

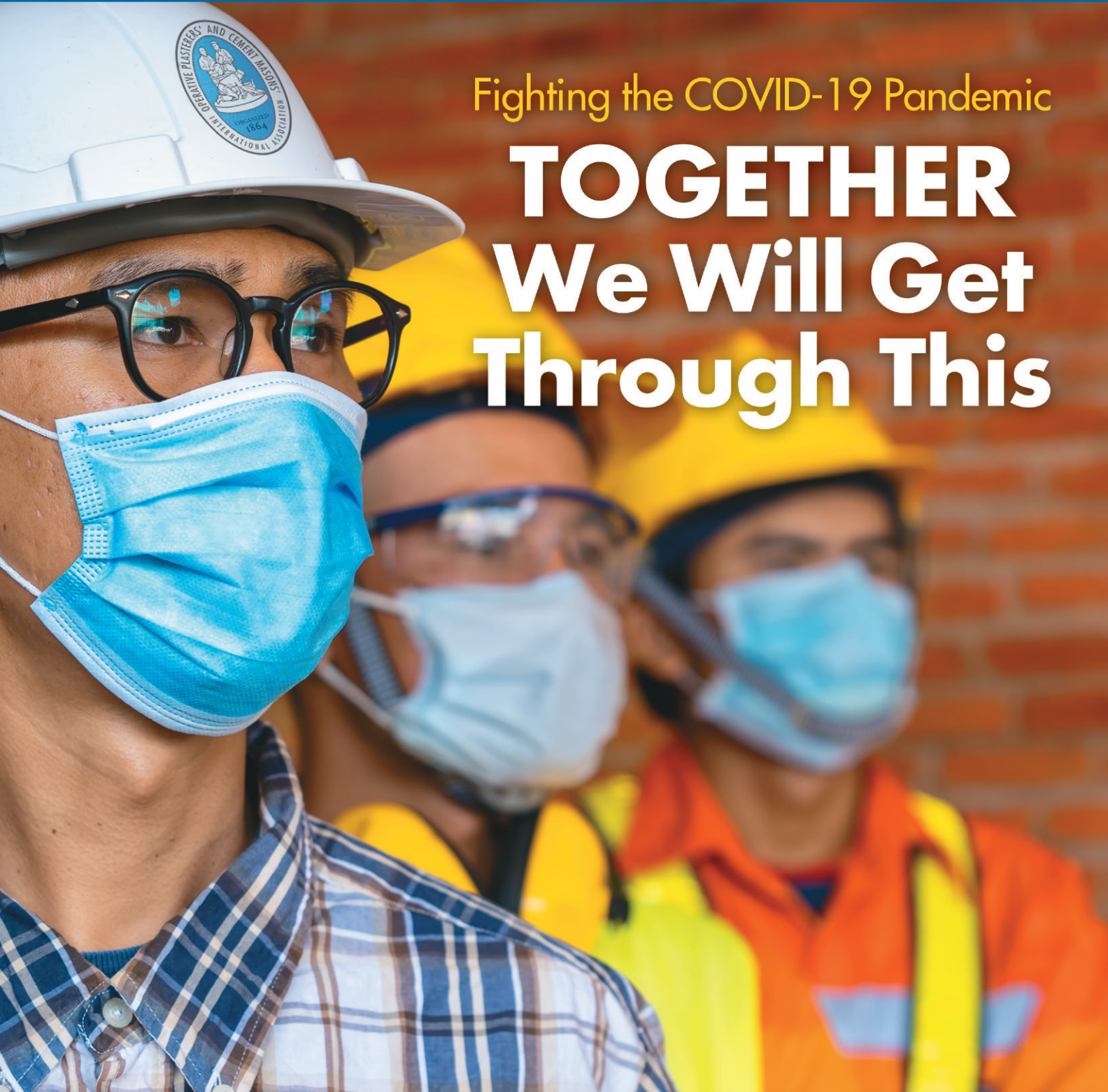


Plasterer & Cement Mason

SPRING 2020

Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic

**TOGETHER
We Will Get
Through This**



Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic — Together

One-hundred-and-fifty-six years ago, in the midst of the worst crisis the United States has ever faced, the Civil War, plasterers and cement masons joined together to empower themselves to live better lives.

