



Stronger Together

SPRING
2025

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CARPENTERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Representing thousands of union carpenters, millwrights, and pile drivers in 13 Local Unions who work and live in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the Florida Panhandle.



Memphis Launches New Training Center

For years, our Memphis staff and members have worked at the massive project, Blue Oval, with scores of carpenters and millwrights turning in millions of work hours to help Ford establish and operate this facility. Now, even more work is heading to the area, and we are ready after bolstering our Memphis program to support our partnering contractors' needs.

We are proud to announce that a new training center is up and running at 7260 Goodlett Farms Parkway, Cordova, TN. The 30,000-square-foot building is on 4.25 acres just off the I-40 highway. There is much to see and learn about our new Memphis training home. Head on over to page 10 for the full story.

We are Growing in Carolina!

Thanks to growing work opportunities and membership in North Carolina, the former Charlotte Local 312 has expanded its services to support our contractors in the Raleigh/Durham area. It is now known as North Carolina Local 312.

The new office is at 1001 Hill Dr., Suite 180, Durham, NC 27703. The office phone number is 919-667-4282 and the email is LU312@secarpenters.org. The Local 312 Business Manager, Efrain Villatoro, is the contact for the Raleigh/Durham office. You can contact Efrain directly at EVillatoro@secarpenters.org.

Efrain reports that skills training is in full swing for that location to meet contractor needs, including OSHA 10 and 30, Qualified Rigger & Signaler, Math for the Trades, Cleanroom Familiarization, Aerial Lifts, Builder Level and Transit, Total Stations, First AID, CPR, and AED. The instructor for Raleigh/Durham is David Toledo. His number is 706-829-7788, and his email is DTOledo@sdttf.org.

The original Local 312 office remains fully operational, at 1928 Back Creek Drive, Charlotte, NC 28213, with its original phone number of 336-249-2239 and email of LU312@secarpenters.org.

Congratulations, Carolina Local 312!



Members Help Members Recover from Hurricane Helene. See the Councilwide Response on Page 16.

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From the EST's Desk



The Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council is busy and in-demand! More and more companies are choosing the Southeast Region of the USA for a multitude of factories and facilities, ranging from automotive plants to high-tech computer chip manufacturing.

Our work hours in 2024 totaled just shy of 11 million, which is a three-percent increase over 2023. Leading the way were Local 312 (a 225% increase) and Local 1554 (96% increase).

Our membership in 2024 held steady at about 10,000 members, less than a one-percent increase over 2023. Between staff recruitment, school partnerships, job fairs, social media, advertising and other strategies, we added about 2,400 new members last year. However, we also lost about that same amount over the same time period.

Significant work opportunities are here and more are coming. For instance, the Tennessee Valley Authority – a major employer of our members – will be spending \$5 billion a year, for the next 10 years, for Capital projects and will need scores of carpenter and millwright crews for our signatory contractors working that site.

To meet these manpower demands, we must slow the number of members choosing to exit our Union. I am calling on every member to help us do that. You are our first line of communication with fellow brothers and sisters. If you see someone struggling, offer to help them get assistance. If you believe a co-worker is considering quitting, encourage them to speak with their Business Agent. Stay in communication with your Business Agent and help identify members at-risk of leaving.

Never in our Council's history has our slogan "Stronger Together" been so appropriate. We are positioned to have a record-breaking year in work hours. I urge all of you to help us stay Stronger Together by helping your fellow brothers and sisters remain happy and productive.

Yours in Solidarity

Tom Jenkins, EST

Desde la oficina del EST

¡El Concilio Regional de Carpinteros del Sureste está ocupado y en demanda! Cada vez más empresas eligen la región sureste de los Estados Unidos para una multitud de fábricas e instalaciones, que van desde plantas automotrices hasta fabricación de chips de computadora de alta tecnología.

Nuestras horas de trabajo en 2024 totalizaron poco menos de 11 millones, lo que supone un aumento del tres por ciento con respecto a 2023. Liderando el camino en esta estaba el Local 312 (un aumento del 225%) y el Local 1554 (un aumento del 96%).

Nuestra membresía en 2024 se mantuvo estable en alrededor de 10,000 miembros, menos del uno por ciento más que en 2023. Entre el reclutamiento de parte de nuestro personal, las asociaciones escolares, las ferias de empleo, las redes sociales, la publicidad y otras estrategias, agregamos alrededor de 2,400 nuevos miembros el año pasado. Sin embargo, también perdimos aproximadamente esa misma cantidad durante el mismo período de tiempo.

Importantes oportunidades de trabajo están aquí y más están por venir. Por ejemplo, Tennessee Valley Authority –uno de los principales empleadores de nuestros miembros, gastará \$5 mil millones al año, durante los próximos 10 años, en proyectos de capital y necesitarán equipos de carpinteros e instaladores de maquinaria industrial para nuestros contratistas del sindicato que trabajen en ese sitio.

Para cumplir con estas demandas de mano de obra, debemos reducir el número de miembros que deciden irse de nuestro sindicato. Hago un llamado a cada miembro para que nos ayude a lograrlo. Ustedes son nuestra primera línea de comunicación con los demás hermanos y hermanas. Si ven a alguien que está pasando por dificultades, ofrezcan su ayuda para ofrecerles asistencia. Si creen que un compañero de trabajo está considerando renunciar, anímenlo a hablar con su Agente de Negocios. Manténganse en comunicación con su Agente de Negocios y ayuden a identificar a los miembros que están en riesgo de irse.

Nunca en la historia de nuestro Consejo nuestro lema "Unidos somos más fuertes" ha sido tan apropiado. Estamos posicionados para tener un año récord en horas de trabajo. Pido a todos ustedes a que nos ayuden a mantenernos juntos más fuertes ayudando a sus hermanos y hermanas a seguir siendo felices y productivos.

Tuyo en Solidaridad

Tom Jenkins, EST

2025 JOBS OUTLOOK AT-A-GLANCE

- Several carpenters and millwrights are working a three-year agreement at the Plant Yates and Plant Sherer power plants, earning the work after the plant worked non-union for 20 years
- Locals 50 and 312 are doing heavy highway work for Ames Construction in continued Hurricane Helene recovery
- Local 1263 is working with Fireball Industries on an Artificial Intelligence Integrator and installing sensors and programming to enhance plant operations
- Local 1554 has a Project Labor Agreement with Burchett Mechanical to install jib cranes and conveyors
- Locals 345 and 1554 are expected to turn in about 2.5 million work hours at Blue Oval
- Locals 312 and 223 are handling mass timber projects in Tennessee
- Local 225 and 1263 are working a three-year agreement for Six Flags amusement park in Georgia

UBC Southern District Priority: Members' Retirement Security and Family Health



Trust Fund Mergers Status Report

Your healthcare and well-being, as well as being able to retire comfortably for the years of hard work are a priority of the UBC Southern District and Regional Council Leadership. As you are aware, the UBC is at the forefront of creative ideas that are put to work to save our members money and ensure that benefits remain relevant. There is no better example than that of the Level Care Program that has saved UBC members and trust funds over \$4 billion dollars since inception on prescription and specialty drugs, as well as

create a pathway for wage increases to go into the pockets of UBC members. This initiative was only accomplished by consolidation and economies of scale via the reduced number of health funds across the Country. Other creative programs initiated through the foresight of UBC General President McCarron and the UBC General Executive Board, designed to save our members money, include the UBC Russell 3000 Index Fund that has the lowest in-class industry index fees for our funds to participate in the stock market, as well as a program currently under review to consolidate self-insurance programs for the UBC Regional Councils (workers comp, property, auto, etc.).

In keeping with the above, this same determination and effort was instituted within the Southern District with a focus on better participant outcomes within all the fund disciplines – Health, Pension, Supplemental Retirement Plans and Training. The following report will discuss the successes through aggressive timeline goals and savings on investment and administrative fees, benefit improvements and ultimately the final outcomes to consolidate 25 trust funds since June 2023. This marks a pivotal step towards addressing the challenges faced by multi-employer benefit funds nationwide. While many unions are slow to take actions needed to address these challenges, the UBC has taken a proactive stance on behalf of our members.

