



WASHINGTON, DC

PLUMBERS &
GASFITTERS

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

1890-2015



The unsung hero of human history was, of course, the Brain of Drains, the Hub of Tubs, the Power of Showers, the Brewer of Sewers... the humble plumber.

FROM THE BOOK FLUSHED: HOW THE PLUMBER SAVED CIVILIZATION, BY W. HODDING CARTER



Let the workers organize. Let the toilers assemble. Let their crystallized voice proclaim their injustices and demand their privileges. Let all thoughtful citizens sustain them, for the future of Labor is the future of America. — JOHN L. LEWIS



Welcome

On behalf of the members and officers of Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5, it is with pleasure that I welcome you to our 125th Anniversary Gala.

Today, we celebrate our proud heritage and enduring legacy. In 1890 we became one of the first charters granted by the newly formed United Association, and from the very beginning, our members have served as leaders in the American Labor Movement, advocating to better the lives of all working people.

Whether we're working on homes or hospitals, office buildings or places of worship, wastewater treatment plants or American monuments, Local 5 has been "Protecting the Health of our Nation's Capital" for 125 years. Together with our signatory contractors, we've played a key role in the construction of nearly every major landmark in the region.

Since our founding, we've grown in both size and strength, becoming more diverse through the years, and adapting to the many changes we've witnessed in our industry over the past century. Though we continue to face many challenges, our commitment to quality craftsmanship remains the hallmark of this organization. We persevere, always striving to uphold the standard of excellence set by our early brothers, emerging stronger and more resilient at every turn.

In the words of George Meany, "Labor never quits. We never give up the fight – no matter how tough the odds, no matter how long it takes."

We're proud of our accomplishments and hope to continue serving the Washington, D.C. region for many centuries to come. Thank you for celebrating with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Killeen, III".

James E. Killeen, III
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer
Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5



*The society which scorns excellence in plumbing as a humble activity
and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will
have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy: neither its pipes
nor its theories will hold water.* — JOHN W. GARDNER



Program of Events

*Cocktail Reception 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Marriott Foyer*

*Seating for Dinner 7 p.m.
Grand Ballroom*

*Entertainment
Radio King Orchestra*

*Welcome
Wendy Rieger, NBC TV 4*

Presentation of the Colors by the Armed Forces Color Guard

Star Spangled Banner performed by Todd Googins

*Introduction and Remarks
James E. Killeen, III, Local 5 Business Manager*

*Invocation
Monsignor John Enzler, President of Catholic Charities*

First Course

*Celebrating 125 Years
Legacy Video narrated by John Riggins, NFL Hall of Fame*

Entree

*Special Guest Speakers
Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Secretary of Labor
William P. Hite, General President, UA
Michael Pleasant, Assistant General President, UA*

*Bistro Open for Conversation
Marriott Foyer*

Dancing, Free Spirit



Dinner Menu

Baby Wedge Iceberg

*Tomato Wedges, Maytag Bleu Cheese,
Watercress Champagne Vinaigrette*

Filet Mignon and Maryland Lump Crab Cake

*Petite Filet Mignon, Roasted Tomato Bordelaise Crab Cake,
Pommery Mustard Beurre Blanc
Chef's Selection of Seasonal Starch and Vegetables*

Pineapple Upside-Down Cheesecake

Grilled Pineapple, Soft Cheesecake, Graham Cracker Crumbles

Dinner Rolls and Butter

Variety of Wines; Red and White

Coffee, Tea & Decaf Coffee

UNITED ASSOCIATION

JOURNEYMAN AND APPRENTICES
OF THE
PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY

Composed of Journeymen and Apprentices, who have jurisdiction
over every branch of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry.

UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

To all whom it may concern:

Whereas, Application in due form has been received by us praying that a charter
be granted to LOCAL UNION NO. 5 to be located at Washington D.C.
NOW KNOW YE,

That acting under authority vested in us by the laws and usages of the
UNITED ASSOCIATION,

Journeymen Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters, Steam Pipefitters, Helpers
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

We direct this Warrant and Charter to be issued to the LOCAL UNION
named above to bear date the second day of January 1890

And by virtue of this Warrant and Charter the said
LOCAL UNION is empowered to do and perform such acts and enjoy such
privileges as are prescribed in the laws and usages of the UNITED ASSOCIATION,
and the members thereof are strictly enjoined to bear constantly in mind
and always practice the cardinal principles of the Association.

FIDELITY, EDUCATION, BENEVOLENCE AND PROTECTION.

The UNITED ASSOCIATION reserves the right to suspend or reclaim this Warrant
and Charter and to abrogate the rights and privileges thereon conferred for
any neglect or refusal to perform the duties required by the laws and
usages of the Association as adopted and promulgated by the UNITED ASSOCIATION.

By any of its officers acting under legally invested authority.
In witness whereof this Warrant and Charter has been signed by
the officers of the United Association and the seal of said
association has been affixed this
seventh day of February 1890

Richard A. O'Brien Patrick J. Rueter
Secretary-Treasurer



Our Legacy: A History of Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5

It's no exaggeration to say that skilled members of Local 5 built this city – our fingerprints are on every major landmark you can think of, from the White House to FedEx Field.

If you've ever enjoyed a cool drink of water on a hot summer day at Nationals Park, had a bite to eat at a cafe in one of the Smithsonian Museums, been a patient at one of our top area hospitals, or used the facilities at any federal government building constructed after 1890, you've got a member of Plumbers Local 5 to thank for it.

But the impact of Local 5 goes beyond just buildings. The efforts of the American Labor movement, in which Local 5 has played a crucial role, have set the standard for wages and improved working conditions for all Americans. It was union members who fought for many of the benefits we take for granted today: lunch breaks, overtime pay, workplace safety protections, and paid holidays off.

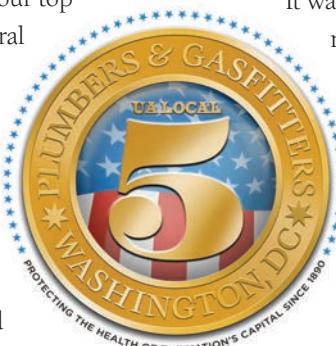
After 125 years of faithful service, we rightfully cherish our proud heritage: our origins in the Knights of Labor, our essential role in the formation of the United Association and our contributions to the advancement of trade unionism throughout the country.

Beginnings

This long tradition started more than one hundred twenty five years ago when industrialization altered the fabric of both our economy and society. The emergence of sweatshops and mechanization threatened to eliminate jobs and to denigrate the crafts into low-paying, menial work. Family and community structures which had provided support and security buckled under the pressures of long hours worked in harsh conditions.

On most jobsites, workplace safety took a back seat to efficiency. Accidents were frequent, and no compensation was provided for workers injured on the job. In the mid-1800s, a typical laborer would work more than 10 hours a day, six days a week, and there was no such thing as "overtime pay."

It was a period of great economic growth, but the business tycoons of the day were the only ones reaping the benefits. Workers began to vocalize their discontent with the inequity and poor working conditions, but not always openly, for fear of persecution. Many wrote under false names, penning anonymous editorials printed in journals like *The Rasp*, a monthly publication widely circulated among the pipe trades groups.



At the same time, employers joined together in associations and trusts in order to build capital and reduce expenses, including labor costs. Workers responded to all of these changes by massing to fraternal orders and beneficial societies which provided some financial security and community support. Gradually, these societies developed into labor organizations dedicated not just to improving the lot of the individual worker, but to reforming our economic and social structures for the benefit of all Americans.

The first attempts to organize American workers were scattered and feeble, but in 1869, at a time when trade unions were still illegal, a Philadelphia garment cutter named Uriah S. Stevens founded the Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor, which grew from a small, secret organization of garment cutters into the first successful national labor organization in the United States. The Knights organized workers into local and district assemblies loosely based on craft lines, but which aimed to represent all workers within a given region. This movement



Capital organizes and therefore labor must organize.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



The Washington Monument. Pictured, left to right: Jacob Hayes, Bryan Best, Thomas (Eddie) Catterton, Jr., and Chris Wright. In August 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake rattled D.C., damaging countless historic structures, including the Washington Monument. Local 5 signatory contractor W.L. Gary Company assisted with repairs, which involved running a high-pressure, 2-inch stainless steel water pipe up the outside of the scaffolding to help keep the dust down and facilitate the cutting of stone used in the restoration. After 32 months of repairs, the Washington Monument reopened for visitors in May 2014. Originally completed in the 1880s, at 554 feet tall, it is the world's tallest stone structure.

toward organized labor was reflected in the struggle of pipe tradesmen to maintain their identity as independent, traveling craftsmen while raising one unified voice on the issues of wages and working conditions. The first plumbers' unions, small groups confined to major cities, tended to fail quickly. Although a plumbers' union existed in Philadelphia as early as 1835, the main organizing drive did not begin until a boom in construction in the late 1870s. According to Martin Segal's "The Rise of the United Association," it was this boom that spurred the revival of old pipe trades locals and the establishment of new ones in several cities, including Washington, D.C.

While more viable than their predecessors, these newly formed unions still lacked the strength provided by a national organization. By the time the Knights began accepting craft assem-

blies in the early 1880s, pipe trades unions across the country were eager to affiliate. Among the first to receive a charter were the plumbers of Washington, D.C., who in 1882 affiliated as Knights of Labor Local Assembly 2079, also known as the Franklin Assembly.

While relying on the structure of the Knights to survive, the pipe trades assemblies soon desired to create their own national organization and by 1884 a movement was begun to unify all the pipe trades unions in a distinct labor body. In the fall of that year, leaders of the Knights of Labor local assemblies in the New York area formed a national body, which they intended to operate as part of the Knights. The group grew to include assemblies in other parts of the country, including Boston, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and St. Paul. After the Knights leadership refused to recognize the new organization as a National Trade Assembly, the group withdrew in 1885 and altered its title to the International Association of Plumbers, Steam Fitters and Gas Fitters, or IAPSG.

