One Year and Counting:
The Trump Administration’s Impact on Workers

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump proclaimed, “Under a Trump presidency, the American worker will finally have a president who will protect them and fight for them.” He also pledged that “new regulations must pass this test: Is this regulation good for the American worker?”

Now that his administration has passed the one-year mark, how have his policies squared with his promises?

While the president’s long-awaited infrastructure plan, set to be unveiled February 12th, has the potential to create good jobs and benefit many workers, other White House moves have had the opposite effect. Though many of these have taken place under the media radar, they will have a major impact on workers’ pay, health and safety protections, and workplace rights. As the Economic Policy Institute has reported, these Trump Administration actions include:

● Taking money out of the pockets of workers. In 2017, the Trump Administration failed to defend a 2016 Obama Administration rule raising threshold for overtime pay from $23,660 to $47,476 a year — a move that would have directly benefited 12.5 million salaried workers. This reversal will cost these workers $1.2 billion. In addition, the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a proposed rule that would allow employers to steal restaurant servers’ tips, taking $5.8 billion out of workers’ pockets.

● Rolling back regulations protecting worker safety. On April 3, 2017, President Trump signed a congressional resolution giving employers a “get-out-of-jail-free card” when they fail to maintain or when they falsify their injury and illness logs. This action repeals an Obama-era rule allowing the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue citations and fines to employers that fail to properly record a workplace injury or illness any time over the previous five years. Trump also signed another resolution that allows companies to bid for federal contracts without having to disclose whether they have a record of violating workers’ rights and putting workers in danger — making it possible for rogue corporations to receive taxpayer dollars.

● Appointing anti-worker extremists to key agencies. In a classic “fox guarding the henhouse move,” the president nominated Cheryl Stanton — a lawyer who has represented employers accused of wage theft, discrimination, and other workplace law violations — to serve as the administrator of the DOL’s Wage and Hour Division. Similarly, he nominated Rob Emanuel — an attorney who regularly...

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Uño y Continuamos

La Administración de Trump y el Impacto en Los Obreros

Durante la campaña presidencial del 2016, Donald Trump proclamó, “Bajo la Presidencia de Trump, los obreros americanos finalmente tendrán un presidente que los protegerá y luchará por sus derechos. El también prometió que nuevas regulaciones pasarían esta prueba: ¿Acaso estas regulaciones son lo que los Obreros Americanos necesitan?

Ahora que su administración paso la marca de un año, ¿cómo aparece su progreso ante sus promesas?

Mientras que esperamos largamente el plan de infraestructura del presidente, el cual, fue preparado sin salvación en febrero 12, y que supuestamente tenía el potencial de crear muchas fuentes de trabajo y beneficios para los obreros, otros movimientos dentro de la Casa Blanca han tenido resultados opuestos. Aunque estos han pasado desapercibidos bajo los radares de la prensa, tendrán un significativo impacto sin protección para los salarios de los obreros, los seguros médicos y seguridad laboral, así como a los derechos del trabajador. Como el Instituto de Economía ha reportado, las acciones de la administración de Trump incluyen:

- **El quitarles dinero a los bolsillos de los trabajadores/obreros.** En el 2017, la administración de Trump fracaso para defender la regla establecida durante la Administración de Obama de incrementar los niveles de pagos de tiempo extra de $23,660 a $47,476 al año-un movimiento que ayudaría directamente a 12.5 millones de obreros asalariados. Este revés, le cuesta a la clase obrera $1.2 billones de dólares. Adicionalmente, el departamento del Obrero (DOL) decreto una regla proponiendo el permitir a empleadores el robarles a los trabajadores de restaurantes sus propinas, llevándose $5.8 billones de los bolsillos del trabajado.

- **Eliminando regulaciones que protegían la seguridad laboral del trabajador.** El 3 de abril del 2017, el presidente Trump firmo en el Congreso una resolución dándole a el departamento del Obrero (DOL) decreto una regla protegiendo a los empleadores el robarles a los trabajadores de restaurantes sus propinas, llevándose $5.8 billones de los bolsillos del trabajado.

- **Recargando la Corte Suprema a asignar a ella a Neil Gorsuch en contra de los obreros/trabajadores.** Como un juez, Gorsuch se hizo famoso al dictaminar que un conductor de vehículos /tráiler, el cual abandono su tráiler para evitar congelarse hasta morir en temperaturas extremas bajo cero, pueda perder su empleo ser sancionado por su empleador. En los próximos meses, él podría ser el voto decisivo entre la radicalidad en casos de Janus v. AFSCME (sindicato de transportes), en el cual es muy posible que haga todo el sector público como “derecho a trabajar por menos”.

- **Asignando extremistas anti-obreros para puestos gubernamentales claves.** Un “movimiento y truco cálculo resguardando sus maniobras”, el presidente nomino a Cheryl Stanton- un Abogado que siempre ha representado a empleadores/corporaciones acusados de fraude de salarios, discriminación y otras violaciones laborales-para servir como el Administrador del departamento del obrero “DOL” el cual regula la división de sueldos, salarios y horarios. Similarmente también nomino a Rob Emanuel- un abogado el cual representaba regularmente grandes empleadores/corporaciones-ante la Junta de Relaciones al Obrero (NLRB). Y su nominación como como consejo general Peter Robb, el cual paso la mayor parte de su carrera como un abogado laboral a servicio de corporaciones/empleadores.

- **Obstruyendo el derecho de los obreros a tener un juicio justo.** El año pasado, la administración de Trump cambio de bando en un caso ante la Corte Suprema de Los Estados Unidos, Murphy Oil v. NLRB, un movimiento casi sin precedencia. La Administración de Obama había tomado el lado del obrero en este caso, pero ahora la Casa Blanca está apoyando a los intereses de las corporaciones. Si la Corte toma la posición de la administración de Trump (es casi por seguro ahora que Gorsuch es Juez), las compañías podrán continuar obligando a...
The National Building Trades has a committee that is called ReBuild USA. This committee, with the approval of the Board of General Presidents is working with a national marketing company. They are running public affairs campaigns with the goal to positively influence policies that affect the Building Trades ability to mobilize building trades members and other allies around the federal infrastructure bill to pressure Congress and the White House for passage.

