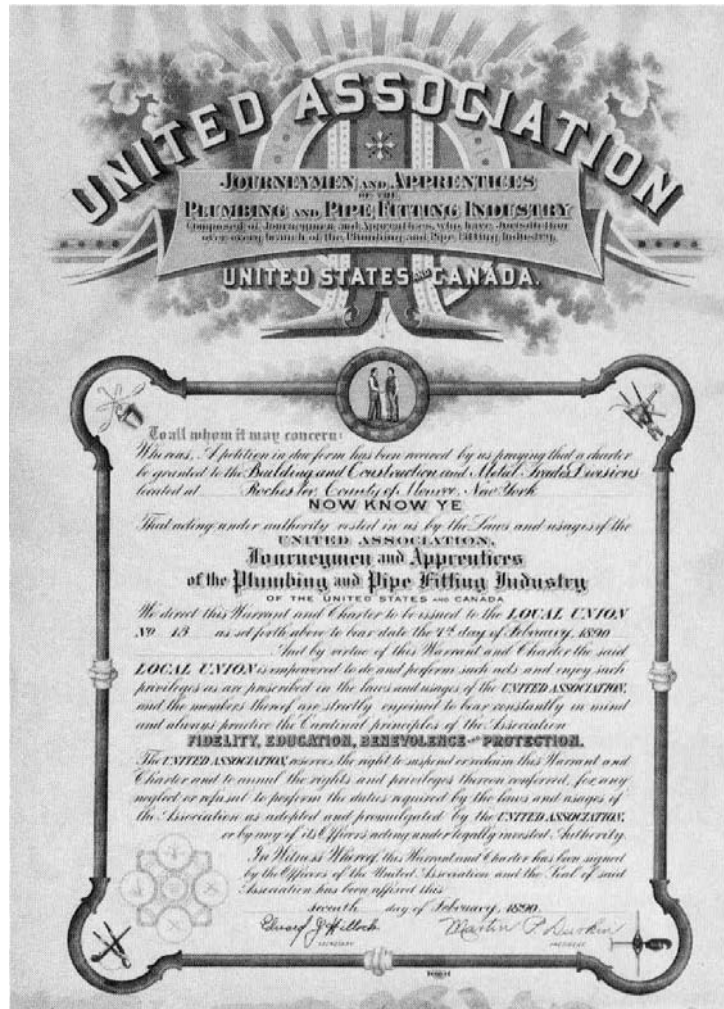


The History of UA Local 13

The real origin of UA Local 13, like all organizations that have seen the passing of many years, has faded somewhat. The purpose of Local 13, however, is as clear and noble today as it was over 100 years ago. That purpose, which can be painted with thousands of words, is simply: "to obtain dignity and fairness for all working people."

The beginning of an organized pipefitting union in Rochester started in 1882. Area gas fitters and plumbers formed Local Assembly (L.A.) #1744 of the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor. The Knights of Labor was the first significant national labor organization in the United States. Founded in 1869, the Knights of Labor rallied for the eight-hour day, equal pay for women, the abolition of child and convict labor, and other working class causes. Local Assembly #1744's history is a brief one, since after 1883 no mention can be found in any Knights of Labor Publications.



In September of 1888, 22 pipe trade workers received their charter as Local #51 of the International Association of Steam and Hot Water Fitters and Helpers (I.A.S.). This came about largely from the urgings of the newly formed Rochester Building Trades Council (B.T.C.).

Local #51's mettle was tested early in 1889 when they joined other unions of the B.T.C. to demand an eight-hour day with no loss of wages. Instead, they won a nine-hour day and a cut in pay. Two months later, a brief yet effective strike won wages back for the union members.



Trade unionists in other cities were promoting the idea of one union for the entire pipe trades industry. So, in Washington, D.C., in October 1889, a gathering of pipefitters from across the country founded the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters Helpers of the United States and Canada (U.A.). The 25 union pipe trade workers in Rochester answered the U.A.'s call for affiliation and received their charter on February 7, 1890. With the seventh U.A. local chartered, Local #13's first meetings were held at 75 West Main Street.

The early 1890's were trying--not only for Local #13, but also for anyone employed in construction, whether union or non-union. During the 1893-1897 depression, up to 90% of local workers were unemployed at a time. Unions fought for better working conditions and pay for their members while fighting to stay united.

In 1898 a building expansion swept the country, and unions worked with renewed vigor. In the next twelve years, the union was able to raise the daily wage to \$4.50.

In 1912, the American Federation of Labor (A.F.L.) held its convention in Rochester. Here the A.F.L. mandated that all pipefitting unions come under the domain of the U.A. To help speed the national consolidation of the pipefitting industry, the I.A.S. charter to the A.F.L. was revoked. The final vote of 15,766 to 1,322 ended any hope for the I.A.S.'s future existence.

In 1919, all unions in Rochester--including Local #13--stood together to demand a wage increase. Many unions had held back the request for a wage boost during World War I. These were times of high inflation, and the workers hoped to make up for their wartime sacrifices.