The following year, locals in the New York area withdrew from the IAPSG in order to form a national pipe trades assembly within the Knights. This time the Knights granted the new body a charter as National Trade Assembly 85, more commonly known as District Assembly 85 or DA 85. Composed entirely of pipe tradesmen, DA 85 soon included local assemblies in other cities. According to the September 1888 issue of a pipe trades journal known as *The Rasp*, LA 2079 in Washington, D.C. affiliated with DA 85 in September 1887. Soon after, LA 2079 member Richard A. O'Brien became the district assembly's secretary-treasurer.

While the pipe trades unions moved slowly toward independence, the trade union philosophy of labor organization eclipsed the Knights of Labor. In 1886, cigar-maker and labor leader Samuel Gompers transformed FOTLU into the much stronger American Federation of Labor. The AFL drew many members away from the Knights, not only because of its basis in craft organization, but also because of its more aggressive stand on issues such as the eight-hour work day. While the Knights' leadership remained aloof, the AFL captured the attention of



The only effective answer to organized greed is organized labor.

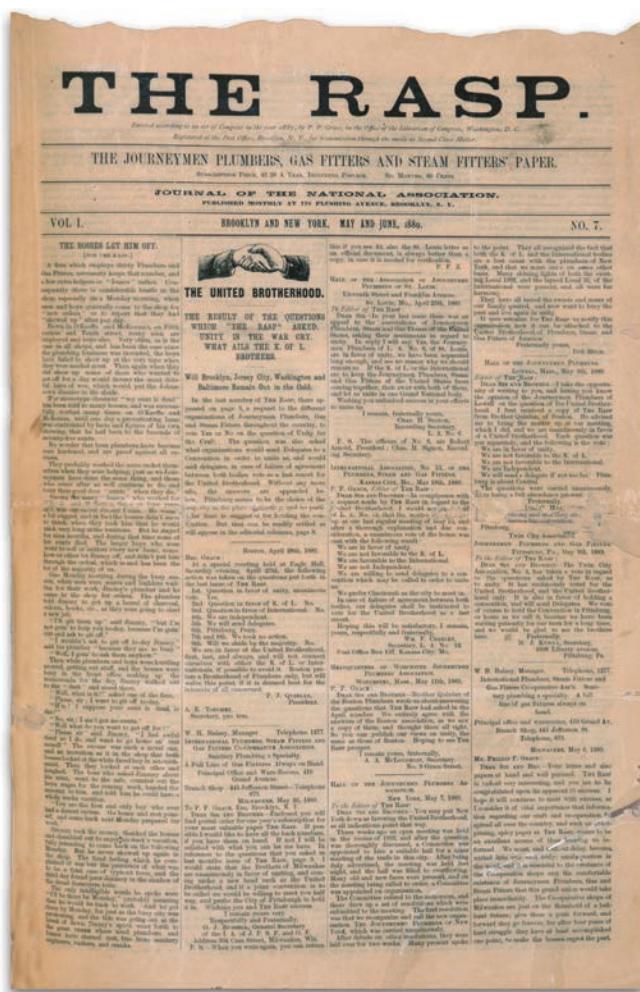
THOMAS DONAHUE

workers with a national eight-hour day campaign and support for strikers such as those involved in the Haymarket Riot of May 4, 1886. The AFL's success is reflected in the decline of the Knights organization which by 1888 slid to 200,000 members and by 1893 stood at a mere 75,000.

While the Knights of Labor declined, leaders in the pipe trades continued advocating the creation of a national pipe trades union. DA 85 and the IAPSG attempted to consolidate as a

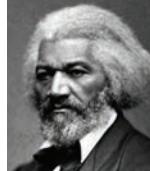
craft union in 1886, but failed, and shortly thereafter both organizations began to disintegrate. The IAPSG in particular faced dissolution when the cooperative shops it established during a bitter strike in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, saddled the union with large debts. Frustrated by the weakness of both the IAPSG and the Knights of Labor, steamfitters' assemblies in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia withdrew from DA 85 and in 1888 formed a third national union called the National Association of Steam and Hot Water Fitters and Helpers (later the International Association or IA). With three separate and competing national unions, the approximately 200,000 pipe tradesmen in the United States were left without the means for concerted national action.

While national pipe trades unions were in trouble, the Washington, D.C. area was thriving. LA 2079 had grown slowly from 45 members in 1883 to 59 by 1885. However, by October 1888, an item in *The Rasp* announced that the Washington, D.C., plumbers' assembly was "wonderfully increasing in membership." In November, Richard O'Brien, writing under the pseudonym "Shave Hook," reported that work in Washington, D.C., was "brisk and will continue so until about Christmas when the building season practically closes until spring." LA 2079 had much to celebrate that holiday season, as the members had recently won a strike and hosted a grand ball which raised enough funds to repay DA 85 a debt for strike assistance. Referring to the ball, *The Rasp* reported that, "When the Washington plumbers make up their mind to do a thing they know no such word as failure."



The Rasp: At a time when unions were still illegal in much of the country, discontented workers sometimes relied on trade journals like *The Rasp* to share news, make plans to organize, and vent their frustrations anonymously.

In this period, LA 2079 held bi-monthly meetings in the Odeon Building, which was located at 4 ½ Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW – at that time a bustling intersection in the center of downtown Washington, D.C. The Odeon was surrounded by theatres, hotels and boarding houses that were home to members of Congress. In the late 1880s, the building served as the meeting hall for not only LA 2079, but also other Knights' local assemblies, DA 85, and the Federation of Labor Unions of the District of Columbia. Under the leadership of Richard O'Brien, LA 2079's meeting place would also soon become the site of the founding convention of the United Association.



*As the laborer becomes more intelligent he will develop what capital he already possesses -
that is the power to organize and combine for its own protection.*

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Founding the United Association

In late 1888, O'Brien wrote articles in *The Rasp* urging the representatives of DA 85 and the IAPSG to renew efforts to unify their respective organizations and called for a national gathering for the purpose of "perfecting a national organization as though there had never been one in the U.S. before." And then, he implored, "Call the organization the United Brotherhood of Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters of the United States..."

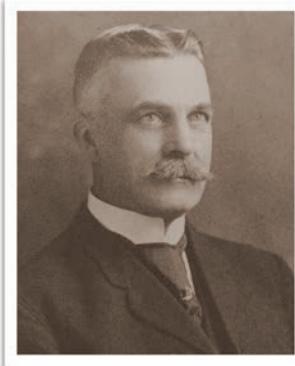
Other *Rasp* correspondents took up the same theme, notably one calling himself "Boston," who wrote in May 1889 under the heading "Shall We Unite?"

"Then I say brothers of the K. of L., Brothers of the International and Brothers that are independent of either, bury all past grievances... come together resolved to stand by each other... and form a new organization that will be a credit to the whole craft..."

Phillip Grace, the man who edited, published, and personally financed *The Rasp*, took a deep interest in the campaign for unity. In the spring of 1889, he urged Patrick J. Quinlan of the independent plumbers union in Boston to correspond directly with Richard O'Brien in Washington, D.C.

"Dear Sir and Brother," began Quinlan's letter to O'Brien, "I take the liberty of addressing a few lines to you to obtain your views as regards the formation of a United Brotherhood..."

Richard A. O'Brien



Patrick J. Quinlan



Emphasizing the benefits of uniting the IAPSG and DA 85, Quinlan stated that "relying upon your experience and good judgment I would like to have your opinion upon what would be the best methods of uniting the whole craft."

After several months of correspondence between Quinlan, O'Brien, and local leaders in other cities, it was decided to hold a preliminary convention in Brooklyn in July 1889. Assuming the functions of secretary, O'Brien mailed invitations to 75 different unions in the U.S. and Canada. Some 100 delegates representing those unions met from July 29 to 31 and appointed a committee charged with planning a formal convention to be held in Washington, D.C. The committee's convention call stated that "We now have the opportunity... to emerge from our various divisions a united, rejuvenated organization, one in name and one in fact."

On October 7, 1889, 40 delegates from 17 cities gathered at 4 ½ Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., with the purpose of discussing the issues raised at the preliminary convention the previous July. The delegates represented the IAPSG, DA 85, and several independent unions. Richard O'Brien served as secretary for the convention, which quickly became mired in a controversy over the debts of IAPSG's cooperative shops in Milwaukee. On a voice vote, a majority of delegates rejected responsibility for the Milwaukee cooperatives, prompting nine IAPSG delegates to walk out of the convention.

Despite the withdrawal of almost one-quarter of the delegates, the convention proceeded to draw up a constitution for a new organization called the United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters, and Steam Fitters Helpers of the United States and Canada. Among the 32 delegates who signed the preamble (including one who later walked out) were LA 2079 members Richard A. O'Brien and John F. Murphy, who were elected general secretary-treasurer and executive board member, respectively. Ever the dedicated union man, Secretary-Treasurer O'Brien volunteered to assume the cost of printing the proceedings of the convention until he could be reimbursed.



When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him: 'Whose?'