Our other goals are to run custom and local campaigns powered by grassroots digital strategy that is vocal around issues important to building trades, their members and allies. Also, to drive Building Trades specific policy conversations through empowering local trade members and allies with insights and data that are our core drivers.

**Instructor Training Program Curriculum Committee**

On February 20 – 22, 2018, the OPCMIA Instructors Training Program Curriculum Committee met at OPCMIA International Headquarters. The purpose of this meeting was to review and make modifications to the training materials that will be used for training OPCMIA Apprenticeship and Job Corps instructors from around the country at Washtenaw Community College on June 25 – 29, 2018.
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COVER PHOTO:
BACK ROW: (l-r) ITF Cement Mason Coordinator Tony Longbrake, NPIJATF Executive Director Gerald R. Kriskovich and NPIJATF Senior Bookkeeper Ben Rakowski; FRONT ROW: (l-r) NPIJATF Administrative Assistant Patricia Strickland and NPIJATF Administrative Assistant Chris Mason.

NOT PICTURED: ITF Plasterer Coordinator Mark Harder and NPIJATF Administrative Assistant Dorothy Mebane

Sending get well wishes to ITF Plasterer Coordinator Mark Harder.
Well to say the least, it’s been an interesting year in the political arena both nationally and locally. 2017 will go down in history as one of the most tumultuous political years in U.S. history if nothing else. While I could spend many column inches describing the past year in terms of the political upheaval regarding congressional maneuvers, cabinet members remarks and deeds, and the President’s press, tweets, and interactions, I will mercifully refrain from rehashing the constant barrage of political news we’ve all faced. And obviously if you are reading this you are aware of the past year all too well. Exhausting might be the best word to describe it at this time. What I would like to focus on is the coming 2018 year regarding labor in general and our own OPCMIA in particular. 2018 will be a watershed year if only for the midterm elections and what that will mean to all Americans. As we saw what happened in the Alabama Senate race. Virginia turning more blue, and the myriad of upsets in many state legislative races, the upcoming midterms could be historical in nature. And as we found out in Virginia, every vote does count as we saw a state senate race tied at the end and had to draw straws to pick the winner. That race decided which Party had control in their Senate. How many people were sitting at home election night in that Virginia Senate district realizing their vote would have put their preferred candidate in the state Senate. And swung the control to their party preference. We could have many state and federal races this November coming down to a handful of votes. It happens more often than we think. But let’s look to the future. I will start on the national level.

OPCMIA will be pressing our Senators and Congress people to finally, hopefully, take action on a bill regarding the nations’ infrastructure. So far, we have only heard talk from the President, and Congress regarding the originally proposed one trillion-dollar infrastructure bill that we’ve been hearing about from both party’s since the campaigns of 2016. On January 22nd we did get a sense of where the administration is heading when a leaked draft of the Presidents’ infrastructure plan was revealed. I will spare you with all the bureaucratic language and hit the highlights. It begins with what they call the “Infrastructure incentives initiative”. The current draft makes no mention of a total dollar amount. We can only hope the number is still one trillion.

The eligible projects refer to, surface transportation, airports, passenger rail, maritime and inland waterway ports, flood control, water supply, hydropower, water resources, drinking water facilities, storm water facilities, brownfield and superfund sites. While this is not the entire list, it is the one the draft seems to focus on the most. There is a section discussing rural area plans. Eligible entities are for the most part State and local governments. The lead federal agency will solicit applications every 6 months and will employ a criteria that will be developed later. Of course, this will be discussed and amended in some fashion as it makes its way through Congress, but this is the best information available at this time. This is our number issue to deal with in 2018. We all need to watch it closely and remind our elected officials how critical this legislation is for not only all of us personally, but for the entire nation to get the economy going for workers. Infrastructure funding is imperative for us to pass this year.

Locally, each state will be dealing with issues that will affect labor, and as usual, most issues are not friendly to labor. Many states will be trying to remove licensing regulations for our craft unions as well as other occupations. These “Occupational licensing”
When President Trump took office, many in the labor movement feared the worst. They particularly feared that the President would appoint individuals to administrative agencies – such as the National Labor Relations Board (“NLRB” or “Board”) – who would reverse the modest advances that were put into place by the appointees of the Obama Administration. It took several months, but President Trump’s appointments to the NLRB have been confirmed, and, the reversals have been swift. That swiftness was especially pronounced with respect to the issue of joint employer relationships.

Generally, a joint employer relationship exists when two separate employers share or co-determine the terms and conditions of employment for a group of employees. The NLRB has historically required the alleged joint employer to exercise direct and immediate control over terms such as hiring, firing, discipline, supervision and direction. Thus, for example, a temporary employment agency who supplies employees – like Tradesman International – and the employer who exercises direct control over how those employees perform their work – like a construction contractor – may be joint employers. When those jointly-employed workers are represented by a union, each employer may be required to recognize and bargain with the union over those terms and conditions of employment that are within the employer’s control. Moreover, joint employer findings prevent employers from evading their obligations under wage and hour laws by shifting liability for complying with those laws onto another corporate entity.

In 2015, after receiving input from employers, unions and other interested parties, the NLRB – with a majority of Democratic members – modified the joint employer standard in *Browning-Ferris of California*. The Board broadened the standard by no longer requiring that the joint employer exercise direct and immediate control over the terms and conditions of employment. An employer could be a joint employer where it reserved control over the employees’ working conditions, but never exercised such control. In addition, employers who exercised only indirect control, such as through contractual arrangements with the other employer, could be found to be joint employers.

