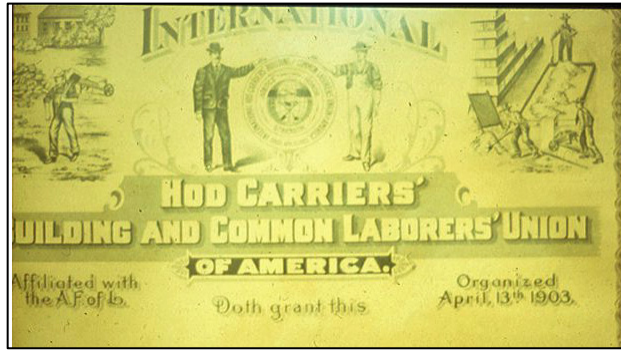


# Local 362's Centennial Story

By Mike Matejka  
March 2019



**W**hat is a Laborers' legacy? It is built in concrete, stone, asphalt and brick? It is the underground pipes we depend on, the roads we ride, the bridges we cross, the buildings that shelter us. All of those serve the community today because of Laborers' sweat, toil and sometimes blood.

Laborers International Union of North America Local 362 now stands a century proud. 100 years ago, it was a dream to unite for decency and human rights that brought the Local's founders together.

## **Bloomington, Illinois 1919**

In March 1919 when eight men gathered to petition the International Hod Carriers & Common Laborers Union of North America for a local union, there were some hopeful sign, but also, a chaotic world.

Just five months early, the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, ending the "Great War," now known as World War I. The nation had survived the Great Influenza, a global flu epidemic with estimates of over 50 million casualties worldwide, including over 500,000 in the U.S. Bloomington Country Club became an emergency hospital ward during this ravaging illness.

1919 would also a cataclysm year for labor, with a General Strike in Seattle, a national steel strike that was ruthlessly crushed and a Boston police strike.

Still, labor could be hopeful. Labor had won recognition for its long hours during the war and hopefully peace would bring prosperity and opportunity for better conditions.

Bloomington was a smaller city when 362 began. There was no State Farm Insurance. The largest employer was the Chicago & Alton Railroad, with its vast repair Shops on the west side and railroad operating crews. There were multiple iron and stove foundries, brickyards, canneries and the McLean County coal mine.

The 1920 census population was 70,107 for McLean County; Bloomington's population was 28,725; included in this were 2,831 foreign-born immigrants, almost half of them Germans. 95

percent of children ages 7 to 13 were attending school, but only 42.8 percent of 16 and 17 year-olds were in school, very common when working life often started after eighth grade.

Frank Potts, Nathan Enix, John Grekel, William Springson, Anthony Gord, Paul Zakender, Nathan Davis and J.R. Miller together organized and signed the petition to the Laborers and on March 25, 1919, were granted a charter for Local 362.

It did not take long for Local 362 to leave its mark on the community. Four months later, on July 24, 1919, the *Daily Pantagraph* reported that 362 was the “fastest growing union,” with 150 members:

The fastest growing union in the city is the Building Laborers. The official name of that organization is the International Hod Carriers, Building & Common Laborers’ Association of North America Local No. 362. It was organized about the first of April and already has 150 members. The officers say that eight or twelve members are added to the organization at every meeting night. At the present rate it will not be long before it is the largest local in the city.

In the 1919 Fourth of July “Victory Parade,” saluting the war’s end, Local 362 was thirteenth in line of 37 unions participating, marching behind the Women’s Union Label League and before the Bakers and Confectioners.

In April 1920 the *Daily Pantagraph* reported that building laborers were paid 50 cents per hour, with hod carriers and mixers receiving 55 cents. That spring the Building Trades had banded together to improve wages and the Laborers were asking for 65 cents an hour everyone.