DON MARQUIS

One of the first actions of the new union was to appoint a committee to lobby for the establishment of plumbing codes in the District of Columbia. “Protecting the health of the nation’s capital” isn’t just an empty slogan. Such modern conveniences as flush toilets and clean tap water tend to be taken for granted nowadays, but their impact on public health cannot be underestimated. The installation of water and sanitation systems in developed countries like the United States and England in the late 1800s allowed for the eradication of diseases like cholera and typhoid, saving millions of lives. “The Sanitary Revolution,”

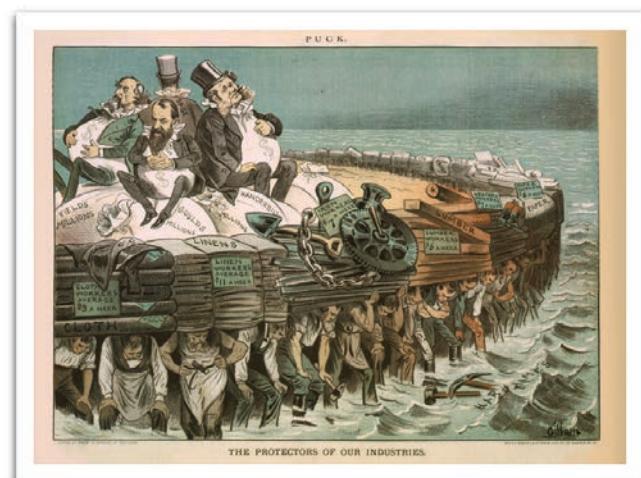
In 2007, the British Medical Journal asked its readers to name the greatest breakthrough in public health since 1840. More than 11,000 readers voted. The introduction of clean water and sewage disposal, dubbed “the sanitary revolution,” won, beating out the discovery of antibiotics and the development of vaccines.

as it's often called, is widely recognized as the greatest medical breakthrough of the past 200 years, more important even than the discovery of antibiotics and the development of vaccines. In 1893, the commissioners of D.C. adopted a plumbing code which, though frequently revised, would remain in force through the 1950s until national plumbing codes were implemented.

Although officially founded in October 1889, the United Association did not charter any locals until after the circulation of an official call for affiliation in December 1889. While the IAPSG slowly disintegrated and its locals gravitated to either the UA or the IA, the independent unions and the Knights local assemblies quickly answered the call to join the UA. The Knights' local assemblies in New York City affiliated in December 1889 as UA Locals 1 and 2. On January 2, 1890, the UA issued charters for locals in Denver, Colorado; Washington, D.C.; Kansas City, Missouri; Boston, Massachusetts; and Rochester, New York, and assigned them the numbers 3, 5, 8, 12, and 13, respectively. Local 5 takes great pride in being one of the first seven locals chartered by the UA.

Early Leaders

One of our charter members, Richard O'Brien, served as secretary-treasurer of DA 85 and a member of the district assembly's executive board, organizing Knights local assemblies in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Memphis, Tennessee; and Richmond, Virginia. As *The Rasp*'s frequent correspondent, “Shave Hook,” O'Brien fostered the spirit of unity which resulted in the formation of the UA. O'Brien was elected the first UA General Secretary-Treasurer and is credited with the design of the UA emblem and with promoting the publication of the first UA Journal. Although born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, O'Brien spent most of his life in Washington, D.C., and became the city's



The Protectors of Our Industries: This 1883 political cartoon illustrates the gross income disparity of the late 1800s, when business tycoons made their fortunes on the backs of industrial workers, who were paid only \$6 to \$11 a week.

assistant chief plumbing inspector in 1893. He also served in the National Guard and eventually attained the rank of colonel. He saw active duty during the Spanish-American War, for which service he was buried with full military honors upon his death in 1916. Five years before his death, the UA had recognized O'Brien's contributions to the pipe trades by conferring upon him the first UA life membership.



If any man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar. If any man tells you he trusts America, yet fears labor, he is a fool.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



James S. O'Hagan



William J. Spencer

Another charter member, James S. O'Hagan helped copy by hand the circular letters distributed in 1889 to bring the various pipe trades unions into the UA. O'Hagan never rose to national prominence, but diligently served Local 5 in the positions of recording secretary and financial secretary. In 1908, O'Hagan undertook to write a history of the UA, but was forced to abandon the project that same year because of a prolonged lockout directed against Local 5. Some twenty-five years later, O'Hagan donated to the UA General Offices a small number of documents and photographs, including the signatures of the UA's founding members and a picture of the Odeon Building. These materials have since become the foundation of the UA's historical collection.

During this early period in our history, Local 5 was also represented among the UA state vice presidents and on the General Executive Board. John F. Murphy, who had been treasurer of LA 2079 and was in 1889 treasurer of Local 5, was elected to represent the Southern States District on the UA General Executive Board in 1889 and again in 1891. N.J. Plass, secretary of Local 5 in 1891, was at the same time the UA state vice-president for the District of Columbia. M.J. McCarthy, who had been elected treasurer of LA 2079 in November 1899, was elected UA 4th vice president at the UA convention in 1901. Another early member of Local 5, Robert Knightly, served on the UA General Executive Board sometime prior to 1904. All of these men were probably Local 5 charter members.

Local 5 can also take pride in Brother Harvey D. McGhan, a native Washingtonian who in 1889 was living in Denver, Colorado. McGhan represented the Denver plumbers' union at the UA's founding convention, where he was elected 2nd vice president. At that time, the UA had no salaried officers and McGhan supported himself by working as a city plumbing inspector in Denver. In 1892 he opened his own business, but six years later returned to Washington, D.C., and joined Local 5.

A large number of Local 5's early members were probably immigrants. We know for certain of one, William J. Spencer, who was originally a member of Local 46 in Toronto and later transferred to Local 36 in Buffalo. By 1895, Spencer held the position of UA Auxiliary Secretary-Treasurer and in 1897 became the UA General Secretary-Treasurer. Spencer was also the first UA General Organizer, a position created for one year in 1896 and re-established in 1900. As General Organizer, Spencer traveled the country, founding locals and implementing the UA's "nationalization" program, which introduced an international benefits system and established uniform dues collection through dues stamps. A primary architect of the "nationalization" program, Spencer also helped ensure its success by publishing in the UA Journal numerous letters under the pseudonym "Bosco." Sometime between 1900 and 1904, Spencer moved to Washington, D.C., and transferred to Local 5. In 1905, he left the UA General Offices to become the secretary-treasurer of the Structural Building Trades Alliance, which in 1908 became the AFL Building Trades Department; he held that position until his death in 1933. On the local level, Spencer was the first president of the Potomac States Association founded in 1913.

The services rendered by these early brothers are both admirable and greatly appreciated. Yet they are only a small part of Local 5's total contribution to organized labor through one hundred twenty five years of hard work and constant vigilance. Just as our craftsmanship reflects on every union plumber, so our commitment to union principles affects every brother and sister in the United States and Canada. The basic issues confronting us have remained the same since 1890, but varying economic and social conditions have called for different approaches and solutions.



Labor cannot stand still. It must not retreat. It must go on, or go under.
HARRY BRIDGES

Struggle & Sacrifice

At the time of Local 5's chartering, wages were about 15 cents an hour and the 60-hour work week was the norm. Membership fluctuated during the first decade, reflecting the turbulence of a period when recurrent economic depressions, particularly those of 1893 and 1897, destabilized the construction industry. Labor and management frequently resorted to prolonged boycotts, strikes, and lockouts in order to settle disputes.

With a stable membership in 1899-1900, Local 5 was able to generously contribute to other locals' strike assistance funds. In the April 1900 issue of the UA Journal, Local 130 of Chicago

low wages and only sporadic training. Despite efforts by the UA to set national standards, rules regarding apprentices and helpers varied from city to city.

Prior to 1902 it was common for shops in Washington, D.C. to employ one or more helpers for every journeyman. Local 5 attempted to regulate that ratio by calling for the elimination of helpers and the limitation of apprentices to two per shop. When employers refused, Local 5 struck in early April 1902. Within two weeks, the strike had spawned building trades sympathy strikes and a general lockout. After nine weeks, the Master Plumbers' Association finally settled with Local 5 on June 9, 1902, and set a compromise ratio of two helpers for every three journeymen. While the settlement established almost the same ratio as existed before April 1902, it should be noted that Local 5 emerged from the strike with a net gain of 70 members, just under a fifty percent increase. A 1904 poll showed that Local 5 members worked six 8-hour days each week for \$4 per day, and reported "good" trade conditions.

The issue was apparently unresolved, however, because Local 5 struck the Master Plumbers' Association again in February 1906. The exact grounds for the strike are not known, but the reaction of the employers was to call a general lockout. As the dispute dragged on into the summer, the Washington, D.C., Central Labor Council pledged to assist Local 5 with money, sympathy strikes, and boycotts. Journeymen bricklayers in the city refused to work on jobs with non-union plumbers. Other building trades quickly followed suit.

Arbiters were called in to negotiate, but the trouble did not subside. By late summer of 1907, the Washington, D.C., building trades were engaged in a full-fledged battle to stop the spread of the open shop. On the first day of August, sixteen representatives of AFL affiliates, led by Samuel Gompers, met in Washington to discuss the lockout. The conference lasted almost a week, during which time attempts to meet with the employers were rebuffed, so the conference ordered a general strike of all trades to begin on August 10, 1907.

As the lockout/strike continued through the end of 1907, attempts to import strikebreakers failed, and demonstrations



Undated photo of Local 5 members on a jobsite in the early 1900s.

thanked sister locals that had contributed "financially to the support of the members locked out in Chicago." Most locals gave \$25 or less; Local 5 donated \$100, an amount matched by only three other locals.

Many of the strikes in this period were not over wages and hours, but rather the issue of regulating apprentices and helpers. Employers directly hired both apprentices and helpers, often making no distinction between the two and offering them



*People with dirty jobs make civilized life possible for the rest of us.
For that reason, I see a willingness to get dirty as a mark of character.*
MIKE ROWE

were numerous. In one such rally, Local 5 members joined more than 20,000 protesters in downtown Washington to voice their discontent. In the January 1908 issue of the UA Journal, UA General President John Alpine described an impressive sight:

"The historic avenues of Washington resounded to the martial strains of many bands, and the marching hosts of organized wage earners with their torches, banners, and lanterns... served to enlighten the scene and create a panorama of beauty as significant as it was beautiful. Organized labor truly shed its light and indicated its presence and power in historic old Washington."