The NLRB’s decision in *Browning-Ferris of California* became the subject of bitter complaints by employers, especially those who have franchising arrangements like fast food restaurants and retail stores, and their special interest organizations. It also became the target of conservative politicians in Congress, who held hearings regarding the broadened joint employer status and introduced bills to roll back the Board’s decision.

However, on December 14, 2017, the Board issued its decision in *Hy-Brand Industrial Contractors, Ltd.* In that decision, the NLRB – with a majority of Republican members – set aside the broader standard announced in *Browning-Ferris of California* and returned to the narrower standard. The NLRB also departed from its existing practice by not asking for input from stakeholders like unions and employers. Moreover, the Board took it upon itself to change the law, even though the parties (including the employers) in *Hy-Brand Industrial Contractors* did not ask the Board to overturn the broader standard and did not brief that issue before the NLRB. The Board did all of this in a case where it could have rested its decision on a basis that did not even involve the joint employer analysis.

The back and forth of NLRB legal standards is not new. When there is a majority of Democrats on the Board, the NLRB tends to broaden its standards and protections; and, when there is a majority of Republicans, the NLRB tends to pull back on those standards and protections. It is something everyone has come to expect with changes in the Presidency. What has been unexpected is the speed by which the current NLRB – with new appointments by the current Republican administration – is moving to change the law. What has been unprecedented is the current NLRB’s willingness to make such changes without any notice or an opportunity to comment, either from the parties to the case or the public at large. These developments do not bode well for organized labor, as we may be finding that the future of the Board’s law will more quickly look like the past.
Brothers and Sisters, I hope all of you and your families had a happy holiday season and I wish you all the best in 2018.

In June of 2017, I was appointed as the new Executive Director of the National Plastering Industry’s Joint Apprenticeship Trust Fund/OPCMIA Job Corps Training Program. I am very excited about this opportunity and I am looking forward to making this program a continued success.

I began my journey with the OPCMIA as a cement mason apprentice in Local 241 located in Reno, Nevada in 1996. Approximately, ten years later Local 241 merged with Local 797, Las Vegas, Nevada. I have been a proud union member for twenty-two years and have always recognized the value in training and apprenticeship to make our union flourish.

Fast forward to today, the OPCMIA Job Corps Program has been in existence for nearly a half century and I have never been more excited about the future of our program. With the support of General President Stepano, the NPIJATF Board of Trustees, the Executive Board, locals, JATC’s, ITF and all of the members, the OPCMIA Job Corps Program will continue to serve as a successful grass roots pre-apprenticeship program which in turn will help our union grow with a qualified young work force.

The topic of apprenticeship recruitment and training is not one to tread lightly on. With the average age of our industry aging rapidly the average OPCMIA member is nearing 50 years old. Currently, we are fighting to attract youthful men and woman who strive to better themselves and our industry. With college tuition rapidly increasing our hands-on-training program known as “Job Corps” offers an affordable education in competitive trades for individuals aged 16-24. Certified instructors aspire to lead and inspire disadvantaged youth who may or may not have had much supervision or a role model throughout their lives. With structured classes, rules and regulations, many students find themselves transforming into leaders and gain much needed confidence in their new-found profession.

But what else do these programs offer besides the ability for one to gain knowledge in a trade? These centers around the United States offer education courses which can be used to complete High School and GED programs, the opportunity to take military placement tests, the ability to obtain a driver’s license, as well as specialty training in automobiles, boats, and firefighting tactics. Not only do our centers provide housing but areas such as gymnasiums, game rooms, and outdoor skating rinks to fill students free time.

The pre-apprentice program on average takes approximately 8 to 12 months to complete. During the training process, qualified OPCMIA Instructors engage with students and complete real work projects on the centers and in the community. Students also complete the curriculum portion of the training, which has been updated over the years to comply with industry standards and in the very near future will be available to each student on digital devices.

Recently, the NPIJATF and the OPCMIA have worked together and developed a scholarship program for Job Corps graduates who have signed with local OPCMIA apprenticeship programs. This is a great resource for young graduates to be able to purchase a reliable vehicle or use this money for a place to stay at the beginning of their new career. Students also leave the program with a full set of appropriate tools; OSHA 10 certifications and SAIA scaffold certification.

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OPCMIA Instructor Training Program

At the June 2017 Apprenticeship Coordinators Meeting, the OPCMIA ITF and local Apprenticeship Coordinators from around the country met on the campus of Washtenaw Community College (WCC) to discuss developing a comprehensive system of training for OPCMIA instructors. WCC is the academic partner with both the Ironworkers and United Association national training programs, and they offer a series of instructor training courses for both organizations each year on their campus located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The OPCMIA Apprenticeship Coordinators who assembled last June reviewed these training materials, met with WCC representatives, and afterwards voted unanimously to develop an OPCMIA Instrutor Training Program based upon the materials developed by the United Association-ITF (UA-ITF).

The OPCMIA-ITF has recently entered into an agreement with the UA-ITF to use, and modify for our purposes, the UA instructor training curriculum. We have also entered into an agreement with WCC to present these materials. These materials cover adult learning styles, teaching techniques, lesson plan development, student assessment, success strategies, and classroom management. In addition to the core curriculum based upon pedagogy (the science of teaching), WCC and the Instructor Training Program (ITP) will also offer electives to help instructors become more effective presenters.

World of Concrete 2018

This year’s World of Concrete was one of the largest in history! The OPCMIA and OPCMIA-ITF were proud to be a part of this year’s show. The OPCMIA and OPCMIA-ITF were visited by several contractors and manufacturers and discussed the training that the ITF will be providing and what the OPCMIA offers.

