



**UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA LOCAL 369**



# **THE CURRENT**

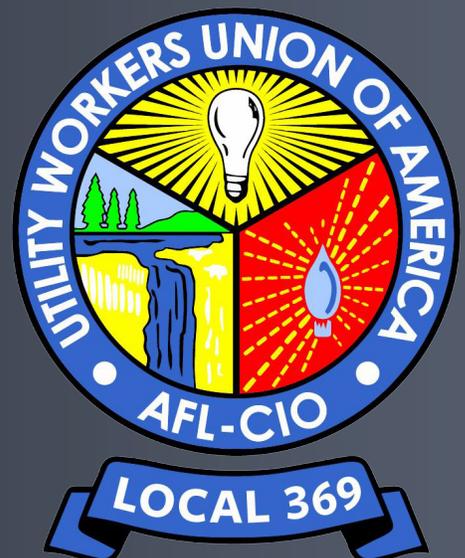
**SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER**

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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,**

I hope you had a great summer and that you enjoyed some time with your family and friends.

As your union president, I am working hard to make sure that our voices are heard by our elected leaders who are shaping policy for the future that will impact our industry.

I am proud to have been appointed to Gov. Maura Healey's new Labor Advisory Council, the first panel of its kind. As a member of this panel, our union will have a direct line to policymakers and be able to voice our concerns and needs on state energy policy. It is essential, as your president, to have a seat at the table as elected officials and government leaders make decisions about climate change legislation and policy.

This council is made up of labor leaders and together we will fight to make sure new green jobs are good paying union jobs. We held our first meeting recently and we will be working to make sure any climate legislation protects working union families.

I have also been appointed by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO to the advisory board of Climate Jobs Massachusetts, a union-led organization that will also fight to ensure that the green transition includes our members. In the coming weeks and months, we will be meeting with legislators, sending letters to policymakers and conducting outreach to make sure we are part of the transition to green and clean energy. We need to work hard to make sure that there is a just transition for anyone who loses their job because of climate legislation and that they have an opportunity at clean and green energy positions.

Our union has also partnered with the United Steel Workers to push our climate jobs agenda at the State

House. Our utility and power plant workers have built and powered this state for generations and need to be part of any transition. Rest assured, we will fight alongside our union brothers and sisters to ensure that is the case.

I am also proud to have been re-elected president of the Brotherhood of Utility Workers Council at their recent conference in Rhode Island. Also, Executive Board member John Taglieri was elected Vice-President of the council.

Two other 369 members have received fantastic honors recently. Our brother Tommy Roche, who passed away last year, was posthumously awarded the George Bing Fogerty Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to the Labor Movement. And Mike DeChristopher has been honored with the Mark Steinmetz Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Brotherhood of Utility Workers Council. Read more about Mike on page 9.

On the contract front, we are in negotiations with Cogentrix on a contract for a power plant unit in Rumford, Maine. We are also working on a contract with Canal Generation for our members working at the company's gas-fired plant in Sandwich.

Thanks for all you do and as always, be safe on the job and please reach out to us directly with any questions or concerns at 781-848-3740 or [DLeary@uwua369.org](mailto:DLeary@uwua369.org).

In solidarity,

**DAN LEARY**

President

UWUA Local 369

# TREASURER'S REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM CRAIG M. CONNOLLY



## SISTERS AND BROTHERS,

I hope you've all had a great summer and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. As we move into the fall, please remember that open enrollment for health care benefits is in October and November.

Please remember to make sure that your beneficiaries are all up to date, as well as all of your personal information. These benefits are important to you and your family so keeping your information updated is essential.

Also, it's a good time to remind you all that many of the employers of our members offer Consumer Driven Health Plans (CDHP). These plans offer pre-tax Health Savings Accounts which save you money on medical expenses. They're also another smart

way to save money for your future. These plans generally come with seed money from the company and are cheaper monthly than a PPO plan.

Putting extra pre-tax money into an HSA not only helps you pay for medical-related costs, you are paying yourself, instead of paying the company.