### **What is a hod carrier?**



When the Laborers International was founded in 1903, it became the catch-all for the unorganized jobs on a construction site. This included moving materials, tending the other crafts, mixing mortar and carrying hod. A “hod” was a “V” shaped box, held on a pole, on which a Laborer would carry stacks of brick or mortar to tend a bricklayer on a scaffold. A skilled hod carrier could fill a hod with brick and when reaching the brick layer, twist the pole and set a neat stack of bricks alongside the mason.

Over the coming decades, road pavers, tunnelers (“sandhogs”) and other construction crafts would merge with the Laborers to form today’s union.

### **A diverse Bloomington Laborers union before LiUNA and 362?**

Local 362 was chartered in 1919 and the Laborers International founded in 1903, but in the 1890s, a “hod carriers” union was already operating in Bloomington.

Just like today, a laborers’ job was seasonal and many worked multiple positions to survive, including mining coal in the winter and working construction in the spring and summer.

In January 1896, the six-story Griesheim Building was unveiled. On March 21, 1896, the *Pantagraph* printed a letter from the Hod Carriers Union, noting that the building contractor had ninety days notice about the new wage scale, effective May 1, 1896.

Sixty-five hod carriers were reported in Bloomington, when the Hod Carriers Union met on August 30, 1898, to discuss a uniform standard of wages.

1899 was a momentous year. The hod carriers are listed as a unit in that year’s Labor Day Parade. The *Pantagraph* reports in October 1899, the hod carriers were re-organizing. New officers were elected on October 31, 1898.

Officers elected were President Frank Metlock, Vice-President C.J. Jennings, Financial Secretary C. Wyckoff, recording secretary George Grimes, treasurer George Stewart and sergeant George Crawford. The union met the first and third Wednesday at the Trades Assembly Hall, 112-114 N. Main Street, downtown Bloomington.

Not all these names are listed in the city directories during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Metlock, Stewart, Crawford, Grimes all reoccur in the city directory and all are listed as “colored” (African-American).

Metlock has an interesting political and working career. In 1902 he’s listed, along with his two brothers, as a coal miner. In 1904 he shows up as a city cartman (garbage collector) and in 1907 as a city hall custodian. Metlock appears in the *Pantagraph* in 1900, the recording secretary for an African-American Democratic organization. In 1903 a Democrat, George Morrison, was elected Bloomington Mayor. There were no civil service laws, so with each election, the political party would fill city positions with their supporters. So perhaps Metlock, due to his Democratic support, was able to move to a city job.

These early hod carriers had ethnic diversity. On June 25, 1900 the *Pantagraph* notes the passing of Carl Balcke, a hod carrier and German immigrant, who left nine children when he died at age 66.

Someone who may or may not have been a member of this Hod Carriers’ Union was June Crandell (1878-1910). Crandell was politically active, running unsuccessfully for numerous city and county offices as a Socialist from 1903-1910. Crandell was a coal miner, laborer and a Bloomington Trades & Labor delegate. On August 29, 1910, while working for the Bloomington water works, he was leading a trenching crew. When their 13-foot deep excavation looked

unsafe, Crandell jumped in, attempting to shore up the trench walls with timbers. The dirt collapsed and he was killed. His passing was noted by many in local labor.

After the organizational activity in 1899, the hod carriers' receive little local mention. In 1916, it is noted that Hod Carriers' Union president John McGinnis was run over by a taxi on October 24. There is no more mention of a "hod carriers" union until Local 362 is chartered in 1919.

## **Rough and Tumble**

Job site disputes were often settled in the early days the "old fashioned" way, resulting in occasional arrests of union representatives. From December 1937 to February 1938, Confectionery Workers Local 342 was on strike at Beich Candy Company, trying to organize. 362's business manager Russell Taylor was fined \$121.40, including court costs, for intimidating Beich's dock workers who were not honoring the strike.

In April 1939, 362's business manager James Baysinger was jailed for "intimidation" after confronting non-union workers at a home construction site on Florence Avenue. The non-union workers claimed Baysinger "swung on them and inflicted head and face cuts." That same day, April 29, 1939, the *Daily Pantagraph* reported on a picket at the Soper Foundry:

About 30 representatives of the laborers union earlier Wednesday set up peaceful picket line around the Soper building construction site, but withdrew before noon. Police maintained a squad of officers armed with tear gas gun at the site until noon...

