  
Lambert, Jr., George J ..... 80 .. 12/31/2022  
Mizer, Galen C ..... 78 ... 4/16/2023  
Arellano, Rafael C ..... 75 .. 10/26/2022  
Peterson, Gerald A ..... 78 .. 11/23/2022  
Lay, Jr., Roy C ..... 74 .. 10/17/2022  
Jackson, Patrick ..... 85 .. 11/28/2022  
Cunningham, Ronald L ..... 85 ... 3/1/2023  
Hamner, Ronald W ..... 76 .. 12/19/2022  
Mahood, Edward D ..... 69 ... 3/17/2023  
Canales, Ronald J ..... 63 ... 4/2/2023  
Medina, Sam F ..... 54 ... 2/22/2023

### Local 110 - Louisville, KY

Metzler, Sr., Norman J ..... 97 .. 2/21/2023  
Williams, Gordon D ..... 78 .. 11/30/2022  
Gilpin, John H ..... 88 .. 12/19/2022  
Truax, Walter T ..... 78 ... 4/21/2022  
Buckley, Bobby C ..... 79 ... 2/17/2023  
Dickens, Larry ..... 82 ... 3/27/2023  
Helton, Wayne T ..... 81 ... 1/18/2023  
Welch, Jimmy ..... 82 ... 3/18/2023  
Schuler, Michael ..... 76 ... 1/19/2023  
Shore, William L ..... 77 ... 8/17/2022  
Cooper, Stephen G ..... 74 ... 4/18/2022  
Cullen, Clint H ..... 57 ... 12/17/2022  
Brown, Hazel I ..... 97 ... 1/5/2023

### Local 112 - Elmira, NY

Strantz, George R ..... 86 ... 3/30/2023

### Local 124 - Oklahoma City, OK

Allred, Edward L ..... 91 ... 3/16/2023

### Local 137 - New York, NY

Curry, James B ..... 58 ... 3/9/2023  
Sutphen, Jr., William ..... 66 ... 3/19/2023

### Local 177 - Nashville, TN

Casteel, Harold L ..... 82 ... 12/5/2022

### Local 206 - San Diego, CA

Zimmerman, Richard A ..... 83 ... 6/18/2023  
Howell, Ronald ..... 89 ... 4/10/2023  
Bridge, Ray C ..... 93 ... 4/15/2023  
Simpson, Jr., Alton C ..... 55 ... 5/1/2023

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### Local 214 - Baton Rouge, LA

Roubion, Anthony A ..... 94 .. 11/11/2022

### Local 218 - Springfield, IL

Tull, Ronald L ..... 77 ... 3/16/2023

### Local 263 - Cedar Rapids, IA

Merritt, Robert J ..... 68 ... 10/18/2022  
Ness, Douglas A ..... 57 ... 4/21/2023

### Local 265 - DuPage County, IL

Zahner, Edward E ..... 76 ... 4/11/2023  
Pett, James D ..... 75 ... 2/6/2023  
Vitoritti, Anthony R ..... 53 ... 6/5/2023

### Local 270 - Tulsa, OK

Hubbard, Joe A ..... 86 .. 10/31/2022

### Local 276 - Victoria, B.C., Canada

Ryan, Ronald C ..... 79 ... 3/9/2023  
Boyce, John G ..... 90 ... 4/5/2023  
Arnold, Otto F ..... 85 ... 5/19/2023

### Local 285 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Beaudoin, Yvon P ..... 69 ... 5/2/2023  
Local 292 - Detroit, MI  
Sullivan, Dudley ..... 76 .. 10/8/2022  
Bauman, Allen S ..... 72 ... 1/12/2023  
Platt, Frank ..... 78 ... 12/5/2022  
Colling, Jr., Frank J ..... 77 .. 11/30/2022

### Local 293 - Honolulu, HI

Kimura, Ernest M ..... 87 ... 1/9/2019

### Local 312 - Salt Lake City, UT

Turner, Gerald R ..... 92 ... 4/26/2023  
Erickson, Gerald L ..... 84 ... 5/7/2023  
Parkin, Dennis J ..... 72 ... 3/14/2023  
Wood, Ryan ..... 46 ... 4/20/2023