Defined Benefit Pension Funds

Simply put, and after thorough analysis by the trustees, too much of our members' money was being given to fund professionals (attorneys, investment consultants, asset managers, etc.) and Wall Street! Our team began with the eight Defined Benefit Pension Funds (valued at approx. \$1.64 billion) because our members' money was in many cases going towards extremely high investment fees. Also, the opportunities existed for benefit improvements through consolidation, as well as creating a more competitive environment for our industry partners due to unfunded liability in certain funds, and additionally, the ability to recruit new members for a higher accrual rate. Primarily, the ESTs of the three Southern District Councils and labor/management trustees focused on five points during the merger process:

- Operational Benefits.** Consolidating funds leads to more consistent operations and less confusion for participants. Work hours come from a broader region and are less concentrated by the employer.
- Better Service to Participants, Affiliated Unions, and Signatory Employers.** Fewer funds mean less confusion in crucial interactions for participants and their families, reduced administrative costs for contributions from signatory employers, and simplified negotiations of contractual benefits.

- Increased Influence.** A single fund with a larger asset base provides the fund with more influence and ability to effectively operate, allows better access to investment opportunities, and has average investment returns higher over time.
 - Lower Administrative Costs.** Merging funds reduces the number of costly service providers needed for fund operations and lowers expenses after time.
 - Lower Investment Fees.** Eliminating multiple investment consultants and moving to a passive, low-fee approach means lower investment expenses and more money in participant pockets.
- Below is a timeline of completed mergers, those taking place in 2025 and under review by the trustees.

Southern District UBC Fund Mergers
DEFINED BENEFIT FUNDS - TIMELINE

4Q 2023

Initial mergers into Carpenters Labor-Management Pension Fund (CLMPF)

- Effective December 31, 2023, the following plans merged into the CLMPF:
- Carpenters and Millwrights of Houston and Vicinity Pension Trust
 - Louisiana Carpenters Pension Trust
 - New Orleans Carpenters Pension Trust

2Q 2024

Tri-State, Carpenters Local 345 and TN/NC Carpenters Pension Fund Mergers

- Effective May 30, 2024, these funds merged to create one Pension Fund within the SECR

4Q 2024

Florida Carpenters Pension Fund Merger

- Effective December 31, 2024, the Florida Carpenters Pension Fund merges into the CLMPF.
- Merger study approved with the Western States Pension Fund, CLMPF, and Tri-State Pension.

3Q 2025

Planning for a 7/1/2025 merger date of CLMPF into the Western States Carpenters Pension Fund.

Tri-State and Western States Merger Study is currently being drafted for review by the trustees.

Regarding the mergers that have been completed, the average administrative savings are \$0.18 per hour. The estimated average investment savings across all four plans is \$0.08 per hour. This translates into an estimated \$3.133 million per year that is now going towards enhancing plan funding to better manage adverse market environments (investment and economic) easier than stand-alone plans and increase member benefit improvements.

Lastly, the merged plan will have a significant increase in contribution hours and work hours will be across a broader region and less concentrated by employer. There is no withdrawal liability for the merged plan. Below is a great real-life changing example of a member working in the CLMPF Fund in Florida, following the anticipated merger into the Western States Pension Fund in July 2025. Note: The example from Florida was chosen because the merger analysis with the SECRC's Tri-State Fund is still being prepared and has not been provided to the boards of trustees for review).

- Pre-Merger: $1\% \times (60\% \times \$6.39/\text{hour}) \times 1,800 \text{ hours} = \69 credit
- Post-Merger: \$200 credit, plus \$0.48/hr. can be diverted to the wage or DC fund
- **In a six-month time frame, Florida's credit would increase \$131!**

After 20 years of accruals the monthly benefit would be \$4,000 vs. \$1,380 without a merger. After 20 years of retirement, the retiree would have received \$628,800 more in pension benefits!

Defined Contribution Funds

Effective July 1, 2024, eight Defined Contribution Funds within the District were merged to create the Southern District, UBC, Defined Contribution Fund (aka – Annuity, Supplemental Retirement). The newly formed Fund has approximately \$1.2 billion in combined assets, with over 40,000 total participants. Much like the above defined benefit savings analysis, the defined contribution fund received the same economies of scale savings on investment and administrative expenses. Estimated annual savings are expected to be \$3.3 million that will go directly to the participant accounts, versus managers with substantial fees underperforming the index returns.

Health Funds

All five Health Funds within the Southern District were merged to form the Southern District, UBC, Health Trust effective July 1, 2024, with a combined \$217 million in assets and over 9,000 participants. To facilitate a merger of health funds, given that each fund has its own benefit structure, the trustees made the decision to keep each of the current plans of benefits in place as it was prior to the merger so as not to disrupt any health care needs. With this said, the trustees will continue to search for opportunities to provide better health benefits for our member participants and keep the cost manageable for our industry partners. For example, the Level Care and Level Health consortiums leverage the PBM and PPO buying power through thousands of lives in other UBC Health Funds. Annual estimates savings for our members in the district since combining the Health Funds is approximately \$100,000 from solely investment fees.

Training Funds

In 2024, we took a major step to further support your careers from the training perspective by merging all the training programs throughout the UBC Southern District's 11 states under one: The Southern District Training Trust Fund (SDTTF). Leaders from our three regional councils

and four existing training programs worked closely with signatory contractors to bring training programs from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas together. This merger officially took effect on January 1, 2025.

The primary objectives of this merger were to pool resources, strengthen relationships with contractors, and standardize training across the district to develop well-rounded carpenters, millwrights, and pile drivers. The SDTTF is led by Florida-based Executive Director Jimmie Jordan. The SDTTF is divided into two regions: The West, overseen by Texas-based Director Eric Kastner, and the East – your region – led by Tennessee-based Director Rickey Moore. During the merger planning process, we saw the need to enhance contractor relationships, leading to the creation of the SDTTF Department of Outreach and Marketing. This department is headed by former Southeastern Training Trust Fund Director Mark Brown. It focuses on staff training and development, building contractor rapport, managing social media, developing journeymen upgrade programs, and formalizing processes such as apprentice intake, recruiting, and mentoring programs within the apprenticeship.

The core benefits of this merger are better service to members and contractors, and more efficient operational benefits. We project an annual savings of \$100,000 because of the merger. Our training program is poised to deliver more training options for journeypersons, more learning opportunities for apprentices, and faster on-demand training when requested by partnering contractors, whether on the jobsite or at the training facility.

We also have a new website to give visitors everything they may need to know or access regarding Southern District training. Please take a look at SDTTF.org. We can be found on social media via Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and Tik Tok.

Overall, the purpose of merging the four training funds operating within the district was enhanced operational benefits as well as the financial and personnel benefits within a larger fund. The SDTTF operates 28 training centers, with nearly 4,000 apprentices and 475,000 total annual training hours. The combined fund has an abundance of knowledgeable, first-class instructors who share their expertise with apprentices and journey-level members throughout the district, as well as ensuring our signatory contractors' training requests and expectations are met timely to support the abundance of work opportunities in the district.

In closing, we will never stop working to continue improving the lives and economic security of our members, their families and the success of our industry partners. Total savings from the mergers described are estimated to be \$7 million per year, notwithstanding the life-changing benefit improvements that can be studied and instituted.

It is an absolute honor to work for the members of the SECRC and the entire UBC Southern District. Onward and upward!

