In this election, it could not be more critical that every OPCMIA member stands up, speaks out, takes action and votes. Our future depends on it.

That is why OPCMIA has launched our first political action web page, designed to provide you with information to help you make the best decision for you and your family, and to connect you with ways you can make your voice heard even beyond your vote.

When it comes to the presidential race, in particular, it’s most important to bypass the noise, ignore the side-shows, look past the tweets, skip the incendiary rhetoric, and instead focus on the facts: What impact are President Trump’s policies having on OPCMIA members, our families, and all workers?

This should form the basis for your decision, because your vote will directly affect your standard of living, work opportunities, health and retirement security, workplace rights, and so many other aspects of your life.

So, let’s take a look:

Infrastructure
The President won in 2016 running on a promise to invest $1 trillion in U.S. infrastructure. That promise has not been kept — and the hundreds of thousands of good construction jobs that would have come with it have not been created.

We’ve had so many “infrastructure weeks” they’ve become a running joke, but after more than three years, his administration has failed to put forward a comprehensive plan to repair our roads, bridges, highways, tunnels, dams, airports, ports, and buildings. And his just-released 2021 budget actually cuts Transportation Department funding by 13 percent.

By contrast, the House is moving forward toward passage of a bill that would invest $760 billion over five years in revitalizing our infrastructure.

Wages
This Administration opposes the Raise the Wage Act passed by the Democratic House last year that would increase the minimum wage to $15/hour. Under this Administration, the federal minimum wage remains stuck at a poverty level $7.25/hour.

Presidential appointees to the Department of Labor also rolled back the Obama Administration’s rule extending overtime pay to workers misleadingly designated as supervisors. This cost 8 million workers $1.2 billion in extra pay they deserved.

In the meantime, while the stock market skyrockets to record highs, most Americans’ paychecks are shrinking or stuck in neutral.

Workers’ Rights
This Administration has waged a sustained assault on workers’ rights. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is stacked with union-busters intent on denying working people the right to organize. Last August, the NLRB issued a proposed rule that would make it harder for workers to join unions and easier for management to win representation elections or decertify existing unions.

Similarly, the President appointed Eugene Scalia, son of the virulently anti-worker Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and longtime management lawyer whose clients
Los Miembros del Sindicato/Gremio del OPCMIA Tenemos que Hacer Nuestras Voces que se Escuchen para Pivotear las Elecciones 2020

En noviembre 3, 2020, Los Estadunidenses saldrán a las urnas en lo que podría ser como consecuencia la decisión más importante de nuestras vidas, al escoger a nuestro próximo presidente, La Casa de Representantes, y Senado de los Estados unidos, y muchos cargos importantes locales.

En esta Elección, no podría ser mas crítico que nunca en la historia del OPCMIA (Asociación Internacional de Yeros y Mamposteros) y su gremio para que sus agremiados/miembros se levanten y hablen, tomen acción y voten. Nuestro futuro depende de esto.

Es por eso, por lo que el OPCMIA a lanzado nuestra pagina web de acción política. Diseñada para facilitar información para ayudar a nuestros agremiados y sus familias a tomar la mejor decisión, y conectarlos con los medios para hacer sus voces escucharse aún después del voto.

Cuando se trata de la carrera presidencial particularmente, lo mas importante es evitar la conmoción he ignorar espec-táculos secundarios, vean mas allá de los tweets, brincar los comentarios ofensivos e inflamados, en lugar hay qué enfocarse en la realidad. ¿Que impacto tienen las pólizas del presidente Trump para los agremiados del OPCMIA, sus familias, y de todos los trabajadores y obreros en general?

Esto es lo que debe formar la base de su decisión, por que tu voto afectara directamente tu forma de vida, oportunidades de trabajo, la seguridad de tener un seguro medico y fondo fideicomiso de jubilación, lugares de trabajo, y muchos otros aspectos de sus vidas. Así, que echemos un vistazo:

Infraestructura:
El Presidente ganó las elecciones presidenciales en 2016 bajo la falsas promesas de invertir $1 trillón de dólares en infraestructura. Esa promesa jamás se cumplió, y los cientos de miles de buenos empleos de construcción que deberían ser creados jamás se consolidaron ni fueron creados.

Hemos tenido tantas debilidades con respecto a la infraestructura que ha venido a ser una burla, después de mas de tres años su administración a fallado para generar un plan entendible y rehabilitar nuestra infraestructura y reparar nuestras carreteras o vías de transporte terrenales, puentes, autopistas, túneles, presas, puertos, aeropuertos, y edificacio-nes.

Y recientemente anuncio el presupuesto del 2021 y en realidad izo cortes a el presupuesto del departamento de trans-porte de un 13%.

Al contrario, la casa de representantes y los demócratas están avanzan hacia una aprobación de un proyecto de ley que invertirá $760 billones de dólares en un periodo de cinco años para rehabilitar nuestra infraestructura.

Salario
Esta Administración se opone al “Raise the Wages Act” acta de Incremento de Salarios aprobado por la casa de representantes demócrata, la cual incrementaría los salarios a $15 por hora. Bajo esta administración el salario mínimo federal permanece estancado en la pobre suma de $7.25 por hora.

Los nombramientos presidenciales del Departamento del Trajo también volvieron a la regla aprobada por la Administración de Obama extendiendo el tiempo extra a trabajadores clasificados erróneamente como supervisores. Esto les costo a 8 millones de trabajadores ¡1.2 billones de dólares en pagos extras que ellos merecían!

Mientras tanto, mientras la bolsa de valores se disparaba a alturas récor, los sueldos de la mayoría de los estadounidens-es se recortaron o se atoraron neutralmente.

Los Derechos del Trabajador/Obrero
Esta Administración se a caracterizado en apoyar asaltos sustanciales en contra de los derechos del trabajador/obrero. La Junta De Relaciones al Trabajo (NLRB) esta estancada y llena de antisindicalistas intentando restringir a los traba-jadores su derecho a sindicalizarse. El ultimo agosto una pro-puesta de ley ordeno hacer mas dificil para los trabajadores el afiliarse a un sindicato, y le facilito a las empresas el como ganar elecciones laborales de representación laboral o de desertificar sindicatos existentes.

Similaramente, el presidente designo a Eugene Scalia, hijo del vehemente Juez de la corte suprema de Justicia Antonin Scalia y Abogado de Gestiones a largo plazo cuyos clientes incluyeron Walmart, como secretario del trabajo. Y su departa-mento persuade rescindir de la regla de requerir a las cor-poraciones revelar todas las actividades antisindicales.

Los nombramientos del presidente a la Corte suprema y Jueces Federales de igual forma apoyan ideales antisindicales. De igual manera paso en la notoria decisión que anulo 40 años de leyes laborales para imponer la ley del derecho a tra-bajo (right to work) en todos los trabajadores públicos y en todos los Estados Unidos.

Y esta administración del 2021 recorto-bajo el presupues-to del Departamento de Trabajo a un 11% y también recorta el seguro del desempleo.

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Moving Forward From 2019

Looking forward from 2019. We came together in August not only to celebrate our International Union, but to conduct the business that will continue moving us forward through our 2nd Century representing Plasterers, Cement Masons and Shop Hands. I would like to THANK YOU for placing your faith and trust in me and electing me as your General Secretary-Treasurer. I accept the challenge and pledge to you; I will faithfully keep the finances of your International Union in check. I would also like to thank the Delegates that attended and participated in the business that was conducted.

We have a strong financial footing to move the OPCMIA forward and use our collective voices to strengthen our place in the Building Trades and the construction industry. In these turbulent times, we cannot let what joins us be exploited. We are constantly under attack by Government Agencies, Industry leaders and local officials. Elected Officials use our vote as pawns in their effort to maintain their grip on power. Politics should not be something we need to concern ourselves with, but we are forced to. Not by choice but necessity. Our business leaders want more profit for themselves and less to make its way down to you, the ones creating their wealth. So, they make it their business to legislate us out of existence. I understand the desire of owners and contractors wanting to eliminate your Union, what I do not understand is government. They should embrace our agenda, training that is free to the trainee and the cost is shared by the members and contractors, health benefits that uses a proven model to keep cost down and provide benefits to many, pensions that allow you to retire with dignity and of course a livable wage. They do this very quietly by attacking your fundamental rights. They do not care how much hate and discontent they entice in our country; they will continue to push their agenda of keeping working people split on social issues. Divide and conquer, that’s their motto. So, when you go to the polls and exercise your right to vote, a right people have died for, think about one thing; how will this candidate view my job. Does this candidate care about what I need them to care about? Or do they only concern themselves with our collective opinion when they need my vote. Become informed on the issues and records of the candidates, insure they have a record of support for the wage earners.

