Youngstown and Warren, Ohio, area, a region that encompasses the jurisdiction of Local 396, has had its share of ups and downs, but this community has remained a solid, hardworking stronghold for skilled labor, especially the United Association. Whether it's steel mills, auto plants, hospitals, or a host of other facilities large and small, Local 396 is there when the job requires commitment to excellence and a powerful work ethic.

Local 396 Business Manager Gary "Rabb" Marinelli, International Representative for the local Jerry O'Leary, as well as Business Agent Butch Taylor, are justifiably proud of the members of this strong Ohio local union.

Where once the local depended on steel mills and auto plants for its bread-and-butter work, the leaders of Local 396 have pursued work in other areas, with the result that the local has remained secure through good times as well as hard times. Today, Local 396 members are found working in schools, hospitals, and homes, along with more traditional work in the industrial sector.

“Our members demonstrate every day that they are committed to doing a good job for our contractors,” says Business Manager Marinelli. “I’m proud of the job they do and the loyalty they have shown to Local 396.”

International Representative Jerry O’Leary echoes Brother Marinelli's position, adding “the officers and the members of Local 396 have done an excellent job when it comes to giving their best to their contractors and the owners. They have proven time and again that they know what it takes to succeed.”

Business Agent Butch Taylor sees first hand what a great job these skilled workers do every day.

“I have been on the jobsites and I have talked to our members, and they understand that in the competitive world of today, they have to show why they are the best skilled workers in the world,” he said. “And they do exactly that.”
Work on Salem Hospital's $35 million central plant began in 2004. The facility was designed to be environmentally friendly, and it's the kind of work that Local 396 members enjoy doing. Not only will the new central plant help keep the local air and water clean, but it will also meet the hospital's utility needs for the next 30 years. In fact, the hospital is seeking LEED silver certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. LEED-certified buildings are those that are sustainable and meet the strict standards for "green" buildings—that is, buildings that have energy efficiency, water savings, careful materials selection, and indoor air quality.

Salem Hospital has been a fixture in the Columbiana/Salem, Ohio area for decades. It first opened its doors in 1913, with room for 70 patients. Today, the hospital provides just about every medical service local residents need, from emergency care to women's services to specialized treatments such as the hospital's kidney center, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation unit and a remodeled oncology unit.

Local 396 members worked for two major contractors. The piping and process piping work was done by Prout Boiler. The plumbing and fixtures were installed by Local 396 members working for Ellyson Plumbing. Local 669 sprinklerfitters worked for Fire Foe Corporation. They installed approximately 800 sprinkler heads.

The project is significant for both Local 396 and the residents of the region. The new central plant will provide both daily power and backup, emergency power. The 76,000 square-foot central plant also allows for future expansion of the now 313,000 square-foot hospital complex.

The technology being used in the Salem Hospital project is called rotary flywheel technology for uninterrupted power. This is an innovative battery-free power source that uses highly sophisticated direct digital controls that monitor and adjust energy use for the whole medical complex. In the case of a blackout, the rotary flywheel keeps the system going until emergency generators can kick in. In traditional facilities, there is usually a 10-second delay, and in a healthcare environment, that can be dangerous. The plant also uses variable pumping, high efficiency heaters, a free-cooling option and multiple backup systems.

The new facility includes a new chilled water plant, new steam and hot water boilers and a new power plant service using primary and secondary switchgear, emergency diesel generator, emergency paralleling switchgear and advanced flywheel stored energy technology. UA members also installed medical gas systems, three water-tube boilers to provide sterilization and humidification needs, fire pump, and domestic water booster pumps. All of the boilers are dual-fired and backed up by underground fuel oil tanks.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this project was that its design allows for the maximum efficiency at the same time that it was built to allow the hospital to expand easily. Because the new central plant is so efficient, there will be substantial reductions in the amount of electricity, gas and water that are used. Moreover, the existence of so many backup systems assures that the equipment used in modern medicine—systems that are technically sophisticated through the use of computers and other microprocessors—will not be affected by fluctuations or failures in the power grid.

All in all, this project is especially satisfying because it means better health care for residents as well as setting a new standard for "green" buildings everywhere.
Growing and Learning

Local 396 has an exceptional training program. One aspect of the program that stands out is the curriculum for residential work. Current Business Manager Rabb Marinelli and retired Business Manager Joe Mansley both know that residential work is important to Local 396, as it is to most local unions. However, capturing and retaining our market share is not easy, and programs like the one established by Local 396 can make all the difference.

By focusing on training for residential work, the local accomplishes two goals—building a skilled workforce and showing contractors they can successfully bid this kind of work. Along with the traditional training of UA apprentices, the added element of residential heating, air conditioning and plumbing will keep the members of Local 396 working steadily in the years to come.

Local 396 is also looking to the future, searching for talented young people who should be part of the UA family. The local sponsored the Mahoning Valley Career Day, an event designed to help the Valley’s youth plan their future. The event was co-hosted with the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce and the keynote speaker was Congressman Tim Ryan from the 17th district of Ohio. International Representative Jerry O’Leary was also on hand for the event.