In May 1959, 362, Operators 649 and Iron Workers 112 were placed under a court injunction after mass pickets at the Danvers grain elevator. Two non-union workers claimed they were assaulted by union members. On October 8, 1965, union steward James Hartman filed a police report against job foreman William Chessman, stating Hartman was hit in the head with a hammer when reporting a grievance. Aggravated battery charges were filed against Chessman.

## **Wages through the years**

50 cents an hour seemed to be the wage standard for the local's early years.

1920: Building Laborer, 50 cents, hod carrier & mixers, 55 cents

1934 – 60 cents

1935 – 75 cents; 80 cents for plasterer tenders; open ditch, \$1.20 an hour.

1944 – 85 cents

1951 – 1.78½, \$1.92½ an hour for hod carriers, mortar mixers, jack hammer and open ditch.

1953 - \$2

1954 - \$2.10	1958 - \$2.60
1955 - \$2.20	1959 - \$2.70
1956 - \$2.35	
1957 - \$2.50	
	1962 - \$3.20
1960 - \$2.85	1965 - \$3.45
1961 - \$2.95	
1967 - \$3.80½ 12½ cents for health care	1969 – 4.95½ 15 cents in pension benefits
1968 - \$4.25½	
1971 - \$6.15¼	1977 - \$9.30
1972 - \$5.53 Highway, 50 cents in benefits	1978 - \$9.97 highway; \$9.93 plus \$1.19 in benefits
1973 - \$6.67 plus 50 cents in benefits	
1974 - \$6.95 highway; \$7.42 plus 55 cents in benefits	1980 - \$11.63
1992 – Highway, \$15.05, benefits \$6.25	Building, \$15.24, benefits \$6.49,
1994 - Highway, \$15.50 benefits \$7.50	Building, \$15.70, benefits \$7.61
1996 – Highway, \$17.30, benefits \$7.57	Building, \$17.50, benefits \$7.73
1997 – Highway, \$18.10, benefits, \$7.57	Building, \$17.80, benefits \$7.73
1998 – Highway, \$18.95, benefits \$7.62,	Building, \$18.70, benefits \$7.75
1999 – Highway, \$19.90, benefits \$7.62	Building, \$19.65, benefits, \$7.75 benefits
2001 - Highway, \$21.17, benefits \$8.27	Building, \$21.05, benefits \$8.40
2003 – Highway, \$21.90, benefits \$9.89	Building, \$21.83, benefits \$10.07
2005 – Highway, \$22.90, benefits \$11.69	Building, \$22.83, benefits \$11.88
2007 – Highway, \$26, benefits, \$12.61	Building \$24.81, benefits \$12.82
2009 – Highway, \$27.65, benefits \$14.81	Building, \$26.36, benefits, \$15.04
2011 – Highway, \$28.96, \$17.00 benefits,	Building \$27.50, \$17.25 benefits
2013 Highway, \$31.08, \$17.93 benefits,	Building \$29.22, \$18.18 benefits
2015 – Highway \$31.49, \$20.52 benefits	Building \$29.63 \$20.42 benefits
2018 – Highway \$32.04 \$24.76 benefits	Building \$30.05 \$24.12 benefits

In the 1935 contract the work week was shortened from 44 hours to 40 hours weekly. That contract also included two-hour “show up time” and double time for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Local 362 joined Central Laborers Pension Plan in 1969, with a contribution rate of 15 cents per hour. In 1981, the local joined the annuity at 25 cents an hour. Local 362 had its own Health and Welfare Plan from 1967-1984, when it joined Central Laborers Health & Welfare Plan at \$1.37 per hour. In 2002, Local 362 began participating in the North Central Illinois Laborers Health & Welfare plan.