We also had several of our members stop by the OPCMIA both to visit and see what the OPCMIA and the OPCMIA-ITF have been working on this year. They came as far away as Philadelphia to Hawaii!

OPCMIA was well represented as Derek Gromacki from PJ Dick, Pittsburg, PA. Local 526 was the winner of the Wacker Neuson Trowel Challenge. Derek took home a custom CRT48-37V ride-on trowel! Derek is a 20-year second generation member of Local 526 and was sent out to the World of Concrete by his employer to purchase a laser Screed and came home with a ride-on-trowel! Congratulations Derek and thanks for representing! (See photo on next page.)

The OPCMIA and OPCMIA-ITF would like to thank Local 500 for helping with the booth and once again doing a great job representing our crafts. The OPCMIA and OPCMIA-ITF are already working on World of Concrete 2019! Hope to see you there!
In an effort to stay abreast of current information and trends, the OPCMIA-ITF has been approved to join several industry associations. Among the types of associations that the ITF either has joined or is in the process of joining include: Contractors Associations, Manufacturer Association, Professional Associations and Safety Associations or Councils. The level of participation varies between associations but at the very least gives the ITF an “ear on the ground”.

With membership to the following associations, the ITF plans to promote concrete and plaster, participate on committees, gain knowledge and build relationships: American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Society of American Registered Architects (SARA), National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA), National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), American Concrete Institute (ACI), International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI), EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA), Association of Walls and Ceiling Industry (AWCI), American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC), National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA), Stucco Manufacturers Association (SMA), and the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

In addition to working closely with CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training, the ITF has joined the National Safety Council, the Chesapeake Region Safety Council and the Scaffold and Access Industry Association as well. These organizations provide safety training, safety updates and training materials.

As work begins with these industry associations, the ITF is also seeking to partner with industry suppliers for items such as materials, equipment or programs. PlanGrid is one such company that the ITF has partnered with and will be offering Train-the-Trainer Classes in the months to come. Other TTT Classes such as CPR/EAD/First Aid, Silica Awareness, Scaffold Hazard Awareness and Respiratory Protection are planned.

These steps are part of the overall plan to assist Local JATC’s and the concrete and plaster industries as a whole. Before your Local JATC plans to work with any of these organizations or others that aren’t listed, please contact the ITF to see how our partnerships can translate locally.
At a recent visit at one of our programs in Colorado, I collaborated with a very intelligent young women student who stated “apprenticeship programs were created to motivate young men and women to become skilled and qualified for the growing blue-collar workforce and to address the skills gap between what employers want and what people currently have. I don’t understand why young people do not want to venture into apprenticeship programs, it’s like going to college but after graduation there will be no debt.” I couldn’t agree more, it is the perfect opportunity for many people to join the blue-collar workforce and the OPCMIA, earn an honest day pay for an honest day of work and receive fringe benefits to secure a happy and healthy retirement.

If anyone is interested in hiring a Job Corps Graduate, please contact our Headquarters at 301-572-2600 or contact your local Job Corps Center and ask to speak to any of our plasterer or cement mason instructors.
General President Daniel E. Stepano is pleased to announce the appointment of Jose Arroyo to the position of International Field Representative.

Brother Jose Arroyo began working as a Cement Mason in 1987. Jose worked for a local nonunion company in Racine, Wisconsin for seven years before deciding to pursue another job opportunity. He then accepted a position with another local company and on his first day, he became a journeyman with Local 599.

On February 20, 2017, he was offered a position as a Statewide Organizer with Local 599 and on February 1, 2018, he was offered a position as an International Field Representative. Jose and his wife Luci have been married for 25 years and have three daughters Araceli, Anna, and Alejandra and one son Raul.

bills are gaining a lot of traction with help from big money groups including Koch industries. And as always, we have to be mindful of changing workers compensation laws as they are most times very onerous to working people. Also, the OPCMIA is more active than ever at the state level addressing issues that affect our members and the general public. We are working at the state level to pass fireproofing certification/licensing legislation to further our efforts to have our members certified to perform fireproofing in a safe and standards performing way. It is also a major public health and safety issue for end users to ensure buildings are safer to escape during a fire. We are also working with our heavy industrial leaders laying the ground work to pursue similar legislation for concrete polishing and coatings to ensure that building owners are getting the service that they are paying for. With legislation like this passing, it will demonstrate that at all levels of our work, we strive for our workers to be the safest and most well trained in the field.

By this spring most state legislatures will be completed and that brings us back to the 2018 mid-term federal elections. As well as all the state and county races that will be up this November. Please be involved as much as possible in your local and state party conventions this year. Let your voice be heard to each and every candidate that you can approach and let them know just how important working for and with our union brothers and sisters is to the economy and to the safety of all that use our end product. We will be available to all locals to see how we can assist and help with get out the vote, training, and in any way that you individually may suggest to us for your particular situation.

In closing we all learned some hard-political lessons this past election. Nothing is for certain. One vote does matter. One person can make a difference. And if you don’t fill a void, others will fill it for you. And, finally, “You just never know do you?”

This is our year and chance to make a difference. Let none of us waste it.
OPCMIA Welcomes Tri-State District Council

On December 9th, OPMCIA members launched the Tri-State District Council, holding their inaugural convention in Morgantown, West Virginia. The Council brings together brothers and sisters from Western Pennsylvania, Youngstown Ohio, Cleveland Ohio (Plasterers), West Virginia, and portions of Maryland and Virginia to strengthen their power to gain work hours, protect their rights, improve their training and safety, increase their numbers, and make their voices heard.

Congratulations to Council Business Manager Cameron Rupert, President Chris Womack, Vice President Bill Nails, and the new Council Executive Committee, delegates and members!