Today, we face a new, unprecedented crisis in the COVID-19 pandemic — one whose threat to people's lives, livelihoods and way of life brings to mind World War II, the Great Depression, and the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic all wrapped in one. While we don't yet know the full duration, pain and suffering of this crisis, we do know one thing: The very same principles that led to the OPCMIA's founding — solidarity and empowerment — are what will guide us through this and emerge on the other side stronger than ever.

We are all in this together. And your union is taking the lead in fighting to protect your health, your work hours, and your family's well-being.

We've put together a comprehensive COVID-19 information and resource hub on our website — you can access it directly by going to www.opcmia.org/covid19. There, you can also download and read the

COVID-19 resource guide we've put together. Our website and related materials are regularly updated with the latest information. Our goal is to provide you with everything you need to know in terms of your health and safety on the job, your financial security and other related matters.

Your OPCMIA is also working tenaciously to lobby Congress and state legislatures to take action to safeguard your health and advance your interests. But to have the greatest impact, we need your active participation in making your voice

heard. Please go to our action page at www.opcmia.org/action-center to contact your elected officials on COVID-19 and other issues.

It was our work — together — that strengthened the CARES Act passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. In particular, we won improvements in the unemployment compensation provisions that directly benefit our members. These include 100 percent federal funding of unemployment benefits for employees experiencing reduced hours and pay, and expansion of eligibility to include independent contractors, sole proprietors, individuals who have exhausted their benefits and others who would otherwise have been left out.

However, much more urgently needs to be done. The CARES Act was only one step in addressing this crisis and by itself it would be woefully inadequate. So OPCMIA is working hand-in-hand with North America's Building Trades Unions and the entire labor movement to pressure elected officials pass another major bill doing right by our members. We're focusing on these key areas:

Protecting your health and safety. We are demanding that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) enact a workplace contagious disease standard so that every employer has clear direction on how to prevent the spread of Coronavirus on work projects — and that all construction workers receive and properly use personal protective equipment (PPE). I am proud that many OPCMIA members donated their N95 masks to frontline health care workers because this is an all-hands-on-deck moment, but they need replacements now so they don't have to work at risk of exposure to occupational hazards, much less Coronavirus.

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DANIEL E. STEPANO

OPCMIA Launches Political Action Web Page

To ensure you are informed about the key issues affecting your lives, mobilized to action when necessary, and empowered to make your voice heard in the legislative and political process, the OPCMIA has launched a new political action web page.

Go to www.opcmia.org/action-center and you'll find:

How to take action on issues important to OPCMIA members and the labor movement.