### **Walking the line**

**W**inning those wages, maintaining jurisdiction and ensuring employment for Laborers often means picket lines, mass marches and strikes. In 1969 the local struck for three weeks over wages and conditions, eventually winning a three-year, \$2.70 increase in wages and benefits. In November 1973 there was a unique strike, based on federal intervention. The Construction Industry Stabilization Committee, a price control agency to stem economic inflation, wanted the 1972 contract renegotiated. Wages were not the issue, the union contending that the contractors wanted to use the federal order to change working conditions. In 1975, there was a nine-day strike against building contractors over contract negotiations. The issue was not wages, but show up time.



*The late Norm Woellms on the line in '69.*

Union pickets not only protected Laborer jobs, but also the community. In May 1990 362 picketed the Bloomington Housing Authority over asbestos-removal by a non-union firm. Working with public housing residents, the apartments were inspected after hours and samples taken from within their households that were positively tested for asbestos. The publicity around this resulted in removal of tenants and asbestos removed according to safety standards.

Although strikes are rare, Laborers 362 still protects its work and stands up for using local skilled labor with job site pickets, rallies and union bannerings.

### **Losses on the job**

Sadly, there are times when a Laborer did not come home, because of an on-the-job accident.

Walter Trower, age 39, was working on an oil pipeline near Downs on May 17, 1942, when a pipe hit his head, knocking him unconscious. Hard hats were unknown at the time. Trower was taken to St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, where he died on May 30, 1942.

On September 30, 1947, William Van Horn, 33, a World War II Army veteran, was hit by a truck while working on U.S. 24. He died two days later.

On November 6, 1948, Nolen Kellerhals, 49, died from a fall, plunging down at 70 foot shaft. He left a widow, Esther, and five sons, including long-time 362 leader Richard Kellerhals.

On June 22, 1953, 41-year-old Raymond Dean Morris had his neck broken when a 6 ½ foot deep, 18 inch wide sewer trench wall collapsed on him. A line was being dug to a new home at the time.

Trenching and trying to assist another worker took the life of 26-year-old William "Lefty" Griffith on March, 19, 1959. While laying sewer line for the Fairway Knolls subdivision,

Laborer John Mittelstaedt was partially trapped. Fellow workers Griffith and Robert Gaddy jumped into to assist him. Mittelstaedt and Gaddy were injured but Griffith was killed when the wall further collapsed.

Illinois State University's Horton Fieldhouse was under construction in 1962; On July 30, 23-year-old Ronn Morehead and 27-year-old Lyn Dodson were hoisting 150-pound concrete slabs for the roof when Dodson fell 65 feet.

On March 16, 1970, 25 year-old Ramon Castillo Jr. fell 64-feet off a scaffold while Bloomington Wood Hill Towers was under construction. 80 construction workers refused to continue work until the building site was inspected by Illinois officials. At the time, there was no Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) law.

On July 29, 1976, Alvin Chambers, 56, died of a chemical exposure. George Redman died of asbestosis in 1977. Jim Hartman, 59, died of a heart attack on the job on February 24, 1989.

On Saturday, May 4, 1972, 62-year-old Floyd Vicroy was riding on a backhoe, building I-55 near Shirley, when the backhoe was struck by a semi and Vicroy was killed. 53-year-old William E. Brown was killed on August 27, 1975 while working the concrete chute at Vernon and Towanda Avenues in Normal. A truck hit the chute, which rotated and pinned Brown to the fender.

Gerald D. Smith, 57, was flagging on I-55 where it passes over Linden Street in Normal on September 13, 1979, when a vehicle attempting to merge swerved and struck him, throwing his body 30 yards. Local 362 shut down all highway jobs to protest the unsafe conditions.

William Scott, 51, was riding a hay truck on November 25, 1980, filling in mulch along I-74 near Goodfield when his head struck a bridge; he was subsequently run over by a mulcher and a tar wagon.