Founding members of the Tri-State District Council. The delegates are Cameron Rupert, Charles Fischer, August Didiano, William Wojchowski, Joseph Didiano, William Nails, John Swenglish, Christopher Senkow, Jeffrey Firm, Kenneth Harmon, James Fitzroy and Karen Devine. Chris Womack, Wesley Landers, Jr., Randy Bostic and Jerome Lechliter. OPCMIA International Officers present are General President Daniel E. Stepano, General Secretary Treasurer Roger Bettermann, Executive Vice President Todd Lair, Vice President Richard Bailey, Vice President Kevin Sexton, Vice President Douglas Taylor, International Representative Joseph Ciacchi, International Representative Brett Hinsley and Deputy International Representative Eric Coffelt.

Delegates to the inaugural convention of the Tri-State District Council work together to craft founding charter.
OPCMIA Welcomes Tri-State District Council

OPCMIA General President Daniel E. Stepano (right) swears in the Executive Board of the Tri-State District Council: Business Manager Cameron Rupert, President Chris Womack, Vice President William Nails, August Didiano, Jerome Lechliter, John Swenglish, Joseph Didiano, Randy Bostic and Wesley Landers, Jr.

OPCMIA Staff Meeting

The Staff Meeting held on August 21-24, 2017, in Las Vegas, Nevada was informative and useful to the officers attending. At this Staff Meeting, due to the success of Organizing Class 101, “Strategic Planning for Organizing in the Construction Industry,” we continued the training with opening Organizing Class 102 “Closing the Deal” to all OPCMIA Local Unions.
California State Conference & Apprentice Competition

The California State Conference and the Apprenticeship Competition was held in Sacramento, California along with the California State Fair on July 26 – 29, 2017. The conference was well attended and a great success. Special guests included Executive Vice President Todd A. Lair, along with other International Officers and Delegates.

Executive Vice President Todd Lair swearing in new officers. Congratulations!

Below is a collage of photos taken at the California State Conference and Apprenticeship Competition held at the State Fair.

Plasterer Apprentice

Cement Mason Apprentices

Attendees

Group photo of International Officers and Delegates in attendance at the Conference.
Ohio Conference/Tri-State Meeting

It was another successful year for the Ohio Conference Annual Tri-State Meeting and the Hands-on Exhibition in conjunction with the Ohio State Fair in Columbus, Ohio held on July 26–28, 2017. At the Ohio State Fair there were demonstrations, displays and a show they do for the general public.

The Ohio Conference held the Annual Tri-State meeting bringing the surrounding states together to go over business. Everyone reported that work seems to be good in their areas.

The collage of photos are from the conference, Tri-State Meeting and Hands-on Exhibition in conjunction with the Ohio State Fair.
Illinois State Conference

The 2017 Illinois State Conference was held on September 22nd and 23rd at the Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, Illinois; it was well attended and a huge success. Special guests in attendance included General President Daniel E. Stepano and General Secretary-Treasurer Roger Bettermann, along with International Officers and Delegates.

SAVE THE DATE

SEATTLE
WOMEN BUILD NATIONS
OCTOBER 12-14, 2018

The only place to get official information on the 2018 conference is www.nabtu.org/WBN.

NABTU is dedicated to the stability of employment and economic security of organized construction workers in North America. Our purpose is to create more work opportunities, achieve living wages and protect benefit standards, not just for the members of our 14 national and international union affiliates, but for all construction workers.
For over a century, we played catch up with our Apprenticeship Program lacking the Training Facility we desperately needed. We did everything possible with the available resources to keep our heads above water to train our apprentices to succeed in the trade. The rules of the game have changed thanks to the great vision and leadership of our President/Business Manager Patrick La Cassa and our Secretary-Treasurer Lawrence Picardi, Sr. On May 10, 2017, we hosted a ground-breaking ceremony to kick off the construction of our new state of the art Training Facility. We were honored to have our General President Daniel E. Stepano, Executive Vice President Todd A. Lair, Director of Training, Health and Safety Deven Johnson, Vice President/Director of Jurisdiction Rob Mason, Vice President Kevin Sexton and Vice President Doug Taylor here to show their support for this endeavor. This facility will allow us to train our Apprentices to the best of our ability and provide our Journeymen with additional classes to further their skills.

Construction began June 5, 2017, utilizing 100% Union manpower. Many participated and came together as Union brothers and sisters, including Apprentice Coordinator Antonio Acevedo, Cement Mason instructors Claudio Robles and Lawrence Picardi, Jr., and Plasterer instructors Michael Murtaugh and Joseph Malia, to contribute to the success of this project. Construction was completed in a record time of 7 months. The Training Facility was fully operational January 8, 2018, for the first class.

Our new state of the art and fully equipped training facility is currently in full session. Local 502 is very proud to announce that we are no longer playing catch up. Instead, we are leading the way and bringing training to a new level to benefit our entire membership.
Local Union 502 – Chicago, Illinois
OSHA 502 Training Class

On September 18-20, 2017, OPCMIA Director of Training, Health and Safety Deven Johnson and ITF Plasterer Coordinator Mark Harder conducted an OSHA 502 Class at OPCMIA’s International Headquarters in Columbia, Maryland. The OSHA 502 training is required to re-authorize instructors to teach the OSHA 10-hour and OSHA 30-hour construction safety courses.

The Instructors in attendance were John Chingway, Joe Hart, Clyde Latham, Scott Sewell, Tony Longbrake, Darren Enns and Monte Smith. They were welcomed by General President Stepano and his staff. The OSHA 502 Class had a good turnout and good participation.

Concrete Polishing Train-The-Trainer Class

August 8 – 9, 2017, Concrete Polishing Train-the-Trainer Class was held at the Southern California Cement Masons JATC, Arcadia, California (Local 500/Local 600 training center). The class had a great turn out that included assigned OPCMIA staff. It was very informative as well as beneficial to all.
Eligibility for a scholarship under the Fund requires that an applicant must be a legal dependant of an OPCMIA member in good standing. The applicant must also be a full-time student or have been accepted to be a full-time student at an accredited college, university, vocational tech./trade or other such institutes of higher learning. The scholarship may be used for any field of study by undergraduate students only. Grandchildren of members are not eligible.

