



# 32 Connections

## UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 32

PLUMBERS • PIPEFITTERS • METAL TRADES • REFRIGERATION • HVAC • PIPELINE • GAS DISTRIBUTION

### 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



# 32 Connections

## UA Local 32

### Agents and Organizers

Business Manager / Financial Secretary  
Jeffery J. Owen

Dispatcher / Assistant Business Manager  
Ryan Miller

Plumber Agent  
Mike Kunkel

Plumber Agent  
Corey Wilker

Steamfitter / Welder / Shipyards Agent  
TJ Riordan

Refrigeration / HVAC Agent  
Joel Crabtree

PSE / Municipalities Agent  
Troy Shopin

Mainline / Gas Distribution Agent  
Michael Whaley

Organizer  
Brad Moore

Organizer  
Zachary T. Smith

Organizer  
Chris Hawes

Organizer  
Antonio Cruz

Business Development Specialist  
Kurt Swanson



**Seattle Plumbers and Pipefitters  
United Association Local 32**  
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Renton, WA 98057  
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[www.facebook.com/local32](https://www.facebook.com/local32)  
Instagram: @ua\_local\_32

**Main Office Phone Number:**  
425-277-6680  
**Main Office Fax Number:**  
425-277-7370

Union meetings are the 2nd Thursday of  
every month at 5pm.

Have an article you would like to  
submit? Please contact Tamarra Henley  
by email: [tamarra@ualocal32.com](mailto:tamarra@ualocal32.com) or call:  
425-277-6680.

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# BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

By Jeffery J. Owen

## UA LOCAL 32 OFFICERS

- President - Eric Gilbreath
- Vice President - Mike Alvarado

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- Collin Greene
- James Hughes
- Juan Morfin
- Marisa Spencer
- Jeremy Sandor, Recording Secretary

Brothers and Sisters: **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

I will start this New Year Article with an easily recognizable quote: "The more things change the more they stay the same." We continue to move forward with the opportunities our industry affords us. Although we are still busy and our out of work list has been empty for most of the year, we do, and will, face employment challenges in the coming year. With the Federal Reserve Bank intent on getting inflation under control by raising interest rates, more and more scheduled work is now either on hold or has been cancelled.

I want to congratulate and thank the membership, and everyone who participated in helping to ensure the ongoing success of Local 32 in the past year. We are just about back to our pre-pandemic "normal". We successfully held our regular Local Union events in 2022: Our annual Old Timers event, Apprentice Dinner, and Christmas dinner, both here



and in Wenatchee were a tremendous success.

The overall health of our Local Union is strong, and we are maintaining our growth through our apprenticeship and organizing. The work that our Training Department has done over the last two years, adopting and implementing the block training model, has allowed us to reach approximately 600 apprentices in the program.

Our State and Local Organizing Departments operated a highly successful statewide Blitz campaign during the month of September, which included a Recruitment Open House at the Local 32 Union Hall. Technology played a huge role in the planning and strategy of the Organizing Blitz. This leads me to mention the importance of technology in our industry. Our collective future is dependent on harnessing technology in the workplace; let's do what we can to make the changes work for us and not against us.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Executive Board Member Marisa Spencer for being named the 2022 Washington State Trades Woman of the Year on November 5th, 2022. She continues to be an example in the field by her leadership, consistency and dedication





to our trade and the Local Union. Marisa, along with 17 other Journeymen, attended the Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference in Las Vegas at the end of October. The conference was addressed by both the United Association's General President Mark McManus, and the President of the North American Building Trades Union, who spoke on the importance of equality, opportunity, and leadership in the trades.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Local 32 Golf Tournament in August. This was the first time the tournament was held at Washington National Golf Course. It was a huge success! We were able to continue our annual giving to the Retired Seniors and Veterans Program (RSVP) to benefit North Central Washington (Wenatchee Area) Retirees. We have partnered with



this Organization since 2014, thanks to the direction of current retiree Buster Ercanbrack. Through our golf tournament proceeds we have contributed \$40,000 to date. We are extremely proud to continue our relationship with the RSVP Organization.

### Wage Allocations:

- Building Trades Plumbers and Steam Fitters: January 1st, 2023
  - \$1.00 to the check
- Refrigeration Journeyman Wage Allocation \$1.00 October 1st, 2022
  - \$1.00 to the check

### Gas Distribution Agreement Negotiations

We concluded the Washington State Gas Distribution Agreement on December 12th with a four (4) year agreement that will provide an 18.5% increase over the life of the contract. We were also successful with important language changes, which will be beneficial to the industry long term.

The wage allocation vote took place on December 14th, 2022 at that time \$3.23 was allocated to the check.

It is the intent in 2023 to finalize the planning and design of a Gas Distribution and Mainline Training Facility in the City of Pacific.

### The Year Ahead

Building Trades Agreement - The current Labor Management Agreement along with Appendix I expires May 31st, and Appendix II expires on September 30th, 2023. After our last wage allocation at the December Union meeting, we discussed preparations for these negotiations and the survey that will be distributed after the January Union Meeting. As a reminder, the Negotiations Committee is comprised of the Building Trades Agents, and the President, and Vice President, as per the Local Union by-laws.

City of Seattle - Negotiations are ongoing, having begun over a year ago. The city has not shown a willingness to bargain to the demands of the members and the agreement has been voted down twice.

### In Conclusion

Our industry is in transition as more members are preparing for retirement, and the leadership within Local 32 is no different. As I mentioned at the start of this article, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." While change may come, the essential strength of our Local is in our commitment to union values. Importantly, our Collective Bargaining Agreements remains the backbone of our success. However, it has been my experience that success requires good leaders. Often, those leaders take the blame and get little of the credit. It is important to acknowledge that leadership requires three (3) things to be successful: Intelligence, Initiative, and Integrity. The last of these is the most important, requiring that leaders admit their mistakes, build trust in others, and minimize lost time to keep the organization moving forward. Our Local Union is financially sound, and we are well prepared for what may come our way. We are fortunate to have strong leadership in place with our business agents, all of whom represent our members daily in the field, through collective bargaining enforcement, with common sense, and integrity.

We look forward to seeing you on the jobsites and union meetings.

Please follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts - we will make posts as information becomes available. You can reach us at (425) 277-6680.

Fraternally,

**Jeffery J. Owen**  
Business Manager, Local 32

# HEALTH PLAN REPORT

We held four Trustee meetings in 2022, March 28th, and June 21st, 2022, September 20th, and December 13th, 2022.

- Labor Trustees are Jeffery J. Owen (Chairman), Mike Kunkel, and Joel Crabtree.
- The Management Trustees are Ed Kommers (Secretary), newly appointed Rory Olson, and Pat Damitio.

Plan participants in March were 8,466, in June 2022 we had 8,526, and October 2022 there were 8,526 plan participants.

As of September 30, 2022, the Trust's unallocated assets totaled \$40.2 million (cost basis), approximately 8.3 months of projected expenses. On a market value basis, unallocated reserves totaled \$38.6 million, approximately 8.0 months of projected expenses. The cost basis of assets on September 30, 2022 exceeded the market value by \$1.6 million.

## Health Plan Review Current Period

1. Active/self-pay eligibility increased 1.9% and retiree eligibility increased 2.7%, when compared to the prior period.
2. 4.7 million hours were reported to the Trust for the 12-months ending October 2022 eligibility, a 1.1% decrease from the prior period.

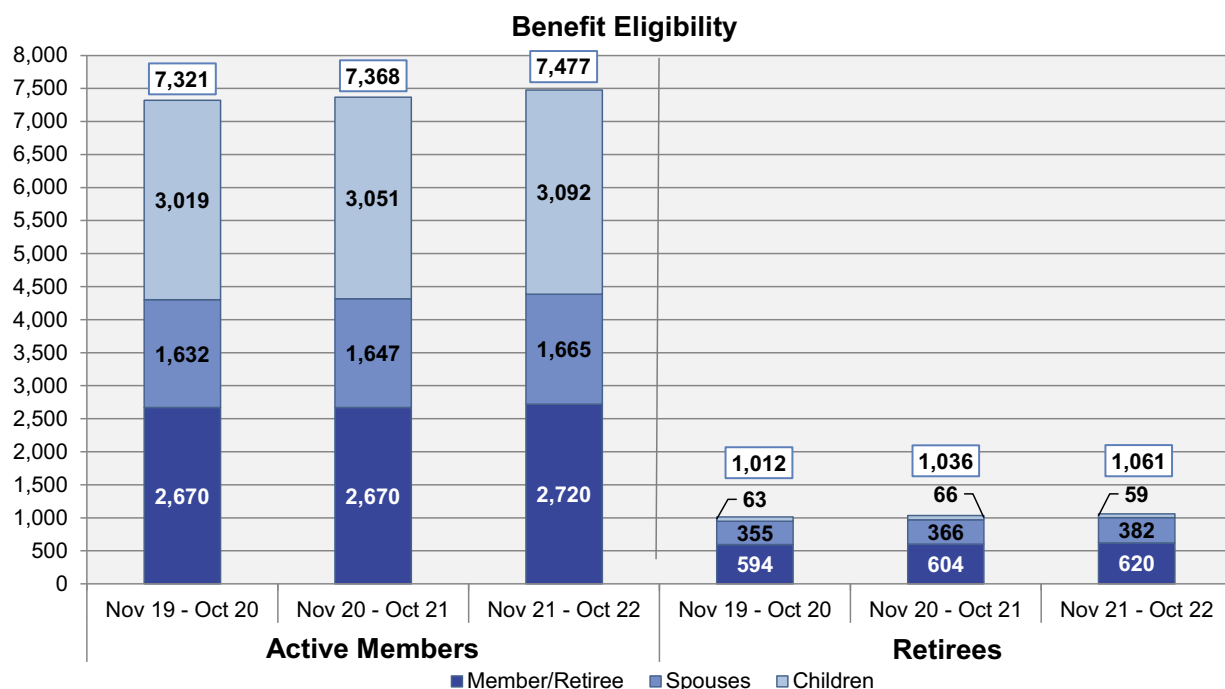
3. Excluding \$151,000 in claims reimbursable to the Trust under the stop-loss contract, net self-funded paid claims totaled \$48.7 million, or 100.6% of the expected amount.
4. After adjusting for changes in Trust liabilities and audit adjustments, the 12-month net gain to unallocated reserves totaled approximately \$3.5 million on an asset cost basis. On an asset market value basis, unallocated reserves decreased \$1.9 million.