Alan Schlattman, 37, was slammed into the back of an asphalt machine by an intoxicated driver on October 26, 1984 on Oakland Avenue in Bloomington. Because the driver only had one arm, he was restricted to automatic transmission vehicle. He was driving a standard transmission; the flagger jumped out of the way as the vehicle approached.

Not all these deaths were simply sad accidents – they mobilized Laborers for safety. After Gerald Smith's death in 1979, then 362 business agent John Penn shut down over \$5 million in highway work to protest unsafe conditions. Penn then took his concerns to IDOT, which formed the Work Zone Safety Committee. Thanks to that committee and union vigilance, highway Laborers now work behind Jersey walls, complete with flashing arrow



*John Penn speaks to the media about highway safety, 1979.*

signs, certification classes for flaggers and enforceable speed limits in work zones. The Midwest Laborers Scholarship Fund pays for the education of any Laborers' family which suffers a workplace fatality.

### **Organizing beyond construction**

Local 362 did not limit itself to construction workers. Particularly after Illinois legalized public employee unionization in 1982, Local 362 aggressively organized. Today, the Local represents Unit 5 school maintenance and custodial workers, Bloomington Housing Authority maintenance staff, McLean County emergency dispatchers and City of Bloomington parking attendants, clerical and professional staff.

In January 1976 362 organized and won an election for the maintenance workers at Sugar Creek Packing Company, a now closed pork processing facility. With union meatcutters crossing the picket line, a mass picket was held on March 1, 1976, with over 60 union members walking in support. Two trucks were turned away; a third truck was blocked. Bloomington police then asked for "two volunteers," arresting Doug Simmons and Joe Speedon. Eventually a contract was won for the workers. 362 continued to represent them until the plant closed.

Unit 5 custodians and maintenance workers voted 45-15 for 362 representation on August 21, 1985. In February 1987, 362 won representation rights for Bloomington's police dispatchers. It took 13-months for certification before 362 won representation rights for Bloomington's parking attendants in December 1991. City clerical workers followed on December 21, 1995, when clerical workers voted 17-8 for 362 representation. The next year, Bloomington technicians and inspectors also joined 362.

These efforts were not limited to public employees. In October 1989 the Local won representational rights for Lifeline Mobile Medics, a joint venture of then Brokaw and St. Joseph hospitals. In October 1980 362 won a union representation election for 12 Village Green Apartments maintenance workers. In 2003, East Central Illinois Area on Aging workers voted for 362 representation.

Legal roadblocks often stymied these organizing efforts. In 1985, 362 won a representational election for youth social service workers at the John M. Scott Center. The Center's attorney challenged National Labor Relations Board coverage of these workers; after years of appeals, the ballot box was finally opened – Local 362 won the election, but by that point all of the workers involved had moved onto other jobs.

### **Community Involvement**

Laborers Local 362 has an impressive record of community involvement and donated labor, enough to win a "Presidential Points of Light" award in 1997. Many of these projects were completed cooperatively with the other trades.





### **O'Neil Ball Park Begins to Take Shape**

While junior leaguers are playing this summer members of the Junior Baseball Committee will be working on their major project—getting O'Neil Park baseball field into shape. It will be at least another year before the diamond, equipped with lights, will be ready for use. Here Paul Penn, member of the committee, operates tractor as volunteer crew lays a section of the 760 feet of water line required for the project. Field has just been sodded and dugouts are under construction with bleachers next on the list.

In 1964, Paul Penn initiated building new ballfields at Bloomington's O'Neill Park, to serve American Legion Junior Baseball. The field were built and enhanced with lights and dug-outs. Bloomington police officer "A.G. Dubby" Sprague was Paul's co-leader on the project. In 1964 dollars, \$60,000 was saved through donated labor and materials from a long list of local unions, contractors, suppliers and local businesses. In the early 1980s, additional buildings were added to O'Neill Park.