Awards are based upon the student’s non-weighted GPA reported on an official high school or college transcript and an essay on the importance of the OPCMIA on the applicant’s family.

Essays are judged blindly by a Selection Committee comprised of three members who will review all eligible applications. The decision of the Selection Committee is final and is not subject to appeal. Points are deducted if an applicant fails to follow essay guidelines.

Eight (8) grants per year will be awarded one for each successful candidate for his/her education. Those who received the scholarship awards are not eligible to apply for additional scholarships under this program.

Scholarship application form available at www.opcmia.org

OPCMIA Scholarship details and an application form are available at your Local Union. The deadline for essays to reach the International Headquarters is April 1, 2018 and winners will be notified July 2018.

Please note: Dependents of OPCMIA International Staff and General Officers are not eligible to apply. The Selection Committee reserves the right to request additional information on any applicant.
IN MEMORY OF

Retired Director of Apprenticeship, Northern California Cement Masons

Arthur W. Moffitt

November 9, 1937 – January 29, 2017

Brother Arthur (Art) William Moffitt became a member of the Plasterers and Cement Masons Local #337 in Monterey, California in 1968. Art served as President of the local prior to working as head of training for Portland Cement Association. Art later became Director of the Northern California Cement Masons JATC. During his tenure Art was involved with many first-time activities such as the establishment of epoxy and hazmat training, a pre-apprenticeship program for women and minorities for cement masons program, assisting in the development and implementation of the Cement Masons curriculum, a key player in revising the National Apprenticeship Standards for Cement Masons, creating the Cement Masons apprenticeship contest project and California Statewide Apprenticeship Contest. These are just a few of the countless things Brother Moffitt accomplished.

Brother Moffitt was a proud union member of the OPCMIA for over 50 years and will be remembered for never hesitating to lend a helping hand and giving credit to those standing next to him. Brother Moffitt never forgot how hard the cement mason worked for their living which drove his passion for training to insure the cement mason was a trade equal to all others.

Brother Moffitt will be sadly missed by his wife Shirley Moffitt of 56 years, his daughter Tina Gonzalez and all that were fortunate to know him.
Local Union 3 – St. Louis, Missouri

On December 14, 2017, Plasterers’ Local 3 held a meeting and presented service awards to their members for 25 and 30 years of continuous service.

25 and 30-Year Service Awards:

(Left to right) Vice President Ray Leuthauser, Jr., congratulates 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Brother Charles Wagner, 25-Year Lapel Pin recipient Recording Secretary Clyde Latham and 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Brother Ty Thaler, along with congratulations from President Tom Toenjes and Business Manager John Davis.

Local Union 148 – Atlanta, Georgia

Members of Local 148/Area 978, Tennessee, on site making a pour at the Kingston TVA Plant located in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Local members are in white protective suits (left to right) Brother Orlando Edwards, Brother Tobias Tisdale and Brother LaTroy Russ. The contractor is Day and Zimmermann.

Local Union 500 – Santa Ana, California

It was one of the largest voter turnouts for Cement Masons Local 500. Business Manager Jack Alvarado and his entire slate were elected by a majority of 83% of the votes. Great job - congratulations to all the newly elected Officers, Executive Board and Delegates to the District Council.

Newly elected Officers being sworn in by Executive Vice President Todd Lair. Cement Masons Local 500 held its Elections on November 4, 2017.
Local Union 500 – Santa Ana, California

On February 8, 2018, Local 500 held their Presentation meeting for the following members.

Proud Gomez Family congratulate Brother Gomez.

A special “thank you” to Brother Glen Sorum, a 61-year member, who presented Business Agent Frank Crouch with a bag of vintage concrete tools that his wife’s grandfather used when he was a Cement Mason in the 1900-1910 era. Local 500 will proudly display these tools upon completion of our new building in early 2018.

OPCMIA’s Vice President Mauricio Robles presented with his 30-Year Gold Card by the Officers of Local 500. (Left to right) President John Flowers, Vice President Mauricio Robles, Business Manager Jack Alvarado and Vice President Phil Salerno.
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*The AFL-CIO, Union Privilege and a group of unions own Union Plus Mortgage Company and will benefit if you get your loan through the company. However, you are not required to use Union Plus Mortgage for your loan and are free to shop. For your Affiliated Business Arrangement Disclosure Statement, please visit www.unionplusmortgage.com.
Local Union 500 – Santa Ana, California

Congratulations to Vice President Mauricio Robles and Family.

Brother Virgil Harris received his 40-Year Gold Card and congratulations from the Officers of Local 500.

Brother Michael Martinez received his 40-Year Gold Card and congratulations from the Officers of Local 500.

Brother Jose Manuel Correa, Sr. received his 40-Year Gold Card and congratulations from the Officers of Local 500.

Sister Kathleen O’Rourke received her 30-Year Gold Card and congratulations from the Officers of Local 500 on being the first woman ever to receive a 30-Year Gold Card. Way to go Kathleen!

Brother Fred Stonestreet received his 30-Year Gold Card and congratulations from Officers of Local 500.
Local 500 honored married couple and 30-Year Gold Card recipients Brother Fred Stonestreet and Sister Kathy O’Rourke.

Brother Ruben Chavez received his 30-Year Gold Card and congratulations from Officers of Local 500.

Brother Bryan Rainbolt recipient of 30-Year Gold Card is a forman for All American Asphalt.

Brother Pascual Lopez received his 30-Year Gold Card and congratulations from Officers of Local 500.

Brother Gabriel Cervantes received his 30-Year Gold Card and congratulations from Officers of Local 500.