Moving onto the International’s day to day operations, the Finance Committee met here in December 2019 and reviewed our finances and the agenda the General President and General Executive Board presented them for consideration. With great care the Finance Committee deliberated financial standing and recommendations. I am pleased the Finance Committee’s forward thinking put organizing and marketing at the top of the list. They also recognize that organizing and marketing are the life blood of any organization. We have made it our priority to have the OPCMIA be synonymous with plaster and concrete and all work practices that are covered by our agreements and constitutions. We are the best at what we do. You, the membership, already know this as well as our contracting partners do. We must convince the market of our value and that is what we intend to DO!

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COVER PHOTO:
Training Our Future

At the World of Concrete the OPCMIA had their virtual reality training on display for attendees to try out. We also had various displays of our hands-on training techniques, and we were inspired by the Concrete Cares – Cancer Survivor Austin Trueblood.
I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and I hope that you all had a happy holiday.

Keeping in line with the General President’s goals on education, we will be holding the Building Trades Academy 106 class, Labor Law in the Construction Industry, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The class is scheduled for April 20 – 23, 2020.

The Building Trades Academy 106 class will cover the federal labor law, which provides special provisions that are applicable to the construction industry. Because of the unique nature of employment in the construction industry, the construction labor law course will be taught by experienced building trades legal counsel specializing in construction labor law to best prepare participants to make informed decisions on organizing, collective bargaining and when to seek legal counsel.

The course topics will include, duties of fair representation, union security and right to work laws, NLRB election procedures and dealing with changes to corporate forms, picketing and the law and non-picketing communications, ULP Strikes, Recognition Under Sections 8(f) and 9(a) of the NLRA and Union Fiduciary Obligations. The course will also cover access to jobsite, salting and protected concerted activity at the jobsite, prevailing wage basics, including enforcement, and wage and hour issues in construction, rights and responsibilities – LMRDA Bill of Rights and elections and hiring halls in the construction industry.

We have made arrangements with the Building Trades Academy to hold five separate classes of the BTA’s 101, 102, 103, 104, and 105 later this year for anyone that was not able to previously attend. These classes will be held at International Headquarters, OPCMIA Classroom / Conference Center and a schedule of the dates will be sent out soon.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Florida.
I am proud to announce we have entered 2020 with a backlog of work with all the National Agreements which we are a part of. Two of the agreements, the National Maintenance Agreement and the National Construction Agreement have been approved by the National Building Construction Trades and respected Internationals.

These agreements open up opportunities for all our members and contractors. Each of these agreements are designed to be used in different types of industry. The NMA agreement is used in what we call a brown field site - maintenance and remodel work. Some of the biggest users of the agreement are Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. The National Construction Agreement was designed for new projects known as green field sites like the Shell Petrochemicals Plant in Pennsylvania. Each agreement has a little different type language that works well for the union and the contractor for new or maintenance projects.

These agreements provide us with strong union jobs and stability within our community.

Our Contractors need and want the best. Their goals are the least number of manhours with high-quality work, high production rate, with little or no work disputes. The OPCMIA is continually building relationships with companies, who then, rely on us to keep the industry on track and moving forward with the latest technologies and materials. Though the OPCMIA is a leader in the industry, we must always be ready to defend assignments or fight for misassignments. We have fought hard for fair wages, classifications and standards which anti-union groups will continue to attempt to negate.

Fortunately, the International and OPCMIA Locals are well-equipped to protect our trade and industry through practicing careful record-keeping, tracking assignments and classification (increasing evidence which supports our past practice and classification). Without this necessary, strong evidence, arbitrators will base decisions simply on what they feel is the best evidence and information presented. However, with up-to-date documentation of all assignments, we increase the chances for reaching a favorable decision.

Whichever agreement, manpower requests have increased, and it is vital that we keep track of the assignments on maintenance work and new construction projects.

Our future is strong. We are moving in a positive direction and with your help, we can only get stronger. Your Jurisdiction Department will continue to fight for our work classifications and jurisdiction. With your help, we will prevail!
A recent study showed that only 40% of Americans have enough money saved to cover a one-thousand-dollar emergency expense. Another report said that a large percentage of Americans have only resources of four hundred dollars for emergency expenses.

And what would an emergency expense look like to you? A car repair to get you to work. Having a baby. Missing work because of illness, or injury. Home repair, helping out a relative, usually our children or parent, and the list goes on. We’ve all been in situations that disrupts our budgets. And when emergency expenses come, they are almost always unexpected, what is one to do when the money is not there? We borrow. Either from friends, relatives, or most commonly, credit cards, or refinancing our homes if not renting. And when emergency expenses get totally out of control, the only remedy for relief is bankruptcy.

The largest of all reasons workers file for bankruptcy is because of unexpected and ongoing health care costs. It has become a sad fact that two thirds, 66.5%, of working families file for bankruptcy because of health care costs. 60% of people that file make under 30,000.00 a year. Interestingly, 28.4% of bankruptcies were filed because of helping out relatives (Think children). Any of us with children have, or are still helping out, our children that are grown. And many times, we are helping them out because of their healthcare costs. It’s just a fact.

Which brings us to our health care system in America. When we have families going bankrupt because of unforeseen health care costs, we as Americans have a huge problem. But bankruptcy does not solve any problems when you still have ongoing medical problems.

Those of us that do have health insurance coverage feel much better that we have a backup for our health care costs. There was a time when we could rely on our insurance to help us out greatly through most health issues. Things have changed. There are so many insurance companies that offer so many packages to fit any income now, we are finding that many insurance plans don’t cover a myriad of health issues. Even so called “Good coverage,” falls far short when a major crisis happens to us.

Most of us have coverage that has a deductible, a threshold, before the full coverage kicks in. Those deductibles can be from $1,500.00 up to $5,000.00 or more. And then we have the copay when we go to a doctor or hospital. Copays can range from $20.00 to 50.00 or more. Then you usually have a copay for prescription’s which can be $10.00 to sometimes in the hundreds of dollars. Then the insurance company pays usually 80% of the health care bill. We are stuck with 20% of a hospital stay or ongoing visits and treatments to doctors. This becomes a huge burden on a family. Many of us use a credit card for the deductibles, and then payments to the doctor, the hospital, therapy, and so on because we don’t have the disposable income to pay in cash. Which puts us further in debt.

We all know of people that need to see a doctor, or need a prescription filled and don’t have the money to do it. People that can’t afford to buy insulin, for example is just not right. We are making our sick, sicker.

Your membership in the OPCMIA gives you the best insurance they can negotiate for you. But unfortunately, even the best insurance has the deductible, the copays, and the copays for prescriptions. What can we do to help us survive? It comes down to politics at this point.

Whether you prescribe to supporting candidates regarding their health care stance, that range anywhere from “Medicaid for all” to improving on the

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Workers’ Rights
As Human Rights

The very first section of the National Labor Relations Act declares that it is the policy of the United States to mitigate or eliminate obstructions to the free flow of commerce by “encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and by protecting the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.” The Act also establishes the National Labor Relations Board as the administrative agency charged with fulfilling this national policy.

In the past two years, the National Labor Relations Board – a majority of whom were former corporate lawyers from large management firms – has seemingly abandoned the policy of the United States by issuing decisions that make it harder for workers to exercise their “full freedom of association, self-organization and designation of representatives.” For example, on December 16, 2019, the Board issued a decision in Rio All-Suites Hotel, 368 NLRB No. 163 (Dec. 16, 2019) in which it overruled precedent that allowed employees to use their employer’s e-mail system to engage in protected and concerted activity. “In deciding this issue,” a majority of the Board wrote, “we are guided by the Supreme Court’s admonition that ‘[o]rganization rights are granted to workers by the same authority, the National Government, that preserves property rights.’” The Board majority went on to say, “[a]ccommodation between the two must be obtained with as little destruction of one as is consistent with the maintenance of the other.” The Board went on to hold that employees have no statutory right to use employer equipment – including e-mail, cell phones, lap tops, IPads, etc. – in connection with the exercise of their statutory rights to organize and bargain collectively.

The decision in Rio All-Suites Hotel represents simply the latest in a line of recent decisions in which the Republican-dominated Board favors an employer’s property rights over the workers’ right to organize. The Board’s decision also presents a more fundamental question: is the right to organize a right granted by the government or is it something more?

