



UA CANADA FEATURED MEMBER

— ROODNEY — CLARKE



Throughout his life, Roodney Clarke has always worked in the trades, and when he came to Canada in 1987 from Trinidad and Tobago, Ontario was in an economic boom. Roodney's plumbing education at Alma Mata John Donaldson Technical Institute helped him to become a UA member shortly after coming to Canada. Now, as a certified Journeyman in Plumbing and Steamfitting, Roodney realizes how lucky he was to come to Canada with a skill set in place, and be at the right place at the right time. After becoming involved in the JTAC and organizing efforts of the union, he came to realize that it's a selective process and it was his skills that allowed him to have such a successful career with the UA.

From his first worksite, a massive condominium project, to his role now as General Foreman with Aecon Industrial at the Darlington Refurbishment Project, Roodney has had the opportunity to work across the nation.

"One of the best memories would be a trip across the country through the United States to work out of Local 488, Edmonton Alberta in 2007. I partnered up with my UA brother Bob Grabias and with fellow UA brothers John Goldberg and Greg Priestman, and embarked on what would become one of the most memorable road trips for all four of us."

Roodney has become more politically active within his local union, and has been recently elected as President of UA Local 46, becoming the Local's first Black President. He now sits on all UA Local 46 boards and committees by virtue of his office. Roodney also participates every year in the National Day of Mourning laying of the wreath ceremony, one of his most proud involvements with the UA, sending prayers to all brothers and sisters that have succumbed to workplace related sickness and death. Roodney's positive attitude and dedication to his trade has gotten him to where he is today.

"At the time while you're going through whatever particular challenge it might be, I seldom recognized it as anything other than life and move on. I deeply appreciate the support the membership has given me over my career and I do not take it for granted."

Being a member of his local union for over 30 years, Roodney has been a mentor to many, as well, understanding that there is a first time for everyone, and that we all lean on someone to help us navigate the trades well beyond the safety orientation. He believes in treating everyone in the same respectful way that you would like to be treated. With this belief he can safely say that the love and appreciation he has for the UA and the friendships he has developed have shaped his career.

"On the management side of the trade, the person that mentored me is retired Steamfitter Alfred Dickson, whose vast experience in Nuclear, Oil & Gas Industry is still invaluable to this day. The piping industry is unique in the many opportunities that are available and the investment in training is beyond par. I would definitely encourage any serious-minded and ambitious individual to become part of the piping industry"

We thank you Roodney for your hard work and dedication all these years, and we are proud to have members, such as yourself, proving each and every day that we have the best in the industry.

- UA Canada

"The UA and Local 46 have always been more than a source of income for myself and my family. So many UA brothers and sisters that came into my life and taught me more than just the trade and became by extension my family. The friendships forged will last a lifetime."



Roodney Clarke (right) at the Toronto Labour Day Parade during Local 46's 125th Anniversary in 2015 with fellow members (from left-to-right) Donny Bissessar, Paul Daniel and Alfred Dickson.