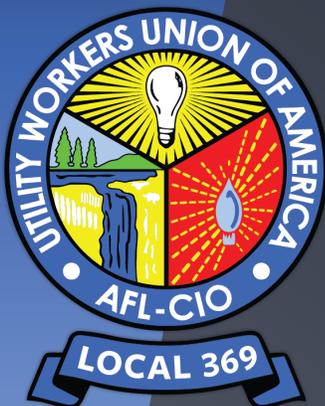
If you'd like more information about how a CDHP might be right for you, or how to maximize benefits with HSAs, please reach out anytime.

In Solidarity,

**CRAIG M. CONNOLLY**

Secretary-Treasurer

UWUA Local 369



## UWUA LOCAL 369 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: Quincy Elks Lodge, 254 Quarry St, Quincy, MA

DATE: Sunday, September 15, 2024

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

# Michael DeChristopher Awarded Local 369's Mark Steinmetz Humanitarian Award After Raising \$83,000 For Child Cancer Patients And Their Families

Congrats to Local 369 member Michael DeChristopher, who was nominated as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Boston Visionary of the Year, and participated in a 10-week philanthropic competition during which he raised more than \$83,000 for LLS.

Mike was chosen as one of 10 "Visionaries" by LLS Leadership Team Member Jen Caruso, based on characteristics LLS sees in successful candidates, including access, ability, and affinity for the cause. Mike was described by LLS as personally and professionally influential, with a strong network and community for team building. He also has a history of willingness to ask for donations in support of cancer patients and their families and was known to inspire others with a philanthropic and service-minded spirit.

Most notably, Mike stood out as an experienced fundraiser who is passionate about helping children facing cancer, which directly aligns with LLS's mission to cure blood cancers, and support patients and their families. In 2013, Mike began what is now known as the Dylan Project, in honor of the first child he supported through its mission. The Dylan Project is now an official non-profit, which supports these children and their siblings during the holidays. Working with LLS, The Dylan Project collects donations, buys gifts, wraps them, and delivers them home by home. The Project delivered more than 250 gifts for 23 children and their families in 2023.

For the Visionary competition, Mike worked with LLS staff and fundraising specialist, Christine Letzeisen, to strategize and execute a plan to raise \$50,000 from

March through June. He recruited a strong team - called "Mikey's Difference Makers" - and together they collected donations and hosted events, including a restaurant fundraiser, a comedy event, and a gala.

While Mike did not receive the overall title of "Visionary of the Year" at the end of the campaign, he still stands out as a Visionary as he exceeded his \$50,000 goal, raising over \$83,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The achievement allowed him to dedicate a portfolio in memory of Haille Kyed, who tragically died of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) just shy of her third birthday, two months before the campaign began.

Mike dedicated his fundraising efforts to Haille as part of LLS' "Dare to Dream Project," which includes \$175 million in funding for childhood cancer patients and their families through research, patient support, and advocacy.

For all his efforts, Mike was selected the winner of the "2024 Mission Award for Patient Education and Support" by LLS and has been awarded Local 369's Mark Steinmetz Humanitarian Award.

"It was an honor to partner with Mikey and team on his Visionary of the Year campaign," LLS campaign specialist Christine Letzeisen said. "They really came together to make a difference with these families impacted by a cancer diagnosis. LLS extends its sincerest gratitude to Mikey, his team, and all of his generous donors for making this possible."

**And congrats Mike from all your brothers and sisters here at Local 369. Great work!**

# EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT SENIER



### **BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**

A well-organized union leadership structure is critical to smooth functioning of Local 369 – and any labor organization. Among other things, a well-organized union leadership structure promotes efficient decision-making processes and establishes clear lines of authority within the union. In fact, a Local Union is only successful to the extent that everyone – from rank-and-file members to officers – has a clear understanding of the leadership's roles and responsibilities, thereby enabling timely and informed decisions that align with the union's objectives.