The International Labor Organization is an agency of the United States whose mission is to standardize labor standards. The ILO has adopted 8 fundamental conventions, which are legally binding treaties that can be adopted by the member-countries (which includes the United States). Two of those conventions address the right of workers to organize. The first is Convention No. 87, which is entitled “Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize.” The ILO adopted Convention No. 87 in 1948. The second is Convention No. 98, which is entitled “Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining.” The ILO adopted Convention No. 98 in 1949. Taken together, Convention Nos. 87 and 98 are perhaps the earliest recognition of the fact that workers’ rights, such as the right to organize union in their workplace and to bargain collectively to improve their working conditions, are human rights. As human rights, workers’ rights are not granted by the government. They are rights that inherently belong to each and every person.

Both Conventions have been widely adopted by countries across the world. Approximately 177 countries have adopted Convention No. 87, while about 155 countries have adopted Convention 98. Canada is among the countries that have adopted both Conventions. By contrast, the United States has not adopted either Convention. In other words, unlike Canada, the United States has not committed itself to the recognition of the right to organize and bargain collectively as human rights. The words of each Convention are not binding upon the United States. This allows for a situation where, as the National Labor Relations Board held in Rio All-Suites Hotel, an employer’s property rights can trump the employees’ right to join together in an effort to obtain better terms and conditions of employment. As long as workers rights are not considered human rights, the fight for justice will remain an uphill battle.
The NPIJATF would like to congratulate Dorothy Mebane on her recent retirement. Dorothy officially retired from the National Plastering Industry’s Joint Apprenticeship Trust Fund on January 1, 2020.

Dorothy Mebane was born and raised in South Carolina where she attended local schools and graduated high school in 1972 from Walterboro, South Carolina. As a young ambitious women Dorothy made the decision to continue her education and attend college. In May of 1976 Dorothy received her Bachelor of Arts degree at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, SC. With a degree in US History & Education, Dorothy set her sights on becoming a schoolteacher in a very crowded and competitive field during this era. After applying for numerous teaching positions with no avail, Ms. Mebane ventured to Washington, DC to continue her education. While in DC she was awarded with a two-year fellowship and was provided a small stipend to Howard University where she pursued a master’s degree. With the transition of leaving a rural area and venturing to Washington, DC where the cost of living had increased drastically, Dorothy decided to apply for part-time jobs while attending school. On September 6, 1978 Dorothy was hired by the National Plastering Industry’s Joint Apprenticeship Trust Fund.

With the love of teaching, helping youth through pre-apprenticeship, and a growing interest in organized labor it didn’t take long for Dorothy to flourish in her new position! Even though Dorothy continued to work for the NPIJATF and eventually take on a full-time position, this did not extinguish her goals of finishing her college education. In July of 1979 Dorothy graduated from Howard University with her Master of Arts degree.

Dorothy was a valuable employee of the OPCMIA/NPIJATF and had many duties including but not limited to student placement outcomes, statistical performance of all of our plastering and cement mason pre-apprenticeship programs, point of contact for all DOL related computer applications for NPIJATF staff, and a valued receptionist for our national headquarters office in Maryland. Dorothy’s positive attitude and infectious smile was always noticeable in the workplace and will be greatly missed. In Dorothy’s forty-one-year tenure for the NPIJATF she worked under three Executive Directors and eight OPCMIA General Presidents!

Dorothy will be missed at the office and by the organization not only for her intelligence and wisdom, but her incredible work ethic and positive outlook on life. I am elated that she will be able to enjoy her retirement with her husband David and volunteer to different entities of her choice in the community for many years to come. According to Dorothy she may possibly venture back to South Carolina to enjoy the peace and quiet she grew up in. Dorothy has helped thousands of students in the past forty-one years achieve their goals and make these goals become reality through our pre-apprenticeship programs which we are all grateful for. Please accept my invitation to formally congratulate Dorothy Mebane as she ventures into her next journey in life, a happy and healthy retirement.
included Walmart, as Secretary of Labor. And his department rescinded the Persuader Rule, which required companies to disclose anti-union legal activities.

Presidential appointees to the Supreme Court and federal judgeships also hold extreme anti-worker views, embodied in the notorious Janus decision that overturned 40 years of labor law to impose “right to work for less” on all public workers everywhere in the U.S.

And this Administration’s 2021 budget would slash Department of Labor funding by 11 percent. It would even cut unemployment insurance.

Apprenticeships

This Administration has threatened the very survival of OPCMIA’s world class apprenticeship programs through its misguided proposal to authorize standard “industry-recognized apprenticeship programs” (IRAPs) in the construction industry. The Labor Department even illegally diverted $1.1 million intended for legitimate apprenticeship programs into IRAPs.

Safety

This Administration has rolled back vital safety protections, while cutting federal workplace safety inspectors to their lowest level in OSHA’s history. It repealed rules requiring employers to keep and report accurate injury records. And it cancelled regulations that would have kept construction workers from being exposed to the carcinogen beryllium.

Contrast: The U.S. House for the People

Since January 2019, the House has passed more than 400 bills, most of which address the daily challenges working families face. Among their most notable achievements are:

➢ The PRO Act, which will empower millions of workers to improve their lives by joining unions because it will level the organizing playing field, which today is steeply tilted toward management.

➢ The Raise the Wage Act, noted previously, establishing a $15/hour federal minimum wage.

➢ The Paycheck Fairness Act, which would help increase women’s wages to close the gender pay gap.

➢ The Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act, which would enable Medicare to negotiate reduced drug prices with the big manufacturers, at long last.

➢ The Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act, which would stop the Trump Administration’s efforts to give insurance companies a green light to deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions.

➢ The Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act, which would help secure retirements for OPCMIA and other workers who participate in multi-employer plans.

The U.S. Senate: Legislative Graveyard

Unfortunately, all of these bills have hit a brick wall in the Senate, due to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s refusal to even allow hearings, much less an actual vote on them. McConnell brags that he’s the “grim reaper” for bills passed by the House and his fellow majority colleagues follow in lockstep. So long as McConnell and his like-minded colleagues are running the Senate, it will pass no legislation improving the lives of America’s working families. All they will do is ram through the appointments of anti-worker nominees for the Supreme Court, judgeships, and key Board and agency positions.

Our Mission

Given the record of the past three-plus years, if we want to gain work opportunities by revitalizing our infrastructure, if we want to protect our rights in the workplace, if we want to preserve our apprenticeship programs, if we want safe workplaces, if we want a higher standard of living, and if we want a government that fights for working families, the American middle class and OPCMIA members, there are three things we must do:

➢ Elect a President who supports American workers.

➢ Maintain the current pro-worker House majority.

➢ And regain control of the U.S. Senate so we can actually pass the legislation our members urgently need.

To achieve these goals, please visit our political website. Please respond to action alerts when key issues are before Congress. Please donate to the Plasters’ and Cement Masons’ Action Committee, which supports pro-OPCMIA candidates. Please join your local Central Labor Council’s voter outreach efforts. Please volunteer your time on the campaigns of candidates who share our values and support our cause. And above all, please vote — both in your states’ primaries and in the November 3rd General Election.

To repeat what I wrote earlier: YOUR future depends on it.
Mirando así adelante después del 2019. Nosotros nos reunimos en Agosto no solo para celebrar y conmemorar nuestro Sindicato Internacional, sino que también para tratar asuntos los cuales nos ayudaran para continuar avanzando y representando Yeseros, Mamposteros, y Albañiles de Taller durante este segundo (2nd) siglo, QUIERO AGRADECERLES por depositar su confianza en me y haberme elegido como su Tesorero y Secretario General de Finanzas, yo acepto el reto y me comprometo a ustedes; con fe y dedicación mantendré las finanzas de su Sindicato Internacional al corriente, también me gustaría agradecer a todos los delegados que Atendieron y participaron en todos los asuntos tratados.