Building Contractors did not agree. Encouraged by a National building contractors "open shop" campaign, local builders balked at the unions' demand and refused to renew existing contracts. Despite a three-week long strike at the height of the building season (involving thousands of workers), arbitrators extended the agreement from the previous year and denied any pay raise.

In 1920, unions renewed their demands for a wage increase. Another strike, this one two months long--won modest gains for some of Rochester's unions.



One year later, Local #13's 350 members had no choice but to strike with other local unions in their attempt to gain back their pre-war standard of wages. Area industrialists formed a "Rochester Association," to avert another costly halt in construction and lower wages by fifteen percent. Scabs were imported; police were called out to quell pickets.

Newspaper accounts described one group of scabs as "so tough they needed no protection".

In short, after nearly five months of strike and arbitration hearings, Rochester Mayor Edgerton cast the deciding vote in a seven person boards verdict: a



fifteen percent wage cut was imposed as employers had demanded. Arbitration had given local unions a sour feeling but workers returned to work nonetheless.

The 400+ members of Local #13 disaffiliated itself with the B.T.C.'s one-year contracts around 1923, and signed the first of many three year contracts. It helped to stabilize the piping industry locally, and it put Local #13 out in front for other local unions to use as a benchmark in their negotiations for wages.

The Great Depression hit Rochester's construction unions hard, as it did the rest of the country. Membership rolls fell, as did wages. From 1931 to 1939, construction was at a near standstill. Survival was the rule of the day. By 1939, Federal relief money was beginning to make its way to Rochester; its impact being felt by 1940. The County Hospital was the large job that helped Local #13 finish its first fifty years...and begin its second fifty.

With the outbreak of World War II in Europe, Local #13 was committed to a no-work-stoppage policy and overtime concessions on all defense projects. This act of self-restraint by all Rochester unions was particularly significant because suddenly the demand for skill trades far outweighed the supply. Jobs undertaken at this time included Nazareth College, St. Mary's Hospital, and the Hawkeye Camera Works, among others. Local #13 joined with other Rochester unions in various patriotic endeavors, i.e., purchasing war bonds and organizing scrap metal drives, as well as enlisting in the service.



In May of 1946, Local #13 joined in one of the few general strikes after W.W.II in the U.S. In response to a union organizing attempt by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), City Manager Louis Cartwright fired 300 Department of Public Works employees. Organized labor turned out en masse to support the D.P.W. workers.

Although the city initially refused to recognize the public employee union, the 300 workers were all rehired.

The late forties and fifties saw both good and bad times, with labor making small gains in wages. It was at this time that Local #13 won health benefits for its

members; in 1954 it started its own pension fund. Although its beginnings were humble, the pension fund has grown to be the envy of local construction unions.

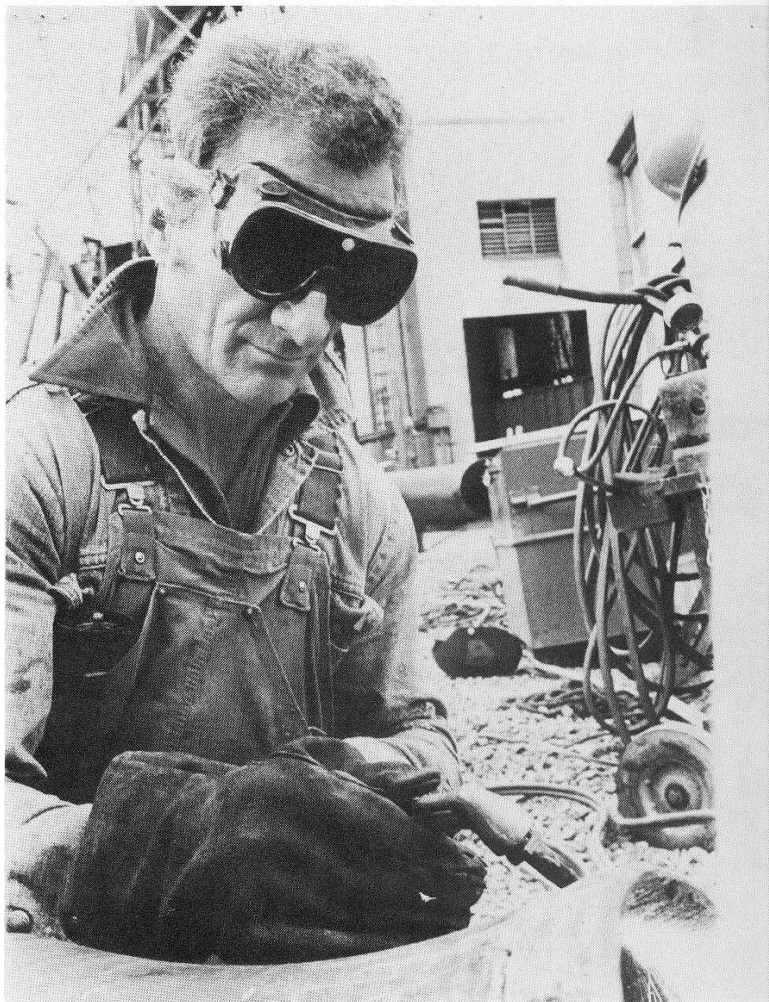
The sixties saw some of the best times ever for Local #13, with hundreds of travelers working in the jurisdiction. The boom could be attributed to the large building expansion at Kodak Elmgrove, the construction of the Rochester Institute of Technology campus, the creation of the Ginna Nuclear Power plant and other large construction projects in downtown Rochester.