## Eligibility

The number of active and self-pay members eligible during the last 12 months (November 2021 - October 2022):

- 2,720 active and self-pay members on average were eligible each month, an increase of 1.9 % compared to the prior 12 months.
- An average of 1,665 spouses and 3,092 children were eligible for benefits each month.
- An average of 1,002 retiree individuals were eligible each month.
- An average of 597 members, or 22.0% of the active group, elected medical/Rx benefits through Kaiser.

The chart below shows average eligibility over the most recent 36 months by member/retiree, spouses, and children





# HEALTH PLAN REPORT

**Retiree eligibility** by Medicare status and marital status, is summarized below.

During the last 12 months (November 2021 - October 2022):

- An average of 620 retirees/surviving spouses were eligible for benefits each month, an increase of 2.7 % over the prior year.
- An average of 55 retirees/surviving spouses, 8.9% of the total, elected coverage through Kaiser.
- An average of 1,002 total retired individuals (retirees and spouses), were covered during the last 12 months. Of the total, 733 were eligible for Medicare and 269 were not Medicare eligible.
- There was an average of 59 children of retirees covered during the last 12 months.

## Hours

During the most recent 12 months ending August 2022 hours worked, October 2022 eligibility, a total of 4,680,978 hours were reported to the Trust. This was a 1.1% decrease over the total hours reported in the prior 12 months.

## Financial Operations

The Trust's income and expenses for the last 12 months (October 2021 - September 2022): During this 12 month period, approximately \$55.4 million in income was received and \$57.4 million in expenses were paid, resulting in an operating loss of \$2 million.

## Assets, Liabilities, and Trust Reserves

The Trust's income, expenses, assets, and liabilities, as reported by the administrator, are as follows. As of September 30, 2022, the Trust had total assets of approximately \$60.2 million (unaudited cost basis). Subtracting liabilities of \$20.1 million leaves unallocated assets of \$40.2 million-, or 8.3-months of 2022/23 projected expenses on a cost basis.

## Mental Health

Mental health isn't a subject for us to ignore. We all have struggles, and it's okay to admit when we need help.

The events over the last three years have caused many workers, and/or our family members to struggle with issues of grief, financial strain, anxiety, and isolation. Mental health providers have reported a 2,000% increase in workers accessing telehealth care between 2020 and 2021.

## CONTRIBUTION HISTORY RATES

Effective With Hours Worked	Commercial	Residential
January 2023		
January 2022	\$9.46/hr.*	\$9.46/hr.*
June 2014	\$9.01/hr.*	\$9.01/hr.*
January 2014	\$8.66/hr.*	\$8.66/hr.*
June 2013	\$8.46/hr.*	\$8.46/hr.*
January 2013	\$8.36/hr.*	\$8.36/hr.*
January 2011	\$8.16/hr.*	\$8.16/hr.*
June 2010		\$7.96/hr.*
January 2010	\$7.96/hr.*	
June 2009	\$7.66/hr.*	\$7.66/hr.*
January 2009	\$7.46/hr.*	
July 2007		\$7.26/hr.*
June 2007	\$7.26/hr.*	
January 2007	\$7.16/hr.*	
July 2006		\$7.06/hr.*
January 2006	\$7.06/hr.*	
July 2005		\$6.70/hr.
June 2005	\$6.70/hr.*	

\*\$0.06/hr. used for drug testing program

Around the holidays one of my family's traditions is to watch an old Disney movie - Pollyanna. I appreciate the movie for its intent: the main character, Polly, is always looking for the good in people. She reminds me that our words have power. They can be uplifting, reassuring, or they can be a total buzzkill. Words can have a tremendous impact on how we feel. As we live through the struggles that life gives us, we should all try to look for the good in people and lend a helping hand or healing word to those in need - even ourselves.

Please utilize the resources that our health plan provides such as the EAP. You can reach them at (800)-777-4114 and or FirstChoiceEAP.com Username: local32

Faternally,

**Jeffery J. Owen**  
Business Manager, Local 32



# No-cost, flexible healthcare

For Local 32 members

[go.verawholehealth.com/local32](https://go.verawholehealth.com/local32)



# Convenient care, when you need it



Medical care can be expensive—especially if you go to the ER or urgent care. Fortunately, you have your Vera Whole Health benefit through your Local 32 membership.

When you're sick, hurt, or something's just not right, we're here for you—thanks to part of your monthly union fees going toward quality, flexible primary care for you and your family.



### In-person care

Visit any of our care centers in King County or Snohomish County for check-ups, acute care, sick visits, immunizations, bloodwork, well-person visits, and behavioral health support—all in one place and at no cost to you.



### Virtual care

Can't make it to the clinic? We offer appointments online or over the phone and can usually see you for acute needs the same or next day.



### Providers who really listen

Your appointment time is yours to use as you see fit. Talk through your symptoms, ask a list of questions, or just get some quick advice—no topic is off the table.

## We care for kids too!

Having trouble getting an appointment with your child's regular doctor? We provide sick and acute care virtually or in-person at our Fort Dent Tukwila Care Center for kids ages two and older (all other locations see kids ages three and older).

## When we say “no charge” we mean it



Deductible	No charge
Primary care	No charge
Immunizations	No charge
Lab work	No charge
Physicals and health screenings	No charge
Common Prescriptions	No charge when filled at Vera's on-site dispensery



**We're here to coach and guide you through the challenges in your life. Call your EAP—we can help!**

**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE  
SUPPORT FOR:**

- Anxiety and Depression
- Couples/Relationship/  
Parenting
- Crisis Support
- Alcohol/Drug Problems
- Grief and Loss
- Work Conflict
- Compulsive Behaviors
- Domestic Violence
- Legal and Financial
- Childcare and Eldercare
- Home Ownership
- ID Theft
- Healthy Living Tips

**CONTACT US**

*Your free and confidential EAP is  
always available to assist you!*

**(800) 777-4114**  
**FirstChoiceEAP.com**

Your company's complimentary EAP program is available 24/7 and covers employees, spouses, domestic partners, and children up to age 26. The EAP is here to help when you're facing issues that interfere with your health, well-being, and productivity at home or at work.

The EAP offers up to **3 sessions face-to-face or telehealth** (no co-pay, deductible, or premium) with a qualified clinical expert who can assess your concerns and develop a plan of action. If you need a legal\* or financial consultation, or ID theft resolution, you can speak with an expert for up to 30 minutes at no charge. EAP consultants can also provide you with childcare and eldercare information and resources for anywhere in the country. Additionally, the Home Ownership program is a valuable tool to gain a competitive edge as a buyer, and can save you thousands when buying or selling a home.

Simply call us at (800) 777-4114 or visit our website to request an appointment.

**FREE / CONFIDENTIAL / AVAILABLE 24/7**

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**Online Tools & Resources**

Login [www.FirstChoiceEAP.com](http://www.FirstChoiceEAP.com)

**Username: local32**

*Mobile-friendly searchable database of resources, healthy tips and recipes, parenting advice, legal forms, and more.*



# Employee Assistance Program

## WELLNESS & SUPPORT

### Guide to Your EAP Program

#### Who is covered by the EAP?

You, your spouse/domestic partner and your children up to age 26 are covered by our EAP services. Your EAP services are at no cost and are strictly confidential.

#### How do my family members or I request EAP services?

You can request services in two ways. Call us at **1-800-777-4114** or go to the EAP website at [www.firstchoiceEAP.com](http://www.firstchoiceEAP.com). There is a link to "Request a Referral." Complete the questions and it will be forwarded to EAP staff member who will process your request. Please let the EAP know if you have any special preferences in the type of provider you would like to see.

For your covered family members to access EAP services, they only need to tell us the name of the organization where their family member is employed and we will serve them. They do not have to tell us the name of the employee and we do not ask. Their EAP services are also strictly confidential.

#### What services are available from the EAP?

In addition to counseling services, the EAP provides legal and financial consultations, ID theft and fraud support, childcare and eldercare consultations, and home ownership assistance. Details of these programs can be found in your EAP brochure and plan summary.

#### How do we get connected to a EAP provider?

After you reach out with your preferences, our customer service team will work hard to match you with the provider that best meets your needs. Once matched, the provider will contact you directly to schedule your appointment.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with your EAP provider, please let us know after your first session and we will re-refer you to a different EAP provider. This will not count against your sessions.

#### Do I have to see the EAP provider face-to-face?

You can see your EAP provider either face-to-face or virtually. Your first face-to-face or virtual counseling sessions are provided no cost.