### Local 359 - Phoenix, AZ

Mollon, Louie V ..... 87 ... 5/23/2023  
Dennis, Glen L ..... 94 ... 1/1/2023  
Beam, Henry H ..... 92 ... 6/3/2023  
Chambers, Jr., Richard M ..... 62 ... 2/12/2023

### Local 399 - Charleston, SC

Bryant, J. Harold ..... 85 ... 12/3/2022  
Brown, Dan P ..... 71 ... 2/1/2023

### Local 441 - Mobile, AL

Paulk, Jr., William T ..... 101 .. 2/22/2023  
Mengel, Lloyd W ..... 87 ... 3/2/2023  
Graham, David L ..... 83 ... 1/9/2023  
Presley, Jack ..... 76 .. 12/22/2022

### Local 565 - Madison, WI

Baker, Paul ..... 69 .. 12/23/2022  
Behm, Jason P ..... 41 ... 1/18/2023  
Silva, Orin Lee ..... 30 ... 5/20/2023



# Let Us Always Remember...



NAME AGE DECEASED

AS REPORTED BY TRANSPORTATION DIVISION LOCALS  
THROUGH JUNE 1, 2023

### TD Local 60 – Newark, N.J.

Long, Alexander .....94 .05/09/2023

### TD Local 61 – Philadelphia, Pa.

Eby, Benjamin F. ....87 .05/16/2023

### TD Local 167 – Albany, N.Y.

Celentano, Richard J.....61 .03/15/2023

### TD Local 171 – Aurora, Ill.

Richards Jr., William A. ....88 .12/13/2022

### TD Local 195 – Galesburg, Ill.

Bradley, Robert E.....84 .02/22/2023

### TD Local 202 – Denver, Colo.

Alcala, Stephen A. ....76 .03/11/2023

### TD Local 206 – Peru, Ind.

Colelli, David A.....46 .05/05/2023

### TD Local 258 – Rock Island, Ill.

Holmes, Heath M.....39 .04/29/2023

Sorensen, Steven A.....61 .04/13/2023

### TD Local 265 – Pocatello, Idaho

Mattox, M.J. "Mike" .....81 .05/26/2023

### TD Local 316 – Clinton, Iowa

Schafer, Dean A.....78 .03/10/2023

### TD Local 349 – Kansas City, Mo.

Nowlin, Charles A. "Al".....68 .04/24/2023

### TD Local 376 – Louisville, Ky.

Bowling, Delmar R.....64 .02/06/2023

### TD Local 378 – Cleveland, Ohio

Tiedman, Ronald O.....86 .02/07/2023

### TD Local 427 – McComb, Miss.

Graham Jr., William R. ....85 .02/10/2023

### TD Local 446 – Cheyenne, Wyo.

Daigle, Tad A.....52 .02/27/2023

Harmych, Frank-Jason.....49 .03/01/2023

### TD Local 489 – Allentown, Pa.

Barnhart, Orville H. ....98 .03/12/2023

### TD Local 493 – Waterloo, Iowa

Decker, Gary M.....39 .04/07/2023

### TD Local 533 – Osawatomie, Kan.

Cook, Kenneth W.....72 .04/26/2023

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### TD Local 544 – Havre, Mont.