Faternally yours,



Jason B. Engels



Desde el escritorio del vicepresidente del Distrito Sur de la UBC

La Seguridad de Jubilación y la Salud Familiar de los Miembros del Distrito Sur de la UBC es la Prioridad

Informe de Estado de Fusiones de Fondos Fiduciarios

Su atención médica y bienestar, así como poder retirarse cómodamente después de años de trabajo, son una prioridad para el liderazgo del Distrito Sur de la UBC y del Concilio Regional. Como ya sabe, la UBC está a la vanguardia de ideas creativas que se implementan para ahorrar dinero a nuestros miembros y garantizar que los beneficios sigan siendo relevantes. No hay mejor ejemplo de esto que el Programa de Cuidado de Nivel, que ha ahorrado a los miembros de la UBC y a los fondos fiduciarios más de 4 mil millones de dólares desde su inicio en medicamentos con receta y medicamentos especializados, además de crear un camino para que los aumentos de salario lleguen a los bolsillos de los miembros de la UBC. Esta iniciativa solo fue posible gracias a la consolidación y las economías de escala mediante la reducción de la cantidad de fondos de salud a nivel nacional. Otros programas creativos iniciados por la visión del Presidente General de la UBC, McCarron, y la Junta Ejecutiva General de la UBC, diseñados para ahorrar dinero a nuestros miembros, incluyen el Fondo de Índice UBC Russell 3000, que tiene las tarifas de índice más bajas de la industria en su clase para que nuestros fondos participen en el mercado de valores, así como un programa actualmente bajo revisión para consolidar los programas de auto-seguro de los Concilios Regionales de la UBC (compensación laboral, propiedad, automóviles, etc.).

Siguiendo con lo anterior, esta misma determinación y esfuerzo se ha implementado dentro del Distrito Sur con un enfoque en mejorar los resultados de los participantes dentro de todas las disciplinas de fondos: Salud, Pensiones, Planes Suplementarios de Jubilación y Capacitación. El siguiente informe discutirá los éxitos alcanzados a través de metas de cronograma agresivas y ahorros en tarifas de inversión y administrativas, mejoras en los beneficios y, finalmente, los resultados finales de la consolidación de (25) fondos fiduciarios desde Junio de 2023. Este es un paso crucial hacia la solución de los desafíos que enfrentan los fondos de beneficios multi-empleador a nivel nacional. Mientras que muchos sindicatos son lentos para tomar las medidas necesarias para enfrentar estos desafíos, la UBC ha adoptado una postura proactiva en nombre de nuestros miembros.

Fondos de Pensiones de Beneficio Definido

En términos simples, y después de un análisis exhaustivo por parte de los fideicomisarios, ¡demasiado dinero de nuestros miembros estaba siendo destinado a profesionales de fondos (abogados, consultores de inversiones, gestores de activos, etc.) y a Wall Street! Nuestro equipo comenzó con los (8) Fondos de Pensiones de Beneficio Definido (valorados en aproximadamente 1.64 mil millones de dólares) porque el dinero de nuestros miembros, en muchos casos, se destinaba a tarifas de inversión extremadamente altas. Además, existían oportunidades para mejorar los beneficios mediante la consolidación, así como para crear un ambiente más competitivo para nuestros socios de la industria debido a pasivos no financiados en ciertos fondos. También, la posibilidad de reclutar nuevos miembros para una tasa de acumulación más alta. Principalmente, los EST's de los tres Concilios del Distrito Sur y los fideicomisarios laborales/empresariales se centraron en cinco puntos durante el proceso de fusión:

Beneficios Operacionales. La consolidación de fondos conduce a operaciones más consistentes y menos confusión para los participantes. Las horas de trabajo provienen de una región más amplia y son menos concentradas por empleador.

Mejor Servicio a los Participantes, Sindicatos Afiliados y Empleadores Firmantes. Menos fondos significan menos confusión en interacciones cruciales para los participantes y sus familias, menores costos administrativos para las contribuciones de los empleadores firmantes, y negociaciones simplificadas de beneficios contractuales.

Mayor Influencia. Un solo fondo con una base de activos más grande le otorga al fondo más influencia y capacidad para operar de manera efectiva. Permite un mejor acceso a oportunidades de inversión y mayores rendimientos de inversión a lo largo del tiempo.

Menores Costos Administrativos. La fusión de fondos reduce el número de proveedores de servicios costosos necesarios para las operaciones del fondo y reduce los gastos con el tiempo.

Menores Tarifas de Inversión. Eliminar múltiples consultores de inversión y pasar a un enfoque pasivo y de bajo costo significa menores gastos de inversión y más dinero en los bolsillos de los participantes.

A continuación, se presenta una línea de tiempo de las fusiones completadas, las que tendrán lugar en 2025 y las que están bajo revisión por parte de los fideicomisarios.

Con respecto a las fusiones que se han completado, el ahorro administrativo promedio es de \$0.18 por hora. El ahorro de inversión promedio estimado en los cuatro planes es de \$0.08 por hora. Esto se traduce en un estimado de \$3,133,000 por año que ahora se destina a mejorar el financiamiento del plan para administrar mejor los entornos de mercado adversos (económicos y inversión) más fácilmente que los planes independientes y aumentar las mejoras en los beneficios de los miembros.

Por último, el plan fusionado tendrá un aumento significativo en las horas de cotización y las horas de trabajo se realizarán en una región más amplia y menos concentradas por empleador. No hay responsabilidad de retiro para el plan fusionado.

A continuación, se muestra un gran ejemplo que cambió la vida real de un miembro que trabaja en el Fondo CLMPF en Florida, luego de la fusión anticipada en el Fondo de Pensiones de los Estados Occidentales en julio de 2025. (Se eligió el ejemplo de Florida porque el análisis de la fusión con el Fondo Triestatal de la SECRC aún se está preparando y no se ha proporcionado a las juntas de fideicomisarios para su revisión).

- Antes de la fusión: $1\% \times (60\% \times \$6.39/\text{hora}) \times 1,800 \text{ horas} = \text{crédito de } \69
- Después de la fusión: crédito de \$200, y \$0.48/hora se puede desviar al fondo de salarios o DC
- ¡En un período de seis meses, el crédito de la Florida aumentaría \$131!

Después de 20 años de acumulaciones, el beneficio mensual sería de \$4,000 frente a \$1,380 sin una fusión. ¡Después de 20 años de jubilación, el jubilado habría recibido \$628,800 más en beneficios de pensión!

Fondos de Contribución Definida

A partir del 1 de julio de 2024, ocho Fondos de Contribución Definida dentro del distrito se fusionaron para crear el Fondo de Contribución Definida (también conocido como A anualidad, Jubilación Suplementaria) del Distrito Sur, UBC. El Fondo recién formado tiene aproximadamente \$1.2 mil millones en activos combinados, con más de 40,000 participantes en total. Al igual que en el análisis de ahorros por beneficios definidos anterior, el fondo de contribución definida recibió los mismos ahorros de economías de escala en gastos administrativos y de inversión. Se espera que el ahorro anual estimado sea de 3.3 millones de dólares que irán directamente a las cuentas de los participantes, en comparación con los gestores con comisiones sustanciales que no rinden nada más que los rendimientos del índice.

Fondos de Salud

Además, todos los Fondos de Salud dentro del Distrito Sur (5) se fusionaron para formar el Fideicomiso de Salud del Distrito Sur, UBC, a partir del 1 de julio de 2024, con un total combinado de \$217 millones en activos y más de 9,000 participantes. Para facilitar una fusión de fondos de salud, dado que cada fondo tiene su propia estructura de beneficios, los fideicomisarios tomaron la decisión de mantener cada uno de los planes de beneficios actuales tal como estaban antes de la fusión para no interrumpir ninguna necesidad de atención médica. Dicho esto, los fideicomisarios continuarán buscando oportunidades para brindar mejores beneficios de salud a nuestros miembros

participantes y mantener el costo manejable para nuestros socios de la industria. Por ejemplo, los consorcios Level Care y Level Health aprovechan el poder adquisitivo de PBM y PPO a través de miles de vidas en otros fondos de salud de UBC. Se estima que los ahorros anuales para nuestros miembros en el distrito desde que se combinaron los Fondos de Salud son de aproximadamente \$100,000 solo por las tarifas de inversión.