Virtual counseling sessions can be used in four ways (unscheduled chat, live chat, phone call, or video), using different methods at different times to communicate with your therapist, based on your needs, availability, and convenience.

Missed appointments or late cancellations will count as service usage.

#### What if I want to talk with someone immediately?

Immediate in-the-moment telephonic support with a counselor is available 24/7. All you need to do is request to talk with a counselor when you call. Accessing this telephonic support does not apply toward your free EAP sessions and is also 100% confidential.

**Ready to start? Call (800) 777-4114 or request a referral online at [www.firstchoiceEAP.com](http://www.firstchoiceEAP.com).**

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**(800) 777-4114**



**[www.FirstChoiceEAP.com](http://www.FirstChoiceEAP.com)**

*Your EAP service is free, confidential and available 24/7 to help you balance your work, family, and personal life.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN REPORT

Invest in your future retirement. Over the past 20 years the markets have averaged a return of 9.6%. If you missed 30 of those 7,300 days your return would have been flat. Invest for the long term be disciplined in your approach. With the options we have within our Milliman 401k/Supplemental Pension we have the means to plan for the long term, implement a financial plan, and retire have met our goals. Please investigate those tools and make a plan for your retirement.

We had four Supplemental Plan Trustee Meetings in 2022, March 1st, May 24th, August 30th, and November 15th.

- Labor trustees are Jeffery J. Owen (Chairman), Todd Taylor Business Manager Local 26, and Ryan Miller of Local 32
- Management Trustees: Jeff White (Secretary), Stacy Johnson, and Robin Cowper
- There are 5,893 participants from Local Unions 26, 32 and 44
- The average age in the plan is 44 years old.
- The overall balance in the plan as of September 30th, 2022: \$431,781,750.00
- Don't forget to update your beneficiary information. 64% of us have yet to log on to the Milliman website to see our balances. Use this as a reminder to register.

### Local 32 members specific report

- We have doubled our personal participation rate into our supplemental plan in one year to an all-time high of 36.8%. Congratulations!
- 42.2% of us have signed up for web registration and 79.9% have a beneficiary on file.
- Average age of Local 32 members in the plan is 43.
- Local 32 balances are over \$287 million.

### 2023 Contribution Amounts Increase:

Please use the form on the facing page, or contact the business office to receive a copy of this form, to make additional voluntary self-contributions to your 401k account. This form allows you to indicate the hourly amount you wish your employer to deduct from your wages in order to self-contribute to your Supplemental Pension Plan voluntary account.

The annual self-contributions to your Voluntary Account must not exceed the limits set each year by the I.R.S. (In 2023, the limit is \$22,500. If you are age 50 or older, you may elect to contribute an additional for catch up purposes in the amount of \$7,500 for a total of \$30,000). If your contribution exceeds the maximum allowed by law, any excess will be returned to you. You are responsible for keeping track of the ongoing total of your contributions to the Plan and whether your contributions are over the proscribed limits.

### State Pension Plan

We had four (4) State Pension meetings in 2022. January 31st, April 19th, July 19th, and November 7th

- Labor Trustees; Jeffery J. Owen (Chairman), Todd Taylor (Local 26,) Nick Bumpaous (Local 598), and Brett Wideman (Local 44)
- Management Trustees: Ed Kommers, (Secretary) Trey Bland, Matt Campbell, and Whitney Bendewald

Our State Pension continues to improve its funding status. The plan is working as designed, decreasing in liability, and is well over 108% funded as of January 1st, 2022.

Fraternally,

**Jeffery J. Owen**

Business Manager, Local 32



# Western Washington U.A. Supplemental Pension Plan

## Voluntary Pre-Tax and Roth 401(k) Contribution Form

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Social Security Number	Date of Birth
Street Address			City	State Zip
Daytime Telephone #		Cell Phone #	Home Phone #	
Employer			Phone #	

### Contribution Amount:

Please fill in below the hourly rate at which you wish your employer to deduct from your wages and contribute to your Supplemental Pension Plan Voluntary account in Section 1 and Section 2. If you are age 50 or older, you may elect to contribute an additional specific hourly rate for catch up purposes (e.g., \$0.50/hour, \$12.50/hour, etc.). The annual contribution to your Voluntary Account **must not exceed the limits set each year by the I.R.S. (in 2023, \$22,500 plus \$7,500 "catch up" for a total of \$30,000)**. If your contribution exceeds the maximum allowed by law, any excess will be returned to you. You are responsible for keeping track of the ongoing total of your contributions to the Plan and whether your contributions are over the prescribed limits.

#### 1. Voluntary Contribution

- ☐ I elect to make a Pre-Tax contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour
- ☐ I elect to make a Roth contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour

#### 2. Catch Up Contribution

- ☐ I elect to make a Pre-Tax contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour
- ☐ I elect to make a Roth contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hour

This contribution will be effective as soon as received and processed by your employer. This contribution must be accounted for separately from your negotiated fringe benefit contribution. You may cancel your contribution at any time. Changes to increase or decrease your Voluntary Contribution Rate may be made any time and will become effective as soon as administratively feasible.

### Authorization:

By signing below, I hereby authorize my employer to deduct contributions at the above rate per hour from my wages to be deposited in my 401(k) Account in accordance with Plan rules. *This form must be returned to your employer to take effect.*

Employee's Signature	Effective Date
Date Signed	

### EMPLOYERS:

If you have questions, contact Milliman Service Center at (800) 481-7336  
Reference Plan Code 121WWP.



## RETIREMENT PLANNING



Did you know we are offering Finance classes to assist our members in savings, understand how their state and national pension plans work, the value of investing in their 401(k), and an overall finance savings plan for you and your family? The classes are held in the evenings, and you are encouraged to bring your spouse. A separate financial advisor is present at every session. Check our newsletters and email blasts, or call your business agent or the office for information.

### Retirement and Benefit Plans

#### **SAVE THE DATE** **March 25, 2023**

Are you considering retirement in 2023 or the next few years?

Our plan consultants from our respective plans have all agreed to participate.

- National Pension
- Washington State Pension
- 401(k) or supplemental plans
- Retiree Medical Plans review

Please contact the business office and reserve your seat. Please bring your spouse.

If you are considering retirement this year, and many of you are, as of this writing we have over (225) members working and over 60 years of age.

Our retirement planning classes for you and your spouse are a great resource as you prepare for the next step of life. If you can't make the March class due to your schedule you can attend the November 2023 class normally the first Saturday in November.

- In 2022 we were able to have (5) classes, and we are planning more classes in 2023.
- As of this writing over 70 members retired in 2022.

Congratulations to all our NEW RETIREES!

If at any time you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Retirement Benefit Specialist, Julie Pock in the Business Office at (425) 277-6680.





# ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER/ DISPATCHER REPORT

By Ryan Miller

Brothers and Sisters:

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that 2022 is in the books. Recapping the 2021-22 fiscal year, Local 32 members

worked 4,470,608 hours. This makes five consecutive years of 4 million plus labor hours – something Local 32 has not previously accomplished in our history. So far, the first half of the 2022-23 fiscal year is on a similar pace with 1,920,086 hours as of December 1, 2022.

The work outlook for 2023 will be somewhat different than the extremely busy past year since we have seen many projects canceled or delayed. This is a big change from this past mid-summer when we had multiple open work orders. Though we are ending the year with a minimal out-of-work list, moving into the new year we should prepare ourselves for a potential slowdown. However, not all forecasts are negative. There are some projections which, if accurate, could keep us at (or near) full membership employment if they hold to current schedules. Light Commercial/ Residential work will continue to ramp up through spring, getting progressively busier through summer, giving members the opportunity to work in residential 5 over 2's.

## 2023 SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION CHANGES

Retirement savers are eligible to self-contribute \$2,000 more into their 401(k) plan next year. The 401(k) contribution limit will increase to \$22,500 in 2023. Some of the income limits for 401(k) plans will also increase.

Here's how the 401(k) plan limits will change in 2023:

- The 401(k) self-contribution limit is \$22,500 for age 50 and less
- The 401(k) catch-up contribution limit is \$7,500 (total limit of \$30,000 for those age 50 and older)

Pay attention to these new 401(k) rules when making retirement savings decisions for 2023. Update your Voluntary Contribution form (see page 11) with your employer if you chose

to change your self-contribution amounts to take into consideration the new limits.

## TRAVELERS (AS OF DECEMBER 2022)

We currently still have travelers working in the jurisdiction, though the number has drastically decreased in the past four months to the numbers listed:

### Plumbers

Dispatched – 10  
Freedom of Movement – 43

### Fitters

Dispatched – 64  
Freedom of Movement – 22  
Shipyards – 8

## TRAINING

I encourage you to take advantage of the training that the JATC has to offer. We are only able to protect our market share and wages by making sure we are the best! With large project's start dates sliding, in addition to project cancelations, contractors may start to look hard at different markets of work to pursue. We need to make sure our members are prepared for types of work that require specialties such as laboratory, medical research facilities, hospitals, etc. Medical gas should be a prime focus with two large hospital expansion projects on the horizon. You can find a training schedule at [www.seattleareapipetrades.org](http://www.seattleareapipetrades.org).

## EVENTS

Special thanks to the 2022 Christmas Party Committee and the members who took part in the Local 32 tradition of our December Union Meeting and Christmas Party. It is always a great time for the membership to come together to celebrate the year's accomplishments. I would also like to extend appreciation to those who attended the Retiree Christmas Party. Both of these events prove that we are united as a Brother/Sisterhood!