Hentschel, Richard G.....54 .03/18/2023

Hotchkiss, Jon C.....46 .03/04/2023

### TD Local 586 – Willard, Ohio

Young, Darrell R.....53 .03/01/2023

### TD Local 622 – Birmingham, Ala.

Griffin, Walter J.....43 .12/13/2022

### TD Local 645 – Babylon, N.Y.

Clampett, Liam P.....45 .04/03/2023

### TD Local 659 – Leesville, La.

Linscomb, Garry L.....74 .08/24/2021

### TD Local 756 – San Antonio, Texas

McArthur Jr., Gene.....99 .02/20/2023

### TD Local 770 – Heavener, Okla.

Locke, John T. ....73 .05/14/2023

### TD Local 807 – Tucson, Ariz.

Bone, Johnny W. ....89 .09/22/2022

Malone, Patrick W.....75 .09/07/2022

### TD Local 832 – Superior, Wis.

Bodell, Joseph, J. ....92 .04/13/2023

### TD Local 866 – Rawlins, Wyo.

Gonzales, Baldamar.....81 .03/05/2023

### TD Local 891 – Whitefish, Mont.

Hutzenbiler, Ronald L.....74 .03/29/2023

### TD Local 945 – La Junta, Colo.

Smith, Bryson T.....26 .03/14/2023

### TD Local 971 – Crewe, Va.

Rickers, Charles C.....86 .04/10/2023

### TD Local 977 – Pasco, Wash.

Kilbury, George W. ....93 .11/12/2022

### TD Local 980 – Enderlin, N.D.

Bieneke, James C.....82 .04/02/2023

### TD Local 1006 – Brownsville, Pa.

Scott, Richard A.....61 .03/08/2023

### TD Local 1011 – Hamlet, N.C.

Garner, William C.....80 .02/26/2023

### TD Local 1031 – Savannah, Ga.

Whitfield, William D. ....78 .04/11/2023

### TD Local 1053 – Selma, Ala.

Galloway, Jack.....96 .06/06/2022

### TD Local 1075 – Trenton, Mich.

Beauman, Jr., Lilburn W. ....77 .07/17/2022

NAME AGE DECEASED

### TD Local 1081 – Glendale, Ariz.

Klingshei, John R.....84 .04/02/2023

### TD Local 1337 – New Orleans, La.

Square, Andre D.....54 .03/21/2023

### TD Local 1376 – Columbus, Ohio

Cahill, Donald J.....95 .03/06/2023

### TD Local 1379 – Pittsburgh, Pa.

Snyder, John A. ....86 .05/21/2023

### TD Local 1393 – Buffalo, N.Y.

Andres, Robert C.....80 .05/10/2023

### TD Local 1422 – Los Angeles, Calif.

Belmonte, Frank J.....66 .04/01/2023

### TD Local 1470 – Edmonston, Md.

Wetzelberger, Paul E. ....86 .09/16/2022

### TD Local 1548 – Indianapolis, Ind.

Hunter, Donald E. ....84 .12/03/2022

### TD Local 1570 – Roseville, Calif.

Kosek, Emil J.....90 .09/27/2022

### TD Local 1628 – Pittsburgh, Pa.

Gilliland, John L.....84 .10/26/2022

### TD Local 1709 – Pontiac, Mich.

Anderson, Albert T.....85 .12/08/2022

Brancheau, Robert .....78 .03/12/2023

### TD Local 1775 – Elko, Nev.

Elmore, Glen Scott.....74 .05/12/2023

### TD Local 1886 – Houston, Texas

Voight, Leonard A. ....92 .07/31/2022

### TD Local 1892 – Houston, Texas

Johnson, Johnnie .....79 .12/03/2022

### TD Local 1928 – Toledo, Ohio

West, Joseph M.....84 .04/10/2022

### TD Local 1947 – Lake Charles, La.

Boudreaux, James L.....79 .05/17/2023

Cryer, Harold W. ....86 .07/23/2022

### TD Local 1949 – Baltimore, Md.

Pilger, Thomas A. ....44 .09/13/2021

### TD Local 1972 – Birmingham, Ala.

Woodard, Marshall A. ....48 .02/26/2023

### TD Local 1976 – St. Paul, Minn.

Hendrickson, Dawn M.....42 .02/11/2023

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHEET METAL,  
AIR, RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS  
1750 New York Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006-5386

# SMART'S "I GOT YOUR BACK" CAMPAIGN PROMOTES SOLIDARITY AMONGST ALL SMART MEMBERS. THE CAMPAIGN IS BASED ON AWARENESS OF WORK ENVIRONMENT DISCRIMINATION, BULLYING, HAZING AND HARASSMENT.

Do you have that special mentor who had your back? Now is the time to let them know how their support impacted you and recognize them for their solidarity.

Share an "I Got Your Back" sticker with them to show that they — and YOU — will have all members' backs.

It helps a member know that when they need an ally, they have a safe place to turn to.

Send your story about those who mentored you to [mentors@smart-union.org](mailto:mentors@smart-union.org) or share on social media with the hashtag **#SMARTIGOTYOURBACK**.