Fondos de Capacitación

En 2024, dimos un paso importante para apoyar aún más sus carreras desde la perspectiva de la fácilmente para capacitación al fusionar todos los programas de capacitación en los 11 estados del Distrito Sur de UBC en uno solo: el Fondo Fiduciario de Capacitación del Distrito Sur (SDTTF).

Los líderes de nuestros tres consejos regionales y cuatro programas de capacitación existentes trabajaron en estrecha colaboración con los contratistas signatarios para reunir programas de capacitación de Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Carolina del Norte, Oklahoma, Carolina del Sur, Tennessee y Texas. Esta fusión entró en vigor oficialmente el 1 de enero de 2025.

Los objetivos principales de esta fusión fueron reunir recursos, fortalecer las relaciones con los contratistas y estandarizar la capacitación en todo el distrito para desarrollar carpinteros, carpinteros y martinetes completos. El SDTTF está dirigido por el director ejecutivo Jimmie Jordan, con sede en Florida. El SDTTF está dividido en dos regiones: el Oeste, supervisado por el director Eric Kastner, con sede en Texas, y el Este, su región, dirigido por el director Rickey Moore, con sede en Tennessee.

Durante el proceso de planificación de la fusión, vimos la necesidad de mejorar las relaciones con los contratistas, lo que llevó a la creación de un Departamento de Divulgación y Marketing de SDTTF. Este departamento está encabezado por el ex director del Fondo Fiduciario de Capacitación del Sureste, Mark Brown. Se centra en la formación y el desarrollo del personal, la relación entre los contratistas de la construcción, la gestión de las redes sociales, el desarrollo de programas de mejora de oficiales y la formalización de procesos como la admisión de aprendices, el reclutamiento y los programas de tutoría dentro del aprendizaje.

Los principales beneficios de esta fusión son un mejor servicio a los miembros y contratistas, y beneficios operativos más eficientes. De hecho, proyectamos un ahorro anual de \$100,000 debido a la fusión.

Nuestro programa de capacitación está preparado para brindar más opciones de capacitación para los oficiales, más oportunidades de aprendizaje para los aprendices y una capacitación a pedido más rápida cuando lo soliciten los contratistas asociados, ya sea en el lugar de trabajo o en el centro de capacitación.

También tenemos un nuevo sitio web para dar a los visitantes todo lo que puedan necesitar saber o acceder con respecto a la capacitación del Distrito Sur. Por favor, eche un vistazo a SDTTF.org. Se nos puede encontrar en las redes sociales a través de Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn y Tik Tok.

En general, el propósito de fusionar los (4) fondos de capacitación, a partir del 1 de enero de 2025, que operan dentro del distrito se debió a los beneficios operativos mejorados, así como a los beneficios financieros y de personal dentro de un fondo más grande. El recién formado Fondo Fiduciario de Capacitación del Distrito Sur, UBC, opera 28 centros de capacitación, con casi 4,000 aprendices y 475,000 horas de capacitación anuales totales. El fondo combinado cuenta con una gran cantidad de instructores capacitados y de primera clase que pueden compartir su experiencia con aprendices y miembros de nivel maestro con en todo el distrito, además de garantizar que las solicitudes y expectativas de capacitación de nuestros contratistas signatarios se cumplan a tiempo para respaldar la abundancia de oportunidades de trabajo en el distrito.



Para concluir, nunca descansaremos para continuar mejorando las vidas y la seguridad económica de nuestros miembros, sus familias y el éxito de nuestros socios de la industria. Se estima que los ahorros totales de las fusiones descritas serán de 7 millones de dólares por año, a pesar de las mejoras en los beneficios que pueden estudiarse e instituirse que cambian la vida.

Es un honor absoluto trabajar para los miembros de la SECRC y para todo el Distrito Sur de UBC. ¡Adelante y hacia arriba!

Fraternalmente,

Jason B. Engels

Fusiones del Distrito Sur de los Fondos de UBC FONDOS DE PRESTACIÓN DEFINIDA - CRONOLOGÍA

4Q 2023

Fusiones iniciales en el Fondo de Pensión Laboral-Administrativo de Carpinteros (CLMPF)

A partir de diciembre 31, 2023, con el CLMPF:

- Las Pensiones de Carpinteros y Instaladores/mantenimiento de maquinaria industrial de Houston y sus alrededores
- Fondo de Pensiones de Carpinteros de Louisiana
- Fondo de Pensiones de Carpinteros de Nueva Orleans

2Q 2024

Fusión de Fondos de Pensiones de Tri-State, Local De Carpinteros 345, y TN/NC

- Efectivo mayo 30 de 2024, estos fondos se unieron para crear un único fondo dentro de SECRC

4Q 2024

Fusión def Fondo de Pensiones de Florida

- Efectivo desde el 31 de diciembre de 2024. La pensión de fondos de los carpinteros de Florida se unieron con la CLMPF.
- Estudio de Fusión de fondos fue aprobada por la pensión de fondos de los Estados del Oeste, CLMPF, y la pensión Tri-State.

3Q 2025

Planificación para la fecha de fusión del CLMPF con el Fondo de Pensiones de Carpinteros de los Estados Occidentales el 1 de julio de 2025.

Actualmente se esta redactando un estudio sobre la fusión de Tri-State y Western States para su revision por parte de los fideicomisarios.

Hundreds of Members Honored for Their Many Years of Service

Congratulations to the outstanding brothers and sisters who have built successful careers as professional union carpenters or millwrights. We are honored to recognize these members as they earned their services pins in 2024. Their names and years of service follow:



Local 223

(55 Years) William Trotter, Terry Lewis, and Harold Simpson;

(50) Donald Anderson;

(45) Emanuel Langolf, Donald Trawick, Gary Richardson, William White, Glendon Christian, and Jamie Billings; (40) Ronald Mayberry and Kenneth Putnam;

(35) Gary Marshall, Billy Sloan, Gary Baughman, Richard McEndree, George Branch, Michael Boner, Michael Clarke, Kelvin Howell, William Bennett, Gary Chamberlain, Dennis Herrell, and James Jones.

(30) Matthew Boner, Jason Simms, Gary Braswell, and Scott Gay;

(25) Anthony Schmidt, Donald Taylor, Richard Brandon, Michale Eagle, Joshua Hughey, Shannon McCulley, Jason West, Slawomir Kopieniak, Larmer Franks, and Michael Kelchner; (20) Andres Garcia, Jose Guadalupe Garcia, William Ahlquist, Justin Gilbert, Tim Griffin, William Salzel, Thomas Vogel, Jedediah Hudson, Michael Lindsey, Terry Tobitt, and Russell Wahl;

(15) Jason Buchanan, Christopher Dickinson, Scott Glass, Charles Jackson, Goerge Jones, Walton Kaczynski, James Matlock, Rocky Stone, Kevin Swaw, Michael Bostic, Ronald Kenslow, Russel Millspaugh, Bryan Webb, Kevin Bates, Steve Caffey, Charles Clark, Larry Davis, Jesse Dutchech Michael Flanagan, Luke Maness, Donald Miller, Kory Morgan, Nathan Parker, Timothy Rowlett, William Allen, Byron Bower, Ryan Shaw, Phillip Williams, James Anderson, and Raymond Thomas