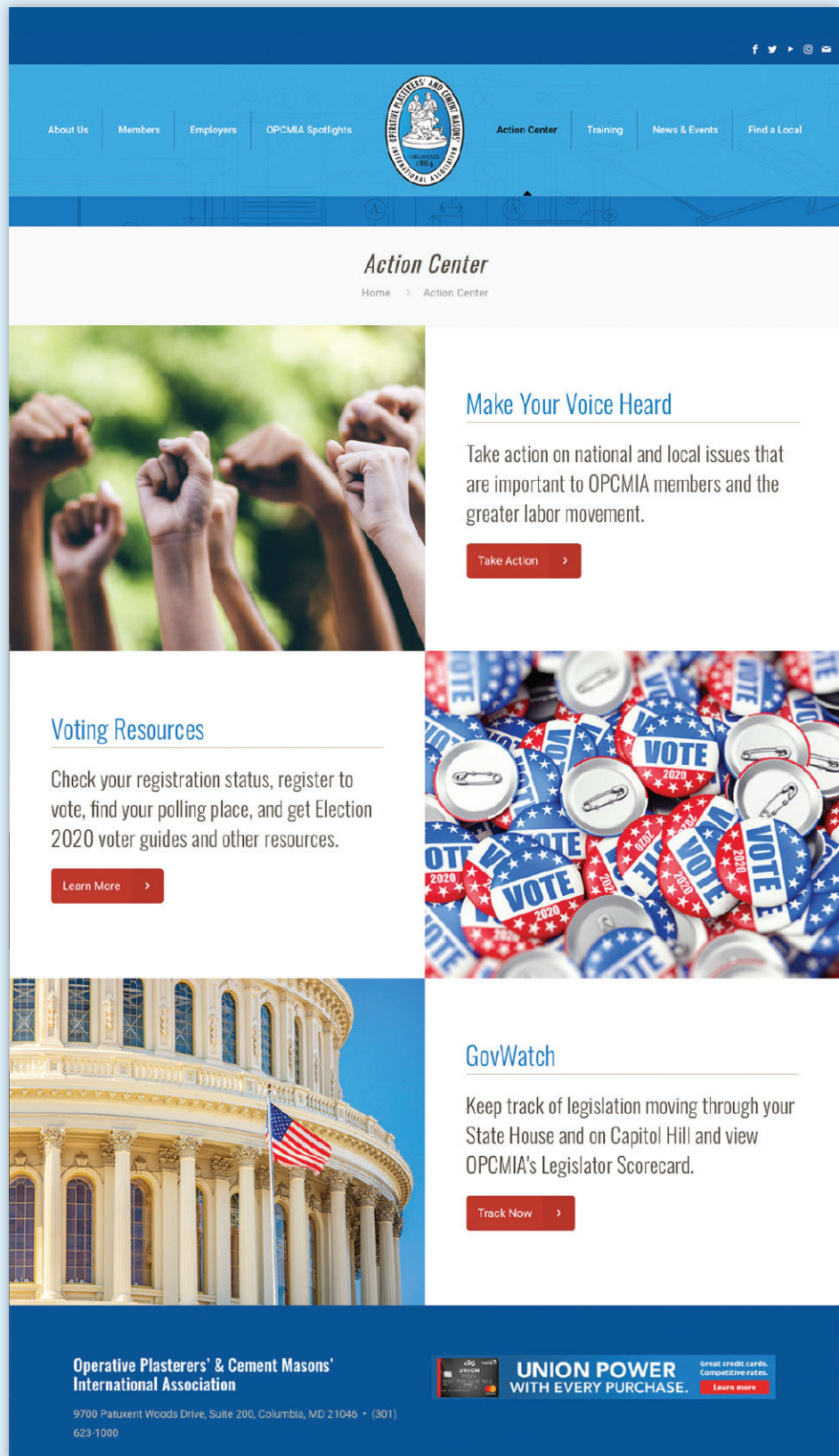
Important voting resources, including how to register to vote, find your polling place and learn about where the candidates stand on the issues that matter to you.

How to keep track of legislation in Congress and in your state and your representatives voted.

At all times — but especially in these days when the Coronavirus pandemic is upending our lives — it couldn't be more important that OPCMIA members act together in the political arena to protect our jobs, our health and our rights, and advance our interests. That's why your union has launched a new political action web page empowering you to make your voice heard!

The OPCMIA political action web page gives you the tools to do exactly that. Our union gives all of us the power to shape our destiny.

[Link to www.opcmia.org/action-center]



The screenshot displays the OPCMIA Political Action Web Page. The top navigation bar includes links for About Us, Members, Employers, OPCMIA Spotlights, Action Center, Training, News & Events, and Find a Local. The main heading is "Action Center" with a breadcrumb trail: Home > Action Center. The page is divided into three main sections: "Make Your Voice Heard" featuring a photo of raised fists and a "Take Action" button; "Voting Resources" featuring a photo of "VOTE 2020" buttons and a "Learn More" button; and "GovWatch" featuring a photo of the U.S. Capitol and a "Track Now" button. The footer contains the OPCMIA logo, address (9700 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21046), phone number (623-1000), and a credit card promotion for "UNION POWER WITH EVERY PURCHASE."

Action Center
Home > Action Center

Make Your Voice Heard
Take action on national and local issues that are important to OPCMIA members and the greater labor movement.
[Take Action >](#)

Voting Resources
Check your registration status, register to vote, find your polling place, and get Election 2020 voter guides and other resources.
[Learn More >](#)

GovWatch
Keep track of legislation moving through your State House and on Capitol Hill and view OPCMIA's Legislator Scorecard.
[Track Now >](#)

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Luchando Juntos con la Pandemia del Covid-19

Hn Hace Ciento Cincuenta años; en medio de la peor crisis que los Estados Unidos haya enfrentado, La Guerra Civil, Los Yeseros y Mamposteros (Plasterers' y Cement Masons') se unieron para vivir una mejor vida.