Despite this impressive display of solidarity, the fight dragged on. In June 1908, UA General Organizer Thomas Burke reported that "we will fight this to a finish or go down in ignominious defeat before we will ever submit to the so-called 'open shop.'" Finally, by 1911, the lockout was over, and the UA clearly considered Local 5 the victor. UA General Organizer John Casey reported in January 1911 that "the militant spirit that made it possible to win against tremendous odds in the now famous Washington lockout is still in existence..."

Uneasy relations with employers continued into 1913 as Local 5 called first a shop strike and then another general strike. By April 1913, however, Local 5 was reported to be close to an agreement with employers that would give members "recognition and a substantial increase in wages." Employment, also, was reported to be improving. In July, Local 5 joined with locals throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia in creating the Potomac States Association, through which the locals worked together on problems common to the entire area.

The year 1913 was also significant because of the long-awaited amalgamation of the IA with the UA. After a bitter struggle that had lasted more than twenty years, the AFL had in 1912 finally revoked the IA's charter and ordered the merger of the two unions. Steamfitters of Washington, D.C., who had organized as early as 1889 as Knights of Labor LA 6450, affiliated as UA Local 602 in 1913.

The decade of the 1920s was known as the open shop era. Company unions dominated by employers were established. Workers were often required to sign "yellow dog" contracts by



The Silver Theatre. In 1938, Local 5 helped build the first shopping center to cater to automobile traffic in Montgomery County, Maryland. Located at Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road, the Silver Spring Shopping Center was an architectural innovation that combined the decorative style of Art Deco with the more functional Streamline Moderne. Restored and reopened in 2003 as the AFI Silver Theatre, the center is a designated historic site and a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Silver Spring. Photos courtesy the M-NCPCC Montgomery County Planning Department, Historic Preservation Office and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center.

which they promised not to join a labor union. While we have no figures on the membership of Local 5 during this period, we know that 61 of the 105 international unions affiliated with the AFL lost membership between 1925 and 1929.

In spring of 1929, Local 5 negotiated an agreement covering the period of May 7, 1929 to June 1, 1931. For the first four months of the agreement, wages were set at \$11.50 per day. After August 15, wages increased to \$12 and were to remain at that level for the term of the contract. While the normal



*It is one of the characteristics of a free and democratic nation
that it have free and independent labor unions.*

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

working hours were 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. five days a week, the agreement allowed emergency repair work at regular wages on Saturday mornings, thus the continued struggle to achieve better working conditions by our early members.

The Great Depression & “New Deal”

Then, in 1929, the stock market crashed and thousands of banks failed. Unemployment soared and construction all but stopped, leading to a significant decline in manufacturing. The impact of the Great Depression on Local 5 is apparent from the membership figures, which fluctuated until 1933 when they began dropping steadily to a low of 300 reached in 1938.

Behind these figures lie tales of hardship and sacrifice, such as the story of one father of six children who was unemployed for nineteen of twenty-five months. In a letter to the local dated February 1934, he wrote, “I cannot let my wife and children suffer anymore. It seems impossible to find a job anymore in the union...” The local tried to help members by extending financial assistance and sick benefits, but by March 1934, monthly expenditures exceeded income by almost \$300. In August of that year, the local began collecting twenty-five percent of the wages of working members and permit workers.

Under the leadership of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the United States slowly emerged from the Great Depression in the mid- to late 1930s. Roosevelt pushed Congress to pass legislation that not only relieved the suffering of the unemployed, but also provided government subsidized work. The National Recovery Act, the Public Works Administration, the Civil Works Administration, and the Works Progress Administration created jobs for work-starved building tradesmen. In this period, Local 5 members installed the plumbing systems in many of our government buildings still used today, including the National Archives, a new Post Office building, and office buildings for the Federal Communications Commission and the departments of Justice, Commerce, and Agriculture.

Under the prevailing wage rules of the Davis-Bacon Act, passed in 1931, government work also provided stability in wage levels. The legislation was introduced by two republicans, James J.

Davis, a senator from Pennsylvania, and Representative Robert L. Bacon of New York. The bill sought to address the displacement of local workers by migrant workers by requiring contractors to pay the local prevailing wage rate rather than importing cheap labor from out of state. Interestingly, over the past six decades, the Republican Party whose members originally introduced the legislation has led extensive efforts to repeal the act.

Roosevelt’s “New Deal” legislation went beyond providing work to reform the government’s labor policy. The Wagner (or National Labor Relations) Act, passed in 1935, established the first national policy protecting the rights of workers to organize and to elect representatives for collective bargaining. The 1938 Fair Labor



In the 1930s, FDR's "New Deal" legislation created jobs for work-starved building tradesmen. In this period, Local 5 members installed the plumbing systems in many government buildings still used today.

Standards Act, which applied to industries involved in interstate commerce, set the first national minimum wage and regulated the hours of labor, including provisions regarding overtime.

In this period, the federal government also adopted an active role in the regulation of apprenticeship. Through legislation such as the National Apprentice Act of 1937, government and labor together began the process of establishing uniform standards for the selection, employment, and training of apprentices. The UA, which had long called for such standards,



Join the union, girls, and together say 'Equal Pay for Equal Work.'

SUSAN B. ANTHONY



Local 5 members and travelers pose for a photo during the construction of Fort Belvoir in 1940. With nearly twice as many workers as The Pentagon, today Ft. Belvoir is the largest employer in Fairfax County.

quickly responded to the government's lead and, in 1938, issued its first national apprenticeship standard.

While some UA locals had been training apprentices since the 1920s, the adoption of national standards served as an impetus to the development of local training programs throughout the country. Local 5 opened our apprentice school in 1940, and by 1942, the training school was operating out of Abbott Vocational School on 7th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Registered by the National Apprenticeship Program in September 1944, the school eventually used facilities in the Bell Vocational schools and was staffed by a number of skilled journeymen such as Chris Gavin, John J. Kirlin, Sr., Ham Fowler, Jimmy De Chard, Bill Fletcher and George Morrow.

The inauguration of a training program was only one of the positive developments of the late 1930s. After a one-week strike in late 1939, Local 5 negotiated the first wage increase since the Depression. Wages rose from \$12 to \$13.20 per day and to \$14 per day the following year. Membership also began to increase as commercial and residential work expanded. Commercial construction extended the boundaries of the retail areas of the day, particularly in Silver Spring, Maryland, where, in 1938, Local 5 helped build the first shopping center to cater

to automobile traffic. Located at Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road, the center, called the Silver Spring Shopping Center, was an architectural innovation that combined the decorative style of Art Deco with the more functional Streamline Moderne. Restored and reopened in 2003 as the AFI Silver Theatre, today the center is a designated historic site and a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Silver Spring.

As speculation in residential construction increased, so did the non-union shops that captured most of the market in the 1920s and early 1930s. In response, Local 5 formed an auxiliary branch of residential journeymen. Our first organizer, W.W. "Shep" Gallagher, brought non-union residential workers into the auxiliary for a wage of \$9 per day.

World War II & Aftermath

The entry of the United States into the Second World War in 1941 sharply reduced the amount of private residential work and increased the demand for journeymen on public housing and heavy construction defense projects. As a result, Local 5 admitted large numbers of auxiliary workers to full membership. Between 1939 and 1943, our membership, including the auxiliary, had almost tripled. Waged stayed at \$14 per day until 1946, but considerable overtime on defense projects contributed to a rise in prosperity.

In this period, Local 5 members installed the piping systems for Park Fairfax, Fairlington, Greenbelt, the Pentagon, Andrews Air Force Base, Ft. Belvoir, Bethesda Naval Hospital, and the National Institutes of Health.

After the war, an expansion of commercial work provided well-paying jobs. Even so, work decreased due to the cessation of lucrative defense projects. Local 5 experienced some unemployment in the early to mid-1950s and once again faced the resurgence of the open shop movement in the field of residential construction. In order to recapture residential work, the local established a "B" field for residential journeymen and offered nonunion plumbers who joined higher wages, job security, and benefits. Eventually, many of these men attained full membership in the local.



The American Labor Movement has consistently demonstrated its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all America.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

Local 5 struck at least once in the early 1950s, demanding a wage increase of 25 cents. Strikers easily found employment in other jurisdictions. In October 1955, Brother DeChard, a member of the Conference Committee, asked the membership to remember that continuing wage demands would make it hard for the contractors to bid work. By 1957, wages had increased to \$3.76 per hour, with an increase of \$4.16 scheduled to take effect in 1959. Remembering the hardship of less fortunate times, Local 5 members used part of these wage increases to support benefit and training funds established in the 1950s.

The first contributory fund established by Local 5 was the welfare fund initiated in 1950. The fund started with a ten-cents per hour contribution when hospital costs averaged \$13 per day. Over the following years, the fund has expanded its services to the membership by adding eye care in 1957 and extending benefits for survivors of deceased members in 1963.



Local 5 established its formal apprenticeship program in the early 1940s, later expanding it to include high-level skills training in all facets of the trade.

Today the fund is known as the medical fund and provides major medical coverage, a \$10,000 life insurance policy.

Prior to 1960, the medical fund relied on an insurance company for liability protection. Between 1960 and 1962, the local approved a self-insurance plan which, by lowering operating costs, freed funds for an increase in benefits. Members currently contribute \$7.05 per hour to the medical fund. Due to the spiraling costs of group health care, the fund has followed national trends toward cost containment such as engagement of third

party claims administrator and mandatory second opinions. These policies aid us in continuing to provide generous benefits through a program which protects health of our members and their families.

