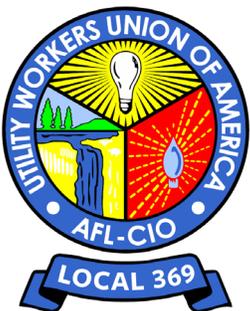


UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA LOCAL 369



# THE CURRENT

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

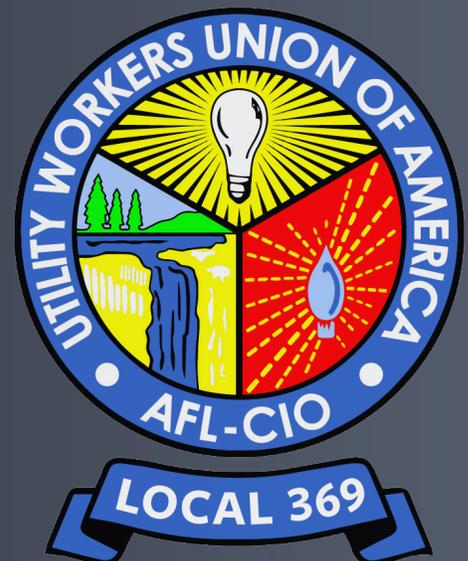
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## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

UWUA Local 369 represents over 2,900 workers across the utility industry in Massachusetts. Our members are proud to bring power, heat, and telecommunications to homes and businesses across the Commonwealth. We're dedicated to fighting for our members and all working families in Massachusetts.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAN LEARY



### **BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you and your loved ones are happy and healthy as we kick off 2023.

We begin the year with excitement as we prepare for the grand opening of our new Local 369 headquarters at 68 Sagamore Street in Quincy. This new facility was a former bank, post office, and office for the Boilermakers' union, and soon will be our new office and conference center. I look forward to welcoming you all in soon.

We look forward to building on the successes of 2022, including major bargaining victories.

On the organizing front, there have been historic gains in unionizing across the country, including the first-ever successful vote for unions at Amazon, the first Apple Store, and the first Trader Joe's and Chipotle locations. The most promising of all the organizing efforts were victories to unionize at 250 Starbucks stores.

A number of development projects were also launched or ramped up across the state. Notable among them is the massive Suffolk Downs redevelopment project in East Boston and Revere, where hundreds of members will be getting well-paying utility industry work for years to come. Spanning two cities, Suffolk Downs is one of the

largest real estate projects in Massachusetts' history and will ultimately deliver 16.2 million square feet of development, including 10,000 apartments and condominiums, 5.2 million square feet of life science and commercial office space, 450,000 square feet of retail and civic space, and 40 acres of parks and open space.

On contracts, we recently successfully negotiated new collective bargaining agreements for LNG workers at Eversource, as well as a 6-year contract at the Liberty Utilities Call Center, and a 6-year contract at the Liberty Utilities Gas Unit, both with similar terms. We also negotiated several more successful contracts throughout 2022, including a 3-year contract with Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant, a 4-year contract with National Grid Gas, a 5-year contract with Exelon Medway, and a 4-year contract with National Grid in Malden, Brockton, Nantucket and Northboro, among others. We will soon be voting on a new agreement with JLL Pfizer, which will be the first contract with this vendor.

The year ended on a strong note with charitable efforts as well. Our members stepped up to raise funds for college scholarships for members of Local 369 families at our annual golf tournament.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK CONT.

We continued to offer members financial planning services and many took advantage of a Zoom seminar in October to discuss “Planning for retirement in a bear market,” hosted by the Boston Retirement Group. We look forward to many more helpful educational seminars and meetings in the new year at our new headquarters.

Sadly, along with all our successes this year, we had a couple of tragic accidents. Please keep the families of our fallen members in your thoughts and prayers and please always make safety a top priority every day.

We start the new year with hope and excitement at the opportunities in front of us as members of Local 369. I'm honored to serve as your president and I look forward to a safe and prosperous 2023 for us all.

In Solidarity,

**DAN LEARY**

President

UWUA Local 369

### THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE UWUA REGION 1 CONFERENCE IN PROVIDENCE THIS PAST SEPTEMBER. HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS:



Region 1 safety rep and Local 369 Safety Chairman Brian Hannon presents a message on safety



Darlene Arcese Local 369 Executive Board member, presenting for the UWUA National Women's Caucus



Frank Carino, Local 369 member, presents for the UWUA Young Workers' Committee



Matthew Marfione, presenting on behalf of the UWUA Human Rights Committee

# TREASURER'S REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM CRAIG M. CONNOLLY



## **BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

This has been a busy and extremely challenging year, and I'm so grateful for all our members' service to our communities. It is my sincere hope that you and your families had a joyful holiday season, and I wish you a wonderful new year.

