



Seated, from left, Business Manager Kenny Broadbent, Secretary/Treasurer Joe Little
Standing, from left, Business Agents Bill Beardsley Jr., Regis Ryan, and Martin Noone III

Local Spotlight – Steamfitters Local 449, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Steamfitters Local 449 credits the vital role that its forefathers played in the American labor movement as the basis for its dynamic growth. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was the birthplace of Steamfitters Local 449. From the late 1800s, being affiliated with the Knights of Labor, to being chartered in 1913 by the United Association, the union has grown from 31 members more than 100 years ago to its current membership of 1,550 highly skilled workers. Under the leadership of 2008 Allegheny County's Labor Man of the Year, Business Manager Kenny Broadbent, Secretary/Treasurer Joseph Little, and Business Agents Bill Beardsley Jr., Regis Ryan, and Martin Noone III, Steamfitters Local 449 has had a major role in the continued revitalization of the Pittsburgh area.

Steamfitters Local 449 members are multi-talented and highly skilled, and they maintain a real presence on the service side of the industry. At any given time, they can be seen on a multitude of high-profile projects in and around the city. PNC Bank is proud of its long history with the local. **The bank's policy to build and service all of its properties union has worked well for both institutions.**

Business Manager Kenny Broadbent stated, "With PNC recently acquiring Mercantile Bank, Sterling Bank, Riggs Bank and National City Bank, it is important for our officers to know that PNC has always maintained this union policy. All of the service and construction of the newly acquired PNC branches should be 100 percent union jobs. This accounts for a win-win situation for both PNC Bank and the United Association."

Members are near completion of work on Three PNC Plaza, the first high-rise tower being built over 20 stories high in downtown Pittsburgh since 1988. The 23-story, 780,000-square-foot building is attempting to meet LEED green certifications. The project has been estimated to cost \$178 million, and will house major tenants that include 326,000 square feet of office space allocated to PNC and Reed Smith, one of the world's largest law firms. The top floors have been reserved by Fairmont Hotels and Resorts to operate a 185-room hotel, and the remaining space on the top floors has been earmarked for 28 condominiums. The project also includes three levels of underground parking. This state-of-the-art building overlooks PNC Field, where the National League Pittsburgh Pirates play baseball, which was also built 100 percent union. Members working for Ruthrauff/Saurer Inc. and Scalise Industries are near completion of the HVAC portion of the PNC building.

High-efficiency heating and air conditioning systems were installed, which will enable the project to exceed national energy efficiency standards by 10 to 15 percent.

It is interesting to note that PNC has designed and constructed more buildings based on U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) standards than any other U.S. company. When it comes to building with sustainable values, Steamfitters Local 449 has become the workforce of choice. Contractors know that the members are well versed in LEED certification requirements and on sustainable values as a whole.

The new Pittsburgh Penguins' arena, being built directly across from the old arena, is on track with a projected opening date of 2010. This \$210 million, 18,000-seat, multi-purpose arena will become a venue for year-round events. The project includes an extensive HVAC project as well as a state-of-the-art chiller system that is being built to stringent National Hockey League (NHL) specifications. Local signatory contractor, McKamish, will handle all of the HVAC projects with the highly skilled craftsmen of Local 449 on board. Professional Mechanical has been contracted to complete the ice making installation utilizing Local 449 journeymen and apprentices who will be constructing a welded steel pipe grid for the refrigerants to run through in order to manufacture the ice.

Plans for the old Penguins' arena include an uptown renewal worth \$500 million. This project will include mixed-use development with residential, commercial and retail buildings integrated into the planning. This plan will call for numerous jobs, and the members of Steamfitters Local 449 are sure to be in the forefront of this ambitious project.

The members of Local 449 have always been very involved in hospital work. The new University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's 900,000-square-foot Children's Hospital, part of a 1.5-million-square-foot new campus development, has produced more than 270,000 man-hours for the local's members. All of the work has been performed under project labor agreements. Members have been hard at work with local contractors Ruthrauff/Saurer Inc., Scalise Industries, McKamish Inc., and Lugaila Mechanical performing work on various buildings associated with the project.

The new campus consists of a new 10-story research building as well as a new 13-story hospital. A six-story central mechanical plant was erected to supplement an existing facility supplying the campus with heating and cooling. Two additional buildings were completely



renovated, and will serve as administrative and professional office buildings. The last project will convert a former apartment building into a dormitory to house visiting family members of the young patients.