Local 5 members also enjoy the security provided by a pension fund established in April 1955. Originally called the Plumbing Industry Pension Plan, the fund issued its first payments in 1956. Six years later, Local 5 voted to make the plan self-insured, thus eliminating the cost of insurance premiums and thereby allowing an increase in benefits. In 1980, the local further improved the pension program by merging the plan with the National Pension Plan.

Training Program Expansion

While Local 5 established medical and pension funds to benefit current members, we also set aside money for training to secure the future of our trade. As stated earlier, Local 5 had established a formal training program in the early 1940s. Like most local training programs of the time, the school shared facilities in a vocational school. In the 1950s, when it became apparent that such facilities were inadequate to meet training requirements, the apprenticeship fund trustees of Local 5 and 602 joined together to buy and operate a school building. Our first school was located at 14th and R Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.

Through the following decade, a number of highly qualified instructors, under the leadership of Local 5's first training coordinator, Charles S. Bridget, expanded the apprentice program into rigorous curriculum emphasizing high skill levels in all facets of the trade. When the location of the school building proved unsatisfactory, the training program used space in local high schools while Local 5 Business Manager Samuel A. Armstrong led the drive to establish a modern facility. A new joint training facility was established as the "UA Mechanical Trades School," and opened in Landover, Maryland, in 1975. Since the establishment of apprenticeship and journeyman training facilities in the early 1940s, Local 5 apprentices have benefited from the experience and dedication of training coordinators, including Charles S. Bridget, Robert Courtney, Walter Peter, and James C. Spencer, James L. Spencer, Thomas Chaisson, Gary Printz Jr., and Tim Haley.



The labor movement means just this: it is the last noble protest of the American people against the power of incorporated wealth.

WENDELL PHILLIPS

The expansion of Local 5's training program significantly reflects the UA's increasing emphasis on training in the 1950s when the UA raised the issue to one of national prominence. In the early part of that decade, the UA established national joint labor/management committees to regulate apprenticeship, produce standardized textbooks and administer a joint management training trust fund. In 1954, the UA held the first annual UA Apprentice Contest and Instructor Training Program at Purdue University.

A contestant in the 1954 UA Apprentice Contest, Thomas S. Edwards, was the first of many outstanding apprentices to honorably represent Local 5 in the contest. Local 5 instructors began attending instructor training courses at Purdue in 1962 and have over the years applied the knowledge and experience gained in the five-year certificate program directly to classes in the local school.

Local 5 members have contributed directly to the development of national training standards. As the UA expanded its training program in the 1960s, it turned to Local 5 members Alexander B. Bell, George Muziko, Charles S. Bridget, Delorest Z. Rathbone, and George H. Bliss III to rewrite the national training texts. In 1967, the UA hired Bridget and Bliss as full-time writers assigned the responsibility of restructuring the national training program. Charlie Bridget went on to become coordinator for the International Training Trust Fund from 1972 until his passing in 1976. George Bliss joined the UA Training Department in 1973 as the department's assistant director, becoming the director of training in 1998 until his retirement in 2005. As the UA's training program continued to grow in the 1970s and 1980s, Local 5 members Andrew J. Blanch and James C. Spencer contributed their time and knowledge by revising sections of the training textbooks.

Providing training and benefits to our members remained the primary focus of Local 5 in the early 1960s. In this period, Local 5 members benefited from a construction boom during which we played a vital role in the installation of piping systems in RFK Stadium, the Rayburn House Office Building, and the Hilton Hotel. By 1963, wages had increased to \$4.91



Local 5 members pose in front of Building 2 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center during its construction in the 1970s.

per hour and included contributions to not only the medical, pension, and apprentice funds, but also to a newly created vacation fund.

Changing Times

The prosperity of the early 1960s soon gave way to the social upheaval of the civil rights movement and anti-war protests. As Local 5, we are proud of our record as one of the first locals to recognize the necessity of change as the movement for equal rights for minorities and women altered the face of our local and added new dimensions to labor solidarity. The first minority apprentices in Local 5 started classes in 1963 and graduated in 1968. Among the graduates of this class was Denvert Boney, who became chief plumbing inspector for the District of Columbia.

Women entered the program in the late 1970s and were well represented by the first female graduates, Alma Long and Yolanda Lucas. In the 21st century, women are still paid less than men across nearly every industry, but union members have always received equal wages regardless of gender.

As Local 5 kept pace with social changes, a number of our members also showed their faith and pride in our country during the controversial and bitter struggle in Vietnam. The



Every advance in this half-century – Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education, one after another – came with the support and leadership of American Labor.

JIMMY CARTER

sacrifice of these brothers is recognized by a plaque placed in the local hall.

When the social and political tumult subsided in the mid-1970s, we in Local 5 found ourselves competing with a resurgent open shop movement for what little work there was available. By 1976, unemployment in the construction industry had reached 18 to 20 percent, the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression.

Government policies only worsened the situation as we entered the 1980s and the anti-labor era of “Reaganomics.” Despite impressive displays of union spirit such as the AFL-CIO Solidarity Day the following February, by April 1983 a prominent trade journal could publish a cover story eulogizing union labor in the construction industry. Judging from the article, one would think it a miracle that the United Association and Local 5 survived the early eighties. However, to paraphrase Mark Twain, the reports of our demise were greatly exaggerated and underestimated both the strength of our leadership and the resilience of our membership. Rather than accept a judgment of defeat, we fought to revitalize the very basis of our livelihoods—the construction industry.

In an address to the graduating apprentice class in 1976, newly elected Business Manager Michael A. Collins had explained the relationship of labor and management in the following manner: “There is no top or bottom; we are part of a circle and in order to have 360 degrees, all segments are dependent on each other. When we join together in common endeavors we are a potent force.” Over the next ten years, Collins spear-headed a drive to bring the component parts of the circle into synchronization.

Beginning in 1981, local leaders and contractor representatives such as Eva Poling, John J. Kirlin, Jr., John Wilson, Robert Keyser and Buddy Crawford began discussions aimed at recovering the union share of the market by lowering labor costs and increasing productivity. The result of these discussions was to engender a spirit of cooperation between labor and management.

Local 5 agreed to concessions in order to make union contrac-

tors more competitive, including wage freezes and contract extensions. We also initiated trainee and speculative journeymen programs, which attracted non-union workers seeking employment, benefits and representation. After four years, trainees could apply for entry into the speculative journeyman program. Many opted to enter the apprenticeship program.

Labor’s Legacy

Still, concessions and lower labor costs only scratched the surface of the problem, which went deep into the public image of union labor. When the general public looked at unions they perceived high wages, disruptive jurisdictional disputes, and antiquated working rules that seemed to benefit only union



Local 5 members Jimmy Grainer and Bobby Singelton on the site of an early 1980s construction project at The Washington Harbour.

members while contributing to rising costs of business. What the public failed to see was the commitment of wages to benefit funds that keep union members self-sufficient in times of unemployment, illness, and retirement. The public did not understand that, used properly, jurisdiction lines and working rules serve to protect the worker from capricious employers. Indeed, as President Jimmy Carter put it:

“Every advance in this half-century – Social Security, civil rights, Medicare, aid to education, one after another – came with the support and leadership of American Labor.”



The labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Michael Collins: A Distinguished Career

A native of Washington, D.C., Michael Collins spent almost 35 years as a United Association member. He was only 31 years old when he was first elected to the position of Financial Secretary for Local 5, later serving as Business Agent in 1974 and Business Manager in 1976.

Over the course of his career, Collins distinguished himself in a variety of roles with the UA in addition to his work at Local 5. He began as a hearing officer in 1983, was appointed Special Representative in 1985, and then elected International Representative in 1987.

He became Director of Political and Legislative Affairs in 1988, and approached the job with a crusader's determination that earned him the respect of his colleagues and members of congress from both parties. He led many campaigns to save protective labor laws and prevent passage of other laws that would have harmed the working families of America.

He took on more responsibility in 1992 when he assumed the role of Administrative Assistant to the General President, and was elected General Secretary-Treasurer in 1996. Although he was in the position a little more than a year, he had a significant impact on the way operations were conducted in the headquarters office. Morale strengthened and efficiency improved under his direction and leadership.

Throughout his service to the UA and Local 5, Collins remained a dedicated family man, beloved by all who knew him. Collins was the epitome of a true union man, and will be remembered as one of the best and brightest in UA history. His integrity and high standards of excellence will serve as an example for many generations to come.



Unions had failed to convince the public that organized labor is an integral part of the business community, and that through its collective bargaining agreements and campaigns for legislation on issues such as job safety, workers compensation, equal rights, and the minimum wage it serves to protect not just union members, but all American citizens.

Moreover, we had failed to educate the public to our role as protectors of the nation's health, not just through the quality of union-trained workers, but also through our efforts to maintain sanitary plumbing codes and to reduce the risks from hazards such as lead solder.

It was the recognition of this image problem that convinced Local 5 of the necessity for a public relations campaign and in May 1983 prompted Local 5 Business Manager Michael A.



With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed.

CLARENCE DARROW

Collins, Local 602 Business Manager Mickey Lucas, and the Mechanical Contractors District of Columbia Association to develop a joint program not just to recover sectors of the market, but to change the public perception of union labor. By January 1984, the idea had developed into a formal program called the "Contractors and Unions Seal of Excellence," better known as CAUSE. Participants pledged themselves "to quality of work, efficient productivity on time, within budget and without fear to the builder of work stoppages."

