

THE IRONWORKER

OCTOBER 2022



SOWLES CO.
MARKS 60-YEAR BUSINESS MILESTONE
WITH THE IRON WORKERS

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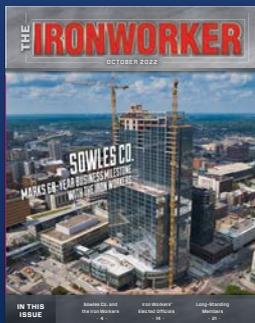
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ORGANIZED. SKILLED. PROFESSIONAL.



On the Cover

For Minnesota-based steel erection company Sowles Co., 2022 marks 60 years of business and 60 years of partnership with the Iron Workers. Sowles Co.'s success and solid reputation in the industry align perfectly with the craftsmanship of the highly skilled and adaptable union ironworkers. Sowles recently worked on the RBC Gateway, a breathtaking 40-story mixed-use building, the tallest tower to be built in Minneapolis in nearly 20 years.

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SOWLES CO. CELEBRATES DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

2022 MARKS 60 YEARS OF
BUSINESS SUCCESS WITH
THE IRON WORKERS

For Minnesota-based steel erection company Sowles Co., 2022 marks 60 years of business and 60 years of partnership with the Iron Workers. Sowles Co.'s success and solid reputation in the industry align perfectly with the craftsmanship of the highly skilled and adaptable union ironworkers. Their business model with three geographic locations in the Midwest, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest has supported industry longevity, expansion and a full range of ironworker scopes of work — reinforcing, structural steel, precast erection, miscellaneous steel and specialty complex rigging.

Changing the skyline of Minneapolis is a recent prominent project of Sowles, the RBC Gateway, a breathtaking 40-story mixed-use building, the tallest tower



“For 60 years, the partnership between Sowles Co. and Local 512 has built projects across our entire jurisdiction, from iconic projects like the 57-story IDS Tower in downtown Minneapolis, coal plants in North Dakota, medical buildings for the Mayo Clinic in Southern Minnesota and airport hangars and college campuses in Northern Minnesota to small bridges and canopies. This has led to almost 15 million work hours for our members. Local 512 appreciates Sowles's commitment to safety and their continuous involvement with our trust funds and apprenticeship committee.”

— Barry Davies, business manager, Local 512



Blake Thompson, Luke Lubansky, Lance Yeally, Rob Camm and John Metty.

THE SOWLES CO.

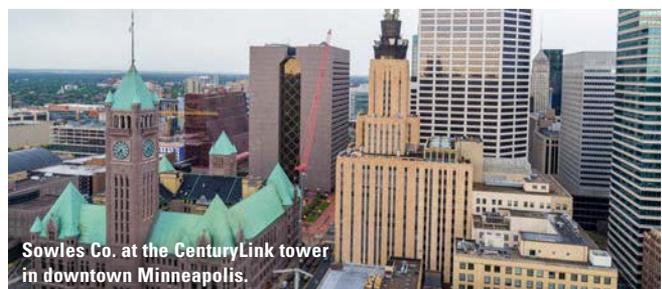
Ed Waylander left the family farm in Grove City, Minnesota, in 1933 to move to Minneapolis, where he founded the Waylander-Peterson Steel Erection Company. Larry Sowles returned from World War II to his new bride's family business, gaining valuable experience and then achieving his goal of founding his own company, L.H. Sowles Co., in 1961, after Waylander-Peterson Steel Erection Company was dissolved.

In 1968, Larry negotiated the steel erection contract for the IDS Tower in Minneapolis, a magnificent office building rising hundreds of feet above the Minneapolis skyline. Since then, Sowles Co. has participated in every significant high-rise project in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, as well as power plants, medical buildings, government and military projects throughout the Midwest. Sowles Co. has also erected numerous long-span and unique structures, such as sports arenas, convention centers and aircraft maintenance hangers. Larry named his son, Dan, as president of Sowles Co. in 1990. Dan has a long history with the company, working since 1972 in various capacities – yard hand, crane operator and ironworker before moving into the office. Dan's experience has benefited him as he progressed into supervision and management responsibilities as he continues the tradition that started in 1933. Sowles Co. now serves the entire Upper Midwest, Rocky Mountain Area, Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

to be built in the city in nearly 20 years. RBC Gateway will be home to a Four Seasons hotel, the U.S. headquarters of RBC Wealth Management and 34 private condo residences.

Sowles Co.'s superintendent Brian Hellquist and general foreman Paul Dyznek oversaw a crew of 20 ironworkers, who expertly installed 7,266 tons of rebar and 878,000 pounds of post-tension cables. Sowles also provided two top climbing tower cranes and three construction elevators on the project.

The successful construction of RBC Gateway, positioned on a tight site, is due in large part to the understanding and collaboration of general contractor McGough and Sowles Co., who collaborated on the provisions outlined in OSHA Subpart R, upheld on structural steelwork but often not considered on the rebar side of ironwork. Sowles Co. has been at the forefront of addressing the ongoing issue of site conditions in preconstruction meetings with controlling contractors. The company commends the initiatives of the Iron Workers to get the standards to reference reinforcing steel activities, ultimately making job sites safer for workers and boosting safety performance.



