

# Paul French, business agent, Local 2411



I became a member of Millwright Local 2411 on March 3, 1970. My father was a millwright and had four sons. Three of us became millwrights. I joined Local 2411 first. Then my brother Bill became a qualified journeyman millwright. My brother Mike completed his college degree before he joined Local 2411. Mike has passed, but Bill and I are still following our father's path.

My father was an officer of our local (trustee, vice president, and recording secretary) and taught me, at an early age, the importance of attending union meetings and the need to give back some of what the union had given us by serving our union brothers' and sisters' needs. I wanted to run for office, but couldn't hold office as an apprentice (I'm so glad that was changed). After I topped out, I ran for trustee and won. I was a trustee for two terms and then ran for recording secretary. I also held that position for two terms before being elected president. I became a business representative on Aug. 1, 2008.

I have been a member for 48 years, and every job and opportunity that has come my way is because of this brotherhood. My most cherished moment is when I presented my

father with his 60-year service pin. I am looking forward to receiving my 50-year service pin and my honorary membership gold card. One thing I've noticed when you are speaking with millwrights: Union millwrights don't say, "I built this." They say, "WE Built This!"

My immediate plan in retirement is to travel to Mexico. My wife has family in Pachuca, Hidalgo. We hope to spend time in both countries, traveling at our own pace and enjoying the sunrises and sunsets.

*—Paul French*

"Paul French's dedication to Local 2411 and the members is surpassed by none. His positive, "team-player" attitude has gained him much respect from those who work with and around him. We should all take heed and strive to meet the mark he has established with such an attitude toward work and life."

*—David Bonds, SSMRC president*

"Unlike other business agents, Paul French has performed his job solo. Many local unions have office managers or even additional business agents, but Paul has shown a tenacity that few do, handling a local by himself. Paul deserves a ton of credit for his service to the members and the signatory contractors in the jurisdiction of Local 2411."

*—Wayne Jennings, SSMRC executive secretary treasurer*