(10) Melvin Burkett, Kevin Cyr, Charles Harvey, Nathan Howell, Zyn Howse, Rodger Jones, Mark Knuckles, Fred Mayo, Phillip Miller, Jon Miller, Porchus Pillow, Nicholas Powell, John Shakelford, Adam Smith, Chris Thompson, Ikaika Tuipulotu, Philip Wilmoth, Timothy Wolff, Codey Allen, Jeremy Allen, Seth Batten, Michael Bernier, Fred Gilliam, Dario Hernandez, Jessie Kelchneq Robert McBride, Simon Miller Jeremiah Pewitt, Steve Rhodes, Jose Garcia Rodriguez, Kevin Rood, Ellis Skinnec Temple Wachsmuth, Ricardo Garcia, James Gray, Radamas Marbrey, Richard McManus, Victor Schmidt, Robert Banks, Dennis Brown, Charles Moore, Mark Paavola, James Schimanski, Joseph Young, Christopher McIntyre, Kevin Moody, Salvador Murguia, and Frank Rogers; (5) Brandon Botts, Carlos A Bueso, Joel A Burgos, Cecilio Carapia, Brian Coffee, Seth Foster, Ruben Guzman-Castillo, Shakira Ingram, Frankin James, Tyler Lindsey, Daren Lorrain, Lance Luck, Divine Martin, Gia May,

Local 223 continued

Danny Mehaffey, Matthew Montgomery, Jose R Oyuela, Fredy A Ramos Garcia, Kyle Richardson, Paul Rye, Tiara Southall, Michael Story, William Bruce, Cecilio Carapia Guerrero, Darrell Charland, Waylon Cochran, Warren Coles, Maïhew Dawson, Ramon Duren, Jody Evans, Albit Garcia, Ricardo Gomez, Edgar Gomez, Darrell Hampton, Tachary Jones, Walt Lloyd, Lauren McEntire, Noel Montalvan, Timmy Nouanemany, Matthew Pulley, Austin Salzer, Edward Seals, Jonathan Strowmatt, Dustin Tate, Clint Thomas, Russel Warner; Raymond Wingert, Madison Wright Sr., Mike Charette, Gregory Duty, Ryan Edgar, David Howard, John Johnson, Jimmie Jones, Richard Kindell, Marcus J Martinez, Braxton McCrary, Long Nguyen, Rachel Pope, Joshua Raab, Kevin Richardson, Jeremy Rodgers, Josh Slye, Jason Stewart, Michael Tenpenny, Danny Watson, Sebastain Beloin, Lonnie Browder; Cody Buffer; Jesse Burns, Devlin Cate, Michael Coffman, David Crutcher, Jonathan Hoopec Davonte Jackson, Dillon Madden, Selestino Martinez, Cody McCormic, Steven Ostrander; Jeremy Armour, Paul Blakemore, Umesh Dahal, Arnold Lefle; Steve Marzolf, Elijah Pirtle, William Rohling, Lyle Smock, Dakota Swaw, and Kyle Turpin.



Local 1263

Allen Graham (35), Kevin Gray (15), Latangala Jenkins (10), Anthony Stephens (5), and Jamie Pittman (5)



Local 1554

Millwright Local 1554 was proud to honor former Council Representative, Mr. David Park, for achieving his 50-year service pin! Shown here are (from left to right): LU1554 Council Reps William "Gunny" Condon and Danny Williams, David Park, and Millwright Nuclear Rep Steve Williams.



Local 50

At Local 50, congratulations to these 40- or 50-year members! They are (seated, left to right) Thomas Sims, Roy Harber, Darrell Raley, Gary Perry, Kenneth Hill, John Floatman, David England, and Michael Brown. (standing, left to right): Michael Kimerlin, Freddie Copper, Boyce McCall, David Stapleton, Charles "Danny" Maples, Douglas Holman, David Tharp, Jere Smith, Charles Grizzle, Larry Rosenbalm, and Randal Lloyd.



SECRC POLITICS: ADVOCATING FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

Apprenticeship Language is One Step Away from Adoption in Tennessee

Tennessee is booming with construction work. The Tennessee Valley Authority alone – a major employer of SECRC members – is projecting to spend \$5 billion per year for the next 10 years on Capital projects. The State of Tennessee is also planning construction and alteration of state facilities.

Tennessee lawmakers are aware of the challenges and opportunities of a thriving construction industry that is chronically short of skilled labor. The House and Senate recently passed **SB776/HB965**. The bill combats the worker shortage and supports the local economy by encouraging bidders for state construction contracts of \$1,000,000 or more to use apprentices enrolled in state-certified apprenticeship programs.

It's a win-win: The more apprentices who are employed for state construction, the more the skilled construction pool in the state will grow, which will keep the Tennessee economy growing.

State Senator Page Wally and Representative David Hawk championed the bill's passage, and Senator Jeff Yarbrow signed on as a co-sponsor.

"Apprenticeships are incredibly valuable to the workforce – for employees, apprentices and employers – and the trades are known for their traditional, established pathways," wrote Stamatia Xixis, Chief of Staff for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

When this news magazine went to print, the bill was on the Governor Bill Lee's desk for signing the language into law.

SECRC Endorsed Candidates Win Most Races

The SECRC is actively involved in politics on the federal, state, and local levels in a strong, unified voice. We practice "Carpenter Economics," an inclusive and non-partisan effort to support candidates who support the laws, programs, and fair-trade initiatives that benefit working families.

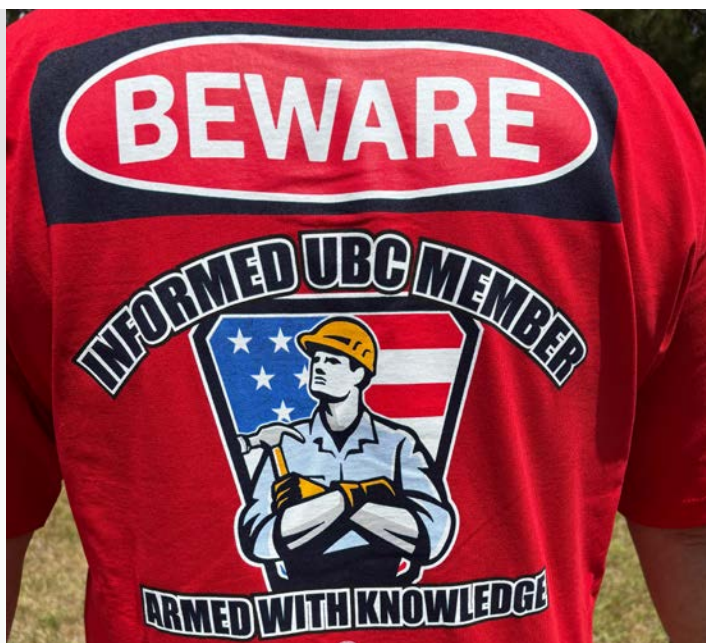
SECRC political volunteers interview candidates, attend public meetings, and work with the officials they helped elect. Many volunteers worked tirelessly in the fall of 2024 to construct an endorsement roster. We are pleased to announce that SECRC-endorsed candidates – both Democrats and Republicans – won 43 of 53 elections, an 81% success rate!

Georgia: We won 34 of 38 races, an 89% success rate! We won all five US Congress seats, seven of eight State Senate seats, 18 of 19 State House races, three of five races for Chatham County Commissioners, and the lone seat up for election in Fulton County. The endorsed winners consisted of six Republicans and 28 Democrats.

North Carolina: We won four of six races, a 67% success rate: Both US Congress seats, the Governor's race, and the Attorney General election. All endorsed candidates are Democrats.

Tennessee: We won five of nine races, a 56% success rate: A US Congress seat, a State Senate seat, and three of six State House seats. Endorsed winners were three Republicans and six Democrats.

In Chattanooga, every SECRC endorsed candidate won their race: Mayor Tim Kelly, City Council District 3 Jeff Davis, and City Council District 9 Ron Elliott. We also supported a referendum that passed, which allows hiring public safety employees who are not residents of Tennessee.



VIP Program Continues to Grow

The Volunteer Incentive Program has been a resounding success since launching in 2023! The VIP program rewards members who volunteer for any external Local Union activity. The more you volunteer, the more rewards you collect!

One activity: "Beware" t-shirt | Three activities: \$100 gift card | Five activities: \$250 gift card

A qualifying activity is a political, organizing, recruitment, retention, or community project. The activity must be approved by the home Local. The volunteer must be a member in good standing and staff members are not eligible.