Hoy, nos enfrentamos a una nueva crisis, la pandemia del Covid-19, la cual amenaza la vida de la gente, estilos y formas de vida haciéndonos recordar la Segunda Guerra Mundial, la Gran Depresión, y la Pandemia de la Gripe Española de 1918, todas envueltas en una sola pandemia. Mientras que aún no sabemos su duración por completo, el dolor y sufrimiento causado por esta crisis, sí sabemos una cosa: Los mismos principios que guiaron a nuestros fundadores y padres del OPCMIA aplican----- Solidaridad y Autonomía---- es lo que nos guiara en medio de esto y germinaremos al otro lado mas fuerte que nunca.

Estamos todos juntos en esto. Y Su sindicato (unión) esta liderando la lucha para proteger su salud, sus horas de trabajo y el bienestar de sus familias.

Hemos conformado un espacio en nuestra pagina web, con información entendible con respecto al Covid-19, usted puede acceder directamente al visitar www.opcmia.org/covid19. Ahí, usted también puede bajar y leer el documento y guía que hemos implementado con respecto al Covid-19. Nuestra pagina web y materiales relativos están siendo constantemente modernizados con la información mas reciente y actualizada. Nuestra meta es proveerte con toda la información necesaria que debes conocer en términos de tu seguridad en el empleo, tu seguridad financiera y asuntos relacionados.

Tu sindicato OPCMIA también esta trabajando tenazmente en las alianzas políticas con legisladores estatales para que tomen acción y asegurar tu salud y tus intereses. Pero para obtener el mejor impacto, necesitamos tu activa participación para que tu voz sea escuchada. Por favor visita nuestra pagina web de acción política www.opcmia.org/action-center para contactar tus representantes locales con respecto al COVID-19 y otros asuntos.

Fue nuestro trabajo en equipo- fortalecer el CARES Act. Ley de Cuidados Sociales, que aprobó el congreso y fue firmado en ley en marzo 27, 2020. Particularmente, hemos ganado extensiones y reformas en el departamento de desempleo con respecto

a las regalías de compensaciones las cuales benefician directamente a nuestros miembros/agremiados. Esto incluye el 100% de fondos federales financiando a el departamento de desempleo para ayudar a empleados los cuales están experimentando una baja de horas de trabajo en sueldos, y extendieron la elegibilidad para incluir a pequeñas empresas independientes, propietarios de pequeños negocios, individuos que han consumado sus beneficios y a aquellos los cuales simplemente no calificaban o se quedaron fuera.

Sin embargo, mucho mas aún hay que hacer, El CARES Act. Ley y Acta de Cuidado Social, es tan solo un paso para atender esta crisis y por si solo será un tanto decepcionante e inadecuado. Así que el OPCMIA esta trabajando mano a mano con el Departamento De Construcción y Edificación de Norte América, Sindicatos y todo el movimiento laboral, presionando a representantes políticos para aprobar un proyecto de ley mayor para proteger a nuestros agremiados/miembros. Nos hemos estado enfocando en estas áreas clave.

Protegiendo tu Seguridad y tu Salud. Estamos demandando que el departamento de Administración de Salud Y Seguridad (OSHA) endorse una póliza que aplique al lugar de trabajo, seguro y libre de riesgos de contagios, para que todos los empleados tengan una dirección clara de como prevenir el esparcimiento del coronavirus en el trabajo y proyectos laborales--- y que todos los empleados de construcción reciban el equipo apropiado de protección personal (PPE). Estoy orgulloso de que muchos agremiados/miembros del OPCMIA han donado sus mascarillas N95 a los trabajadores esenciales de la salud los cuales se encuentran al frente de esta pandemia, porque este es el momento de una participación general de todos nosotros, pero necesitan relevos de inmediato para que no tengan que trabajar ante el riesgo de exponerse a infectarse a peligros de sus ocupaciones, con timas, al Coronavirus.

Protegiendo sus Fideicomisos de Jubilación (Pensiones). La Pandemia del COVID-19 esta dándonos con todo mandando golpes dobles, en contra de los fideicomisos de multi-empleadores de los cuales nuestros miembros dependen, --- primero, por que se reduce el numero de empleadores contribuyentes cuando el trabajo esta despacio, segundo, por que

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We are all in this together. The OPCMIA is taking the lead in fighting to protect your health, your work hours, and your family's well-being. Together we will get through this.