Be safe in the New Year.

**Ryan Miller**

Assistant Business Manager/Dispatcher



# PLUMBERS' AGENT REPORT

By Mike Kunkel

Brothers and Sisters,  
Happy New Year to you and your families. As we leave 2022 in the rear-view mirror and take on 2023, I am looking forward to a great year. This is

a great time to make some personal goals, not resolutions, for this year. (Because we all know how resolutions go.)

## BUILDING TRADES PROJECTS

There are still quite a few large projects ongoing and starting in 2023. There are also some projects that have been put on hold or had the TI's pulled for the time being. At first glance, this is not good news, but these projects will provide opportunities for us for the future as the developers finalize their plans.

There are also hospitals and bio-tech jobs scheduled to start this year. This is a good time to take advantage of the medical gas classes at the JATC.

## SERVICE PLUMBING

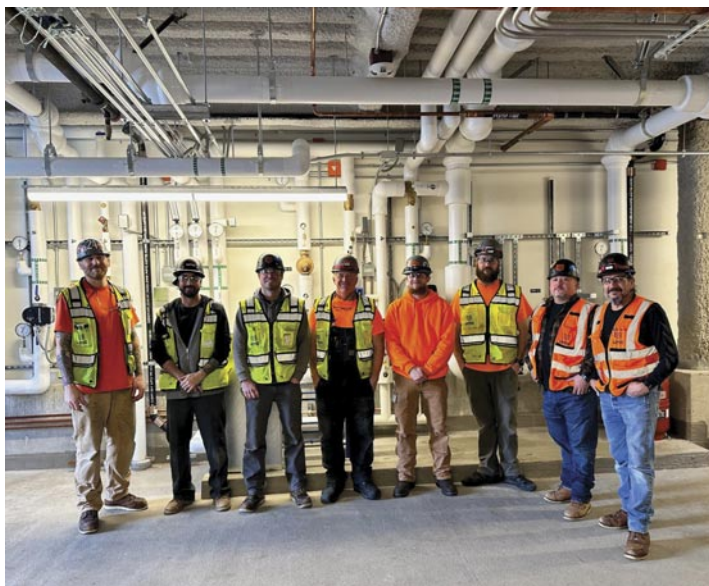
As the high rises go up the demand for plumbing service rises too. If a career in service interests you, there are classes and clinics at the JATC that can help you.

## PLUMBING LAW

I have reported the impacts of the plumbing laws and the benefits of them. L&I is still steadfast in upholding them. We have seen success with a simple phone call reporting on a non-licensed plumbing contractor performing plumbing work or advertising for it.

## CHANGING INDUSTRY

With the new laws for renewable energy and water reuse, our industry is changing rapidly. These water reuse systems fall under the plumbing jurisdiction. I had the opportunity to see the 4th year plumbing apprentices install different versions of rainwater catchment systems.



Left to right; Ricky Basquette, Bill Nachtigall, Josh Stern Plumbing GF, Jimmy Hester, Jalen Nasen, Jake Broughton, Amos Maltos, and Al Medina – the UMC crew at the new Building H, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance





## CODE UPDATES

Beginning July 1, 2023, pipe insulation will need to be inspected on projects in King County that have gone through plan review.

As a reminder, plumbers will need 24 CEU's to renew their plumbing license, however that will be every three years instead of every two.

## FIXED UNITS

The contract for the L&I Compliance and FAS Inspectors was ratified this fall. It's hard to put into words how important the work is that these members do in tackling the underground plumbing economy, but we all benefit from it. There is an opening for a Construction Compliance Inspector.

Negotiations have started with the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA). There are open positions for plumbers with the King County FMD group, as well as a position with the Seattle Housing Authority. Let me know if you have any questions.

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PLAN (EAP)

Our benefits are the best in the industry, but much like our car's user manual, we only use what we need at the time. Our EAP program has many more services than we think of. From grief counseling to substance abuse help to ID theft protection, our employee assistance program is part of our health package. Whether you need help setting up a will or to purchase a home, our EAP program is a service that we have as a benefit. Please reach out to them with any needs you or a friend may have.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to be a business representative for you. I have just completed my second year in the business office so as they say, the warranty is over. Please reach out to me or anyone in the business office for any questions.

Sincerely,

**Mike Kunkel**  
Plumbing Business Agent



*McKinstry crew at the University of Washington Behavioral Health Project*





# STEAMFITTER & MARINE PIPEFITTER REPORT

By TJ Riordan

Happy New Year Brothers & Sisters,

I hope this finds you all healthy & well. This report

marks two full years since I joined the Business Office to represent our Metal Trades Marine Pipefitter and Building Trades Steamfitter Membership. It is a privilege to represent the Local 32 Membership each and every day. Thank you for your continued support.

## METAL TRADES

Business Manager, Brother Jeff Owen and I attended the annual Metal Trades Department Conference in Las Vegas from October 31 to November 3, 2022, along with Local 32 Delegates Brothers Ethan Allen, Gino Malvoni, Kyle Okiyama, and Mike Smading. The UA, on the whole, looks to have another steady year of work ahead for the Metal Trades membership. Locally, we are still waiting for the State to award the contract for the new hybrid electric ferries along with the contract to convert

three existing vessels to hybrid electric. Both of these contracts would help provide some market stability for our members who work in the Maritime Industry. Work at both Vigor Shipyard and Lake Union Dry Dock look to be steady heading into the New Year.

## BUILDING TRADES

Last Summer, Steamfitter Apprentice, Brother Damon Marr, represented Local 32 & District 5 at the UA National Apprenticeship Contest as a welder. To make it as far as he did Brother Marr showed great dedication and commitment to learning his craft by putting in countless hours under the welding hood. Brother Marr's success is the product of not only his hard work and that of the Journeymen he has worked alongside, but also that of our signatory contractors, who understand the value of Apprenticeship. Many thanks are due to Brother Steve Sayers and the entire Steamfitter Crew at Shinn Mechanical, as well as Mike Shinn, for the time they gave passing on their knowledge to Brother Marr. While Brother Marr



Local 32 Delegates to the Metal Trades Conference pictured from L-R; Brother's Kyle Okiyama, Mike Smading, Gino Malvoni, and Ethan Allen.



Pictured; Brother's John-Mark Carlson, Gabriel Onstott, Steve Sayers, Nate Owen, Jeff Owen, Damon Marr with his Dad, TJ Riordan, Austin Zepeda-Compton, Richard Kindell, Blake Austin, Mike Shinn, Craig Rose, Mike Norris, Jerry Walters, and Jerame Jacobs-Tibig

didn't take home the top spot in the competition, he did make it further than any welder Local 32 has previously sent to the Apprenticeship Contest.

In recognition of his accomplishment, the UA sent Brother Marr a limited edition 2022 Apprenticeship Competition Ring along with a letter commending him for his dedication. Last month, Mike Shinn was gracious enough to let me present Brother Marr with his letter and ring at the Shinn Mechanical Shop along with Brother Sayers, the Shinn Mechanical Steamfitters. Congratulations, Brother Marr!



*Letter from Jim Pavesic, UA Director of Education & Training & Apprenticeship Contest Ring*

## JURISDICTION

By now, we are all aware of the Local political push toward electrification and the banning of natural gas in all new construction. The push to electrification means that traditional means and methods for the heating and cooling of buildings is undergoing a change and we have seen an increase in the use of ductless split air conditioning systems or, as most commonly referred to, VRF systems. The move to VRF has had its challenges, including training of our membership and jurisdictional attacks from other Labor Organizations.

Last Fall, UA Director of Trade Jurisdiction, Anthony Gallagher, took a jurisdictional dispute between the UA and Sheetmetal unions over VRF systems in the San Francisco area to the Plan for Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes in the Construction

Industry, or the "Plan." Brother Gallagher prevailed in his argument that the jurisdictional scope of work was rightfully that of the UA. The Arbitrator ruled in favor of the UA stating in part: "...Per the Plan, if applicable Agreements of Record, or Agreements among the national or international unions, those Agreements are to be applied..." The Arbitrator referred back to the 1956 UA-Sheetmetal Agreement, Article 1, paragraph 5, which states: "Combination Room Cabinets for Heating or Cooling: The installation of room cabinet heating and/ or cooling units which also provide ventilation through fresh air inlet from outside for a single room and are not part of a duct system shall be the work of the United Association to unload, handle, and install. If the same unit is part of a duct system, the unloading, handling, and setting of the unit shall be performed by a composite crew consisting of an equal number of members of the Sheetmetal Workers and the United Association." Sheetmetal did not challenge the UA's characterization of the equipment as "combination room cabinets." The Arbitrator concluded that: "The 1956 Agreement between the International Unions controls the outcome in this Decision..." He also observed that the entirety of Article 1 of the 1956 Agreement is the foundation that the UA installs all piping on cooling, heating, and air conditioning units, while Sheetmetal has jurisdiction over duct work. The Plan ruling was not just an area standard ruling, the ruling reinforces the 1956 Agreement for Jurisdictional assignments across the entire country.

What does this mean for Local 32? This means that we need to work with our dual signatory contractors to provide Letters of Assignment to the UA, and we need to continue to provide the best trained and most qualified workforce capable of performing this scope of work. The Business Office is working with the Seattle Area Pipe Trades on updating our Journeyman VRF training classes. Please contact the Training Office for more information.