Tenemos un cimiento fuerte para continuar moviendo a el OPCMIA así adelante y para utilizar nuestras voces colectivamente para reforzar nuestro lugar en el Departamento de Edificación y Construcción dentro de la industria de la constitución. En esta turbulenta época, no podemos dejar explotar lo que nos une. Estamos siendo constantemente atacados por Agencias Gubernamentales, Líderes Industriales, y representantes locales. Los Representantes locales utilizan nuestro voto como rehenes en su esfuerzo de mantenerse en el poder. La política no debería de ser un asunto de preocupación para nosotros, mas sin embargo nos obligan. No por elección sino por necesidad. Nuestros líderes dentro de los negocios quieren mas dividendos para ellos y encaminan menos dividendos así abajo hasta ustedes, aquellos que solo les importa su bienestar y fortuna. Ellos también se encargan como negocio personal de segregarnos con propuestas de ley para eliminar nuestra existencia. Yo entiendo el deseo de dueños y empresas queriendo eliminar su sindicato, lo que no entiendo es al Gobierno (Estado), ellos deberían de acoger nuestra agenda, entrenamiento y capacitación la cual es gratuita pare el aprendiz/estudiante, donde su costo se divide entre las corporaciones y nuestros miembros/agremiados, programas de seguro medico comprobando bajos costos y proporcionando seguro medico para muchas personas, fondos fideicomisos/pensiones permitiendo que te jubiles con dignidad, y por supuesto, ganando un mejor salario. Ellos hacen esto muy calladitos al atacar tus derechos fundamentales. A ellos no les importa cuanto odio y desacuerdo infunden en nuestro país; ellos continuaran empujando su agenda, para mantener a la gente trabajadora/obrera apartados de asuntos sociales. Dividir es Conquistar, ese es su motor. Por lo tanto, cuando valas a las urnas y ejercites tu derecho a votar, “Recuerda es un derecho por el que mucha gente a muerto” piensa solo en una cosa, de que manera este candidato visualiza mi empleo, ¿Este candidato se preocupa por mis necesidades y por lo que quiero que se interese? ¿O a ellos solo les importa una opinión colectiva al necesitar mi voto! Infórmate con respecto a la forma de pensar, asuntos y trayectoria de cada candidato, asegúrate que tengan una trayectoria donde hayan apoyado el bienestar de todos aquellos que recibimos un salario.

Mientras nos movemos dentro de los asuntos diarios de este Gremio Internacional, el Comité de finanzas se reunió aquí en diciembre del 2019 y reviso nuestras finanzas, y la agenda que les presento El Presidente General y la Mesa Ejecutiva para su consideración. Con un gran cuidado, el comité de finanzas revisió y deliberó con respecto a algunas recomendaciones. Me siento orgulloso de que El Comité de Finanzas hayan puesto como prioridad el organizar/reclutar y mercadotecnia como lo principal y primero en la lista. Ellos también reconocen que el Organizar/Reclutar y la Mercadotecnia son la sangre y medio de vida de cualquier organización. Y hemos echo nuestra prioridad de que el OPCMIA “Gremio de Yeseros y Mamposteros y Albañiles de Taller) sea un sinónimo del trabajo de Yeso, Colados y Encofrados de Concreto, y Albañiles de Taller y de todos las practicas de trabajo que incluye nuestros acuerdos laborales y constitución. Nosotros somos los mejores dentro de nuestras labores. USTEDES nuestros miembros/agremiados lo saben muy bien, al igual que nuestros empre-sarios afiliados. Es primordial convencer el mercado de nuestro valor, y eso es lo que intentamos hacer.
Aprendizaje y Capacitación

Esta Administración a amenazado la sobrevivencia de nuestros programas de primera de Aprendizaje y Capacitación del OPCMIA por medio de autorizar programas inferiores de aprendizaje industrial conocidos como (IRAP) dentro de la industria de la construcción. El Departamento Labora/del trabajo ilegalmente desvió $1.1 millón de dólares para promover programas de aprendizaje y capacitación del Programas de Aprendizaje reconocidos por la Industria- (IRAP).

Seguridad Laboral

Esta Administración a detenido y retrasado varios programas de seguridad laboral, al cortar puestos de trabajo de inspectores federales a los niveles mas bajos en la historia de OSHA. Repela reglas donde se les exige a las corporaciones reportar historial-records claros y actualizados de los incidentes y accidentes laborales. Y Cancelo regulaciones que permitan a los trabajadores mantenerse alejados de los carcinógenos y beryllium- (materiales Radioactivos).

A diferencia de La Casa de Representantes de Los EE. UU. a favor del pueblo; Desde que los Demócratas obtuvieron el control de la casa de representantes de los EE. UU. desde enero del 2019, han pasado mas de 400 proyectos de ley, muchos de los cuales abordan los desafíos laborales. Y Cancelo regulaciones que permitan a los trabajadores mantenerse alejados de los carcinógenos y beryllium-. (materiales Radioactivos).

Acta Proactiva; la cual empodera millones de trabajadores para mejorar sus vidas al poder ejercitar su derecho a sindicalizarse y anivela el campo para organizarse, el cual hay esta inclinado gravemente hacia las corporaciones.

Acta par Incrementar el Sueldo, Previamente Notable para establecer un sueldo mínimo Federal de $15 por hora.

Acta de Salarios Justos, El cual ayuda a incrementar los salarios para las mujeres y serrar la desigualdad de salario entre los géneros.

Acta par Bajar el costo de prescripciones medicas. La cual le permitirá al Medicare negociar un precio reducido de prescripciones con las manufacturadoras a largo plazo.

El Acta para proteger a los estadounidenses con los casos de preexistencia medica, La cual frenaría los esfuerzos de la administración de Trump de darle a las compañías aseguradoras luz verde de rechazar casos de preexistencia medica.

Acta para rehabilitar fideicomisos de empleadores-múltiples, La cual ayudara a asegurar los planes de fideicomisos para jubilación del OPCMIA y de otros obreros/trabajadores que participan en planes de empleadores múltiples.

El Senado Estadounidense; Campo Legislativo

Desafortunadamente, todas estas propuestas de ley se han frenado ante una pared de ladrillo en el Senado, debido a la mayoría de oposición controlada por el Leader Mitch McConnell’s, quien se niega rotundamente tan siquiera a permitir Audiencias para escuchar dichas propuestas de ley, mucho menos otorgar un voto a favor de estas. McConnell presume de ser el (Segador Horrible) con respecto a propuestas de ley aprobadas por la casa junto a sus colegas Senadores Republicanos siguiendo sus serrados pasos. Mientras que McConnell y los Republicanos con sus mismos ideales sigan manipulando el Senado, ninguna propuesta de ley pasara para mejorar las vidas de las familias trabajadoras-obreras. Lo único que harán es cuidar los nombramientos anti-trabajador-obreras en las nominaciones para la Corte Suprema hermandad de Jueces en asignaciones clave para ocupar dichos cargos.

Nuestra Misión

Dándose y viendo los resultados de los pasados tres años y fracción, si deseamos obtener oportunidades de empleo rehabilitando nuestra infraestructura, si deseamos proteger nuestros derechos en nuestros empleos, si deseamos mantener nuestros programas de aprendizaje y capacitación, si deseamos un lugar de empleo seguro, si deseamos un nivel de vida mejor, y si deseamos un gobierno que luche por las familias obreras, la clase media Estadounidense y los agremiados/miembros sindicalizados del OPCMIA, existen tres cosas que debemos de hacer;

Elegir a un presidente que apoye al trabajador/obrero estadounidense.

Mantener la Actualmente mayoría de la Casa de Representantes;

Y retomar el control del Senado de Los EE. UU. Para poder pasar las propuestas de ley que nuestros miembros/agremiados tan urgentemente necesitan.

Para alcanzar estas metas, por favor visite nuestra pagina web con respecto al campo político. Por favor de responder a alertas de acción cuando asuntos de suma importancia estén ante el Congreso, Por favor haga su donación al Comité de Acción Política de los Plasterers’/Yeseros and Cement Masons/Albañiles Mamposteros, el cual apoya candidatos que apoyan al OPCMIA. Por favor de afiliarse a su consejo obrero local AFL-CIO en los esfuerzos para canalizar su voto en la dirección correcta. Por favor de servir como voluntarios en las campanas para ayudar a candidatos que compartan nuestra visión, valores, y que apoyan nuestra causa. Y, sobre todo, lo mas importante, por favor salgan a votar, en las dos elecciones, tanto en las primarias estatales como en noviembre 3, 2020 en las elecciones generales.

Y Repitiendo lo mismo de antes; SUS futuros dependen de ello (de su VOTO).
2019 was an exciting and productive year for the International Training Fund (ITF). An array of classes was conducted in thirteen states throughout the United States including New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Washington, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Georgia, California, Maryland and Hawaii.