Local 5's strategy of cooperative labor relations brought recognition to Collins, who in 1982 was a nominee for the Engineering News Record's "Construction Man of the Year" and in 1985 received the Washington Building Trades Council "Man of the Year" award. Collins resigned his position as business manager/ financial secretary-treasurer in 1985 in order to accept an appointment as a UA Special Representative assigned to work on legislative issues. Two years later, Collins was elected a UA International Representative, later becoming Administrative Assistant to the General President. In 1996, Collins was elected General Secretary-Treasurer of the UA, serving until his death in 1998.

In the past years, the UA has also recognized the talents of many distinguished Local 5 members, including Bernard A. Downey and Alexander B. Bell. Bernie Downey entered the trade as a helper in 1926 and was initiated into Local 5 as a journeyman in 1932. After serving as vice-president and then president of the local, Downey was elected business manager, a position he held from 1942 until 1955, when he was appointed UA Special Representative. Three years later Downey became a UA General Organizer and in 1972 became the second Director of the UA's Department Organization, a position he held until his retirement in 1976.

Alexander B. Bell served the UA as a special representative for legislative affairs from 1974 to 1984. In his lobbying efforts for the UA, Alex Bell drew upon his experience in the Maryland House of Delegates where he represented Montgomery County from 1966 to 1978. Brother Bell brought honor and distinction to his union by serving concurrently as Maryland state delegate



Situated on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial opened to the public in April 2004. The fountains, a centerpiece of the memorial, were installed by Local 5 members.

and Local 5's assistant business manager.

The late 1970s and early '80s were marked by high unemployment due to the anti-Labor policies of the new Reagan administration, along with the economic upheaval of unions in general, but improved over the course of the decade. As the 1980s drew to a close, Local 5 could take pride in not just surviving a difficult period, but rather turning adversity into a positive force for the future development of the local.

In the '90s came advancements to member benefits and the introduction of new initiatives aimed at increasing market share. In an effort to help our contractors be more competitive with open shops when bidding for projects, Local 5 launched the Industry Advancement Program, also called Target, whereby members invested money from their own pockets to close the gap in hourly pay, allowing our signatory contractors to target projects that were predominantly open shop.



*There is not a right too long denied to which we do not aspire in order to achieve;
there is not a wrong too long endured that we are not determined to abolish.*

SAMUEL GOMPERS



On Sept. 20, 2014, Local 5 members volunteered at the 16th annual "Heat's On Water's Off" event, providing free plumbing, heating and air conditioning inspections and repairs for low-income and disabled residents in Prince George's County.

With medical expenses escalating at an alarming rate each year, Local 5 sought to provide better, more affordable healthcare options, so we joined forces with 18 other local unions to form the Health Care Cost Containment Coalition, or H4Cs. By doing so, we were able to effectively negotiate with health insurance providers for access to a larger network, providing significant savings on premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for our members.

By the mid-1990s, the building trades recognized that lack of enforcement of the prevailing wage by the overburdened Department of Labor gave non-union contractors an unfair economic advantage. So unions pooled their resources to fund the Coalition for Fair Contracting, an independent investigative body that would turn their findings over to the Department of Labor, thereby increasing compliance.

As our membership increased, we soon outgrew our office at 12th & O Street. In 2000 we moved to our present location in Camp Springs, dedicating the building to Mike Collins. By 2001, Local 5 had successfully negotiated nine paid holidays into the collective bargaining agreement.

A New Century

Then, on September 11, 2001, the world changed. Not since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941 have the American people borne the full brunt of devastation on native soil. Nearly 3,000 perished in a series of four coordinated attacks by the terrorist group al-Qaeda. Hijackers flew two planes into the World Trade Center towers in New York City and another into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Passengers and crew on a fourth plane – believed to be headed for the White House or Capitol Building – struggled to regain control of the aircraft. It crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

Union workers from across the country were crucial in the recovery and rebuilding efforts at each crash site. As our brothers and sisters clamored over rubble at Ground Zero in New York, Local 5 members assisted with rebuilding the Pentagon, contributed to the 9/11 fund, and participated in blood drives and fundraising efforts to help victims. Some members chose to serve our country by joining the armed forces, fighting to protect our freedoms abroad.

Today, veterans returning home from tours in Iraq and Afghanistan face high unemployment, despite being highly disciplined and trainable individuals, and often have difficulty transitioning back into civilian life. To address this problem, along with the growing shortage of skilled workers in the construction industry, the United Association established the Veterans in Piping (VIP) program, which offers high-quality skills training and jobs in the pipe trades to active duty military personnel preparing to leave the service.

Participants enroll in accelerated 18-week courses and earn industry-recognized certifications as a part of their education. Upon graduation, VIPs gain direct entry into UA apprenticeship, leading to lifelong career opportunities. All training is paid for entirely by the UA and its industry partners at no cost to participants.

A similar program, Helmets to Hardhats, is a national nonprofit that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military service members with skilled training and



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.

MARGARET MEAD

quality career opportunities in the construction industry. These programs improve the lives of our veterans, their families, and shape our national economy.

The economy took another turn for the worse in 2008 when the housing bubble burst. Thanks to greedy and unscrupulous investors on Wall Street, the stock market crashed, leading to a dramatic spike in unemployment. In response to this global recession, membership voted to double our hourly contribution to the Target program, and froze wages in 2011 and 2012.

With families across the country struggling to make ends meet, Local 5 remains committed to serving the community through volunteer work and charitable fundraising. Each fall, Local 5 members volunteer in the annual "Heat's On Water's Off" event, providing free plumbing, heating and air conditioning inspections and repairs for low-income and disabled residents in Prince George's County. We also assist with fundraising efforts for Dollars Against Diabetes, the Ronald McDonald House, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and many other charitable organizations.

Securing Our Future

As we progress into the 21st century, we take with us the determination, the skills, and the pride with which we've built an honorable and impressive legacy and a strong foundation for the future.

Graduates of our apprenticeship program are the best-skilled, most qualified workers, bar none. Our superior training is what sets us apart from our non-union competitors, and our brand-new, 53,000-square-foot training facility will allow us to reduce class sizes for even more effective teaching and hands-on training. We'll be able to hold classes all year round, and offer training on the most cutting-edge green technologies.

Located at 5000 Forbes Blvd. in Lanham, Maryland, the building qualifies for Silver LEED certification, and includes an 8,000-square-foot welding shop, a rainwater harvesting system, a 100-kilowatt photovoltaic system, large classrooms and lab areas with room for future expansion.

Since the earliest days of the American labor movement, through times of both unfortunate hardship and hard-earned prosperity, we have striven to achieve the inseparable goals of bettering the life of not only our members, but all working people, while fostering the values and strengths of our country. We have fought when faced with no alternatives, sacrificed when

It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle-class security all bear the union label. -Barack Obama

necessary, and compromised when beneficial. It was the dedicated quality craftsmanship of our founders with which we have built not just a city, but our nation's capital. We are practitioners of what is perhaps the most under-appreciated profession in the world, but Author W. Hodding Carter said it best in his book, *Flushed: How the Plumber Saved Civilization*.

"Plumbing has always been what separates the developed from the undeveloped - from 5,000 years ago to today. Let there be no mistake. A clean modern water supply, working toilets, and environmentally safe sewage systems are what divide the successful from the unsuccessful, the comfortable from the uncomfortable, and the privileged from the unprivileged."

We're proud to have served, and hope to continue protecting the health of our nation's capital for many centuries to come.

To view more photos, please visit the Local 5 Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Local5Plumbers.



Wendy Rieger
Master of Ceremonies

Wendy Rieger anchors News4 at 5, the #1 newscast in Washington at 5 p.m.

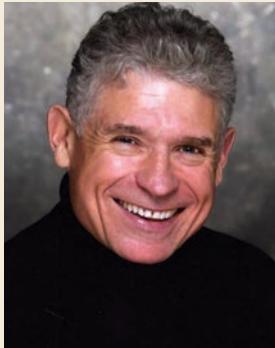
Rieger joined News4 in 1988 as a general assignment reporter, mostly covering breaking news for News4 at 11. She began anchoring the weekend evening newscasts in 1996, then News4 at 5 in 2001.

Before her career in television, Rieger's voice and writing style established her as a rising star in radio. A short tenure as a writer at WAMU, Washington's NPR station, led to a stint as host of Morning Edition. She later anchored newscasts for NPR and WTOP Radio. Her television career began at CNN's Washington Bureau.

In addition to anchoring, Rieger has established herself as a solid reporter. For many years, her Going Green segments were so popular that NBC stations across the country aired them during their newscasts and inspired a series on NBC Nightly News. The idea for this weekly segment came from a story Rieger did in 2005 about a woman who became allergic to her own house and the eco-friendly ways she found to counteract her reactions. In April 2008, Washingtonian magazine readers presented Rieger with one of its inaugural Green Awards in recognition of her dedication to "preserving our environment through education." Rieger has received three Emmy awards, including one for a special report she shot in Vietnam on home video twenty years after the war.

A native of Norfolk, Rieger graduated from American University with a degree in broadcast journalism. Her community involvement has spanned many local organizations, including those dedicated to fighting cancer, protecting animals and promoting human rights. She joined her NBC4 colleagues in participating in three D.C. AIDS Rides.

She and her two cats, Buddy and Rudy, divide their time between Washington and her Annapolis-area home.



John Riggins
Legacy Video Narrator

Nicknamed "Riggo" and "The Diesel," John Riggins is best known for his days as a hard-nosed running back for the Washington Redskins, where he signed as a free agent in 1976. He was used mostly in short-yardage situations in his first season and missed much of the 1977 season with a knee injury.

He eclipsed 1,000 yards rushing in 1978 and 1979 and played a significant role in the team's offense, but sat out 1980 over a contract dispute.

His most memorable performance came in Super Bowl XVII, for which he was named Most Valuable Player after rushing for 166 yards, including a spectacular 4th quarter game-winning 43-yard touchdown run to clinch the Redskins' 27-17 win over the Miami Dolphins.