In 2023, 139 brothers and sisters volunteered. In 2024, we saw a 54% increase with 214 volunteers. Many thanks to these members who helped us move Local Union and political initiatives forward across the Council's five states! Keep up the great work in 2025!

Are You Informed?

Did you know that the SECRC's [InformedCarpenter.com](https://www.informedcarpenter.com) is a website dedicated solely to providing information to members regarding politics and Council political action initiatives? "We want to give members every tool possible so they can educate themselves on issues and make informed choices at the ballot box for federal, state, and local races," said SECRC Political Director Brett Hulme. Explore this excellent resource. Snap this QR code:



SECRC POLITICS: ADVOCATING FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

Lobby Days 2025 Promotes Crucial Union Job-Creating Legislation

One of the most effective and fun political activities the SECRC presents each year is our "Lobby Days" program. Rank and file members join staff to walk the halls of the Georgia State Capitol and talk with legislators who represent their town.

This year, 20 staff and members participated in three Lobby Days in February and March. Their

objective: Educate lawmakers on HB613. The SECRC introduced this bill to our Georgia state lawmakers, which if passed will help secure more work for our members. HB613 provides preferences on state construction projects of \$1 million or more to a contractor or subcontractor who is participating in a registered apprenticeship program.

SECRC volunteers also asked their representatives to support a bill that removes Georgia state tax on overtime pay.

Many thanks to the political volunteers who helped make Lobby Days 2025 a great success.

See you in 2026!



Volunteers with Apprenticeship Bill (HB613) author, District 18 Rep. Tyler Paul Smith (R)



Apprentices speak to District 24 Rep. Carter Barrett (R)



Talking with House Speaker Rep. Jon Burns (R)



District 42 Rep. Gabriel Sanchez (D) and our volunteers talked about carpenter economics



Lawmakers learned what's important to carpenters and their families



Our volunteers did a great job!

SECRC TRAINING: KEEPING MEMBERS AT THE TOP OF THEIR TRADE



Memphis Launches New Training Center

A new training center is up and running and training our members in Memphis!

The 30,000-square-foot building is on 4.25 acres just off the I-40 highway.

Highlighting the Training Center's total square footage is 14,000 square feet of shop area, double that of the former Memphis training center's 7,000 square feet. Three classrooms are in use, tripling the classroom capacity of the former center's one classroom. The exterior acreage includes more than 200 parking spaces and ample room for outdoor training.

The building once housed ITT Technical Institute, which closed in 2016. The Training Trust Fund purchased the building and property for \$2.7 million and invested another \$2 million to remodel the campus into a training center that caters to the needs of carpenters and millwrights from the Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council.

"A welcome addition is the ability to offer millwright apprenticeship and journeyman classes because of the ample room to train multiple crafts simultaneously," said Southern District Training Trust Fund Eastern Area Director Rickey Moore.

Remodeling included removing several interior walls to create the shop area, replacing the ceiling, lights, and flooring, and applying fresh paint throughout. Outside, work included topping the parking lot and installing exterior lighting, new fencing, and signage. New and updated equipment indoors and out rounds out the Training Center's footprint.

"Our new Memphis Training Center offers a safe, fast, next-level training experience that gets these professionals the skills they need to excel at the job site," Moore said. "We expect to have an outstanding year of training in Memphis."



Upgrades Across the Region

Look for more updates and additions to our training facilities in 2025, including:

Florence: More restrooms were added. Also, through the Alabama Construction Industry Craft Training grant of \$100,000, updates and additions include a new classroom, touch screen televisions, fencing around the back of the center, welders, small tools, and other items.

Nashville: A 24' high by 40' wide by 104' long pavilion is planned over the existing outside classroom area to accommodate more training opportunities.

Pelham: Through the Alabama Construction Industry Craft Training grant of \$100,000, updates and additions include new LED lights in the welding shop, touch screen televisions, new CPR mannequins, AED trainers, vises, small tools, and other items.

Acceptance into the program requires being a journey-level member in good standing with at least five years of field experience. The candidate will have also completed the 212 Leadership program. If you are interested in this program, contact your Local Union's Business Manager for more details.



RECRUITING TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE

Staff Embarks on Aggressive Job and Career Fair Tour

Signatory contractors of the UBC depend on our Brotherhood to recruit new members and then develop these professionals into exceptional craftsmen as well as jobsite, union hall, and community leaders.

The SECRC is also challenged to keep the pipeline of new members full.

We focus on three primary groups to recruit from: Those who are new to the industry, those who are existing but unrepresented carpenters, millwrights, or pile drivers, and those who are transitioning out of the military. Talking with unrepresented tradesmen is handled proficiently by our

organizing staff. Military candidates are trained through the UBC's award-winning Military Veteran Program.

In 2025, the Council representatives are teaming with the training staff to embark on an aggressive job and career fair tour. We are presenting at a multitude of high school, technical

school, and community workforce development group events around our five-state region. We talk with attendees about the benefits of being a union craftsman. In just the first four months of 2025, we have participated in 25 career fairs in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.



Sweetwater High School - Many thanks to Local 74 Business Manager Rodney Graham and Ronnie Campbell for spending the day at Tennessee' Sweetwater High School talking to about 150 students! Graham is the Business Manager for Local 74, and Campbell is a Construction Manager at Watt's Bar Nuclear Plant for Day & Zimmermann. Photo: Ronnie Campbell (far right), his son (black shorts), and his friends at the career event. We are happy to report that Ronnie's son is joining the UBC as an apprentice when he graduates!



Building Bridges High School Academy - Council and training staff teamed to present at a key job fair in Savannah. The team talked with dozens of interested upperclassmen at the Ready2Work Job Fair at the Building Bridges High School Academy. Thanks to Trainer Zachary Jackson, Local 256 Business Manager Raymond McCullough (pictured), and Council Representative Je Ann Will (pictured). A special thanks to Local 1263 members Mosies Morales and Andrew Roth for volunteering to help at the event.



BuildStrong Academy - Charlotte Instructor Justin Smith and Council Representative Je Ann Will met with carpentry students at the BuildStrong Academy. These students represent a new learning environment that delivers industry-recognized skills training to a new generation of construction workers.



Birmingham Promise - Alabama Local 318 Business Manager Jay Schuelly (left) and carpenter instructor Silvestre Rodriguez (right) talked with hundreds of students at the popular Birmingham Promise career expo.



Allatoona - Millwright instructor Eric Parker works with students on the virtual welding machine at Allatoona High School in Georgia.



Chamblee - Council Reps Iram Perez, Jr. (left) and Sam Asante (right) talk with students from Chamblee High School in Georgia.



**BE A PRO CARPENTER,
MILLWRIGHT OR PILE DRIVER!**

Scan the QR code to
get started or pass
this along to a friend
or family member.





Hardin County Vo-Tech – Student from Hardin County Vo-Tech visited with Alabama Local 1209 at the Florence Training Center to get an up-close look at a career as a pro carpenter.



Sale Creek – Local 74 carpenter Kim Hall speaks with a mom at Tennessee's Sale Creek High School career day.



Performance Learning Center – Training staff's David Dye helps North Carolina's Performance Learning Center students try the virtual welding machine.



Arabia Mountain High School – Council Reps Sam Asante (left) and Iram Perez, Jr. meet with students from Arabia Mountain High School in Georgia.



Creekside – Council Reps Iram Perez (left) and Sam Asante (right) visit Georgia's Creekside High School to meet with small groups of students exploring career options.