The subject matter included everything from various plasterer and cement mason craft trainings, to fall protection, silica hazard awareness, apprenticeship program administration, Total Station, new Coordinator training, anti-harassment, BLS/CPR & First Aid, suspended scaffold, hazard-communication (GHS), fork lift, respiratory protection, PlanGrid, elevated work platforms, mentorship training and more.

The ITF had seven thousand student-contact-hours in 2019, of which 47% were Train-the-Trainer hours. This exponentially increases the reach of our trainings by providing the attendees with the knowledge of the subject matter, the instructor and student materials needed to teach the subject and training in how to teach the materials. When these instructors return to their Locals and JATC’s they are fully prepared to share their newfound knowledge.

In order to stay abreast of our ever-changing industry, the ITF staff continued to increase their own knowledge by taking part in over eight hundred hours of additional training in several different areas.

We completed the second year of our Instructor Training Program (ITP) at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan with nearly 100 instructors in attendance. The planning for year three in June of 2020 is well under way. I strongly urge everyone to support your instructors attending this important program.

The 2020 ITF training schedule was completed and disseminated to
the Locals and JATC’s at the end of the year. We have a great year of training planned and hope to see many of you in attendance.

I want to thank our great ITF staff for a successful and productive year. Me, Tony, Tim, Nick, Anthony and Kayleigh appreciate the opportunity to serve our members, and we renew our commitment to provide you with relevant, timely and cost-efficient training.

In Solidarity,
Deven
Recent Appointment

Christian Feller
Vice President and Member of the General Executive Board

General President Daniel E. Stepano is pleased to announce Christian Feller will now serve as Vice President and member of the General Executive Board of the Operative Plasterers’ & Cement Mason’s International Association, effective January 1, 2020.


Chris and his wife Hayley live in Coquitlam and have three (3) kids Shanel, Jewel and Chad.

General President Stepano has every confidence that Chris will continue to do an outstanding job.

Best Wishes to
Vice President/Canadian Consultant and General Executive Board Member
Richard Wassill
For a Happy and Healthy Retirement from the Staff at International Headquarters

OPCMIA Political Outlook

Blaze Wharton
Continued from page 8

“Affordable Health Care Act,” (Obama care), we must be involved in encouraging all our elected officials to do something to help our people that are suffering not only in getting healthcare, but not going to doctors because they can’t afford a copay. Health care is an issue that is only getting worse. We are all one health care problem away from totally disrupting our futures personally and financially.

We need bipartisan help from our elected officials to work together in solving this growing crisis. They all need to offer solutions for our families.

As someone once said, “Our health care system is neither healthy nor caring.” Sad, but true.
Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry (AWCI) Committee Meeting

The 2019 AWCI Industry Executives’ Conference & Committee Meeting was held in Honolulu, Hawaii at the Prince Waikiki. AWCI was honored to have General President Stepano join in at the Plasterers’ Craft Committee meeting, along with General Secretary-Treasury Sexton and other OPCMIA Officers.

While attending AWCI Conference General President Stepano and General Secretary-Treasurer Sexton took time for official OPCMIA business by visiting jobsites of Local 630.

HAMMER Steering Committee Meeting

At the 50th HAMMER Steering Committee Meeting OPCMIA General President Stepano served as Vice-Chairman. At the April 11, 2019 meeting, Vice-Chairman Stepano emphasized that after twenty-five (25) outstanding years, this partnership has had many good people contributing to its success. It is not often that a group of dedicated people come together and stay together to protect the health and safety of workers. HAMMER remains the most important partnership of Labor and Management in the country.

Photo taken at the HAMMER Steering Committee Meeting held on October 24, 2019 in Richland, Washington. (Left to right) HAMMER Federal Training Center Director Paul Vandervert, OPCMIA General President Daniel E. Stepano, OPCMIA International Field Representative B. C. Smith and Metal Trades Department President James V. Hart.
Local 11 – Northern Illinois

Northern Illinois OPCMIA Local 11 JATC would like to congratulate the 3rd year Apprentices on finishing their classroom component of their Apprenticeship. Plasterer and Cement Mason Apprentices attend a total of three (3) years of classroom training accompanied by 4000 on job training hours before becoming a Journeyperson. This January 2020 Local 11 had a total of nine (9) Cement Mason Apprentices and two (2) Plasterer Apprentices. Most of the Apprentices are just hours away from moving from Apprentice to Journeyperson. For a full look at what the apprentices work on at the training center, please visit our website at www.opcmia11jatc.com and check out our photo gallery.

Local Union 592 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Congratulations to Local 592’s graduating Apprenticeship Class of 2019.
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, 2020 and winners will be notified July 2020.

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.
Local Union 3 – St. Louis, Missouri

Congratulations to Local 3’s elected Officers and Executive Board Members:

During Local 3’s Christmas party service awards were given out to the following members:

(Left to right) Jack Shipley - Sergeant-at-Arms; Clyde Latham - Recording Secretary; Juan Medina, Jr. - Executive Board Member; Tom Toenjes - President; John Davis - Business Manager; Joe Muyleart, Sr. - Executive Board Member; Tim Hopkins - Executive Board Member; James Mosley - Executive Board Member; (not pictured) Jeremy Bock - Vice President

During Local 3’s Christmas party service awards were given out to the following members:

(Left to right) Brother Lew Muyleart celebrates his 40-years of service with grandson Joe Muyleart, Jr. (4-year member) and son Joe Muyleart, Sr. (24-year member).

(Left to right) Business Manager John Davis receives his 40-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin, Brother Jack Shipley receives 65-Year Award, Brother Lew Muyleart receives 40-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin and Brother Michael Roellig (48-year member) joining in the photo.

(Left to right) Business Manager John Davis receives his 40-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin, Brother Jack Shipley receives 65-Year Award, Brother Lew Muyleart receives 40-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin and Brother Michael Roellig (48-year member) joining in the photo.

(Left to right) Brothers Jeremy Bock, Joe Kilian, Bill Kilian and Jay Barr receive 15-year service awards. Congratulations to all the honored recipients!

(Left to right) Brother Lew Muyleart celebrates his 40-years of service with grandson Joe Muyleart, Jr. (4-year member) and son Joe Muyleart, Sr. (24-year member).

Local Union 11 – Northern Illinois

During Local 11’s Area Christmas parties the following proud members were presented with awards for 25, 30 and 40 years of service. Congratulations and thank you to all.

Brother Monty Serena proudly presents his daughter Sister Carla Serena with her 25-Year Lapel Pin member of Local 11/Area 161.

(Left to right) Brother Monty Serena proudly presents his daughter Sister Carla Serena with her 25-Year Lapel Pin member of Local 11/Area 161.

(Left to right) Brother Robert Delagarza and Brother Bruce Yearly recipients of 30-Year Gold Cards and Lapel Pins with congrats from Business Agent Steve Conrad of Local 11/Area 297.
Local Union 11 – Northern Illinois

(Left) Business Agent Jamie Stanley congratulates 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Brother Clint Ott of Local 11/Area 382.

(Left to right) President Richard Lange, 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Brother Jeff Hagen and Business Agent Mike Lewis of Local 11/Area 638.

40-Year member Brother Wayne Argetsinger of Local 11/Area 587 wins cooler at Christmas party.

Brother Dewayne Birge of Local 11/Area 37 wins cooler at Christmas party.

Brother David S. Lardi of Local 11/Area 161 wins cooler at Christmas party.

Brother Antonio Gutierrez of Local 11/Area 297 wins cooler at Christmas party.

Brother Kevin Kearby of Local 11/Area 161 wins 40" Color TV at Christmas party.

Brother Brad Marusich of Local 11/Area 297 wins 40" Color TV at Christmas party.

Sister Jean Craig of Local 11/Area 362 wins cooler at Christmas party.
Local Union 18 – Central Illinois

Local 18’s Business Agent Montie Schell on the left presenting Brother Kent Gillmor with his 40-Year Gold Card, Lapel Pin and certificate. Congratulations Brother Gillmor!

Local Union 72 – Spokane, Washington

Local 72’s members awarded their 40, 50 and 60-Year Gold Cards.

(Center) Proud and honored Brother Bob Lewis displays his 60-Year Gold Card received from (left) Business Manager Mike Wright and (right) President Don Wigen. Congratulations Brother Lewis on your outstanding achievement!
On January 21, 2020, at OPCMIA Plasterers’ Local Union 262 a Special Nomination Meeting was called; Local Union 262’s Election Committee cast white ballots for the following officers, and they were sworn-in to their second term by OPCMIA’s Vice President Michael Hubler.