Daniel E. Stepano, Editor

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With Opportunity Comes Responsibility

For the past few months, the OPCMIA, through its Business Agents, Business Managers and our International Office, under the guidance and direction of General President Stepano, has been working on keeping our members and other construction trades on job sites and bringing home a paycheck. The bulk of our actions have been to make sure construction workers are deemed “Essential” during the pandemic. Meaning that, while millions of workers were asked to stay at home, or were laid off, our members have been deemed “Essential” by most state Governor’s proclamations. In many States and Provinces, it is the local city and county governments that have enacted their own proclamations concerning who can work. Some were more stringent than the Governors. So, most days, we were dealing with different Governor’s offices and some days it was with the cities and counties. Several days we were dealing with many political entities at the same time, working to keep our members working statewide, and nationwide. For the vast part, we have been successful in keeping our members deemed “Essential.” We have dealt with both republican and democratic Governors, big and small cities and counties across the nation. We worked in tandem with the North American Building Trades, various cement associations, management, owners, developers, and honestly, anyone, that had a political contact that would help support our union efforts.

For example, we have spent a lot of time working with legislators in Virginia to ensure that the Governor kept construction as “Essential,” as construction is not named as “Essential” in the Governor’s official declaration. We tried to have language added to the original Governor’s proclamation so as not to have any doubts about us being able to go to work. During a press conference, the Governor

stated that construction workers, our OPCMIA brothers and sisters, would be allowed to work as they were deemed Essential, even though it is not in the state’s guidelines, (Proclamation). Our coalition continued to work with the Governor’s office to amend the proclamation and put construction in writing as “Essential.” While there has been no amended declaration, we have spoken to enough people and seen with our own eyes by the Governor’s actions, that construction is deemed Essential.

In fairness, I must admit though, that not all has been smooth. New York City and state for example, have had plenty of political issues regarding sites opening and closing. But for the most part, elected officials have been extremely helpful to our mission.

However, while the Construction Industry has been fortunate to be able to keep working while many occupations have been devastated. If you look at it purely politically you can see how we have been given the “opportunity” to be able to continue to work. But with this opportunity comes much responsibility.

The Covid-19 Virus is real, and it is not going away anytime soon. It has surpassed many sad milestones in American history, such as surpassing the total number of deaths from the Vietnam war. We will all soon know people that will test positive, loved ones, friends, that we will pray and fret about, that they will not have severe complications.

If the virus is not controlled, and the number of positive cases, and, or deaths, gets out of control, state Governor’s proclamations can and will change. They could for one thing, change the definitions of “Essential” workers which would directly affect our members and all construction work. And if the outbreaks infect our job sites, our crews could be shut-down, at least temporarily, to entire job sites being

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Helping Workers in the Age Of Coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic has upended many aspects of our lives in both the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO. Across the United States and Canada, bans on mass gatherings and stay-at-home orders have caused many non-essential businesses to close their doors to their customers for days, weeks, and, even months. When it comes to unions, their work continues to be essential, because many of the employees who work in front-line positions – such as nurses, hospital workers, bus drivers, grocery store employees, delivery employees and construction workers – need protection as they continue to do their vital work during these difficult times. Even as unions continue their work, the economic catastrophe resulting from the public health measures has required more drastic action, which could only be provided by the government.

In the United States, Congress has stepped-up by passing laws to provide protections to workers; however, these protections have focused mostly on those workers who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Over thirty million (30,000,000) workers in the United States alone have been laid off or are furloughed because their employers have reduced operations or closed down due to the virus. Congress has passed the Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act (“FFCRA”) and the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery and Economic Stimulus Act (“CARES Act”), which expanded unemployment assistance, increased unemployment benefits, and provided most Americans with a one-time “recovery rebate” of \$1,200.00 per person, plus \$500 per child. These laws also provided paid sick leave, as well as expanded family medical leave, to address situations where employees have or are suspected to have contracted COVID-19 (the disease caused by the coronavirus), where they are caring for family members who have the disease, or having to care for their children due to the closures of schools or day-care centers.

In Canada, the federal government has passed a law that includes the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (“CEWS”). This program covers seventy-five percent

(75%) of the first C\$58,700 earned by employees of eligible employers for about three months. In other words, eligible employers receive C\$847 per week for each employee to help pay the employee’s wages. Eligible employers are those who can show that they have suffered losses due to the virus, that is, at least a fifteen percent (15%) drop in revenue in March, April or May of this year as compared to last year. Still, unemployment has increased by more than one million in Canada due to the pandemic. However, that statistic was announced just before Canada adopted the CEWS. Moreover, the CEWS contains a provision that allows an employer to take advantage of the benefit if it rehires a laid-off or furloughed employee.