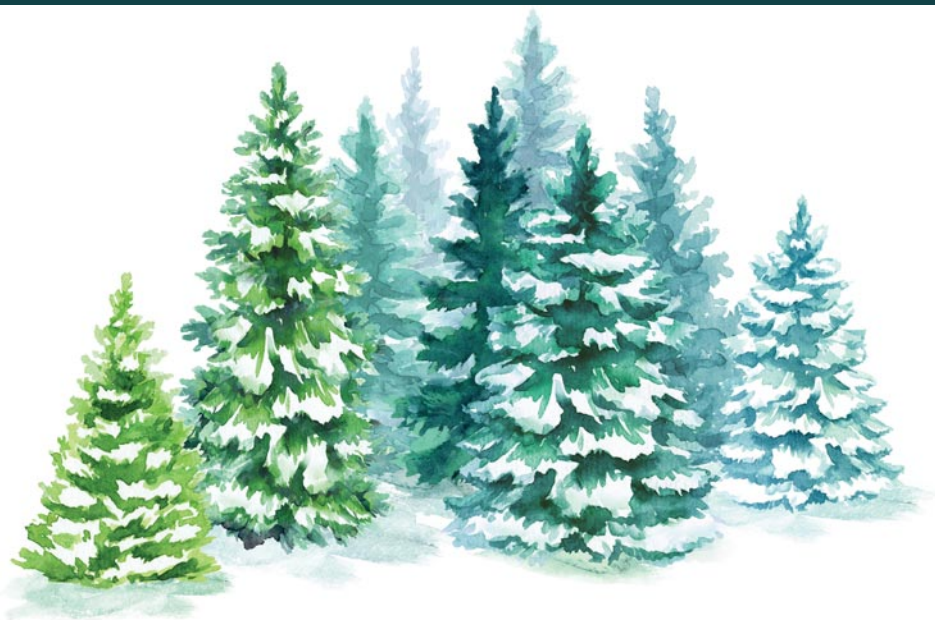
Brother & Sisters, I hope you all had a wonderful Holidays and wish you all the best in the New Year!

Faternally,

**TJ Riordan**

Steamfitter Business Agent





# UA LOCAL 32 *Christmas Party*

December 8, 2022

*Thank you to our faithful  
volunteers that made this event  
a HUGE SUCCESS!!*











# REFRIGERATION / HVAC REPORT

*By Joel Crabtree*

Brothers and Sisters,  
I'd like to start my report by wishing everyone a happy and productive 2023.

Recently our UA national took the sheet metal workers' national to a federal arbitrator concerning a jurisdictional

dispute regarding installation of VRF cabinets and piping. The contractor in San Francisco had assigned the VRF work to their sheet metal division and would not recognize that VRF piping system was the work of UA. The arbitrator ruled that a ductless HVAC systems including the setting of components and installation of all refrigeration lines are the work of the UA. This ruling is another confirmation of the 1956 jurisdictional agreement and gives us more ammunition in our fight against sheet metal raiding our work. With this decision and Washington state energy codes driving the VRF market, we all need to be prepared with a trained workforce for the future of VRF in the greater Puget Sound basin.

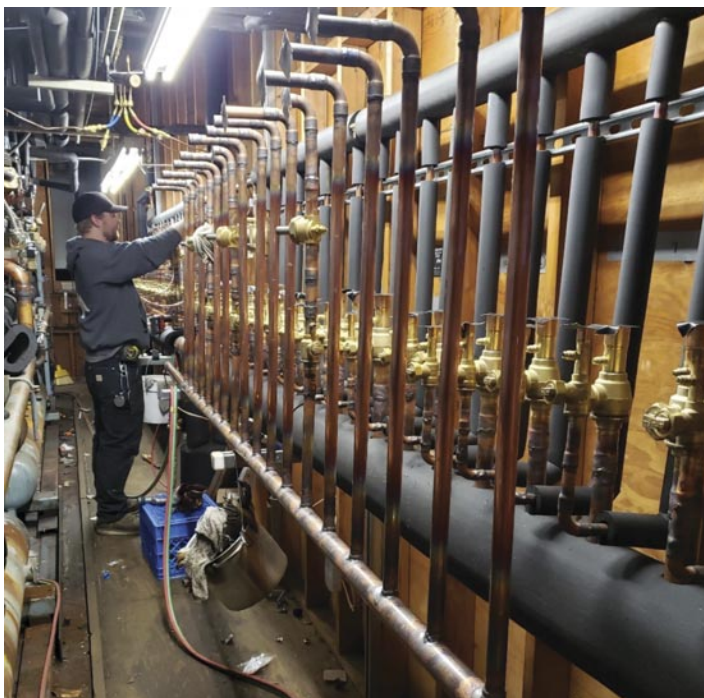
## R-718

We have been out meeting with members and getting questions around who should perform this building trades VRF work - the refrigeration mechanics, or the steamfitters? The mechanical divisions of Local 32 are all, in one form or another, refrigeration mechanics. In fact, we cannot forget that R-718 is the "OG" refrigerant: H<sub>2</sub>O! It's been used in heating and cooling applications for more than 3000 years. Water, steam, or R-718 has been classified as a refrigerant since humans started categorizing and naming them. Brothers and sisters, there are almost 1300 of us in the mechanical division here at local 32 who are classified as steamfitters, so we are all, technically, refrigeration mechanics. The traditional "Refers" of Local 32 have evolved into the service fitting branch in the HVAC world and the steamfitters have always been the construction division. Of course, there are many facets of our mechanical world, and some mechanics will float back and forth between the service and construction sides. But the majority of us are - essentially - one of the two sides to the same coin.

Brother TJ Riordan and I are working closely to increase the numbers of our existing crews, and to build the future crews we need to perform this work. We are working directly with



*Greg Koch with a mangled RBI burner on a late-night emergency boiler repair at a Bellevue hotel*



*Derek Tvedt working on the refrigeration header at a Kroger site*

our training center to make sure that all who need it have a path to get the knowledge and certification necessary to perform this work at the highest levels. If you're out there in a service van and want to make a change to VRF install, call me directly and we will get you in touch with a contractor that is in need. These full building refrigeration systems are the work of the UA, and we will do everything in our power to keep sheet metal to their tin knocking and off our pipe.

On the Supermarket side, as I brought up in my last newsletter, we still need Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to step up at the training center. The JATC has built a state-of-the-art refrigeration lab and need mechanics with experience to share their knowledge! There's a huge need on the supermarket side to transfer our embodied knowledge to the younger mechanics coming up in the trade. And block training has given us the

opportunity to bring a current working perspective to new and old equipment and systems into the classroom. If you are interested in getting involved, please give myself or Brother PJ Moss a call to discuss the possibilities.

Finally, we are still looking for all levels of HVAC & R service mechanics. If you know someone interested in our trade, please refer them to me or the organizers and we will point them in the right direction.

Fraternally yours,

**Joel Crabtree**

HVAC/Refrigeration Business Agent  
UA Local 32

## PLUMBERS' AGENT REPORT

By Corey Wilker



Brothers and Sisters,

We have another holiday season behind us, and I hope everyone was able to enjoy the time with family and friends. In the holiday spirit of giving, we had the opportunity to support Local 598 with the annual Bikes for Tikes event. Business Manager Jeff Owen, Assistant Business Manager Ryan Miller,

and I went to Kennewick to participate. Retired Business Manager Randy Walli organized the event and told me they had 500 volunteers scheduled, but 1300 people showed up. Because of the many volunteers, this charity event and helped assemble 1600 bikes in just 3 hours. We brought 100 bikes home to Seattle and donated 50 bikes each to Treehouse, a non-profit serving foster youth, and Communities in Schools, Renton and Tukwila branch. This was a really good way for our Local to give back. I think every member of Local 32 can share in the joy of making Christmas better for children in need.



Continued on next page





### **WSCC (WASHINGTON STATE CODE COUNCIL)**

The 2021 code cycle has been challenging to say the least. During this code cycle the incoming Governor-appointed Council members, who replaced the outgoing Council members whose term of service expired, all seemed to have a common interest in promoting Energy Code changes. As a result, most of the proposals were passed with a majority vote. Electrification for building heating systems and domestic water heating are the changes that will affect the UA the most. The Washington State Code Council has effectively banned the use of natural gas for space and water heating in commercial and residential buildings. The new codes will become effective July 1st, 2023. As you may or may not know there are many industry professionals opposed to these new changes. In my opinion, their voices were heard, then ignored, throughout the process of rulemaking. We are expecting to see some legal challenges to the new codes, and we will keep the membership informed as things develop.

We did have one item in the 2021 UPC that we fought against and won. A proposal for AAV's was submitted to the Plumbing TAG (technical advisory group) and was rejected. The proponent then brought it before the BFP (building, fire, and plumbing) committee and overturned the TAG's decision, allowing the proposal to move forward through the process for public hearings and testimony. The process took months to conclude, and during that time we enlisted the help of the plumbing industry to fight back. Ultimately, we were successful in getting the AAV language removed from the Washington State Plumbing Code. Brother Steve Simpson, past Council Member and Plumbing TAG Chair, should be recognized for his efforts to help me understand the processes and prepare us to fight back.

To all others that helped along the way.... THANK YOU

### **ARCSA (AMERICAN RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION)**

We know that rainwater catchment is going to be utilized more and more in the future. We have an abundance of rainfall here in the Pacific NW, so it only makes sense for building owners to use this resource to save money. Brother Steve Simpson and I attended the 3-day rainwater catchment conference in September. I was selected to join the ARCSA Board of Directors starting in January, and I am looking forward to the new responsibility.