(Local to right) Executive Board Member Kenneth Delanty, Financial Secretary Kern Alexis, Executive Board Member Kerron Dick, President/Business Manager Dale Alleyne, Sergeant-At-Arms Cleveland Barrett, Recording Secretary Dexter George, Executive Board Member Paolo Pulcini and Vice President Brendan Spilliane.

Local Union 404 – Cleveland, Ohio

Ruby’s Rainbow Charity

Mission Statement

Ruby’s Rainbow Charity raises funds for Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), to invest in state-of-the-art equipment and training to provide care and support for babies and their families in what can be the most difficult time of their lives.

Ruby’s Rainbow Charity was founded in honor of Ruby Nancy-Jean Robinson. It is a way for her family and friends to give thanks to Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital NICU for making their time together possible. With your support and generous contribution, we can be a part of giving back, helping the NICU to continue to provide top-notch care and medical treatment to babies while giving their families hope and precious time with their little ones. For some, it may be all the time they get.

Ruby Nancy-Jean was born October 19, 2018, to loving parents, Shawn and Eric Robinson. Due to complications, Ruby arrived 15 weeks prior to her due date and needed critical, around the clock intensive care. Ruby and her family spent her precious 39 hours of life in the NICU at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, where she received the highest standard of collaborative and family centered care.

We thank you for your support today and always.

Please save the date for this year’s event. It will be held again at the Hill n’ Date Club on Thursday, October 1, 2020.

Fraternally,
Charles W. Woot
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Paul D. Metcalf
President/Business Agent

Michael Walter
Organizer/Executive Board
Photos of Local Union 514 members working on a jobsite in Detroit, Michigan for the contractor Perfect Polish Company.

Local 514, Detroit, Michigan - Floor Polishing
On November 20, 2019, Local 514’s Business Representative Leonard Walker and International Representative Joseph Ciacchi went on a jobsite visit. On this job, there is a crew of nine (9) Cement Masons. The crew is performing all the work necessary that leads up to this being an enhanced Polished Floor product. The crew of Cement Masons were doing such work as; small floor patching, joint caulking, grouting, polishing and sealing. This is a large project in the Detroit, Michigan area.

The crew performing all this work is made up with Journeymen and Apprentice Cement Masons working under the company’s Project Superintendent James Fugate. The contractor is Perfect Polish Company out of Tennessee. Project Superintendent, Mr. Fugate says, “The crew has done a wonderful job. They are all working together, learning and performing the process needed to get the job done.” Local 514’s Business Manager Henry Williams is very proud of the work his members are doing for Perfect Polish job.

Joshua JB Brown changing grinding wheels.

Jamie Anderson, handling the Polishing Grinder.

Max Salcedo-Barajas, using the Polishing Grinder.

Apprentice Tommy German doing some caulking.
Group picture of crew
(Left to right) front row – Company Job Superintendent James Fugate, Joshua JB Brown, Tommy German, Jamie Anderson; Back row - Max Salcedo-Barajas, Mick Dean, Alejandro Zepeda, Union Steward Nathan Mahaffey, Juantai Phillips, Business Representative Leonard Walker.

Union Steward Nathan Mahaffey cutting off the run-over epoxy caulking.

Cement Masons crew performing the polishing work on old existing concrete floors.
Local Union 518 – Kansas City, Missouri

Member of Local 518 presented 70-Year Award.

Business Manager David Kirkpatrick and Business Agent Kevin Gard traveled to Topeka, Kansas to personally present Brother Richard Hinchsliff with his 70-Year Plaque. They both enjoyed spending time visiting with Brother Hinchsliff and his wife Mary. Congratulations Brother Hinchsliff on your monumental achievement.

Local Union 526 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Swearing in Ceremony - On June 6, 2019, newly elected Officers of OPCMIA Local 526 were sworn in by International Representative Joe Ciacchi. Congratulations to newly sworn in Officers of Local 526.

Front Row: (Left to right) Business Manager/Financial Secretary Cameron Rupert, Recording Secretary Ken Harmon and President August Didiano. Second Row: (Left to right) Trustee Chris Senkow, Vice President Bill Wojchowski, Trustee Thomas Rupert and Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Scharf, Jr. Back Row: (Left to right) Executive Board Bob Gerst, Assistant Business Manager John Swenglish, Executive Board Sheridan Burgess, Executive Board James Fitzroy and Trustee Raffaele DePasquale. Not Pictured: Executive Board Ron Stefaniak, Executive Board Bill Nails and Trustee Leo Redlinger.
Local Union 527 – St. Louis, Missouri

Cement Masons Local 527 held their annual membership meeting and presented 2019 service awards to their members for 25, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years of continuous service. Congratulations to all and thank you!

70-Year Member Honored - Augustine “Augie” Rossi became a member of Cement Masons’ Local #526 on December 15, 1947. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father, Galizio Rossi, as well as a close group of friends who wanted to join together. They wanted to be a part of the “older group” that were in the union.

In 1974, “Augie” became Business Manager of Local #526. He retired from that position in 1989. He enjoyed being in the union, as it was a large part of his life. It was an honor for him to receive his 70-year membership plaque from current Business Manager Cameron Rupert who was an apprentice during Mr. Rossi’s time as Business Manager.

(Left to right) Local 526’s former Business Manager Augie Rossi was honored and presented his 70-year award from Business Manager Cameron Rupert.

Local Union 526 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
(Left to right) Front row: 25-year member Financial Secretary Brad Campbell, President Dan Flavin and 25-year member Scott Siener; Back row: 25-year member Andy Smith, 25-year member Scott Moellman, Business Representative Joe Knott, Business Representative Jim Renick and Business Manager Kurt Dierkes.


30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
(Left to right) Front row: Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, Financial Secretary Brad Campbell, 30-year member Kevin Kauffmann, President Dan Flavin, 30-year member Jeff Downs, 30-year member Doug Frederick and 30-year member Kevin Wikoff; Back row: Business Representative Jim Renick, 30-year member Mark Wilmes, 30-year member Robert Dirksen, 30-year member Business Representative Joe Knott, 30-year member Michael Behlmann, 30-year member Jeff Besselman and 30-year member Daniel Smith.

Not pictured: 30-year members Steve Broemmelsick, Larry Ferguson, Winferd Hays, Kent Ladig, Steve Mann, Rick Marquart, Dwayne Maxey, Dave Nelson, Curtis Niederstadt, Perry Rugger, Dave Seaman and John Tisdal.
Local Union 527 – St. Louis, Missouri

40-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
(Left to right) Front row: 40-year member Joseph Boyle, 40-year member Garrett Jenkins and Financial Secretary Brad Campbell; Back row: Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, 40-year member Rock Olendorff, Business Representative Jim Renick, Business Representative Joe Knott and President Dan Flavin.

Not pictured: 40-year members William Austin, Donald Chamberlain, Retired Business Manager Sidney Goehri, Michael Lorraine, James Roettger, Larry Roettger, Marty Sontheimer and Nicholas Torpea.

50-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
(Left to right) Front row: 50-year member Paul Kennon, 50-year member Lawrence Modde, 50-year member Harold Compton and Financial Secretary Brad Campbell; Back row: Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, 50-year member Bart Margiotta, Business Representative Joe Knott, Business Representative Jim Renick and President Dan Flavin.

Not pictured: 50-year members Daniel Croce, Gerald Laurentius and Thomas Roy.

60-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
(Left to right) Front row: 60-year member Retired Business Representative Ralph Ramey, 60-year member Michael Francis, 60-year member John Laws, 60-year member Jerald Aubuchon and 60-year member William Nichols; Back row: Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, Business Representative Joe Knott, Business Representative Jim Renick, President Dan Flavin and Financial Secretary Brad Campbell.

Local Union 534 – Boston, Massachusetts

Local 534’s members were presented with Gold Cards, Lapel Pins and certificates acknowledging their years of service. Congratulations to all!

Journeyman Status


(Left to right) Plasterer Instructor Vincent DiSalvo, Brother Germaine Babbitt and President/Director of Apprenticeship and Training John P. Sweeney.
Photos of Local Union 555 members working on a jobsite in Portland, Oregon for the Andersen Construction Company, Inc.

Local 555's Apprentice Georgy Permiakov on a pour with Andersen Construction.

Local 555's Journeymen on an Andersen Construction pour, Ryan Moore on his sliders and Keith Pederson sitting on the rider.

Journeyman Jorge Torres-Rodriguez floating around some pipes for Andersen Construction.