JATC Coordinator Kirk Sargent, Welding Instructor Don Jessop, and HVAC Instructor Don Viano

Kneeling, from left: Russ Flick, Instructor Steve White and Bob Schule. Second row: Jonathan Philips and Sam Day. Third row: Mike Gruszocki, Mike Palmer, Tom Krzitler, Paul Robarts, Larry Carbone, Tony Cope, and Carbone Plumbing Owner Lou Carbone

Local 396 Office Manager Patricia Tarica, Local 396 Business Manager Rabb Marinelli, Local 396 Secretary Rachel Bartlett, and Local 396 Business Agent Butch Taylor

Local 396 members on the job at Salem Hospital: Organizer Dan Franklin, International Representative Jerry O’Leary, Doug Cope, Chris Kavalesky, Superintendent and Instructor James “Rob” Ivey

Local 369 First-Year Apprentice Brandon Saling, and Ellyson Foreman and Local 396 Journeyman Mike Brown

Front row: Matt Calp, Don Sutton and Brett Budd. Back row: Matt Morris, Don Farnace, Rick Boyarko, Laurence Page, Brandon Saling, Mark Lowey, Dave Baty and Jeff Smith
Building Better Schools

Local 396 members are also very proud of the work they do on behalf of the Youngstown City Schools. The local and the Board of Education have built a strong partnership over the years, one that is growing stronger every day through the efforts of Business Agent Butch Taylor.

“We met with Al Curry, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer of the Youngstown City Schools,” said Brother Taylor, “And together we explored how we could make this a winning situation for all of us.”

Al Curry shares Brother Taylor’s enthusiasm.

“We were able to find common ground,” he said. “Butch has helped us in many ways. He thinks outside the box, but he also shares our goals of educating our children and providing them with opportunities. It has turned out to be a very good partnership.”

This partnership will not only see Local 396 members on the job, but the interaction between the local and the school system will very likely bear fruit in the form of new apprentices in the future. Both Brother Taylor and Al Curry agree that informing young people about the opportunities that lie within the UA should begin as early as the 7th and 8th grades, so some effort will be expended in finding ways to make sure students learn about the UA and the building trades.

Jacqueline Taylor, president of the school board, noted that there are construction programs at Youngstown State University, and that the kind of programs the UA has are a good example of craft training. Al Curry agreed, saying, “We hope to use the UA as a model.”

The Youngstown school construction program is ambitious. Over the next several years, many new schools will be built and other facilities will have extensive renovation. In total, the school system plans to spend about $209 million on this work. Already several schools have been completed—Harding, Taft, West Elementary School and Williamson Elementary. P. Ross Berry Middle School, at $14 million, is scheduled to open in the fall of this year. Several schools are scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2007, and there is at least one ongoing renovation project worth more than $10 million. Local 396 members are proud to do this work, just as Local 669 members, working for S.A. Comunale, are also proud.

In all, when the entire project is finished, 12 new schools and three total renovations will have been completed.

Dr. Wendy Webb, Superintendent of Youngstown Schools, has said, “The children of our district deserve the very best in facilities, instruction and relationships and thanks to the voters, parents and staff, we will give them just that.” And also thanks to Local 396, these students will both get the education they need and discover new opportunities along the way.
The Joseph Badger Local School in Kinsman, Ohio, is away from the bright lights of Youngstown, but local school officials, families and students are rightfully proud of their new facility. It is a $20 million project that is as important to the members of Local 396 as any other project. This is where young minds will be inspired, and so the members installing plumbing for Antenucci and HVAC for Western Reserve Mechanical are proud to be on the job.

This will be an educational complex, providing learning for pre-kindergarten all the way through high school. The new facility will replace the old—more than 70 years—buildings. The new complex will be housed on 100 acres in the center of the school district. It will have three gyms of varying sizes. All of the shared spaces, such as music, art, media and physical fitness, have been grouped together to form one wing. The elementary, middle and high school core academic classrooms form the other three wings. When it is completed, the new school is expected to serve the needs of the district for the next 70 years.

An Entertaining Enterprise

The Youngstown Convocation Center—also known as the Chevrolet Centre in honor of this important sponsor—is a $45 million project that is a 5,700-seat, multi-purpose entertainment facility. Hockey will be played here by the Youngstown Steelhounds, as well as up to 100 events per season, including concerts, family shows, and more.

The Chevrolet Centre is the entertainment hub for residents of the Mahoning Valley, and may even host visitors coming from as far away as Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

Local 396 members working for Komar installed the plumbing and fixtures in the center. Controls were installed by UA members working for Johnson Controls. Local 669 sprinklerfitters working for S.A. Comunale installed the fire protection systems, including 1,600 sprinkler heads.

While the Chevrolet Centre will be an exciting venue, it also signals a revitalization of the downtown area. The construction of this facility has sparked new growth for the city, and will bring not only entertainment but also jobs to many local residents. The Chevrolet Centre takes on even more significance when you consider that, within a 75-mile radius of the facility there are 7.5 million people, 12,300 manufacturing plants, 21 Fortune 500 world headquarters, three international airports and 67 college and university campuses.

As downtown Youngstown continues its return to being a vital, exciting and enjoyable place to be, Local 396 members will be on hand to take part in its revitalization.