One priority of mine as we head into 2023 is to provide guidance to members about the state's new Family Medical Leave Act, also known as "paid family leave." This is a new law and it is an evolving law. If you have any questions about your benefits under the state's new paid leave policy, please contact me anytime. For more information on Paid Family Leave regulations, go to: [bit.ly/3wghU7h](https://bit.ly/3wghU7h)

As the Secretary-Treasurer, it is my duty to assist with any questions and concerns regarding health benefits, retirement, disability claims, and much more. If you have any questions about your benefits, do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns.

Also, if you are approaching retirement, please don't hesitate to reach out for any help or advice as you navigate that process. Retirement is a huge step for us all after a long career. We are here to help you in your transition.

At the end of 2022, we visited several job sites with Colonial Insurance to sign up members for disability and life insurance. These visits have been very beneficial to our members as they have been able to learn about their benefits and sign up at their workplace. We will be setting up more dates to visit more jobsites in the first quarter of 2023. Be on the lookout for information soon.

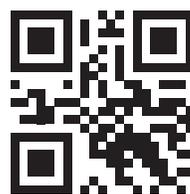
The opportunity to play such an active role on the labor front has always brought me a sense of purpose and pride. I am honored to represent and serve the hard-working members of Local 369, and I thank you for your trust in me and for your dedication.

In Solidarity,

**CRAIG M. CONNOLLY**

Secretary-Treasurer

UWUA Local 369



**Scan QR code for more information on the state's Paid Family Leave regulations**

# BARGAINING UPDATES

## **Eversource – Success!**

- LNG operators have been organized internally and will now fall under the existing Eversource contract

## **JLL Pfizer**

- Members will be voting on a first contract

## **Liberty Utilities Call Center - Success!**

- Successfully negotiated and ratified a 6-year contract agreement

- The group voted 100% to accept on October 21, 2022 with a \$200 signing bonus
- The contract includes improved clothing allowance, meal allowance, bereavement benefits, and an employee stock purchase plan
- Everyone in the unit will receive a \$2.00 raise
  - 1/1/2024 2.75%
  - 1/1/2025 2.75%
  - 1/1/2026 2.50%
  - 1/1/2027 2.75%
  - 1/1/2028 2.75%

## **UNION UPDATES**

We are excited to be moving into our union's new headquarters soon. The new facility, located at 68 Sagamore St. in Quincy, will serve as our new offices, conference and meeting center. The building has a long history and previously served as a former headquarters for the Boilermakers and a post office. We have been working hard to finish renovations and expect to host a grand opening soon. This location will replace our current headquarters in Braintree.

We look forward to you all stopping by soon! Stay tuned for more updates.

# 2022

## SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT



This September, Local 369 was proud to host our Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament in support of future college graduates from Local 369 families.

Every year, we look forward to coming together to support our union Brothers and Sisters as their sons and daughters pursue their college education. We thank you for your support and we're proud to do our part to help the next generation pursue their dreams!



SAFETY REPORT

# SAFETY CULTURE CHANGE

By Brian Hannon, Safety Committee Chair

Although the safety committee has always been a good outlet for the workforce to bring issues to, over the last few years it has taken on an entirely new level of importance and we've made some very beneficial changes by bringing partners into the process. With the collaboration between Local 369, Eversource, National Grid, and UWUA National, as well as all the other companies where we represent workers, we continue to work on safety and have made unprecedented progress toward making sure all employees go home safe.

It's been an exciting journey to see how high-level, important safety issues can get resolved when we roll up our sleeves and work together toward a common goal. My team and I are extremely fortunate to have the leadership of the National UWUA to educate and train us for this vital mission. We have participated in several trainings, seminars, conferences, and Zoom meetings, all with a commitment to help keep our members safe. The National UWUA has put together a National Safety Committee with members from gas, water, and electric unions from across the country. This has been an extremely powerful and helpful tool that allows us to connect with safety reps for guidance and assistance. I also cannot say enough about the

importance of the network of SME's we have at our fingertips who stand ready to assist.

Another asset has been the connections we have made and the information we have learned through networking at safety conferences. We have obtained so much valuable information by meeting industry leaders who provide cutting-edge education and best-practice tips at these conferences. I recently attended the Incident Prevention Conference along with the NSC (National Safety Council), in addition to other UWUA safety and trading conferences, all of which provided key information to help us keep our members safe on our ever-evolving job sites.

We've also done extensive training at the Power for America Training Facility in Michigan that's overseen by the UWUA. We have seen firsthand how important it is to have a Certified Utility Safety Professional in safety roles. We have experienced the effectiveness of peer-to-peer training, building systems of safety, and the importance of Incident Analysis Investigations.