There is a clear difference in approach to helping workers in the United States and Canada. On the one hand, the United States is focused on helping workers who are unemployed due to the virus. On the other hand, Canada is pursuing an approach that, at least in part, seeks to keep workers employed. That approach is also similar to the response of several European countries. Denmark was one of the countries who first announced that it would pay a portion of employees’ wages. Denmark is paying ninety percent (90%) of an employee’s wages as long as their employer does not lay-off that employee during the coronavirus pandemic. The aid is as much as 26,000 Danish Krone (DKK), or about \$4,000 per month for each employee. Unemployment in Denmark has increased, but only by about 40,000 workers between mid-March and the end of April 2020.

While there could be a debate over the merits of the differing legislative approaches taken by the United States and Canada, one fact remains. Nearly forty-nine percent (49%) of workers in the United States get their health insurance through their employment. If those Americans lose their employment, then they may have to pay high COBRA premiums or risk losing their insurance. The last thing a worker needs during a public health crisis, like the coronavirus pandemic, is to lose his or her health insurance.



Long Distance Learning

During these trying times, the COVID-19 Pandemic has not only affected many individuals but has also impacted many businesses, schools and vocational training programs throughout the nation. Many of these organizations have had to adapt and create learning management systems (LMS) to provide training and education resources for an abundance of students. The National Plastering Industry's Joint Apprenticeship Trust Fund has followed suit and is currently providing long distance learning for students in need.

In March, the Department of Labor announced that all Job Corps centers would temporarily close the doors to all job corps students and give them an extended spring break. Employees on these centers including NPIJATF Instructors were directed to work from home until the pandemic was under control. Immediately work groups were established with DOL and the National Training Contractors to establish different approaches to service students with long distance learning opportunities. NPIJATF's LMS platform consists of 45 plasterer and cement mason instructors participating and utilizing the Google classrooms platform. Instructors and field staff have been quite creative in the past month experimenting with many different approaches to teach youth virtually the basics of Plastering and Cement Masonry online. Instructors have left their comfort zones and have created virtual classrooms, instructional videos, chat room discussions and are utilizing sections of our already established curriculum to assign projects and tests that match students training achievement records. Surprisingly over 70% of enrolled students have engaged in the long distance learning program and are excited to participate with their respected instructors on a daily basis. The LMS platform is still

in the preliminary stages but on May 11, 2020 the long distance learning program will officially launch and will be in affect until the students return to their pre-apprentice job corps centers.

I am confident that the platform will be sufficient until the students return and can get back to the reality of hard-core hands-on training. Since the Pandemic began I have witnessed many young individuals participate in similar LMS platforms including my own son who will complete an entire semester of college without ever entering the campus. He also participates in online workouts with his college football team and is expected to be in the virtual classroom with all team members and coaches to review film, go over plays, game schemes any many other important items in hopes of being ready for the season once restrictions are lifted. The first NFL virtual draft was completed and had a larger viewing audience than ever before, musical artists are having online concerts, church services are being conducted and many other unusual events are happening online including but not limited to online Doctor appointments! This is a different world we live in. Our country will be stronger and persevere through these trying times and eventually will be better educated on learning management systems and long distance learning opportunities. Businesses are learning to adapt by completing work at home and communicating with colleagues in many different ways excluding person to person.

In closing please follow all social distancing recommendations for the area you live in and actively participate in all requirements necessary to get our country back on track. I urge you to please keep yourself and family safe in the coming months. In the near future our organization will be extremely busy as the construction season will be at full tilt once again.

OPCMIA GENERAL PRESIDENT

DANIEL E. STEPANO

Continued from page 2

Protecting your pensions. The COVID-19 pandemic is dealing a double-blow to the multi-employer pension plans our members depend on — first, because there are fewer contributions when employment lags and second, because the stock market crash is harming funds' balance sheets. That is why we are urging Congress to provide \$8 to \$10 billion in annual funding for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and instruct it to take steps to ensure that participants receive the full amount of benefits they have earned. In particular, Congress should pass a bipartisan initiative to create a special partition program, allow for smoothing of investment losses and include targeted financial relief for pension funds.