It's a long list of donated efforts by 362 members throughout the community, from sidewalk and wheelchair ramps to major efforts. It's very telling that upon entering the

restored 1936 Normal Theater, Local 362 is first on the donation plaque, because the donated labor surpassed any corporate dollars raised. The Theater's asbestos removal and renovation were led by retiree Donald Whalen. Sheridan School's Poetry Place, an effort led by 362's Larry Mertes, received a Presidential Points of Light Award in 1997. In Miller Park the Vietnam-Korea and the Railroad Shops Workers memorial were built. At White Oak Park, to commemorate fallen workers, the Shops flag pole was erected, over 100 trees planted and a pavilion built. The World War II Monument outside the Old Courthouse – Museum of History was completed in 1997, led by Paul Penn, Danny Martinez Sr. and Dick Kellerhals. Other donated efforts included Baby Fold facilities at Normandy Village, playgrounds for Head Start, accessible pathways at Field School, Easter Seals Timber Pointe, Claire House renovations and driveways, Girl Scout Camp Peairs, Forest Park nature center, Community Cancer Center outdoor meditation spaces, Salvation Army, Children's Foundation building, Knights of Columbus parking lot, driveway and patio, YWCA pavilion and sidewalks, YMCA renovations, Boys & Girls Club and Lawrence Irvin Center enhancements.

Besides donated labor, 362 members helped open doors for at-risk youth and under-represented workers through introduction to the trades programs, funded by federal grants. Until federal funds were cut, Local 362's Ronn Morehead annually operated the Federal "Summer Youth Employment Project" from the 1980s through the 1990s. This gave many low-income youth their first positive work experience. In 1995 Paul Penn led a "women in the trades" program, which did extensive work at Easter Seals' Timber Pointe Camp.

Gary Leake was the first and only United Way Labor Liaison in McLean County and until his retirement, coordinated donated labor and community fund-raising efforts, not only with Laborers, but with all the unions in town.

Local 362 has been an ally with Illinois Special Olympics throughout their 50 year history, annually volunteering for the State Summer Games. Before that, 362 aided Bloomington's SOAR (Special Opportunities Available in Recreation). In 1990 Local 362 was named the "outstanding organization" for Illinois Special Olympics. Another donated labor effort is the Children's Christmas Party for unemployed families, a partnership with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, that Local 362 began in 1982. 362 members have volunteered as Salvation Army bell ringers and assisting with the annual Christmas food basket and toy giveaways. Homes for Heart was assisted in their formation and continued fund-raisers and enhancements.



The charities the Local has donated to are numerous, plus members have served as coaches, scout leaders, church leaders and with numerous other organizations. Many local union members have received recognition for these efforts.

WJBC's Labor Day Parade "Laborer of the Year" often includes 362 members, including Tom Whalen, Ron Morehead, Homer Cantu, Richard Kellerhals, Paul Penn, Roger Nelson, Dionicio Martinez Sr., Willie Duggon, June Ratts, Gary Leake, Ron Brucker, Brian Reed and Gary Nichols.

In 2003, John Penn was named the Bloomington *Pantagraph* "Person of the Year." In 2012 Paul Penn was amongst the initial "History Makers" recognized by the McLean County Museum of History; Ronn Morehead was similarly honored in 2018. In 2018 the Bloomington-Normal YMCA gala honored the Penn Family.

*Local 362 restarted Bloomington's Labor Day Parade in 1977, with Roger Nelson in the lead. Tom Whalen & Dick Kellerhals ride on the float.*

Community and statewide boards where Laborers serve is a long list. Boards with Laborers 362 members on them have included United Way, Special Olympics, Boys & Girls Club, AID Crimestoppers, YMCA, Salvation Army, Easter

Seals, Not In Our Town, OSF Eastern Region Home Care Professional Advisory Council, Secretary of State Jesse White's "Life Goes On" organ donor effort, McLean County Historical Society, Illinois Labor History Society, Illinois Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Drug Court and many others.