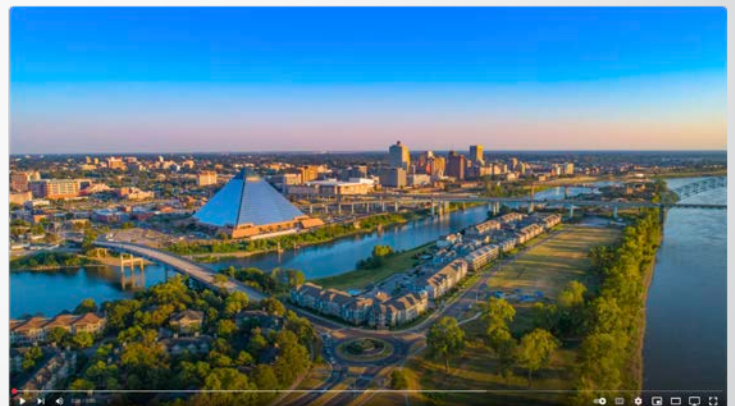
Recruiting From All Angles to Meet Contractor Needs

The national shortage of skilled tradespersons rages on, and the SECRC is right in the thick of it here in the Southern USA. Our staff is leveraging every angle possible to attract new-to-the-field apprentices and seasoned carpenters and millwrights.

In Tennessee, we went to the movies in Nashville! This commercial played for several weeks and netted a respectable amount of feedback. Check it out by snapping the QR code!



Over in Memphis, this television commercial also ran for several weeks:



COUNCIL LEADERS STEER OUR SUCCESS

Victor White, Long-Time Organizing and Business Development Director, Retires

Victor White, the Southeastern Carpenters' Director of Organizing and Business Development, has retired after 37 years of service to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Victor is a member of Chattanooga Local 74, where he served as president, vice president, financial secretary, and delegate over the years. Since 1999, Victor has also served as a Business Agent for the former Mid-South Carpenters Regional Council and the Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council after the two groups merged in 2018. He also has been a long-time member of the Council's Executive Board. At the national level, Victor was a frequent teacher and teaching fellow at the UBC's intensive training for business agents.

Before joining the carpenters' union, Victor worked as a residential carpenter for several

years. He learned about the benefits and career advancement opportunities of union membership and worked his way into the organization as a journeyman, focusing on concrete work. Working with concrete forms at Arnold Air Force Base was his most memorable project.

"I fell hook, line, and sinker for the Union and its commitment to making lives better for its members," Victor said. "I didn't just build a career; I built a life. I owe everything I have, and my ability to retire with dignity is because of the UBC. If I would've remained non-union, all I'd have is my social security check."

At the Southeastern Carpenters' latest delegate conference, staff and delegates honored Victor for his unmatched work ethic and dedication to helping fellow members succeed in their career journey.

"Don't blink because it goes fast. Really fast," Victor said to his mostly younger brothers and sisters. "This is a great time in your life. Be sure to stop and enjoy what you've achieved and what the years ahead will bring."

Victor was an integral asset to not just Local 74 and the Southeastern Carpenters, but also to every employer who received the signature outstanding workforce that Victor coordinated," said Southeastern Carpenters' Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Jenkins. "Replacing someone like Victor will be difficult. He set the standard for dedicated union membership for everyone."

Victor said his retirement plans include tinkering with his properties and spending time with his wife of 50 years, Susan, and his family. Well done, Victor. We already miss you!



EST Jenkins (left) and Council President Dan Morris (right) present Victor with his retirement gifts.



Know Your Leadership

The staff and elected officials of the SECRC are charged with serving 10,000 brothers and sisters who live throughout our Council. Get to know them. Snap the QR code.



Welcome New Staff Members!

We are proud to announce the addition of new staff members! Local 74's Tim Cash has been selected to replace Victor White as the Council's Organizing and Business Development Director. Serving as organizers in the Atlanta area are Sam Asante and Iram Perez, Jr., and Jonathan Powell joined the team as an organizer in the Nashville area. Welcome!



Tim Cash

Never Forget. We honor our fallen brothers and sisters. Please remember them by clicking the QR code.





Council Delegates Are the Backbone of the Council

The SECRC is honored to have the amount of dedication and talent that is provided by our delegates. If you see someone listed here, thank them for their hard work to ensure our Council's success:

50: Mike Geasland, Michael Kimberlin, William McCall, Gerard Schroeder, Floyd Sharp, Brent DeBusk (alt), Franklin Murray (alt)

74: Tim Cash, Rodney Graham, Morris Graham, Nick Neely, Brian Nelson, Shawn Haynes (alt), Rickey Moore (alt)

223: David Crutcher, Matthew Boner, Richard Brandon, Michale Eagle, Jason Stewart, Kevin Howell (alt), Luke Maness (alt)

225: Vicente Rumbo, Samuel Asante, Calvin Garrett, Anthony Spain, Tammy Tatum, Michael Johnson (alt), Rogelio Languren (alt)

256: Daniel Boyn, Denton Brantley, Zachary Jackson, Raymond McCullough, Mathew Priesand (alt), Trey Brewer (alt)

283: Michael Burns, Charles Hodge, Matthew Jones, Daniel Morris, William Tullius, Anthony Criscione, Jacob Patterson (alt), Kevin Mabli (alt)

312: Hilda Jenkins, Nash Membreno, Brian Fichtner, Sidney Ellis, Efrain Villatoro, Derek Smith (alt)

318: Cody Day, Gavin Horton, Herman Dunn, Jay Schuelly, Ralph Maddox (alt), Travis Miller (alt)

345: Joshua Bowman, Angel Macias-Nava, Jeremy D. Tallent, Fabian Lopez, Leonard Aurioles, Arturo Rodriguez (alt), Jose Trejo (alt)

1192: Robert Mitchell, John Potts, Kerry Elliott, Matt Fredrickson, Ron Fritzemeier, Jeffrey Smith, Heath McKnight (alt), Jared Newkirk (alt)

1209: Steven Daniel, Brian Dunlap, Ryan Swindle, Adam King, Jeffrey Tucker, Matthew K. Smith (alt), Thomas Holiday (alt)

1263: Logan Brown, Kory Price, G. Shane Gilstrap, Allen Graham, Patrick Willingham, Jeffrey McCary, Robert Strickland, April Crownhart-Swan (alt), JeAnn Will (alt)

1554: Breanna Collins, Esther Freeman, Matthew White, Danny Williams, William Condon, Steve Williams, Daniel Yost, Eric Tate (alt), Shane Dever (alt)

Nashville Adds to its Interior Systems Manpower

Interior Systems manpower is at a premium in the Nashville, with billions of dollars of projects either underway or coming soon. Nashville's Carpenter Local 223 is doing a great job recruiting to keep pace with our signatory contractor needs. We are proud to introduce four new interior systems specialists from Local 223 who recently topped

out of their apprenticeship to gain journeymen status! They are (left to right): Interior Systems Instructor Albit Garcia, Brother Jhonfer Martin, Brother Jhon Rinion, Brother Luis Collin, Brother Brendon Lingle and Local 223 President, Richie Brandon. All of these professionals are now working for Valley Interior Systems.



All Delegates must complete the UBC's 101 Constitution Training.

Call the Council office to register, then sign in at Carpenters.org to take the course.

STRONGER TOGETHER



Council Staff Demonstrates the Meaning of “Stronger Together” as Members Recover from Hurricane Helene

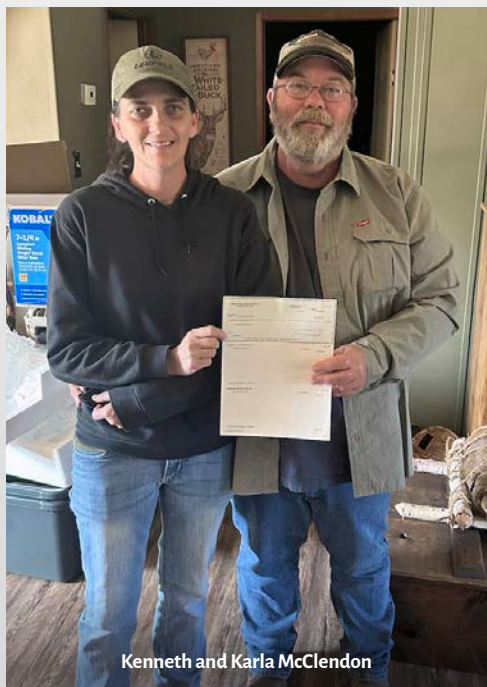
The last Fall's Historic Category 4 Hurricane Helene crossed the entire SECRC jurisdiction, the widespread, catastrophic damage affected many members. As the storm lifted, staff and Council leadership jumped into action. There were multiple instances of members helping members, including two significant boosts from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Funded by UBC Local Unions, business partners, and Regional Councils, the UBC's Helping Hands program provides grants to members facing adverse circumstances. SECRC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Tom Jenkins worked with UBC Southern District Vice President Jason Engels to secure two grants for \$20,000 each for two Local 1263 families. Jenkins was alerted to the need by Local 1263 Council Representatives Robert Strickland and Logan Brown.