Pittsburgh's North Shore is home to a multitude of attractions, and this area continues to expand. The \$450 million Rivers Casino began construction in 2008 as the Majestic Star Casino. Since that time, the project has been successfully taken over by a new developer and renamed The Rivers Casino. This crown jewel will be part of the redevelopment of the North Shore along the Allegheny River, just across from downtown Pittsburgh. It will total more than 400,000 square feet which will include five restaurants, four bars and lounges, a parking garage that will accommodate 3,800 cars, with 100,000 square feet allocated for a gaming floor. Under a project labor agreement, members of Local 449 are working for Ruthrauff/Sauer installing all of the HVAC piping and equipment, as well as installing the refrigeration piping and related equipment with Professional Mechanical. The project is on target for its grand opening in the fall of 2009, and future plans include a 300-room hotel and an expansion of the gaming floor.

Currently 15 members are hard at work employed by Graycor at the Clairton Coke Plant, located in Allegheny County, just west of the community of Clairton, Pa. U.S. Steel, which owns the plant, is planning to install a new, six-meter, by-product recovery coking battery, referred to as "C" battery, incorporating up-to-date technology and mechanical equipment within the existing Clairton plant. This project will mean a lot of work for Local 449 members with numbers peaking at 120. The completion date is projected for May 2011.

During the early 1980s, "B" battery, a six-meter, 75-oven battery was installed in the plant. The new "C" battery will have 84 ovens, the same size and proportion of the ovens in "B" battery. The new battery will be constructed to complement, as much as possible, the existing plant infrastructure. Some new and modified coal and coke handling systems will be needed to accommodate the new battery. Similarly, the existing by-product plant will be able to accommodate the gas flows of the new battery. Some tie-ins to the existing by-product facilities will be necessary to handle the new waste heat gasses in order to distribute the cleaned coke oven gas to the new "C" battery. This includes the addition of a new high line to transport raw coke oven gas, flushing liquors, and heating gas to and from the new battery. Upon completion, the new "C" battery will produce



nearly 2,800 tons of high-quality coke per day.

The addition of the state-of-the-art "C" battery will replace the coke that is currently being produced by three existing smaller and older coke batteries. The future holds plans for a "D" battery that will be built next to "C" battery, once the project is complete. Updating and maintaining this monumental facility will require the skills of Local 449 journeymen and apprentices for years to come.

The Marcellus Shale region has received a lot of attention recently. Between 2005 and the end of 2007, using horizontal and hydraulic fracturing drilling methods, more than 375 gas wells had been permitted in Pennsylvania. Geo-science studies have surprised everyone, estimating that the Marcellus might contain more than 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The presence of an enormous volume of potentially recoverable gas in the eastern United States has a great economic significance, and the jobs and the prospective jobs for the members of Local 449, as well as Pipeline Local 798 are monumental.

More than \$200 million has been spent on constructing a midstream infrastructure, referred to as the Houston Recovery Site, to gather and process the natural gas that is being extracted from the Marcellus Shale. Late summer and early fall, numbers peaked at 75 members working for Chapman Construction on phase one of the project, which included the construction of a refrigeration processing plant in Washington County, on target to commence operation at the end of the first quarter of 2009. Currently there are 34 craftsmen on site, but numbers are expected to ramp up as the initial phase of the infrastructure takes shape. Next to the refrigeration processing plant, a cryogenic processing plant is being planned with construction gearing up at the end of the first quarter of 2009.

Both the refrigeration plant and the cryogenic plant will have the capacity to initially process 30 million cubic feet (Mmcf) of natural gas per day, with the prospect of producing 80 to 100 Mmcf per day by year end 2009. The cryogenic plant will include a depropanizer to extract propane, which will be sold regionally, from the gas stream. Future plans also include a 120 Mmcf per day cryogenic plant with a depropanizer that is expected to be completed in late 2009, as well as the possibility of the construction of a fractionator.

With all of the work on the books for 2009 and beyond, the journeymen and apprentices of Steamfitters Local 449 are primed to continue the long legacy that has been a part of their local's strong history. There is no doubt that the officers and members of Local 449 will leave this fine local in top form for generations to come.