

TO: NFSA Hall Of Fame Committee

FROM: Charles Ketner, Director of Training

DATE: December 21, 2022

RE: NFSA Hall of Fame nomination;
Jack Walsh, retired Training Director Local 669 JATC

I would like to nominate Jack Walsh, retired Training Director for Local 669, for consideration to be inducted into the NFSA Hall of Fame.

Jack was the second to head the training department and was the first sprinkler fitter member to be hired as the Training Director for Local 669 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) Jack formed a quick and lasting bond with NFSA's Executive Director Ray Casey who was a representative on the JATC committee, along with UA General President Peter Schoeman. The relationship Jack developed with Ray and Peter established a rock-solid foundation for Jack to set into motion a training department that would challenge and change the traditional ways of training by an apprenticeship program. During his 30-year tenure as Training Director, Jack has produced an unsurmountable number of accomplishments that have paved the way to improve the fire protection industry and has laid the groundwork for others to follow behind him and continue his work.

1953- Local 669 Joint Apprenticeship Program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor. This was ground breaking to launch the Local 669 JATC Training Program that would not be rivaled by any other in the industry. There was no other building trades craft that had such a large geographic territory and operated as a local union with a Federally Registered Apprenticeship Program. Today, Local 669's JATC Program is one of the top 10 largest Federally Registered Apprenticeship Programs in the Country not just for construction, but all occupations. Related training was addressed solely via a correspondence course administered by Penn State University.

1954 - United Association (UA) Instructor Training Program and Apprenticeship Contest was instituted. Underwriters Laboratory (UL) opened its new test facility. The Local 669 Joint Apprenticeship Program began enrolling apprentices and training.

1958 – Jack Walsh hired as the Training Director for Local 669 by the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. When hired Jack made the clear distinction that the position was to be a that of a director and not a Coordinator, this was an important distinction that would draw a clear line of separation between union politics and training.

1960's – Jack attended and completed the UA Instructor Training Program during a time when there were no fire sprinkler specific courses offered as a part of the training curriculum.

1960's – Jack worked with Penn State University to write and update Fire Sprinkler Correspondence Curriculum.

1969 – Jack created the first fire sprinkler specific course at the UA Instructor Training Program for sprinkler fitters. This was historic as it created buy-in from all other Sprinkler Locals to send instructors to the UA Instructor Training Program.

1972 - Jack hired eight part-time traveling instructors. This was significant, that it was the first time we expanded from correspondence to offering in-person training. These eight instructors would travel to areas of the Country and conduct Saturday training classes for apprentices and fitters.

1973 – Jack sent Local 669 Instructors to participate in the U.A. Instructor Training Program.

1975 – First Labor representative on an NFPA 13 committee. He then went on to chair the committee for years. Labor" designation for NFPA was created as a result of Jack's participation on this committee.

The continued accomplishments of Jack over the years are too numerous to list. His dedication to the training of apprentices and promotion of good fire protection is rivaled by very few in the industry.

1997 – Retired

2002 – Jack obtained “member emeritus” status on NFPA 13. (Extremely rare honor)

2002 - Awarded the UA Durkin Award. The Martin P. Durkin Lifetime Achievement Award honors individuals who have devoted their lives to training and education of UA members,

and whose commitment to the UA and to training is determined to be extraordinary. (The only sprinkler fitter to date to receive the award).

2007 – Jack worked on the relaunch of the annual Apprenticeship Contest for the UA and Local 669.

2017 – Local 669 Instructor of the Year Award was renamed – “The Jack Walsh Award for Instructor of the Year” in honor of everything Jack has accomplished for this organization.

2022 – Jack reaches a personal milestone becoming a 70-year member of UA Local 669.

Throughout his retirement Jack has continued to be involved in the improvement of Local 669’s training program by contributing to writing CEU training classes, participating in apprentice curriculum course revisions, attending local apprenticeship classes for orientation of new apprentices, and continuing to attend the annual UA Instructor Training Program to share his experience and knowledge with others. Jack’s involvement and contributions to the code development process has allowed him a unique perspective into why certain requirements were created or changed over time and he takes great pride in sharing this knowledge with everyone in the fire protection industry. Jack has been a mentor to so many apprentices and sprinkler fitters during his tenure. He is truly a once in a generation person to the Sprinkler Industry.

It is my honor to recommend this extremely modest and humble person for your consideration into the NFSA Hall of Fame.