REMINDER
Please be sure to keep your address current with your Local Union and send in the address change form on the back page to International Headquarters.
Cement Masons Local 527 held their annual membership meeting in December of 2017, and presented service awards to their members for 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 years of continuous service. Congratulations to all and thank you!

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF LOCAL 527 WERE NOT IN ATTENDANCE TO RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS:

25-YEAR LAPEL PINS: James Beans, Jimmie Lee Cole, Arturo Cruz, Javier Hernandez, Kirby Kelso, Junior Plumlee, Timothy Reeves, Timothy Rosemann, Mark Rubinstein, Brian Skaggs, Raymond Pat Walls, Kerry White

30-YEAR GOLD CARDS: Mark Ell, William Green, Robert Gutermuth, Jr., Harlond Harness, Curt Lenggenhager, Scott Matteson, Glen Lee Pyatt, Michael Tucker

40-YEAR GOLD CARDS: Kenneth Forbeck, James Gleason, Dennis Lee Harris, Timothy Karius, Donald Quesenberry, Donald York

50-YEAR GOLD CARDS: James F. Brand, John W. Meyer, James Hugh Thomas

60-YEAR GOLD CARD: Ronald W. Lenggenhager

70-YEAR PLAGUE: Harry Bartold, Sr.
Local Union 534 – Boston, Massachusetts

On September 26, 2017, Local Union 534, Boston, Massachusetts, held their regular union meeting. Congratulations to the Apprentices who received awards from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for completing Local 534’s Apprenticeship Program and becoming Journeymen.

(Left to right) Brother Jean M. Massena, President/Business Agent/Director of Training John P. Sweeney and Brother Yuriy M. Karnaukh.

Local Union 538 – Omaha, Nebraska

Local Union 538, Omaha, Nebraska, proud member displays his craftsmanship.

Brother Bill Gillespie shows off his polished and stained concrete chess board. Looks great!

Local Union 577 – Denver, Colorado

Local Union 577, Denver, Colorado, awards member for 30 years of continuous service. Thank you, Brother Charles W. Evans.

(Left to right) Local 577’s Business Manager Monty Dietrich, 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Sargent-of-Arms Charles W. Evans and Recording Secretary Peter Mustacchio.
Local Union 599 – State of Wisconsin

Congratulations to the following proud members of Local Union 599 who were presented with their service awards for the following years: 30, 40, 50 and 60.

When members are down it’s good to pay them a visit to lift them up. Local 599’s Cement Mason Brother Kundy Rangel enjoyed receiving his 30-Year Gold Card/Lapel Pin and a visit by former Business Manager Dan Doperalski and also Business Agent Felix Ramirez. Way to go Dan and Felix!

(Center) Retired Cement Mason Brother Ronald Humphreys receiving his 50-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin from (right) former Business Manager Dan Doperalski and (left) Business Agent Felix Ramirez.

(Left to right) Business Agent Felix Ramirez, former Business Manager Dan Doperalski and retired Cement Mason Brother Harry J. Bindelli was presented with his 60-Year Gold Card. Also present was his nephew Peter F. Bindelli, along with his daughter Skye Bindelli. The Bindelli business has been a family business for 3 generations and still continues today.

During Local 599/Area 558 monthly union meeting on March 8, 2017, the following new apprentices and journeyman members were sworn in by Business Agent Bart Swearingen. (Left to right) Cement Mason Apprentices Anthony Swift and Seth Brown, Cement Mason Journeyman Hugo Hiraldo-Arce and Business Agent Bart Swearingen.
On July 19, 2017, during the monthly union meeting of Local 599/Area 558 a member received his Gold Card and congratulations on his years of continuous service. (Left to right) Business Agent Bart Swearingen, 50-Year Gold Card/Lapel Pin recipient former Financial Secretary/Treasurer Richard J. Miller and Financial Secretary/Treasurer Matt Ganhs.

(Left to right) Business Agent Chris Peterson gives a 30-Year Gold Card/Lapel Pin to Cement Mason Brother William Miles, Jr. of Local 599/Area 257.

Local 599, Wisconsin’s Business Manager Todd Gray (left) gives Area 204 Cement Finisher Brother Roger Kalscheur his 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin at the December 2017 monthly Union meeting.

(Left to right) Business Agent Chris Peterson gives a 40-Year Gold Card/Lapel Pin to Cement Mason Brother Michael Rockow of Local 599/Area 257.

(Left to right): Local 599, Wisconsin, Business Manager Todd Gray (left) gives 25 Year Lapel Pins to Area 204 Cement Finishers Brother Ronald Ripp (middle), and Brother Jeff Aaberg (right) at their December 2017 monthly Union meeting.
Local Union 630 – Honolulu, Hawaii

Shown below are photos from Local 630, Honolulu, Hawaii, of the men and women in Hawaii, Union members who dedicate their skills and expertise to the building and construction industry.

Local 630 and its members are dedicated to the highest standards. These photos are a reflection of this pursuit of excellence, depicting apprentices starting their careers and showing them working alongside journeypersons as, together, Local 630 makes their communities better and stronger.

Our profession also provides us with an enjoyable lifestyle. From hobbies to memorable trips with family, we are fortunate to be able to add these experiences to our lives. And just as we pass along a lifetime of work experience to each apprentice class that joins us, we also take great pride in guiding our children to their own successful lives.

Local 630 strives to ensure that the quality of our members’ lives measures up to all they give to our profession, industry and communities. We sincerely hope each day in 2018 continues to bring all of you and your families a happy and gratifying life!

Fraternally yours,

Peter T. Iriarte
BM/FST

As part of the Ward Village master plan, Block M provides work for a number of Local 630 members, including U.S. Pacific, Inc. cement finishers Jeff Mendoza, Masi Schaefer, Ty Enos, Zachery K. Pontes, Gerald K. Ho Jr., Vincent McAngus and Ben Galinato.