In 1968, Local #13 purchased the building at 1645 St. Paul Street. For the first time in Local #13's history, the offices and school were under the same roof. Since then, hundreds of qualified journeymen have successfully completed the rigorous apprenticeship program. The training given to apprentices and journeymen alike has reached a level of excellence today and is closely maintained and guarded.

In May of 1970, Rochester construction came to a halt as unions banded together for a significant wage increase. For five and a half months, Local #13 members fought for their demands, many seeking employment on the road for the first time. Showing perseverance and sacrifice, Local #13 won hard-fought wage concessions. 1971 saw the continuation of the building expansion that lasted until the mid 70's.

Oil prices skyrocketed in 1974, throwing the United States into a deep recession, particularly affecting the East Coast. Local #13 was faced with the most unemployed members since its inception. Members

were forced to leave home for faraway projects in California, Texas, Louisiana, and Canada. Some members were on the road for years--with or without their



families--some, into the early eighties. However, 1974 also saw the beginning of Local #13's Annuity Plan, which became the model of Annuity Plans in the Rochester area.

By 1984, most members were coming home to work. Building construction dramatically improved in the mid-eighties, largely due to expansions of the major local manufacturing firms. From 1988 to the present, Local #13 has enjoyed a boom period--some of the best times since the sixties. The eighties also saw the spirit of co-operation emerge between Local #13 and the Mechanical Contractors Association (M.C.A.). The two groups joined together on commitments to the United Way, March of Dimes, Red Cross, the Labor Day Parade, and Local #13's "HEAT'S ON" project.



The 1990's saw a decline in the Industrial segment of our industry. Many companies including Kodak, Delco Products, and Xerox were downsizing. At the same time we experienced growth in the service industry. Major projects in the Rochester area included work at many area Hospitals and Schools, as well as projects restructuring Kodak and Xerox. In the mid 90's Local 13 entered the digital age. We started our own web site to improve communication with our members, and we began teaching computer classes at the Union Hall, in addition to our Plumbing, Pipefitting, Welding and Service Technician curriculum. Our successful Pension and Annuity Programs afforded many members the opportunity to retire at a



younger age. The ninety's saw the rebirth of the Retiree's Club which began meeting again on the Second Tuesday of each month.

A terrorist attack on NY City on September 11, 2001 was a shock and really brought reality to the possibility of terrorism in the United States. The new century has brought a huge increase in the number of Service Sector jobs. In 2004 we began setting aside money for a new Union Hall and Training Center. A committee was formed and began looking for a building that would suit our needs. We purchased the property at 1850 Mt Read Blvd from Mercury Press and began renovations. We moved into our new Office and Training Facility in January 2007.

On April 30, 2007 we ratified a new collective bargaining agreement that will carry us into 2011. The upcoming years will be challenging for all unions, but Local 13 will endure and prosper for its members and contractors with the same dedication, honor, and integrity that has been its legacy for over 100 years.



[Names have purposely been omitted in the above, as no individual is more important than the concept of unionism. "We all share in its history of success and failure."]



Local 13 Officers 2008 – 20011

<i>President</i>	Bruce Bowes
<i>Vice President</i>	Joel Horowitz
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Frank DeCarlo
<i>Treasurer</i>	Brandon Tumia
<i>Business Manager/Financial Secretary</i>	John Perticone
<i>Business Agent</i>	Bill Kurtz
<i>Inside Guard</i>	Brian Champaigne
<i>Executive Board</i>	Joe Cacia, Jim Caternolo, George Maloney Steve Ostrander
<i>Finance Board</i>	Michael Boillat, John (Mick) Gibson, Bob Shoemaker
<i>Pipefitters/Steamfitters Examining Board</i>	Clint Byer, Terry Moore, Joe Heiderman
<i>Plumbers Examining Board</i>	Bill Blaschek, Ken Cooke, Dan O'Neil
<i>Conference Board</i>	Carl Colotti, Terry Moore, Rob Quinn (Business Manager and Agent Included)
<i>Pension and Insurance Trustees</i>	Mike Brown, George Maloney, Steve Ostrander, John Perticone
<i>Annuity Trustees</i>	Kevin Peri, John Carpenter, Rob Quinn, Bill Kurtz
<i>IAP Fund</i>	Bill Kurtz, John Perticone, Brandon Tumia