### **ONGOING WORK**

We are roughly 9 months into this recession and are starting to see the effects of the interest rate increases slowing down construction. We are still almost at full employment with ongoing job sites, however there are some members on the out-of-work books. The expectation is that the Fed is going to raise rates again in 2023 so the membership should prepare accordingly. Despite the negative effects of a lingering recession there are some good signs for the future too.

We have seen an increase in Life Science laboratory facilities which involve much more piping than typical build outs. This is really good work for our membership, and as the industry builds up here, we expect this to be a good source of ongoing work.

Multi-Family construction is also on the rise in both BT Commercial and Light Commercial sectors. We expect this to continue throughout 2024 and beyond.

### **STEWARDS**

Thank you to all our members who volunteer to be jobsite stewards. Our jobsites function as well as they do, in part, because of all the things the stewards do to help "make it right" on behalf of the membership. It is often a thankless task that needs to be recognized, so if you have the opportunity thank your steward, please do so.

To all the stewards on behalf of the business office, THANK YOU.

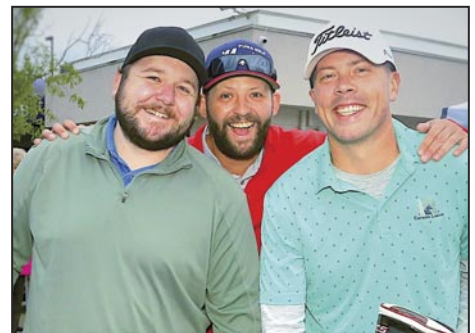
Respectfully Yours,

**Brother Corey Wilker**



# LOCAL 32 CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Thank You for participating in our 1st Tournament at Washington National Golf Course  
**SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR - AUGUST 26, 2023**





# ORGANIZING REPORT

By Brad Moore, Zachary T. Smith, Chris Hawes, and Antonio Cruz



On behalf of the Local 32 Organizing Team, Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. It has been deeply satisfying to resume the holiday traditions and gatherings that were suspended during the pandemic. As we continue our migration back into the “in-person” world, we are looking forward to the new year and all the opportunities it brings to promote the growth of our market share and workforce.

The September 2022 Washington Organizing Blitz provided our team with an abundance of new leads, connections, and information. Over the past several months, the organizing team has been diligently following up with workers and companies to promote UA training and the labor movement. One of the biggest lessons we learned during the blitz was the power and impact of engagement through media. Brother Chris Hawes has been spearheading our media campaign efforts and tracking the metrics associated with the various media outlets, formats, and time slots. Since the start of this campaign, we have seen an exponential uptick to our website traffic and our social media. So, what does that mean for our membership? With greater exposure comes opportunities for more qualified people to apply for our apprenticeship and membership. **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** There are 10 factors to consider when negotiating a labor contract. If you have ever participated in the United Association’s Construction Organizing Membership Education Training (COMET) class, you may have seen this

training unit. On the next page is a list of factors to consider, ahead of negotiating a Collective Bargaining Agreement. Class participants are instructed to number these factors from 1-10. 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important. As many of you know, our Building Trades contract is expiring this year. If you have not taken the COMET class, take a few minutes to look at this list and prioritize these factors.

In the COMET class, we encourage participants to start with what they would consider the least important factors and work towards the most important. Most classes agree that “Good Lawyers”, if there are such things, are the least important factor. If the strength of the negotiation is determined by your lawyers, you probably already lost any chance of a good agreement.

While ALL these factors are relevant and important, “Union Market Share” and “Percentage of Organized/Represented Workforce” are the most valuable factors for determining your bargaining strength. If you have 100% of the work and 100% of the work force, you will have a very strong position from which to bargain. This is the goal of your organizing team; we are looking to help our local union have the very largest market share and the highest density of represented workers.

Since the late 1960’s, the largest contributing factor to the decline of organized labor, in the United States, has been internal policies, by unions, to make membership more



exclusive and less inclusive. While other local unions still have large financial burdens through fees and assessments to thwart unwanted organized workers from joining their membership, Local 32 has some of the lowest dues and initiation fees in the nation. Additionally, our training center has structured pathways to accommodate a large influx of organized workers. This allows organized hands to gain the level of training required to meet our customers' mechanical needs and it ensures our customers/contractors do not have to look to alternate unions or providers to source quality labor.

While Local 32 has nearly 90% of the market share in commercial construction, we must be aware of the other areas where we have fallen behind. The areas we must work on our growth are HVAC service, plumbing service, light commercial plumbing, residential plumbing/HVAC, and VRF installation. We face tough competition from open shops in ALL these markets

and we are using every tool available to us to push back. We work with the Washington State Association (WSA) to support legislative protections. We work with L&I to encourage enforcement actions. Additionally, we work with the public to promote the labor movement, apprenticeship, and dispel any misinformation about unions and organized labor.

As we push to grow into these markets, it is important that the members know why. Each tradecraft and work jurisdiction we represent is extremely important. Not one is better than another. By perpetually growing strong membership and market share in every UA jurisdiction, it allows every member of our local to benefit, as it continues to ensure strong wages and the best working conditions. If you want to join your organizers in growing UA membership, please reach out to a member of the Local 32 Organizing Team. Happy New Year!



# JATC REPORT

By PJ Moss and Heather Winfrey

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The end of a year is always a time for reflection: where we have been, what we have accomplished, and how we want to progress even further. In this article, we are sharing 2022 highlights.

SAPT finished its second full year of Block Training this December. In the 2022 qualitative survey we conduct with apprentices at the end of each training week, we specifically asked for satisfaction ratings with full-time and part-time/Subject Matter Expert instructors. Overwhelmingly, 96% rated instruction as "Excellent" or "Satisfactory" in eight measurements that include engagement, relevancy, resolution of issues, support and preparation. Each week, more instructors were called out by name for their positive and significant contributions. Congratulations, team! Block Training would not work without the fantastic people who teach for us.

Continuing to highlight instructors, Dale Wilcox retired from the Plumbing team in August 2022. He taught full and part-time for SAPT for nearly 24 years. He will support continuing education as a NITC Authorized Proctor and content implementation going forward. Also in August, SAPT hired Jeremy Sandor as its first, full-time Technology Instructor. We are working on course implementation for both Block Training and Continuing Education with a Technology Dissolving Task Force, chaired by TJ Riordan. This group includes field and detailing experts who are helping us consider both technology content and delivery options. We anticipate launching new classes in 2023.

In September, SAPT reached an all-time apprentice high of 594 in training. As of December 2022, there are 205 individuals in the HVAC/Refrigeration program; 201 Commercial Plumbers; 47



Residential Plumbers; 124 Steamfitters; and 1 Marine Pipefitter, for a total of 578. We anticipate adding new apprentices in early 2023. In a five-year comparison, we had 440 individuals in training in December 2017. Current totals represent a 23.8% increase in apprenticeship.

In October, we were finally able to celebrate apprentices' program completion at our first in-person banquet since 2019. It was wonderful to restore this tradition of recognizing apprentices and instructors. In fact, ninety-one HVAC/Refrigeration, Commercial Plumbers and Steamfitters were honored at the banquet. In 2022, the Apprenticeship Achievement Award winners were Nick Wetterlind, representing HVAC/Refrigeration, and Evan Adair, representing Steamfitters. The 2022 Apprentice of the Year was Isaac Alexander, representing Commercial Plumbers.

SAPT is migrating Block Training and Continuing Education to Google Classroom from Blackboard in 2023. This is a user-friendly platform, and we'll be able to expand hybrid and online offerings as a result. Watch for new classes in VRF and Technology in 2023!

Finally, this year brought changes to our Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) and Training Trust composition. Dee May and Chris Hawes will be joining the JATC representing Labor effective January 2023. They will be replacing Marisa Spencer, who serves on the UA Local 32 Executive Board and will continue to teach part-time with SAPT, and Joel Crabtree, who has served as the JATC Secretary. Thank you to both Marisa and Joel for their ongoing commitment to training. Joel has now been appointed to represent Labor along with Jason Hewitt as new trustees to the Seattle Area Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry Training Trust. They are replacing Dan Jensen and Jack Baker, both of whom dedicated years of wisdom, strategic guidance, and extraordinary leadership to the Trust and our industry. SAPT will always be grateful for their contributions.





# PSE AND MUNICIPALITIES REPORT

By Troy Shopin



Local 32 Brothers and Sisters:

## CITY OF SEATTLE

As we all know, a second vote for the City of Seattle agreement on October 17th, 2022 was voted down. The negotiation committee got back together, then came back to the negotiating table with the City on November 14th.

Local 32 presented a proposal we hoped would work for all parties concerned. The City thanked us and stated they would get back to us later, which we were afraid of (and expected,) since we were outside the City Coalition of Unions. They'll be addressing the CCU first, then us. But the Coalition is telling us they are also running behind. Below is the latest summary of events.

- *The City negotiator has informed UA Local 32 that it will likely be March or April before they can make a counter proposal due to the length of time needed for them to complete the wage study. Factors cited by the City include:*
  - *Since the MOU deadline guarantee was voted down, the study completion date will run into the first quarter of 2023*
  - *UA Local 32 added titles to the wage study in the November 14th proposal*

- *The study is dependent on the timeliness of the material(s) being submitted by requested jurisdictions*
- *Analyzing the data received will take considerable City staff time*
- *UA Local 32 met with a representative from the mayor's office on December 9th and updated them on the status of negotiations*
- *UA Local 32 has been in contact with local labor organizations to enlist their support for our negotiation efforts with the City*
- *A resolution has been drafted requesting that the city expedite the negotiation process and recognize the bargaining rights and obligations for UA Local 32 on behalf of the members*

We are in communication with Martin Luther King Labor Committee as an added effort to bring City of Seattle back to the bargaining table sooner, if at all possible.