At Local 369, our leadership is comprised of the following positions: President, Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice President, and Business Agent. Our Executive Board (Trustees) bears responsibility for the governance of our Local Union.

Respect for the chain of command, as outlined in this article, is essential for the smooth growth, prosperity, and effective management of the union.

Our chain of command within Local 369 begins with our stewards and chief stewards in the workplace. Since stewards and chief stewards work alongside the membership in the field, they constitute the closest and easiest point of contact for members to address and assess potential issues. Therefore, members should speak with stewards or chief stewards first.

Next in the chain of command are our Executive Board members, followed by Business Agent, Executive Vice President, and President. The Secretary-Treasurer oversees all variety of benefit and retirement issues, whereas the rest of the Local's leadership deals more directly with collective bargaining and labor relations issues.

While adhering to and operating within the chain of command, rank-and-file members may elevate their issues to the next step in the chain of command under the following circumstances: (1) if unable to reach the appropriate contact in a timely manner; or (2) if the member disagrees with the advice given or decision made.

Of course, if you or any member have an issue that is an emergency/personal in nature, please do not hesitate to call. We are available 24/7.

Our Secretary-Treasurer is always available for any benefit or retirement needs.

In Solidarity,

**ROBERT SENIER**

Executive Vice-President

# BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM BUSINESS AGENT-AT-LARGE  
STEPHEN MILIONIS



## MEMBERS OF LOCAL 369,

I am often approached about how to get involved with the Local and especially about becoming a Union Steward. The role of a Union Steward is very important: you protect the members, their jobs, their working conditions, and their rights under their collective bargaining agreements (CBAs). In the process, your leadership skills are continually put to the test.

Sound exciting? As a steward, you undertake an immense responsibility that requires careful planning, social awareness, and the acknowledgement that you will encounter challenges or sometimes even setbacks along the way, including when you protest management's actions that violate your CBA. Be prepared for management to try to intimidate, bully, or even threaten discipline.

To avoid management retaliation, you should always be well prepared. In fact, you can never be too prepared. And while it's nearly impossible to know everything (please don't pretend that you do!), make sure you:

- Learn the contract!
- Ask questions!
- Remember that your group is counting on you as a leader and want you to be well informed on their contractual rights.

Ultimately, your knowledge of your CBA, credibility, and altruism will gain you the cooperation and respect of members and management alike. A wise and experienced Business Agent long before me used to always tell us, "READ YOUR CONTRACT." To succeed as a steward, this is essential.

Still sound exciting? Then get ready for some frustration and a few headaches. Stewardship is an education in itself. Always try to achieve the best outcome for your members and prepare for the worst. What you learn in this role is invaluable to your group and to the Local.

We are planning a Union Steward training this Fall, and I hope to see all our stewards there.

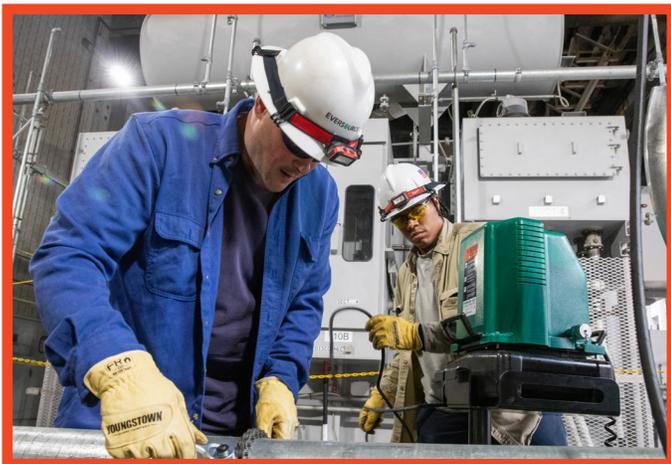
Have a safe summer and speak to you soon,

**STEPHEN A. MILIONIS**

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

# SCOTIA STREET SUBSTATION WORK

Local 369 members working for Eversource have been busy at the substation at 19 Scotia Street in Boston's Back Bay. It's a big job and a busy substation that powers hotels, restaurants, residential buildings and more. Great job brothers and sisters!