Riggins still holds the NFL record for 38 carries in a Super Bowl and remains the all-time leading rusher for the Redskins. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Washington Redskins Ring of Fame in 1990.

Today, the Riggins travels the country as a sought-after corporate speaker, endorser and voice-over talent. John is a proud member of the NFL Players Association, the labor union that represents professional football players, and the Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA).



Radio King Orchestra

Radio King Orchestra isn't just another big band, it's a complete entertainment package - a fun and entertaining musical experience encompassing the rich sophistication of a 1940's New York Supper Club with the cool elegance and carefree nature of Frank Sinatra and the cherished Rat Pak. RKO's Fabulous Pincurl Girls (who are actually related) blend their voices beautifully just as Maxine, Laverne and Patty did - delighting audiences with their tight vocals, cute choreography and playful quirky antics. Imagine The Andrew Sisters, Bette Midler and Lucille Ball all mixed into one fabulous musical cocktail!

With an appeal that spans decades, fans from The Greatest Generation and Baby Boomers alike revel in the nostalgia of the music they heard growing up; and as RKO's fan base continues to grow globally, their mission to keep the legacy of this enchanting art form alive is being realized as younger listeners discover its "classy" musical style.



Free Spirit

Free Spirit is the #1 choice in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore areas for dance music, with a wide variety of tunes designed to keep your feet moving.

The key to a memorable wedding reception, corporate party, fundraiser, or political event is a band that brings a high-energy, customized set list, with great visual effects and crowd interaction. Free Spirit continues to meet these requirements, bringing crowd-pleasing tunes that make for a spectacular dance party. Free Spirit was voted into "America's Best Bands" two consecutive years in Modern Bride Magazine.



"Labor cannot stand still. It must not retreat. It must go on, or go under."

- HARRY BRIDGES

Congrats to Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5 on your 125th Anniversary.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve you, the membership, as an elected officer of the local. My gratitude always. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

- Jim Killeen



To the loyal office staff of Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5: our sincerest thanks for all your hard work and years of dedicated service to this organization. We couldn't do it without you!

Clockwise from lower left: Brenda Dom, Diane McCabe, Willa Joe, Debbie Davidson.



Roll Call

Knights of Labor Local Assembly 2079 Officers, 1887-1888

1887-1888

Master Workman: Charlie Barrick

Prior to November 1888

Master Workman: John Myers

Recording Secretary: George A. Crawford

Elected in November 1888

Master Workman: Michael J. Fennell

Worthy Foreman: August J. Kaised

Recording Secretary: George A. Crawford

Financial Secretary: J.C. Darrall

Treasurer: M.J. McCarthy

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| James Beachy | 1962 |
| Frank Blanch | 1968 |
| Edeline Rhodes, Sr. | 1971 |
| Robert Collins | 1974 |
| John Sollers | 1976 |
| James C. Spencer | 1986 |
| Charles Garity | 1989 |
| Kenneth J. Belford | 1993 |
| Thomas A. Chaisson | 1998 |
| James E. Killeen, III | 2004 |
| Jack D. Taylor | 2006 |
| Joseph P. Sellers | 2010 |
| Timothy T. Haley (current) | 2013 |

Business Manager

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| George A. Crawford | 1903 |
| John N. Barrett | 1903 |
| Thomas Foley | 1905 |
| Fred Kohler | 1909 |
| John A. McDonald | 1914 |
| Charles Broome | 1919 |
| John Fillius | 1928 |
| John McDonald | 1930 |
| John D. Fitzgerald | 1932 |
| Ernest Ott | 1939 |
| Bernard Downey | 1941 |
| John L. Mann | 1955 |
| Cecil E. Rhodes | 1958 |
| Samuel A. Armstrong | 1965 |

Plumbers Local 5 Officers, 1890-2015

Dates reflect the first election of an officer; some served more than one term though not always consecutively. Any omissions are due to the unavailability of pertinent records and are sincerely regretted.

President

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| J.F. Frawley | 1891 |
| M.J. McCarthy | 1899 |
| W.H. Merryman | 1909 |
| John A. McDonald | 1913 |
| Bernard A. Downey, Sr. | 1917 |
| John A. McCauley | 1933 |
| Robert Barrett | 1935 |
| Mark Moran | 1937 |
| Bernard A. Downey, Sr. | 1938 |
| J. Leo DeChard | 1940 |
| John D. Fitzgerald | 1949 |
| John Daly | 1951 |
| John Moran | 1956 |
| Cecil E. Rhodes | 1958 |
| George Peifer | 1958 |

Business Manager and Financial Secretary-Treasurer

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Michael A. Collins | 1976 |
| Robert S. Parker | 1985 |
| Andrew J. Blanch | 1989 |
| John E. McKee, Jr. | 1992 |
| James E. Killeen, III (current) | 2010 |



| | | |
|--|------|--|
| Assistant Business Manager | | |
| J. Leo DeChard | 1943 | Elmer E. Rhodes |
| Samuel A. Armstrong | 1964 | Philip J. Carter |
| Alexander B. Bell | 1965 | Recording Secretary |
| Frank Blanch, Jr. | 1971 | N.J. Plass |
| Michael A. Collins | 1974 | James S. O'Hagan |
| Robert S. Collins | 1976 | A.J. Tholl |
| Andrew J. Blanch | 1982 | H.C. Grimes |
| John McKee, Jr. | 1989 | Thomas Callahan |
| Charles William Garity | 1993 | W.H. Amiss |
| James E. Stacho | 2008 | C.E. Kalstrom |
| James E. Killeen, III | 2009 | Robert J. Barret |
| Jack D. Taylor (<i>current</i>) | 2010 | William Hunter |
| | | King DeLawder |
| | | W.J. Hickey |
| Business Representative/Organizer | | Donald C. Dow |
| Richard R. Johnson | 1964 | Edward O'Callaghan |
| James J. Meisinger | 1980 | Edward Horn |
| James J. Ebel | 2001 | Thomas A. Foley |
| James E. Killeen, III | 2005 | Charles Leo Marcellino, Jr. |
| Joseph I. Short (<i>current</i>) | 2010 | Edward F. Collins |
| | | John L. Mann |
| Financial Secretary-Treasurer | | Edeline B. Rhodes, Jr. |
| J. Carl Darnell | 1891 | Linwood Lyles |
| George A. Crawford | 1903 | Kurt Walter |
| J.T. Frawley | 1903 | Janice Boismenu (<i>current</i>) |
| Robert Gibbs | 1904 | |
| S.H. Simmons | 1905 | |
| James S. O'Hagan | 1908 | Secretary |
| W.H. Merryman | 1911 | <i>This designation refers to officers who are not specifically identified as either recording or financial secretaries.</i> |
| John A. McDonald | 1914 | |
| George W. Winburn | 1919 | |
| Richard T. Frye | 1920 | Richard A. O'Brien |
| Frank J. Morris | 1922 | James Callahan |
| John D. Fitzgerald | 1924 | James S. O'Hagan |
| W.H. Merchant | 1926 | W.H. Marsh |
| H. Padgett | 1927 | C. McGowan |
| Donald C. Dow | 1932 | M.J. McCarthy |
| W.A. Tucker | 1934 | A.E. Anderson |
| James L. DeChard | 1949 | W.H. Merryman |
| George H. Bliss, Jr. | 1953 | John A. McDonald |
| Edmund A. Fitzgerald | 1965 | |



Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5 Officers

Left to right: Percy O. Jackson, Christopher G. Biondi, Calvin J. Perry, C. William Garity, James E. Stacho, Cedrick H. Gooden, Michael J. Bell, Hamilton H. Riddell, James E. Killeen, III, Scott L. Caudill, Jack D. Taylor, Joseph I. Short, Michael R. McKenzie, Timothy T. Haley. Not pictured: Jeffry F. Guido, Janice M. Boismenu, Daniel L. Garrison.



Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5 Instructors

Front Row left to Right: Daniel Richardson, Joseph Sargent, Jonathan Killeen, Calvin Perry, Dave Sargent, Donald Johnson, Timothy Berry **Center Row left to Right:** John Brown, John Russell, Christopher Reed, Mario Gutierrez, Christopher Biondi, Mike McKenzie, Christopher Thompson, Joshua Pfeiffer, Gary Hezlep, Mario Reyes
Back Row left to Right: Thomas Buckley, Doug Printz, Hugh Riddell, Corey Johnson, Percy Jackson, Jamal Drumgold, Mark Uzarowski, Scott Caudill, Tim Haley **Not Pictured:** Richard Contic, Arthur Twilley, Mark Torres



First Year Apprentice Class

Allen Jr., Kevin M.
Arias, Angel A.
Arias-Rosales, Javier E.
Atchison, Tyrell K.
Bauer IV, Joseph C.
Benameur, Hocine
Bisaha, Heatherm
Blakeney, Howard L.
Blakney, Amadee P.
Boggs, Vincent J.
Bonilla, Yonis A.
Bullock Jr., Jerome
Caldwell, Jamaal V.
Chaney-Bey, James E.
Conley, Darrin A.
Cook, Derrick J.
Copeland, Denzel K.
Cruz Jr., Paul L.
Dawoud, Ibrahem W.
Diaz, Alvaro O.
Djouna, Albert
Dunn, Kevin J.
Dunn, Zachary P.
Dwyer, Paul A.
Frazier, Griffin M.
Furrow, Dylan P.
Gatachew, Elias
Gayles, Lendwood W.
Green, Coley J.
Gross-Lee, Glenn E.
Grove, Ryan N.
Haggins, Daren A.
Haile, Markos
Hall III, Thomas R.
Hall, Tyrus L.
Hammett, Troy A.
Hawkins, Jozef W.
Hazen, Curtis M.