Staying up to date with training is crucial as we must have an active voice and a seat at the table when incidents happen and investigations unfold. A strong, structured, and respectful

safety response is necessary when an accident or dangerous event happens, not only to determine facts but also to ensure that preventative measures are put in place so similar incidents do not happen again.

This process has proven its value over and over with our committee. We are constantly monitoring a wide variety of issues, including Network Switching, Station Grounding, Battery Backup Stations, Network Protectors, new equipment, vehicle safety, cable reel issues, job and training standards, and more. This new safety team is well-rounded and includes experts

from many different trades, so there is a wide variety of knowledge.

Our mission is “pure safety.” While historically labor issues and safety concerns have posed complex challenges, our new collaborative model eliminates any potential competing agendas and puts the focus solely where it needs to be: safe job sites and protecting members.

In Solidarity,

**BRIAN HANNON**

Safety Committee Chair  
UWUA Local 369

## CHARITABLE ACTS

### **Toy Drive Supports Families In Need This Holiday Season**

Local 369 members reached out during the holiday season to give back to our local communities and support working families facing challenges this year. This effort was largely member driven with our members stepping up like never before to help hundreds of children and families have a wonderful Christmas. Our members' efforts raised \$10,000 for the Abbey House in Worcester and we donated more than 125 toys. Thanks to the Brotherhood of Utility Workers Council for organizing the drive and Local 330 UWUA for their hard work.

**Great job to everyone who participated!**

### **Veterans shelter in downtown Boston**

Local 369 also pitched in with a successful veterans' clothing drive this holiday season. Thanks to Bob Senier, our business agent and chair of the veteran's committee, for putting the drive together. Additionally, with help from our members' generosity and volunteer efforts, we were proud to make a large clothing donation to the Vietnam Veterans of America in Boston. Supporting our communities is a hallmark of Local 369 and we thank all who participated!

# UNION MEETING

## Regular Membership Meeting

### DATE:

Sunday, May 7, 2023

### TIME:

10:00 a.m.

1. Regular order of business
2. Vote on by-law proposals per Article XII, Amendments, Section I
3. Swearing in of new members

### PLACE:

120 Bay State Drive  
Braintree, MA



## COLONIAL LIFE INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

Colonial Life benefits counselors will be available for on-site enrollment in-person and virtually in the weeks to come. We also encourage existing policyholders to meet with a benefits counselor to review their plans and update their coverage as needed.

Voluntary benefits through Colonial Life include but are not limited to:

- Disability insurance
- Accident insurance
- Life insurance.

**For members who are unable to attend the in-person meetings, a virtual enrollment option will be available. To schedule a virtual meeting, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/UWUALocal369](https://bit.ly/UWUALocal369).**



Contact Treasurer Craig M. Connolly at [cconnolly@uwua369.org](mailto:cconnolly@uwua369.org) for more information.

# In Memoriam

Joseph Antonuccio  
Robert Bailey  
Dorothy Driscoll  
Anthony Gulla  
Timothy Lever

**Fabio Pires**  
It is with great sadness that we remember our Local 369 brother, 31-year-old Fabio Pires. Pires was injured on July 12, 2022, while working in an electric vault in downtown Boston. We ask that you please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.



# Retirees

Adrien Boulay  
Ronald Britner  
Kim Brock  
Dulce Carreiro  
Joseph Censullo  
Sharon Cooper  
Raymond Couture  
Edwin Cruz  
James Deangelo  
Catherine DePietro  
Deborah Desmond  
Donna Diorio  
William Finn  
John Fitzgerald  
Dollie Gayle  
Bruce Greim  
Asalean Haynes  
Eric Holzendorf  
Stephen Howland  
Joseph Hughes

Leonard Jackson  
Karen Johnson  
Annellen Lawlor  
Susan Lussier  
Joan MacDonald  
Arthur Maitland  
Gary Malone  
Lisa McDonald  
Leonard McMahon  
Pierre Monfils  
John Mullen  
James Murphy  
Paul Murphy  
Kevin Nickerson  
Jack O'Keefe  
Michael Preziosi  
Barbara Ross  
Lucia Soares  
Jay Videtta  
David Winters



Recent UG leader lineman retirees: (L-R) Pierre Monfils (50 years), Bruce Greim (39 years), and Jack O'Keefe (34 years)

UWUA Local 369  
120 Bay State Drive  
Braintree, MA 02184



## STAY CONNECTED WITH LOCAL 369

Through storms, blizzards, and even a pandemic — our strength comes from our connections with each other. That’s why we’re asking all Local 369 members to ensure that your contact information is updated with the Union Hall.

Stay up to date on all the latest news through emails, texts, and our newsletter. Scan the QR code with your phone’s camera to update your contact information.