Kenneth and Karla McClendon, both members of Local 1263, are using their \$20,000 grant to offset the cost of replacing the home and belongings lost in the storm. Brother Rodney Brewers is using his check for similar purposes.



Rodney Brewers and Council Rep. Logan Brown



Kenneth and Karla McClendon

Local 1263's Stacey Williams was working out of town when the storm hit and damaged his home. Fellow member Jamie Moore and his wife, and Logan Brown and his son, Trevor, got Stacey's property free of trees and other debris, including a tree entangled in a power line.

Local 1263 Council Representative Robert Strickland and his son, Reese, volunteered in the Soperton, Vidalia, and Swainsboro, Georgia areas to help clear roadways and yards.

In Tennessee SECRC sisters spearheaded a supply drive that ran all the way through February 2025! The three pallets of supplies filled a cargo van, which delivered the items to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Multi-Agency Warehouse for distribution.

“These are all great examples of our motto, ‘Stronger Together.’ The dedication of our members to their fellow brothers and sisters is to be admired and emulated,” said EST Jenkins. “Well done, everyone!”

Alabama Comeback

In Alabama, Carpenters Local Union 318 teamed with the non-profit “Comeback Coolers” to collect items for hurricane victims in the Pelham area. Comeback Coolers delivers ice-packed coolers with drinks, fruit, and other supplies to storm-ridden areas. Local 318 Council Representative Jay Schuelly and Jessalyn Michelle Taylor, coordinated a competition among Local 318 job sites to see which could fill the most coolers. The Local purchased the coolers and asked members to supply them. After putting the coolers together, Local 318 members wrote messages to the recipients.





Local 318 Brings Cheer to Area Kids with Bike & Toy Drive

Here's a big shout-out to Local 318 staff, trainers, and members for coordinating a bicycle and toy drive for two sets of area kids.

First, with members Local Recording Secretary Chquann Pettaway and Scott Merrell coordinating,

brothers and sisters working at the Theodore Plant donated 20 bikes! Members Ray Williams and Jeffrey Breeland (from the Theodore Plant) teamed with Local 318 Local Vice President Michelle Taylor and Instructor Ralph Maddox to deliver those bikes to the local Toys-4-Tots Program.

Then, Local 318 Business Manager Jay Schuelly delivered bikes and toys to the local King's Home to help bring some cheer to kids that live at this facility!

Thanks for all of your efforts, Local 318! You truly emulate "Stronger Together"!





SECRC SCHOLARSHIP

Check out our Scholarship page for more information:



Scholarship Programs Reaches its 20th Year of Helping Members' Kids

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the SECRC Scholarship program, established for any SECRC member with a high school senior who will be attending a college, university or technical school. Dependent children of any Council member, except dependents of Council employees, are eligible to apply for a scholarship grant of \$1000. And depending on their success, students can qualify to continue earning their scholarship every year. Congratulations to the 2024 scholarship recipients:

Fourth Year in a Row to Earn a Scholarship

- Hannah Harris: Parent is Christopher Carroway of Local 74
- Anna Epperson: Parent is Nathan Epperson of Local 50

Second Year in a Row to Win a Scholarship

- Braden Looper: Parent is Christopher Looper, Local 74
- Haleigh Magouirk: Parent is Charles Magouirk, Local 74
- Adrianna Mewbourn: Parent is Jason Mewborn, Local 1209
- Gabrielle Doran: Parent is James H. Doran, Local 312



First Year Recipients

- Whitney Brown: Parent is Robert O. Cooper, Local 74
- Nolen Carter: Parent is Obra Carter, Local 74
- Chole Ostman: Parent is Jason Ostman, Local 312
- Silas Geasland: Parent is John Geasland, Local 50
- Mayahuel Yaoapoqa: Parent is Olin Yaoapoqa, Local 1263
- Sueann Yaoapoqa: Parent is Olin Yaoapoqa, Local 1263
- Holt Blair: Parent is Jody Blair, Local 225
- Savannah Gill: Parent is Donald Travis Gill, Local 225
- Alyssa Maples: Parent is David Maples, Local 50
- Kyle E. Meyer, II: Parent is Kyle Meyer, Local 283

Since 2005, the Council has awarded \$139,500. We look forward to continuing this program to help the young adults of our members begin their career journey!

The 2025 scholarship applicants will be announced soon, via email and texting to members, on social media, and on the Council website.

BE YOUR **REAL ID** SELF

Are You Ready for REAL ID?

Attention all SECRC members:

Are you REAL ID ready? The Department of Homeland Security is implementing the REAL ID Act, effective May 7, 2025. The official purposes covered by the Act and regulation are:

- Accessing certain federal facilities
- Boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft
- Entering nuclear power plants (e.g., Visitor access and/or request for Unescorted Access).

The Nuclear Access and Fitness for Duty Program requires identity verification by comparing a valid government-issued official photo identification (driver's license, passport, government identification) with the physical characteristics of the applicant.

As of May 7, 2025, using a driver's license to request access to a nuclear facility will require it to comply with the REAL ID Act. For more information, including state-by-state information and instructions, visit the REAL ID website:



It's not too late! While enforcement starts on May 7, you are still able to get your REAL ID. Don't Wait – get yours today!



Click or scan the QR code to visit the construction industry tax fraud website.

SECRC Gets Tax Fraud Message Out in Nashville and Atlanta

Many thanks to the staff and members who volunteered to bring attention to Construction Industry Tax Fraud in Nashville and Atlanta for the UBC's National Tax Fraud Days of Action! We were at a Nashville post office and at a busy intersection in Atlanta. Why is calling attention to Tax

Fraud important? UBC General President Douglas J. McCarron has published a blog regarding Construction Industry Tax Fraud. A growing number of construction contractors are tax cheats. They pay their employees off the books or wrongly classify them as independent contractors.

It's intentional and it's costing all five states within the Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council and the United States literally billions of dollars. Many use labor brokers and operate in the dark shadows of the underground economy. Please take a look at President McCarron's Blog Post:



It Takes All of Us

The entire country is looking for new construction workers. To keep our partner contractors staffed with excellent manpower, we need a pipeline of apprentices and non-represented existing carpenters to join us. It takes all of us. If you know of someone who would be a good addition to the SECRC, direct them to NailMyCareer.com! Check it out for yourself:



Know Where To Go

The SECRC website is your home base for getting the most out of your union membership. The Member Resource section lists reciprocity forms, job postings, Mix 20/20 information, insurance and retirement resources, the Council scholarship information, online dues payments, and more. Visit SoutheasternCarpenters.org. Click or scan the QR code to check it out.



Your Life Matters. We Can Help.

These are tough times, and all of us are under pressure. The SECRC wants to help. We've set up an Employee Assistance Program in partnership with a group called Empathia to address matters of a personal nature. These may include financial concerns, drug or alcohol abuse, relationship issues or even questions about maintaining your wellness. The LifeMatters program is now available 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It's also available for your family. Call 1-800-634-6433.

LifeMatters®

Available 24/7/365

1-800-634-6433

mylifematters.com



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Visit our website at SoutheasternCarpenters.org

Stay up to date on council activities via social media,
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