Hernandez, Jason A.
Hubbard II Darryl A.
Ingram, Kelley L.
Isley, Allen M.
Johnson II, Donald E.
Johnson, Demetrius R.
Jones II, Gregory R.
Jones, Darwin
Jordan, William P.
Kimble, Michael S.
Koplow, Charles A.
Kunzi, James Lee
Lam, Curt N.
Laumann Jr, Brian J.
Lawrence, David M.
Lindner, Ryan C.
Little, Michael J.
Marlow, Aaron D.
Mccoy, Brian C.
McKee, Wayne K.
Moody, Joshua A.
Morrill, Derek E.
Moses, Mashad D.
Olmstead, Jacob L.
Olson, Stanley P.
Patterson III, James H.
Peeples, Raemon D.
Pesature, Jeffrey S.
Rimaihi, Jamaal B.
Robinson, Kevin M.
Rodriguez, Luis C.
Roemer, Glenn M.
Row, Johnathan L.
Shepard, Donate I.
Smith, Ausura J.
Smith, Derrick
Sorrells, Shane R.
Stevenson, Markus N.
Tapp, Derron A.

Tassa, Ougadja D.
Taylor, Charles W.
Vermillion, Clayton W.
Walker, Brandon W.
Walter, Joseph J.
Whittington Jr., Robert J.
Wilson, Eliot J.
Young, Barod D.
Zuech, Philip A.

Second Year Apprentice Class

Beavers III, Joseph P.
Bethea, Kerry M.
Blanch, John P.
Bobbitt, Brandon A.
Brady, Andrew R.
Caspar, Grant C.
Clagett, Charles B.
Commodore, Brandon K.
Cross, Andrew W.
Dove, Robert J.
Fidder, William A.
Gebru, Abreham A.
Gooding, Victor E.
Harrington, Donte' M.
Hayes, Jacob T.
Heid, Jeffrey M.
Honeycutt, Andrew T.
Horn, Shane M.
Jackson, Reginald J.
Jordan, Ryan M.
Layne, Cleveland T.
Lewis, Eric C.
Lowery, Cullen T.
Lowery, Mitchell J.
Marshall, Lance D.
Menendez, Alexander
Nichols, Donald E.
Pigford, Kenneth L.



Pitcher, Jesse J.
Richards, Brendon J.
Riddell, Ryan H.
Rodgers, Edmond J.
Sardo, Thomas A.
Sargent, Ryan M.
Savoy, Anthony M.
Scott, Darryl D.
Sims, James E.
Sines Jr., Gerald J.
Solomon, Michael J.
Szabo, Lucas W.
Tereda, Andamlak A.
Washington, Marquette D.
Wiblitzouser, Andrew S.
Woody, Paul L.
Zigler, Darrick A.

Third Year Apprentice Class

Barnes, Stephan M.
Beavers, Matthew L.
Bell, Anthony R.
Bennett, William E.
Berry, David M.
Boston II, Troy M.
Burk, Sean N.
Canales Jr., Michael S.
Clarke, Shawn M.
Dougherty, Bradley W.
Droter, Kevin S.
Felder, Jonathan M.
Floyd Andre' O.
Foresta, Jason A.
Garrow, Michael C.
Hammond, Levernon
Hansom, Robel T.
Harrison, Marcus L.
Hume, Christopher D.
Jones, Brandon M.

Kesete, Yohannes W.
Lyon, Princeton S.
Marchant, Landon A.
Michaelson, Benjamin A.
Moore, Parries M.
Muhammad, Aaron S.
Okocha, Godwin C.
Plitt, Michael R.
Podturkin, Max G.
Potts, Nathaniel W.
Scott, Ronald J.
Short, Timothy D.
Stanley, Deontae L.
Strickland, Garreth C.
Stylos, Perry E.
Tyler, Shanon A.
Wright Jr., Olanda C.
Young, Lawrence D.

Fourth Year Apprentice Class

Abdullah, Daud H.
Ayres, Clint T.
Banks, Stephen A.
Belachew, Abiy N.
Boone, Keith A.
Brengle, Zachary D.
Brown Jr., Gerald L.
Brown, Sean D.
Brown-Bey, Amefika
Castle, Michael T.
Collins, Anthony F.
Dean, Richard C.
Deleaver, Kedric A.
Deoudes, Christophor G.
Edwards, Justin E.
El'rasheed Jr., Mohammed A.
Ford, Rayshaud W.
Glavov, Margarit I.
Hardin, James A.
Johnson, Leon

Jorgensen Jr., Wayne R.
Kellman, Romel L.
Kyser, Ty P.
Lindo, Oshane K.
McElravy, Aaron M.
Porter, Derek L.
Proctor, Marcus E.
Reed, Cody
Shorts, Latrice D.
South, James R.
Sumlin, Pernell J.
Swing, Michael C.
Waddy II, Anthony O.
Wood Jr., Antoinne J.
Wright, Christopher L.

Fifth Year Apprentice Class

Behnam, Zaid K.
Bolen, Wesley B.
Curtis, Brian M.
Delborrell, John K.
Gill Jr., Christopher
Jackson, Devon J.
Johnson, Marcus R.
Kelly, Frank J.
Land, Michael A.
Lovelock, Brian E.
McDonald, Kenneth W.
Michals, Shannon J.
Russell, Conrad L.
Serans, Jose A.
Snyder, David P.
Suhovy, Jeromie A.
Watson, Timothy E.
Windsor III, Richard T.
Wolfe, Kwame K.



New Training Facility



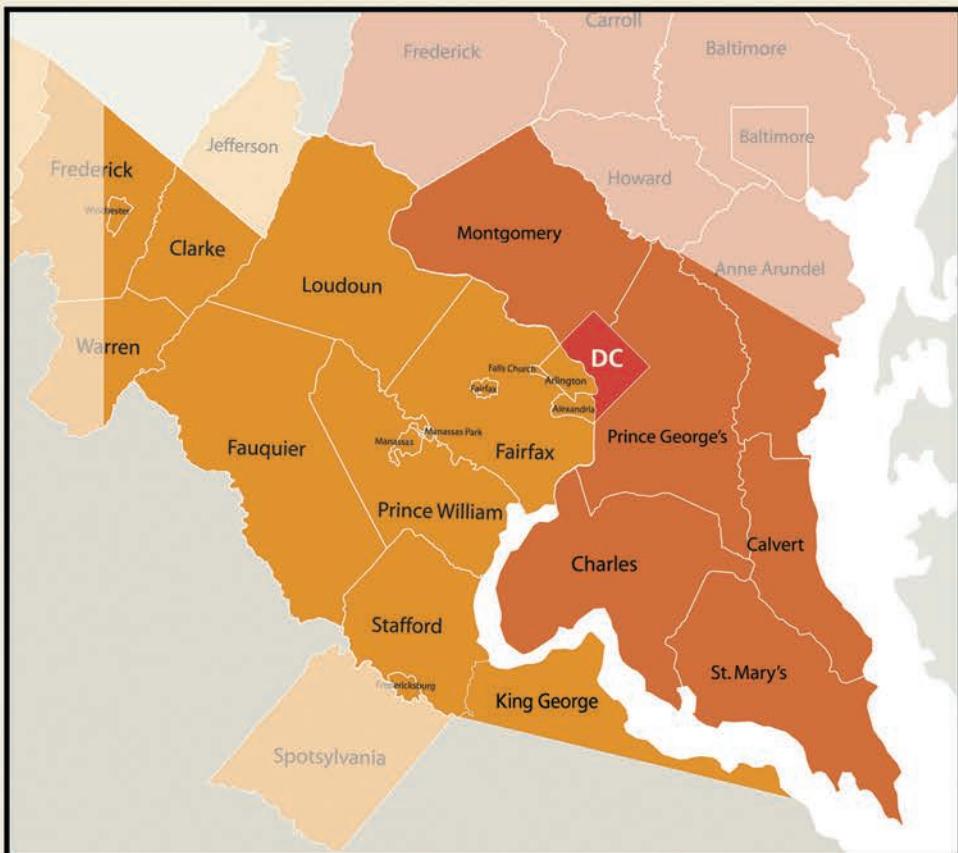
Graduates of our apprenticeship program are the best-skilled, most qualified workers, bar none. Our superior training is what sets us apart from our non-union competitors, and our brand-new, 53,000-square-foot training facility will allow us to reduce class sizes for even more effective teaching and hands-on instruction.

We'll be able to hold classes all year round, and offer training on the most cutting-edge green technologies. Located at 5000 Forbes Blvd. in Lanham, Maryland, the building qualifies for Silver LEED certification, and features a state-of-the-art rainwater harvesting system and a 100-kilowatt photo-voltaic system. It includes an 8,000-square-foot welding shop, large classrooms and lab areas with room for future expansion.





Jurisdiction of UA Local 5



SHOUTOUTS!

Plumbers Local 5 - You are the greatest! I'm so proud to be a 50+ year member in this organization.

KENNETH BELFORD, 50+ MEMBER

A special thank you to my dear friends George Bliss and the late Michael A. Collins and Harvey Bowen.

DENVERT BONEY, 50+ MEMBER

In memory of my father, George A. Peifer, President of Local 5, who is smiling with us in spirit.

GEORGE A. PEIFER, JR., 50+ MEMBER

Congratulations Local 5 on your 125th year anniversary! We are honored to share your celebration and success.

OFFICERS, STAFF AND MEMBERS OF UA PIPEFITTERS LOCAL UNION 208

The Office Staff of Plumbers Local 5 is proud to celebrate its 125th Anniversary!

WILLA, DEBBIE, BRENDA, AND DIANE



Plumbers & Gasfitters Local Union 5
5891 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, Maryland 20746

301-899-7861
www.local5plumbers.org