Journeyman Kyle Haynes laying down an edge for Andersen Construction.

Foreman Shaun Comer rodding concrete for Andersen Construction.

Journeyman Jazmyn Howland floating edges for Andersen Construction.
Local Union 555 – Portland, Oregon

Journeyman Keith Pederson foreman with Andersen Construction sitting on his rider.

Journeyman Jason Lytle laying down an edge for Andersen Construction.

Local Union 577 – Denver, Colorado

Members of Local Union 577 shown working on a jobsite in the Colorado Springs area.

Cement Masons Brother Larry Lawson in the front and Brother Walter Edwards in the rear, making a pavement pour downtown in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They are employed by Mel-Ro Construction Company Project which is based in the Springs.

Cement Masons’ Brother Gerardo Pena Marquez and Brother Walter Edwards working on Mel-Ro Construction Company Project in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
Local Union 592 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

During the holidays Local 592’s President/Business Manager Bill Ousey, along with Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini and Vice President Mark Wildsmith congratulate members who received their 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 and 60-Year Gold Cards and Lapel Pins for years of service. Congratulations and thank you to all the recipients.

In January of 2020, (center) Brother William Ousey officially retired as President/Business Manager of Local 592, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Brother Ousey a 37-year member, served as President/Business Manager of Local 592 for the past 10 years; he also served as President / Business Manager of the Mid-Atlantic District Council of the OPCMIA since October 2016, left Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini and right newly appointed President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith.

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES TO BROTHER BILL OUSEY ON HIS RETIREMENT!

In January of 2020, (center) Brother William Ousey officially retired as President/Business Manager of Local 592, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Brother Ousey a 37-year member, served as President/Business Manager of Local 592 for the past 10 years; he also served as President / Business Manager of the Mid-Atlantic District Council of the OPCMIA since October 2016, left Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini and right newly appointed President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith.

(Left to right) Vice President Mark Wildsmith, Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, 25-year member Brother Shawn Gallager and President/Business Manager Bill Ousey.

(Left to right) Vice President Mark Wildsmith, Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, 35-year member Brother George G. Smith and President/Business Manager Bill Ousey.

(Left to right) Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, 60-year member former President/Business Manager of Local 592 and General President Emeritus of OPCMIA John J. Dougherty and President/Business Manager Bill Ousey.

(Left to right) Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini swore in newly appointed President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith and newly appointed Vice President Dennis Fife. Congratulations and wishing all the best to both gentlemen!
Congratulations to the following proud members of Local Union 599 who were presented with their service awards for 25, 30, 40 and 50 years.

(Left to right) Local 599/Area 257 Plasterer Michael Goyette receives his 25-Year Lapel Pin from Business Agent Matt Ganhs, Area 257.

(Right) Local 599/Area 845 Cement Mason Michael Peterson receives his 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin from Business Agent Felix Ramirez, Area 845.

(Left to right) Local 599/Area 845 Cement Mason Michael Peterson receives his 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin from Business Agent Felix Ramirez, Area 845.

(Right) Former Business Manager Thomas Reiherzer receives his 40-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pins. Mr. Hink and Mr. Radtke started their apprenticeships together and have been close friends ever since.

(Left to right) Local 599/Area 204 Cement Mason David Powell receives his 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin from Business Manager Todd Gray.

(Left to right) Local 599’s former Financial Secretary/Treasurer Scott Hink congratulates Area 558 Cement Mason Ronald Walter on receiving his 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin from Business Agent Bart Swearingen, Area 558.

(Left to right) Local 599/Area 845 Business Agent Felix Ramirez presents Area 845 Cement Mason Scott Duryee with his 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin, along with Business Manager Todd Gray and Statewide Organizer/Business Agent Trae James, Area 598.

(Left to right) Local 599’s former Financial Secretary/Treasurer Scott Hink and Cement Mason Area 558 Leonard Radtke congratulate each other upon receiving their 40-Year Gold Cards and Lapel Pins. Mr. Hink and Mr. Radtke started their apprenticeships together and have been close friends ever since.

(Left to right) Business Manager Todd Gray congratulates Area 257 Cement Mason and former Business Agent David Nielsen on receiving his 50-year Gold Card and Lapel Pin from Business Agent Matt Ganhs, Area 257.
Local Union 780 – New York, New York

Local 780’s former President Paul M. Mantia enjoying his retirement. OH, HAPPY DAYS!

Photos of Local Union 783 members working on different jobsites: PJS South Contracting LLC and W. S. Bellows Construction both located in the State of Texas.

Local Union 783 – Austin, Texas

(Left to right) PJS Superintendent Sean G. Christison and Vice President Mauricio Robles.

Form Crew (left to right) Brothers Marcelo Perez, Rogelio Valdez, Jr., Luis Ortiz, Damian Mendoza, Carlos Garcia, Jesus Garcia, Rogelio Valdez, Sr. and Jose Trujillo.

Working for W. S. Bellows Construction out of Houston, Texas, (left to right) Brothers Arnoldo Salazar, Guy C. Jones, Jr. and Javier Gonzalez.

Pour Crew Standing Back Row (left to right) Brothers Jose Perez, Jonathan Smith, Rudolph Cantu, Carlos Botello, Kendrick Chenier, Alberto Romero, Domenic Mayon and Corey L. Harrison; Kneeling Front Row (left to right) Brothers Jose Romero, Terrance Foultry and Donnie Williams.
Congratulations to Local Union 797’s members on having attained their 25, 30 and 40-Year Gold Cards for years of continuous service.

All recipients of their 25-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin (left to right) Business Manager Marc Leavitt, Executive Vice President Todd Lair and Business Agent Jesse Barajas proudly displaying their awards.

(Left to right) 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Brother Angel Martinez and President Paul Benigno

(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 40-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Brother Vince Sherman and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.

(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 40-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin recipient Brother Edmund Gifford and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.
Local Union 929 – Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Local 929 : a proud representative of the OPCMIA in Quebec

In the province of Quebec, belonging to a union in the construction industry is mandatory. Every four years a tradesperson must choose to belong to one of the five union associations. The Conseil provincial du Quebec des metiers de la construction (CPQMCI) Quebec Building Trades Council (International) is one of the five union associations. The OPCMIA Local 929 is one of the 27 trade unions affiliated to Quebec Building Trades Council (International).

OPCMIA Local 929 is the only union to offer its Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons mobility to other OPCMIA locals across North America for work opportunities. Five decades ago most of the international unions left The International Building Trades Association to create a provincial association called Federation des Travailleurs du Quebec (FTQ).

This is the reason why that on March 1, 1982 Local 929 was created and given its first charter. It was a humble beginning, money was scarce and nothing came easy, but its leadership was determined to fight for its membership and better conditions.

Today Local 929 is seen as the leader for Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons in Quebec. Growing from 985 members in September 2002 up to 3,000 brothers and sisters now proudly belonging.

Business Manager Stephane Bertrand and the agents tirelessly service members on job sites while raising the bar in collective agreements and safety issues. Members are offered legal representation in workman's compensation and jurisdictional issues.

Recently, the Local fought diligently to prevent the merge of the plasterers craft to the painters craft, a proposition by the Commission de la Construction du Quebec (CCQ) a government organization. This proposition could also affect some of the cement masons craft. General President Daniel E. Stepano and the General Executive Board understand the unique issues of Quebec legislations and have been very supportive of Local 929.

The administration of our union dues and devotion to our members gives our local a good image to the members that we serve.

Le Local 929 : Fier Représentant De L'opcmia Au Québec

Au Quebec, la syndicalisation est obligatoire dans l'industrie de la construction. Par contre, les travailleurs ont le choix entre cinq associations syndicales différentes. Le Conseil provincial du Quebec des metiers de la construction (International) est l'une d'elles et le Local 929 est l'une des 27 sections locales qui y sont affiliées.

Pour nos metiers, le Local 929 est le seul syndicat a offrir a ses membres une affiliation au mouvement des unions internationales. Pour la petite histoire, rappelons que cette section locale a ete creee a la suite d'une scission entre les tenants d'une affiliation aux unions internationales et au Conseil provincial du Quebec des metiers de la construction (International) et ceux preconisant un syndicat provincial affilié a la FTQ.

Les pro-internationals ont ainsi obtenu une charte de l'Association internationale des ouvriers, plâtriers et cimentiers-applicateurs le 1er mars 1982. Le Local 929 etait ne. Depuis, il n'a cessé de se developper et d'augmenter le nombre de ses adherents. Aujourd'hui, il est considéré comme un chef de file au Quebec pour les plâtriers, plâtriers-tireurs de joints et cimentiers-applicateurs.

