



Members of Locals 8 WI and 21 IL working for Berglund Construction were chief contributors to the high profile restoration of Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company's historic headquarters.

Members of 8 Wisconsin and 21 Illinois Restore Milwaukee Landmark

Built in 1914, the grand, neoclassical headquarters of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company in downtown Milwaukee instantly telegraphs the stature and standing of the firm as one of the city's largest employers and civic and cultural benefactors.

The building's ten 74-foot high columns with Green Corinthian treatments are capped by a majestic granite cornice. Members of Local 8 of the Wisconsin Administrative District Council and Local 21 of the Administrative District Council 1 of Illinois, employed by the restoration division of Berglund Construction of Chicago, had the complex challenge of removing the massive granite cornice, and replacing it with glass-fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) panels. All removed granite is being recycled. The GFRC panels, which are manufactured near Dallas, Texas, are 25% of the weight of natural stone. After being hoisted into place with chains, the panels are then shimmed and welded, making excellent use of members' cross-training in welding.



Brad Johnson and Tim Brown (under welding hood), both of Local 8 WI.



From left, Brad Johnson of Local 8 WI and Joe Iverson of Local 21 IL.



The original granite that was removed to make way for the installation of GFRP panels on the project (shown here) will be recycled.



Local 8 WI member Ken McLaren.