Continued on next page



## PSE AND MUNICIPALITIES REPORT | *Continued from page 27*

On a positive note, congratulations to the following Members who recently retired after many years of service with the City: Dyerk Alcantra - 29 years, Robert Briant - 36 years, James Volpone - 40 years, Russell Osgood - 50 years

Thank you for the dedication and hard work in your respective crafts for all these years at SPU. May retirement treat you well.

### PUGET SOUND ENERGY

This past Fall, we had an unfortunate event at the Georgetown South Seattle limit station. There were some new regulators being cut in, with the station being bypassed, and somehow there was ignition at the inlet to the station. We were very fortunate that most of that energy from the explosion went straight up, and thankfully with all that devastation there were no fatalities. One member was burned, there were some other injuries, and others on site were rattled and confused. There is an ongoing investigation to try to pinpoint the failure. I can't thank our PSE members enough for their professionalism in this chaotic atmosphere, helping those who were injured, and

maintaining the site for safety. Hopefully, we will eventually know how this event occurred to keep it from happening again.

With this recent cold snap to the region, Natural Gas was there to save the day for customers' homes and businesses. The backup for the peninsula side of PSE's territory, the Liquid Natural Gas Facility in Gig Harbor, was running full bore during this time, with a record volume sent out on Thursday, December 22nd. The amount of LNG needed to keep that region running, was 47,991 gallons. In fact, the plant ran from Monday thru Friday of Christmas week virtually nonstop and was staffed 24 hours a day for that week. The Local would like to tip our hat to the members who went above and beyond to make sure that product was available for the customers. Quite an achievement!

### HIGHLINE WATER DISTRICT AND SHORELINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Status quo for the "Districts." I look forward to catching up with them in the New Year

Finally, to all Local 32 members, thank you for all you do to serve the public's needs in some of the craziest weather our region can throw at you. Here's to you!

Hoping your holidays were great and wishing a Happy New Year to you and your families.

Respectfully,

**Troy Shopin**  
Business Agent





# GAS DISTRIBUTION & PIPELINE REPORT

By Michael Whaley



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
As we turn the page on the final chapter of yet another year, the story of 2022 could be best remembered as a year of refinement and preparation for our membership. Coming out of what became the “new normal” of masks, mandates, and the constant threat of natural gas bans, we never

faltered, we just did what we always do - we adapted to get the job done.

Change, in my experience, hasn't always been a welcomed sight. With change comes many obstacles such as uncertainty, testing of character, becoming uncomfortable, and more effort, just to name a few. Through trial and error, I have discovered that opportunity isn't always easy to see (let alone seize) especially when it comes in the form of adversity. But it is important to remember that change and adversity produce growth, and our members have successfully grown and seized the opportunities presented to us.

We all know the impact brother JR Ybarra had on our lives, guiding us with his wisdom, experience, stewardship, vision,



and ethic of leaving things better than they were when he found them. As your new agent I will work to take on those same values, and as I face the years ahead it is my hope to continue the legacy of all the great men who came before me; a legacy sustained by the strength of a great membership such as yourselves.

I have watched the membership navigate a lot this year: a late start to the work season with a job cancellation right off the bat, on the job COVID mitigation handled professionally, covering a year's worth of work in 6 months, training a new group of young members on the fly, coming together on an important distribution negotiation, and helping a new contractor get off the ground with the Cascade contract. Our members have a lot to look back on and be proud of. We have experienced a great deal of change and have become better for it. Thank you for setting our future on a solid foundation in preparation for a new year.

I would also like to congratulate brother Mike Wilson on 30 years of hard work and dedication. We appreciate all you bring to the table.

As we roll out and fabricate a new year be safe and prosperous!

Respectfully,

**Michael Whaley**

Mainline/Gas Distribution Business Agent





## PAC REPORT

By Kurt Swanson

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone enjoyed a COVID free holiday season. It was great to see the UA Local 32 Christmas party back in action! It has been very busy since the last newsletter. 2022 was a challenging year for me, having assumed some of the responsibilities of my PAC successor, sister Leanne Guier. It has been a learning experience!

The PAC had a busy 2022. 10 PAC meetings were conducted, and 20 candidates interviewed. The PAC also conducted a literature drop event for King County Prosecutor candidate Jim Ferrell (who lost the election to Lisa Manion). Out of the 47 candidates endorsed by UA Local 32, only 5 were not elected. If you are interested in participating in political action in 2023 with other Local 32 members, please give me a call or email me! We are always looking for fresh faces and ideas on the Local 32 PAC.

2022 has been a good year for conducting tours of the training facility. Numerous tours were conducted with local political

leaders, candidates, and other interested parties (including representatives from the MCA). PJ Moss and Heather Winfrey wowed people on every tour and our apprentices and instructors were very engaging and shared their perspective on the facility and what apprenticeship has done for them. Thank you all for your fine work and being excellent hosts as we work to educate more leaders in our area about the benefits of our training, and our apprenticeship!

As many of you know, energy production in our state is going to be a big topic for labor this year. With the availability of federal money for renewable energy and hydrogen projects in the coming years, our state legislators will be working on being ready for the transition. Labor needs to be present to make sure the work goes union. The Washington State Association (WSA) will be supporting key legislation to ensure that clean energy work comes to Washington and that skilled work be performed by a regional union workforce and the piping work goes to our UA locals.

Local 32 brothers Tim Herbert, Neil Hartman, and Gordon Baxter have been helping me prepare for the upcoming legislative session which starts January 9th, 2023. This will be a "long" session (105 days). I will be very focused on working with our legislators to maximize positive, and minimize negative, legislative impacts for our membership. This will be my first year spent in Olympia during session and, even though I'm new to the legislative environment, one thing is clear to me: the UA members in the state are well represented by members like Tim Herbert, Neil Hartman, and Gordon Baxter. Thank you for your fine work on our behalf! Brothers Mike Kunkel and



*Jim Ferrell, UA Local 32 PAC Members, and other labor partners assemble before heading out to hit the doors!*





*Sister Heather Winfrey, representatives of the WA State Bldg. and Construction Trades Council, the MCA, and newly elected legislators prepare to tour the training facility.*



*House Representative Sam Low with brothers Kurt Swanson, Neil Hartman, and PJ Moss, and MCA representative Scott Middleton.*



*House Representative Tina Orwall (right) taking a tour of the brazing shop.*

John Komorowski will be joining me in Olympia in February at the Washington State Legislative Conference. We will join with our labor partners and go speak to legislators about misclassification, prevailing wages, and using a trained union workforce on government funded projects in our state.

The Northwest Coalition for Energy Choice (NWCEC) performed well in 2022. We have grown our base of supporters to well over 5,900 people, and they have contributed over 1,500 responses to elected officials and appointed bureaucrats when called to action. Washington state has over 1.2 million households that cook and heat their homes with natural gas, and 46% of the

energy used in the Northwest comes from natural gas. Brothers and Sisters, banning natural gas is premature and unrealistic. If you have not already, please consider signing up to support our efforts to keep natural gas part of our energy mix in the NW. You can check out the website and sign up at [nwenergychoice.org](http://nwenergychoice.org).

I anticipate that 2023 will be busy for me and UA Local 32. Please reach out to me if you would like to get involved with our UA Local 32 PAC!

Fraternally,

**Kurt Swanson**



# OLD TIMERS' AWARD CELEBRATION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

*Thank you for all your years of service!*









## OLD TIMERS' AWARD LIST

Although Members have accomplished Years of Service between the 5-year increments listed, ONLY the Members with the specific years listed will receive an award.

### 25 YEARS

Robert Antonucci  
Jeffrey A. Ball  
Peter A. Balogh  
Daniel F. Barton  
Uri Berenshtein  
Steven G. Bergstrom  
Steve L. Blowers  
Stanton A. Bouchard  
Warren G. Brown  
Edward R. Burbridge  
William T. Cass  
Aaron J. Colts  
Thomas E. Coville  
Daniel J. Cox  
Andrew D. Dahms  
Scot E. Davis  
Timothy A. Denton  
Steven A. Dewey  
Daniel J. Dillon  
John M. Dunn  
Bruce R. Durham  
Jeremy D. Elliott  
Chris M. Elwell  
Robert W. Farr, Jr.  
Cayce A. Fenyo  
Michael D. Freeman  
Dan L. Giddings  
Roderick Gordon  
Steve E. Hagen  
Jason M. Harper  
Randy G. Hill  
Brian W. Hotman  
David R. Jensen  
James A. Jocson  
Todd H. Jones  
Charles Kimball  
Keith J. Lariviere  
Bruce Lingenfelter  
Ed W. Lions  
Daniel M. Manship  
Jim S. McGrath  
William E. McLaurin  
Harry H. Medina

David J. Michael  
Michael Nelson  
Scott G. Nelson  
Robert G. Newman  
Dean F. Palermo  
James B. Peters  
Edward W. Predki  
James H. Prigger, Jr.  
Jon G. Rosenstrom  
Ryan Schafer  
Steven K. Schwilke  
Don F. Shelton  
Dan Shepherd  
Mark A. Shreve  
Daniel A. Sipila  
Michael Sisneros  
Mike R. Snyder  
Michael W. Stedman  
Vetle Strand  
Seann Tanner  
Jimmy C. Teegarden  
William D. Thomas  
James P. Thompson  
Klon D. Turner  
Casey White  
James Buddy White  
Robert J. Winn  
Yordan I. Yordanov