Protecting your health care coverage. Your health insurance is provided by multi-employer health and welfare funds. Your eligibility for coverage is based on hours worked. In any extended period of unemployment, you can lose coverage unless you self-pay your own premiums, something financially impossible for many. So we are urging Congress to provide a 100 percent premium subsidy for the next 15 months to ensure you keep your health care coverage. We are also urging Congress to authorize direct financial assistance to multiemployer health and welfare funds to cover depleted contributions due to COVID-19 related unemployment. And we are looking into ways to freeze the hour banks in your health and welfare funds so that when we get back to work, people and funds are not starting at zero.

Protecting your multiemployer funds. In addition to the solutions recommended above, Congress needs to fix a giant flaw in the CARES Act that denies non-profits

other than 501(c)(3) charities the right to receive federal loans to prevent layoffs. Our pension and health and welfare funds need to have the same access to these loans so they can provide you with the support and assistance you need.

Investing in our infrastructure. There is no better, swifter, more powerful way to kick-start the U.S. economy in the wake of the devastation caused by COVID-19 than by finally making the full investments needed to revitalize our infrastructure. That's why OPCMIA is urging Congress to swiftly pass a massive infrastructure bill at long last. It should include the rapid construction of new hospitals and health care facilities to handle the rush of people with COVID-19 who need treatment, as well as urgently needed repairs to roads, bridges, dams, schools, and so many other vital facilities. With the cost of borrowing at all-time lows, now is the time to make these investments, which will generate dividends in economic activity many times more than the original federal outlay. Needless to say, all infrastructure projects financed by the federal government should include the full array of federal protections, including the prevailing wage law.

Through these and other efforts, your OPCMIA is fighting every step of the way to protect you and your family from harm, whether from the virus or the plummeting economy, and to create new work opportunities for the future. I encourage you to check out website and social media regularly, to respond when we issue action alerts, and to look out for your brothers and sisters both on and off the job site. For 156 years, our union has gotten through wars, depressions, pandemics and other crisis by sticking together. We will get through this one, too — together. And when this crisis comes to end, we'll still be here, continuing to build our two great nations.

OPCMIA POLITICAL OUTLOOK

Blaze Wharton

Continued from page 6

shut down. No one wants that for economic reasons, let alone the risk of a horrible death.

The point is to protect yourself at the job site, but please also do the same in your home and around the town. Wash hands frequently. Keep at least 6-10 feet distance when possible. Where a mask as often as possible. Keep surfaces clean. Disinfect doorknobs, light

switches, eating areas and bathrooms. Remember you personally are a potential carrier. That means everyone else is also a potential carrier.

Protect yourself, your home, your family, your friends, and those you do not even know. They have families also.

Do not forget the opportunity that has been given construction sites to stay open during the pandemic.

And never forget the immense and serious responsibility that goes with being an "Essential worker."

Covid-19 Pandemic 2020

As if the construction industry did not have enough hazards, we are now faced with an unseen foe that can endanger our lives when we simply come together to do our jobs.

The COVID-19 Coronavirus has cost hundreds of thousands of lives in the US, Canada and around the world. As researchers and scientists' race to create a vaccine we must do everything we can to protect ourselves and our families.

The OPCMIA and the ITF have disseminated many links to COVID-19 resources. You can visit the OPCMIA COVID-19 page at opcmia.org/covid19/ for important information.

Many states are beginning to open their local economies by allowing people to return to work. While this is an important and necessary step to our national recovery, it creates dangerous work situations for our members and their families.

Construction sites pose unique problems when dealing with a pandemic. In this article I have included a paper created by The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) and North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU).

It spells out minimum standards employers should implement as part of their COVID-19 exposure control

Deven F. Johnson
*Executive Director,
International
Representative &
Assistant to the
General President*



plan on all jobsites. I encourage all OPCMIA officers, Business Managers, Agents, Foremen, and members to work with your contractors to ensure everyone remains safe and infection free.

In Solidarity
Deven





NABTU and CPWR COVID-19 Standards for U.S. Construction Sites 27 April 2020

The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires construction employers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. To do this, construction industry employers should develop a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control plan, which includes control measures, symptom checking, social distancing, hygiene and decontamination procedures, and training. An exposure control plan and the following recommendations should be followed before any onsite worker is found to have COVID-19 because many people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic and can potentially spread disease.

As work is reopening in parts of the United States where it has been shut down, for the continued protection of our members and in our capacity as the bargaining representative for those members, the Building Trades Unions believe the following are the minimum standards employers should implement as part of their COVID-19 exposure control plan on all jobsites.

