



WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

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Executive Leadership Team

Joseph Hunt, General President

Joseph J. Hunt was elected general president of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers on February 23, 2001. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he is a third generation ironworker. His father, Joseph Hunt, Sr., and his grandfather Jim Hunt both held offices in Iron Workers Local Union No. 396, St. Louis. As his father and grandfather before him, Hunt had held numerous positions in Local No. 396 including that of business manager. In 1983 he was appointed a general organizer and assigned to International Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He first served as assistant to the director of jurisdiction and then became an assistant to the general treasurer. During that time he also handled special assignments at the direction of the general president. In 1990, he returned to St. Louis and was elected president of the Iron Workers District Council of St. Louis. In 1994, Hunt was appointed general vice president and in December, 1998 he was appointed general treasurer.



Over the years he has served in many labor related positions including vice president and executive board member of the St. Louis Building Trades Council, executive board member of the Missouri Building Trades Council, trustee and executive board member of the St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO, chairman of the National Stack and Chimney Committee and secretary of the Regional Committee of the National Infrastructure Alliance. He also served as board member of the Maria Droste Home, trustee of the Arch Mutual Fund and board member of Firmco. He was appointed to both PRIDE (a local labor/management coalition) and the Missouri Atomic Energy Commission. While in St. Louis he also served as an executive board member of the St. Louis Ambassadors and a commissioner of Lambert St. Louis International Airport.

In May 2001 Hunt was elected as an executive board member of the Maritime Trades Department. On July 31, 2001, he was elected as a vice president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). In August 2001, Hunt was elected as an executive board member of the Metal Trades Department. Hunt serves as a member of the Governing Board of Presidents of the Building and Construction Trades Department. He also serves as secretary of the board of directors of the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans. Hunt has served on the Board of Directors of Union Labor Life Insurance Company since 2003. On August 3, 2006 he was elected as chairman of the board of Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

A 1987 graduate of the Harvard University Trade Union Program, Mr. Hunt and his wife Jan have four children including son Joe, a member of Local 396, as well as nine grandchildren all currently residing in St. Louis.



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Walter Wise, General Secretary

Walter Wise was appointed general treasurer by General President Joseph Hunt. Wise is a 30-year member of Local 697, Roanoke, Virginia, and also served as business agent for that local.



He was born in Virginia in 1951. He lived in California for a time and returned to Virginia where he attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg and studied engineering. Wise was initiated in February 1975, and became a journeyman in 1977. In October 1997, General President Jake West appointed him general organizer. In February of 1998, he was appointed president of the Mid-Atlantic District Council.

Wise has earned the respect of ironworkers that know him by never asking them to do anything that he won't do. That includes knocking on doors at night in the evening to discuss the union way of life with interested non-union workers and their spouses or participating in an informational hand-billing campaign to promote the union cause. He is relentless in his efforts to organize and demands the same attitude from his fellow ironworkers. It's no wonder that his fellow members have coined a phrase about him, "A card signed a day keeps the tall man away."

Edward C. McHugh, General Treasurer

As of March 1, 2008, Edward C. McHugh became the General Treasurer for the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers. Prior to this appointment, Mr. McHugh served the brotherhood as general vice president and president of the Philadelphia and Vicinity District Council.



McHugh started his career as an ironworker when he was initiated as an apprentice in Local Union 489, Scranton, Pennsylvania, in June 1965. After becoming a journeyman in September of 1966, he became active in the affairs of the Local Union, and when the members recognized his leadership ability, they elected him to serve on the executive board in 1968, as vice president in 1979, and as president in 1986.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Edward McHugh, Sr., who was also the business agent of Local 489 in Scranton, McHugh became assistant business agent in 1986, and was elected business agent in 1993. Once again recognizing his leadership, then President Jake West appointed him general organizer on November 11, 1998.