### 30 YEARS

Tyler A. Barmore  
Tom M. Barrett  
George E. Broten  
Robert T. Cornett  
Sandy L. Crozier  
Matthew S. Downing  
Eric J. Ercanbrack  
Kenneth M. Frederick  
Victor M. Frias  
Cory R. Galloway  
Richard J. Gonzales  
Beverly K. Gordon  
Tim L. Gruenke  
Jeffrey K. Hart  
William T. Johnson

Ted J. Kendall  
John C. Kohler  
William L. Long  
Kenneth A. Miller  
Frank J. Near  
Douglas R. Orkney  
Chad M. Orr  
Tory A. Peterson  
John D. Rockford  
Anthony Rogers  
Michael J. Shirley  
Ken T. Sprague  
Toby A. Strieck  
Mark T. Wiggins  
Michael T. Wiley  
Terry G. Wilsey  
Michael O. Wilson  
Gregory P. Wright

### 35 YEARS

Gary V. Desouza  
Elena M. Dobner  
Hans S. Eldridge  
John L. Funseth  
Robert W. Gray  
Thomas W. Green  
Jim E. Hakkinen  
Rolan D. Jeans  
Herman E. Kirschnick IV  
Christopher R. Knight  
Greg Lillehaug  
James Marks  
Keith B. McKenney  
Steve Mellinger  
Matt Navlet  
Helen E. O'Brien  
Mark D. Palmer  
Kent E. Pemble  
Jeff Prince  
Phil Salvador  
Gerald M. Simicich  
Eric K. Stewart  
Daniel H. Strong  
Tony K. Visitacion Jr.

### 40 YEARS

Iarendon N. Allen Jr.  
Joseph H. Ames  
Brian C. Andersen  
David M. Batchelder  
Curt J. Corkum  
Michael G. Downey  
George B. Georgiadis  
Dan L. Glines  
Rudy J. Hendricks  
Grant E. Holmes  
Randall W. Hughes  
Stig K. Johansen  
Vincent A. Johnson  
Duane B. Jolliffe  
James A. Jordan  
James Lockhart  
Gregory L. Maltos  
Jess W. Mathews  
Michael S. Matthai  
John D. McLain  
Steven D. Mempa  
Richard J. Miller  
Paul Morris  
Michael D. Novotny  
Daryl E. Owens  
Mark H. Palmer  
John Paulson Jr.  
Kenneth E. Phillips  
George L. Prew  
Jeffery A. Price  
Dustan D. Roach  
Sheldon K. Schweers  
Randy W. Scott  
Richard L. Strand  
Mark H. Palmer  
Daniel Trbovich  
Marty Yellam  
Nathaniel Zeumault

### 45 YEARS

Mark J. Allen  
Richard R. Breen  
Ernest Commodore  
Lavell Diggins  
Larry R. Flanary  
James G. Johnson  
Frank H. Lavish  
Steven W. LeMay  
Rafael L. Lim  
William C. Lindeke  
Allen W. Lundborg  
Walter J. Marshall  
L. Scott Parks  
Larry W. Parr  
Robert J. Pemble  
Donald L. Schandel  
Gary J. Stedman  
Thomas N. Stewart Jr.  
Clifford B. Taylor  
Donald W. Woods Jr.

### 50 YEARS

Gregory R. Ackenhausen  
Rolf T. Bentsen  
David P. Duffy  
Kim Falconer  
James E. Hall  
Kevin P. Harrington  
Steven R. Henderson  
Prentice Henry  
Gerald V. Mahoney  
Donald G. Phelps  
Richard T. Warren  
Robert L. West III

### 55 YEARS

Karl Alexander Jr.  
Daniel D. Andersen  
Thomas Bell, Jr.  
Lonny J. Boyd  
Raymond J. Cornell  
Michael D. Durham  
Charles E. Gilmore  
Roger K. Halsen

Mike R. Harris  
Robert G. Jackson  
Quinn A. Law  
M. Jeffrey Manning  
Johannes C. Meischke  
Thomas C. Proszek  
Ken L. Rearden  
Thomas J. Riordan  
Carroll L. Smith  
Gary L. Stone  
Robert E. Strobel  
Donald C. Taylor  
Steward W. Wells  
Jack A. Willits, Jr.

### 60 YEARS

Donald L. Hickerson  
Jack E. Houser  
Karl S. Lechner  
Roger W. Myers  
Frank G. Newson Jr.  
Joseph J. Patricelli  
James W. Perkins  
Raymond A. Strieck  
Robert D. Young  
Joseph Zammit

### 65 YEARS

Robert F. Meyer  
Charlie D. Powers  
Leo R. Walsh

### 70 YEARS

Robert B. Timson  
Willis C. Wheatley

### 75 YEARS

Albert E. Santora



# In Memoriam

DEDICATED TO THOSE MEMBERS NO LONGER WITH US

DATE	NAME	TRADE	YEARS
2022-12-15	Brother Lonny Boyd	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	55
2022-12-13	Brother Michael Skouge	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	64
2022-11-29	Brother Elmer Parks	BT Journeyman Plumber	67
2022-11-14	Brother Richard Delk	BT Journeyman Plumber	26
2022-11-12	Brother Merrill McCarty	BT Journeyman Plumber	56
2022-11-04	Brother William Wiles	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	63
2022-10-30	Brother Steward Wells	BT Journeyman Refrigeration	55
2022-10-14	Brother Kenneth Kennedy	BT Journeyman Plumber	26
2022-10-13	Brother Donald W. Woods, Jr.	BT Journeyman Plumber	45
2022-10-02	Brother Philip Philip	BT Journeyman Pipeline	56
2022-09-29	Brother Daniel Bonell	BT Journeyman Plumber	41
2022-09-04	Brother Dennis Borup	BT Journeyman Plumber	22
2022-07-20	Brother Thomas Coville	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	25
2022-07-03	Brother Robert Almquist	BT Journeyman Plumber	69
2022-07-03	Brother Nels Nelson, Jr.	MT Journeyman Marine Pipefitter	43
2022-06-12	Brother Steven Baisch	MT Journeyman School District	29
2022-06-03	Brother Ryk VanDeHee	BT Journeyman Plumber	52
2022-05-29	Brother Charles Wilmott	BT Journeyman Refrigeration	40
2022-05-12	Brother Enos Mowatt	MT Journeyman Water Department	2
2022-05-12	Brother William L. Stone	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	45
2022-05-02	Brother Edmond Bruggman, Jr.	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	65
2022-05-01	Brother Adolphus Mines, Jr.	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	47
2022-04-15	Brother Edward (TED) Huff	BT Journeyman Plumber	40
2022-04-06	Brother Wayne Stobie	BT Journeyman Plumber	3
2022-03-27	Brother Max Cole	BT Journeyman Plumber	53
2022-03-26	Brother Stacy DeRouen	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	6
2022-03-26	Brother Roger Fischer	BT Journeyman Plumber	65
2022-03-24	Brother Theodore Hargraves	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	50
2022-03-08	Brother Joseph Wheatley	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	64
2022-03-04	Brother Carlisle Phillips	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	19
2022-02-14	Brother Mike English	BT Journeyman Plumber	22
2022-02-14	Brother Walter Greenhouse, SR.	BT Journeyman Plumber	62
2022-01-28	Brother Stanton Hightower	MT Journeyman Water Department	8
2022-01-23	Brother Sean McKinstry	BT Journeyman Plumber	6
2022-01-17	Brother Choyce Moon	MT Journeyman Water Department	7
2022-01-02	Brother William "Randy" Allen	BT Journeyman Steamfitter	43



Seattle Plumbers and Pipefitters  
United Association Local 32  
597 Monster Road SW  
Renton, WA 98057

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## UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 32 IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

### **MEALS ON WHEELS**

<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/>

### **SHRINERS HOSPITALS**

<https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/>

### **TREE HOUSE**

<https://www.treehouseforkids.org/>

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

<https://support.specialolympics.org/>

### **SUNSHINE HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET PROGRAM**

<https://sunshinedivision.org/>

### **ROTARY CLUB OF DES MOINES/ NORMANDY PARK COAT DRIVE**

<https://www.dmnprotary.org/>

### **PUGET SOUND LABOR AGENCY FOOD DRIVE**

<https://www.pugetsoundlaboragency.org/food-bank.html>

### **SALVATION ARMY**

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>

### **RENTON TUKWILA COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS**

<https://rentontukwila.ciswa.org/>

### **THE COVINGTON STOREHOUSE**

<https://www.covingtonstorehouse.org/>

### **TUKWILA PANTRY FOOD BANK**

<https://tukwilapantry.org/>

### **RAINIER VALLEY FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE**

<https://www.rvfb.org/>

### **TOYS FOR TOTS**

<https://www.toysfortots.org/>

### **TUKWILA SPIRIT OF GIVING**

<https://www.tukwilachildrensfoundation.org/>

### **VINE MAPLE PLACE FAMILY HOMELESS SHELTER**

<https://www.vinemapleplace.org/>

### **SOUTHWEST YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES**

<https://www.swyfs.org/>

*With your help we donated over \$30,000 this Holiday Season!*