# PRESIDENT DAN LEARY APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR'S LABOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

Governor Maura Healey recently swore in the state's first ever Labor Advisory Council, which included UWUA Local 369 President Dan Leary. UWUA Local 369 is proud to have a seat at the table while our state leaders determine crucial labor policy that impacts workers and communities across the Commonwealth.

"Labor unions work hard not only to support their members, but all workers in Massachusetts," Governor Healey said. "The Labor Advisory Council will help advise our entire team on how we can continue to build on this progress and best support the hardworking men and women of Massachusetts. We've assembled an incredible team of leaders."

## Also on the Council with President Leary are:

- **Chrissy Lynch**, Co-Chair, President, MA AFL-CIO
- **Carlos Aramayo**, Co-Chair, President, UNITE HERE Local 26
- **Rich MacKinnon**, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
- **Joe Byrne**, Principal Officer, North Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters
- **Frank Callahan**, President, MA Building Trades Unions
- **Beth Kontos**, Former President, AFT-MA
- **Joe Bonfiglio**, Business Manager, Laborers District Council of Northern New England
- **Jim Evers**, President, ATU Local 589
- **Steve Finnigan**, Director, United Steel Workers District 4
- **Fernando Lemus**, President, UFCW Local 1445
- **Max Page**, President, MTA
- **Tim Foley**, Executive Vice President, SEIU 1199
- **Dave Foley**, President, SEIU 509
- **Chris Cook**, President, NAGE Local 282
- **Mark Bernard**, Executive Director, AFSCME Council 93
- **Colleen Glynn**, Executive Vice President, IATSE
- **Lou Antonellis**, Business Manager, IBEW Local 103
- **Jessica Tang**, President, AFT-MA
- **Katie Murphy**, President, Massachusetts Nurses Association



# SAVE THE DATE

## ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The first annual Tommy Roche Local 369 Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held **OCT. 28 AT GRANITE LINKS IN QUINCY.**

More details to come.

## In Memoriam

**Robert E. Sullivan** Retiree  
**Edward Nolan** Retiree  
**Anthony Cafano** Retiree  
**James J. Hansen** Retiree

**Richard Hilbert** Retiree  
**James D. Fitzgerald** Retiree  
**Anthony Lopez** Active  
**Edward Fitzgerald** Retiree

**James Fisher** Retiree  
**Clay Hartley** Retiree  
**Thomas Howard** Retiree

## Retirees

Gregory Williamson  
Mary-Kate McDonough  
Miriam Kent  
Charles Nagle  
Gerard Gauvin  
Sandra Hebshie-  
Newcomb  
William Bateman  
Peter J Skrzek  
David Lentini  
Thomas Devin

John Chisholm  
Thomas Quinlan  
Daniel Magoon  
Michael Tuepker  
Lisa Debonise  
Wendy Lima  
Kenneth Hamilton  
John Tinlin  
Wendy Coullahan  
Joseph Tierney

Ronald Vivona  
Leonard Miranda  
Deborah Maynard  
Janet Culhane  
Blaine Abaray  
Gerard Shimkus  
Michelle Brisbois  
Michael Graham  
Christopher Glynn  
David Stanlake

Joseph Beaver  
Kathryn Corzine  
Donald Anderson  
Robert Conley Jr.  
Thierry Difulco  
Mark Kelsey  
Peter Kennedy  
Barry Munroe  
Jeffery Torrice  
James Wright

UWUA Local 369  
68 Sagamore St.,  
Quincy, 02171



# CONGRATS TO TOMMY ROCHE

Our brother Tommy Roche was recently honored posthumously with the George “Bing” Fogerty Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is given by the Brotherhood of Utility Workers Council to members who exhibit “a lifetime of distinguished and dedicated service to the labor movement, a relentless pursuit of fair representation,” and “an unwavering commitment to improve the quality of life for all union members.” Congratulations to Tommy and his family for this well-deserved honor.