Local 630 plasterers Frankie John Pascua, Khriztan Aguilar, Erwin Aguilar, Kit Farmer and Jopher Ceredon of Group Builders, Inc. provide more urban living options in Honolulu at Block M, a mixed-use project anchored by Whole Foods Market.

Advanced classes enable Local 630 members to perfect their skills. This Cement Finisher class included (front row) Wesley McCane, Chad Pavao, Lucas McCane, Bliss Deckert and (back row) Kamakani Kauweloa, Gary Reynolds, Austin Rapoza, Jurden Meyers, Kawai Kauweloa, Alex Brown, Keanu Kennison-Hiona and Daniel Lopez.
Apprentices begin their careers by learning the craft in the Union’s Training Program. This Basic Flatwork, Curb & Gutter class at Honolulu Community College included Wranda Togia, Alden Amasiu, Gustin Kaleohano, Ikaika Shores, Dante Biacan Jr., Romeo Edrada, Gabriel Tabanera, Francis Godinet, Travis Cruz, Jey Lopez, Mark Reynon, Proceso Pamani, David Kauvaka, Levi Cacho-Estoesta and Sean Sagadraca with Training Coordinator Vika McMoore.

Local 630 plasterers on Maui include apprentices Justin Hefele and Vincent Lau, journeypersons Conrad Susa and Curtis Lau, apprentice Kyle Lau and journeyperson Aaron Pimentel, who were on site at the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope Office Building for BEK, Inc.

Plasterers Melanio Cariaga, Apolinario Tumaneng Jr., Vilmar Agliam, Ralph Raquel, Doland Dela Pena and the crew at Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company add to urban living options in Honolulu with Kapiohali Residence, which sold out in early 2017 and has a late 2018 completion date.

Kauai cement finishers on the Ho’oluana subdivision project for E. Bueno Construction LLC include (front row) journeyperson Jim “Kimo” Saronitman with apprentices Jayden Gandia and Jason Ladera, and (back row) apprentices Kalen Laranio, Royce Uemura, Brent Puruganan, Chris Guerrero and Jaime Galise Jr.

Journeyperson cement finisher John Merritt-Filkins checks the work he and his crew have completed for DYK Inc. on the new tank that will keep fresh water flowing to the Hilo community.
Local Union 630 – Honolulu, Hawaii

Cement finishers (left side from front) Bryan Cisneros, Adolfo Martinez, Makana Parker, (right side from front) Wayne Togia, Francisco Cisneros and Uha Frias work to expand Queen Kaahumanu Highway in Kona for Robert A. Bothman Construction.

Local Union 797 – Las Vegas, Nevada

Congratulations to Local Union 797’s members on having attained their Gold Card for 30 and 40 years of continuous service.

Local Union 891 – Washington, DC

Local Union 891, Washington, D.C., apprentice working at the Hoover Building for John H. Hampshire, Inc.

New Plasterer Apprentice Saraya V. Perry
IN MEMORIAM

June 1, 2017 THROUGH July 31, 2017

JIMMY W. JAYE
Local #400, Sacramento, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Jimmy W. Jaye who passed away May 13, 2017. Brother Jaye was 73 years old and a member of the International since October 8, 1965 - 51 years.

The officers and members of Local Union 400 extend their sincere sympathies to his family members and friends.

Resolved that the Charter be draped for thirty days in memory of our deceased brother.

LOREN D. STUIT
Local #400, Sacramento, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Loren D. Stuit who passed away July 3, 2017. Brother Cervantes was 58 years old and a member of the International since February 9, 1998 - 20 years.

The officers and members of Local Union 400 extend their sincere sympathies to his family members and friends.

Resolved that the Charter be draped for thirty days in memory of our deceased brother.

August 1, 2017 THROUGH August 31, 2017

WILLIAM R. JAYE
Local #400, Sacramento, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother William R. Jaye who passed away August 8, 2017. Brother Jaye was 77 years old and a member of the International since June 20, 1961 - 56 years.

The officers and members of Local Union 400 extend their sincere sympathies to his family members and friends.

Resolved that the Charter be draped for thirty days in memory of our deceased brother.

September 1, 2017 THROUGH October 31, 2017

EMILIO NOGUERA
Local #400, Sacramento, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Emilio Noguera who passed away July 31, 2017. Brother Noguera was 57 years old and a member of the International since October 31, 1990 - 26 years.

The officers and members of Local Union 400 extend their sincere sympathies to his family members and friends.

Resolved that the Charter be draped for thirty days in memory of our deceased brother.

November 1, 2017 THROUGH December 31, 2017

LAWRENCE TUGGLE
Local #400, Sacramento, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Lawrence Tuggle who passed away September 29, 2017. Brother Tuggle was 88 years old and a member of the International since February 1, 1960 - 57 years.

The officers and members of Local Union 400 extend their sincere sympathies to his family members and friends.

Resolved that the Charter be draped for thirty days in memory of our deceased brother.

January 1, 2018 THROUGH January 31, 2018

NARCISO R. ESPARZA
Local #400, Sacramento, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Narciso R. Esparza who passed away December 16, 2017. Brother Esparza was 95 years old and a member of the International since July 22, 1946 - 71 years.

The officers and members of Local Union 400 extend their sincere sympathies to his family members and friends.

Resolved that the Charter be draped for thirty days in memory of our deceased brother.

Luis G. Garcia
Local #400, Sacramento, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Luis G. Garcia who passed away December 31, 2017. Brother Garcia was 44 years old and a member of the International since December 17, 1996 - 11 years.

The officers and members of Local Union 400 extend their sincere sympathies to his family members and friends.

Resolved that the Charter be draped for thirty days in memory of our deceased brother.
### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN JULY 2017

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### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN JANUARY 2018

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