Sowles Co. at the CenturyLink tower in downtown Minneapolis.

OSHA Standard 1926.752 (c)(1) states the controlling contractor shall provide and maintain adequate access roads into and through the site for safe delivery and movement of equipment and OSHA Standard 1926.752 (c)(2) calls for a firm and properly graded, drained area, readily accessible to the work with adequate space for the safe storage of materials — one of the biggest safety challenges on job sites.

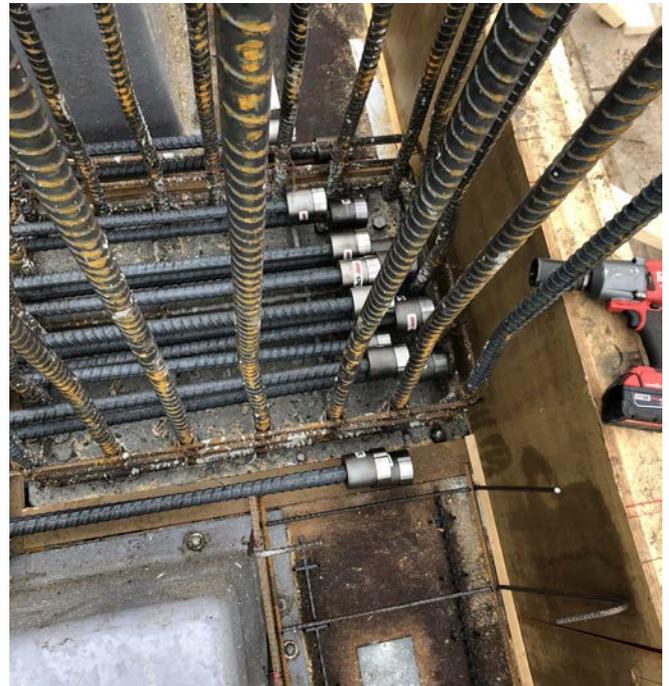
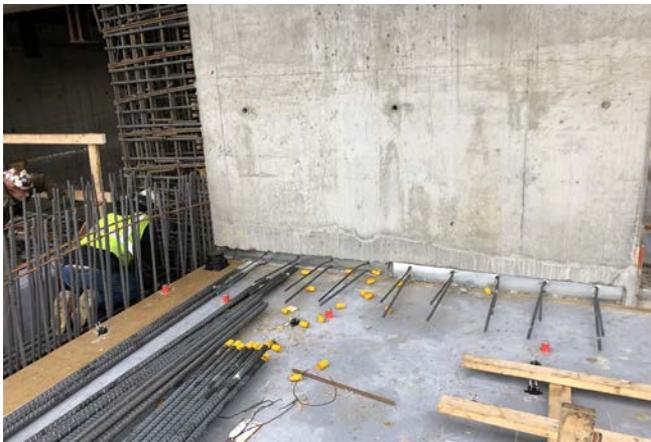
However, McGough’s forward thinking and site condition responsiveness achieved the highest level of safety and efficiency.

Another service provided by Sowles Co. in the Midwest is tower cranes and construction elevators, providing Liebherr tower cranes and Alimak man and material lifts. Sowles maintains the area’s largest fleet, with the erecting and dismantling done by union ironworkers and the maintenance handled by the reliable technicians of union operating engineers.

Safety is paramount for Sowles Co. and their subsidiary crane company, Northwest Tower Cranes. During

LOCAL 512

Iron Workers Local 512 was founded in 1937 with the merger of Minneapolis (#19, 1904) and St. Paul (#94, 1906) by the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers. Duluth (#563) and North Dakota (#793) joined in 2004. Today, Local #512’s area spans approximately 175,000 square miles with over 2,000 active members. Local 512 is the advocate voice promoting the highest standards of training, safety and productivity for members and signatory contractors performing work in the ironworking industry throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and Western Wisconsin.



“I would like to thank the following local unions and members for their continued support: Local 512’s Barry Davies, Nate O’Reilly, Mike Walters and Scott Johnson, Local 732’s (Pocatello, Idaho) Jim Wonnacott and Local 29’s (Portland, Ore.) Jason Fussell and Shane Nehls.”

— Dan Sowles,
 president and CEO,
 Sowles Co.

erection and dismantling, lifts are often in the critical range; windy conditions must be closely monitored, especially when the crew begins a climbing operation, and 100% fall protection is maintained. Erection plans are prepared in-house by staff engineer Mark Fjosne, P.E., reviewed by Corporate Safety Director Bridget Bataglia, and carried out by an experienced crew led by Lance Yealey, a 38-year veteran of Local 512 (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota) and son of a lifetime member Andy Yealey. Blake Thompson and John Metty, a skilled operator who has worked for Sowles for 30 years, lead the experienced operating engineer technicians.

Challenging jobs, done successfully, are the foundation of Sowles Co.’s 60-year business — staffed with union ironworkers, getting the job done right, on time and on budget.