### **Political involvement**

Laborers have long supported candidates who support Laborers, from all political parties. John Penn served as McLean County Democratic Chair from 1984-2018. Numerous 362 members have served as Democratic precinct committee people. Tom Whalen was elected to the McLean

County Board in 1986, serving there until his 1989 election to the Bloomington City Council, serving until 2005. Tom also worked for the Illinois Departments of Transportation and Labor from 2003-2015. Tom was also elected as a Democratic National Convention delegate in 1984, 1996 and 2000. Linda Drane was a Democratic convention delegate in 1992. Mike Matejka served on the Bloomington City Council from 1989-2007. Matejka was elected a Democratic National Convention delegate in 2008. John Penn was a Democratic National Convention alternate delegate in 1996. John Penn and then David Penn served on the State of Illinois Hospital Review Board. David Penn and Tom Whalen have both served on Bloomington's Fire and Police Commission. Eric Penn currently serves on Bloomington's Planning Commission and Mike Matejka on Normal's.

Both David Hayes and Roger Shoup served as Prevailing Wage Division Managers with the Illinois Department of Labor, a position Tom Whalen served in from 2008-2013. Roger Nelson, through a grant from the Governor's office, completed a state-wide apprenticeship directory for the Illinois AFL-CIO. For over 30 years, Ronn Morehead was staff for the Illinois AFL-CIO Member Assistance Program, helping develop job training opportunities and assisting workers when plants were closed or there were large lay-offs.

Economic development is a key component of outreach. In 1979-1980, local business and labor began working more cooperatively, with David Penn helping open the first doors. John Penn and Ronn Morehead were both instrumental in founding and serving as officers with The Economic Development Council; Tony Penn is currently a board member. Morehead has been the only chair of the Bloomington-Normal Convention and Visitors' Bureau since its founding. John Penn serves with B-N Advantage. Morehead also served on the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education for many years, including a term as chair. For over 40 years, Morehead has served on the regional Workforce Investment Act board and the Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Since 1980, Ronn has been President of the Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO), an umbrella organization for all local unions.

### **362's home**

Laborers first met at the Trades Assembly Hall, 112 – 114 N Main Street, downtown. In the 1930s, Local 362's hall was at 723 W. Chestnut Street in Bloomington. For many years, downtown Bloomington was the home of Local 362. Its last downtown hall was at 203 S. Center Street. In 1970 when downtown Bloomington was being redeveloped and the Law & Justice Center was being planned, Local 362 purchased the 2005 Cabintown Road facility and surrounding property. In 2002 Local 362 opened its new hall at 2012 Fox Creek Road.

### **Officers**

#### ***Business Managers***

Russ Taylor (193\_-1951); Floyd Quiggins (1951-52); J.C. Baysinger (1953-1957); Paul Penn (1958-1971); Harry Ayers (completed Paul Penn's term); Donald Penn (1971-76); John Penn (1976- 2004); David Penn (2004-2008); Tony Penn (2008- )

***Presidents***

Frank Potts (1919 - ); Bob Dillman (1944-1951); William Clem (1951-1953); Charles Daugherty (1953-54); Abe Drane (1955-56); Charles Daughterty (1957); Eugene Irvin Sr. (1958); William Clem (1958-62); Eugene Irvin Sr. (1962-68); Richard Kellerhals (1971- 1980); Ken Camp (1980-1983); Richard Kellerhals (1983-1998), Ross Manuel (1998 -2005); Ronn Morehead (2005 - )

***Financial Secretaries***

William Springson (1919 - ); Tom Berry Jr. (1951-1954); John Swearingen (1955-1957); Merle Arbogast (1958-1961); John W. Sutton (1962-1965); Ronald Bates (completed Sutton's term); Moss Carver Jr. (1968-1974); John Penn (1974-1976); David Penn (1976-1980); Tom Whalen (1980 -1998), Tony Penn (1998 - 2008); Eric Penn (2008 - )

***Great Plains Laborers District Council Business Manager***

John Penn (1994-2008); Tony Penn (2018- )

***Laborers International Union of North America, Midwest Region Manager, International Vice-President***

John Penn (2008- )