De 985 membres en septembre 2002, il regroupe maintenant plus de 3000 hommes et femmes exerçant nos metiers. Cette progression est attribuable a la qualité des services syndicaux offerts par le Local 929.

Les agents d'affaires sillonnent les chantiers a la rencontre des travailleurs de nos metiers. Ils s'assurent du respect de leurs conventions collectives et des regles de sante-securite. Ils n'hésitent pas a les accompagner dans leurs reclamations de salaire, d'avantages sociaux, d'assurance emploi, d'indemnisations lors d'un accident du travail…

Le Local 929 est a l'écoute des besoins de ses membres et ne cesse de s'améliorer. Référence de main-d’œuvre, accès à un avocat pour les cas litigieux lors d’un accident du travail ou d’une maladie professionnelle, distribution de matériel de promotion (casque de sécurité, chandail, tuque…), sont d’autres services offerts.

Il se distingue aussi par son ardeur a défendre nos juridictions de métier. Au fil des ans, il s’est impliqué dans plusieurs dossiers importants, dont celui qui visait à fusionner au Quebec le métier de plâtrier avec celui de peintre.

Tout ce travail se fait avec le souci de dépenser judicieusement les cotisations syndicales versées par ses membres. Le Local 929 présente donc une image d’un syndicat honnête qui se dévoue pour la défense et le bien-être des plâtriers, plâtriers-tireurs de joints et cimentiers-applicateurs.
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Brotherhood Outdoors is an award-winning TV series of the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance that showcases everyday, hard-working union members on extraordinary hunting and fishing adventures.
Join OPCMIA’s Great Outdoors

If you like to hunt or fish, shoot or just enjoy the great outdoors, we’ve got two great opportunities for you to connect with fellow OPCMIA outdoors enthusiasts.

First, go to the OPCMIA website’s new outdoors page at www.opcmia.org/outdoors/ and share photos and stories of your hunting or fishing adventures. You can also see what your brothers and sisters have been up to and connect with one another.

Second, join the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA), the only labor-based organization where brothers and sisters of all trades can join together through a shared love of the outdoors and advocate for the conservation issues that affect all of us — outdoor recreation, public access, wildlife habitats and passing on America’s outdoor heritage to future generations.

Horse Trade Turned Family Tradition

Four Generations Hunt with Springfield Model 1873

| BY KATE NATION |

It’s been 51 years, and Gordon McCleary vividly remembers when his dad traded a .303 Magnum that he said looked like a Missouri mole. That simple moment began a lifelong tradition.

"We didn’t have a lot of extra money floating around, so it was quite the trade," McCleary recalls of the battle of 1968. Ted McCleary, made in 1868 and someone he met at the local watering hole.

In exchange for the .303, Ted—a member of Teamsters Local 1069—a got a Springfield Model 1873.45-70, a .35 Stevens, an antique watch and two steppens. This Springfield became a family treasure that was handed down through generations of McClearys, just like the union brotherhood.

The Springfield Model 1873 was the first standard-issue breech-loading rifle adopted by the U.S. Army, and it was widely used in the Indian Wars of the 1870s and 1880s.

After making the trade, Ted repaired and refinishing the stock. "Other than that, it’s pretty much in its original condition" said Gordon, a 63-year member of the Operative Plastics and Ceramic Molding International Association.

"That same year my dad got the gun; he took it on an elk hunt in Washington’s Cascade Mountains with family and friends and shot a bull elk," Gordon said. "It was the only bull taken in that camp that year, which gave him pretty substantial bragging rights."

Gordon recalls his dad taking the gun elk hunting the following year. "It was a 100-pound elk in their minds," he said. "He missed a shot at another bull, Ted went back to his modern rifle, and the Springfield found a home in the corner of a closet.

In 2000, when Ted passed away, Gordon’s mom handed the gun down to him.

The rifle is really awkward, Gordon says, because it’s so long and heavy. "You think it’s going to have tremendous recoil because of the size of the bullet (405-grain), but the weight of the gun absorbs it. It has ladder sights that flip up, but you really don’t want to shoot beyond 100 yards because that much lead sinks in a hurry."

Fitting for a nearly 150-year-old gun design favored by Custer and the 7th Cavalry, Gordon first hunted with the Springfield Model 1873 was for bison in Red Rock, Montana, in 2003.

"You are almost one shot when you get bison in buffalo. They are massive, and you understand why they are so reverenced Native Americans," Gordon said.

After a 13-year break, the .45-70 performed perfectly. As Gordon watched the bull fall, he wondered if the old gun had been used to kill buffalo in its early history. The following year, he took his son Gordon McCleary Jr., now a member of steelworkers Local 12-369, on a successful buffalo hunt to the same area.

"I saw some moose at 100 yards, watching through the binoculars the warps trail of the .405 grain bullet hits mark, and even 1,200 pounds of animal piled up in the snow," Gordon said.

After killing an elk bass in 2015, Gordon put the gun away for four years until he was able to take both his son and 15-year-old grandson, Max, on a Saskatchewan elk hunt in 2019. Max had handled the Model 1873 from the time it stood taller than him. He knew he was next in line.

"On the second day of the hunt, we shot a nice 5-point bull out of his bed at about 60 yards. In hopes of another Gordon recalls, "I put the shooting sticks in front of Alex and quietly said shoot. He placed the long gun on the sticks and dropped the hammer."

"So the best day of the hunt is the day I shot the first elk. It was an awesome hunt, an awesome day," Gordon said.

"I'll always remember the look on his face when he saw it," said Max. "I’ll always remember the look on his face when he saw it. I'll always remember the look on his face when he saw it."

"It was a special day, a special day, a special day," Gordon said. "It just goes to show you that some things never change, even when they’re 150 years old."
As the bull collapsed to the ground, the magnitude of the hunt sunk in. A task that had been passed down for generations, with a gun built for Creator and the Indian Wars and a tradition that stretched back more than 50 years, had been passed from my dad to me, to my son and now to my grandson, Gordon said.

Both hunting and the union are part of the McClary family, and Gordon spent his life helping others on the job. He's why I have a commitment to the Union Sportmen's Alliance, he said. Just as I had when I was a union representative. I have a responsibility to set the table for the next generation as the prior generation did for me and my family.

Gordon also feels a responsibility to ensure the old Springfield has a place to go. "We laughed after Alas got the elk because it's up to him, he's the only one on the tree who can pass it on," Gordon said. But at 15, we told him not to get it in a hurry, I try to hang around."

Alex Mendoza, Gordon McClary Jr. and Gordon McClary Sr. share a hunt in 2019 that carries a family tradition to the 4th generation.
Union Sportsmen’s Alliance Conservation Dinner

The 2nd Annual Seattle Building Trades Union Sportsmen’s Alliance Conservation Dinner was attended by over 260 union members. Local 528, Seattle, Washington, members cleaned up and took home five (5) guns at the December fundraiser.

IN MEMORIAM

Retired International Representative

DAVID L. LAUBE

January 15, 1937 – February 6, 2020

International Headquarters sadly reports and deeply regrets the passing of retired International Representative David L. Laube.

Brother Laube joined Local 502 on June 4, 1957. His great work ethics and love for the OPCMIA jump started his career. Brother Laube was elected as Business Agent in August of 1973. After serving Local 502’s membership with honor and pride, Brother Laube was appointed as an International Representative and held this position until his retirement in 2004. His 62 years as a member was filled with class and he was a true gentleman.

Brother Laube is survived by his wife Noel, daughter Susan, the late Lynne, our Brother and Member Steven and grandchildren. He will be missed by all.

The OPCMIA would like to extend our deepest and sincerest condolences to the Laube’s family and friends.
It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Dennis Peek who passed away July 8, 2019. Brother Peek was 79 years old and a member of the International since February 13, 1979 – 40 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.

ALBERT 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 Albert Garcia who passed away September 1, 2019. Brother Garcia was 95 years old and a member of the International since November 24, 1918 – 9 months.

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.

MIKE G. MORENO
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 Mike G. Moreno who passed away August 8, 2019. Brother Moreno was 95 years old and a member of the International since July 5, 1955 – 64 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.
Scholarship Donations

The Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund accepts donations. If you would like to help the youth of our International continue their education, please mail donations to the Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund c/o International Headquarters.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund
9700 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21046

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