To implement a COVID-19 exposure control plan, employers should:

- Designate a site-specific COVID-19 officer at every job site.
- Plan for office staff to have the ability to work from home.
- **Training:** Train workers with the most recent information on the hazard and control measures, including social distancing, handwashing facilities on site, and how high-touch surfaces are disinfected.
- **Screening:** Ask workers to self-identify symptoms of fever, coughing, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell each day, before the shift, mid-shift, and at home.
 - Screen all workers for fever at the beginning of shifts and when they become ill on the job. Thermometers must be 'no touch' or 'no contact.'
 - Workers with COVID-19 and other workers who have had close contact with those workers should be put on sick leave. Local health departments should be notified. The area where the sick person worked should be immediately disinfected.
 - Ensure affected workers receive paid sick leave as required under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The U.S. Department of Labor's poster about paid sick leave under the FFCRA should be posted at the workplace. A copy can be found here: https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf
- **Social distancing:** Implement social distancing procedures:
 - Create at least 6 feet of space between workers by staging/staggering crews.
 - Modify work schedules to stagger work, provide alternating workdays or extra shifts to reduce the total number of employees on a job site at any given time to ensure physical distancing. The recommendation for shifting individual employees should be at the sole discretion of the Local Business Manager or their Representative.
 - Identify choke points where workers are forced to stand together, such as hallways, hoists and elevators, ingress and egress points, break areas, and buses, and put in place policies to maintain social distancing.
 - In elevators and personnel hoists, ensure six feet distance between passengers in all directions and equip operator with appropriate respirator and other personal protective equipment.
 - Minimize interactions when picking up or delivering equipment or materials. Organize the placement of materials to minimize movement on the work site.



- **Decontamination:** Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces on job sites and in offices—such as shared tools, machines, vehicles and other equipment, handrails, doorknobs, and portable toilets—frequently, per CDC guidelines:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
 - Make disinfectants available to workers throughout the worksite and ensure supplies are frequently replenished.
- **Personal hygiene:** Provide soap and running water whenever possible on all job sites for frequent handwashing. If it is not possible to provide running water, disclose the reasons to your workers. Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol as a backup only if providing running water is impossible. Encourage workers to leave their workstations to wash their hands before and after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose.
- **Respiratory protection:** If workers need to be near each other to perform tasks or when working in close quarters, such as confined space work, they should wear a NIOSH-approved respirator implemented under a full respiratory protection program. NIOSH-approved respirators include filtering facepiece and elastomeric negative or positive pressure half or full facepiece respirators equipped with N95, N99, N100, R95, P95, P99, or P100 filters.
 - Cloth face coverings are not respirators and do not replace physical distancing or respirators required when workers are in close proximity. However, cloth face coverings should be provided in other circumstances when required or recommended by state or local governments.
- **Work in healthcare facilities:** If you work in healthcare facilities, train your workers in Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA). For information on CPWR's ICRA training program, visit:
 - <https://www.cpwrr.com/training/infection-control-risk-assessment-icra>

Respirator Images:



In response to the construction industry's questions regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, the following are steps **workers** should be taking now:

- Don't go to work if you are feeling sick.
- Don't go to work if you have a fever.
- Don't go to work if you have a cough or shortness of breath.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Don't shake hands when greeting others.
- Avoid large gatherings or meetings of 10 people or more.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others on job sites and in gatherings, meetings, and training sessions.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissues if you cough or sneeze or do so into your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When hand washing isn't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean your hands frequently, including before and after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Bring food and water bottles from home to the job site and do not share.
- Drive to worksites or parking areas by yourself—no passengers or carpooling.
- Disinfect interiors and door handles of machines or construction vehicles, and the handles of equipment and tools that are shared following employer's COVID-19 exposure control plan.

Special guidance for **older workers and people with underlying health conditions**:

- Older adults and those with underlying health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease and those with compromised immune systems (such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer therapy) are more at risk of becoming very sick from COVID-19. CDC has additional recommendations for these individuals here:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>.

Additional links from our federal government partners:

- OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>
- NIOSH: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/emres/2019_ncov.html
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC for Employers about getting their businesses ready: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

Please be aware that people are vulnerable in these uncertain times. If a colleague or coworker needs mental health or substance use care, they should contact their member assistance program, employee assistance program, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

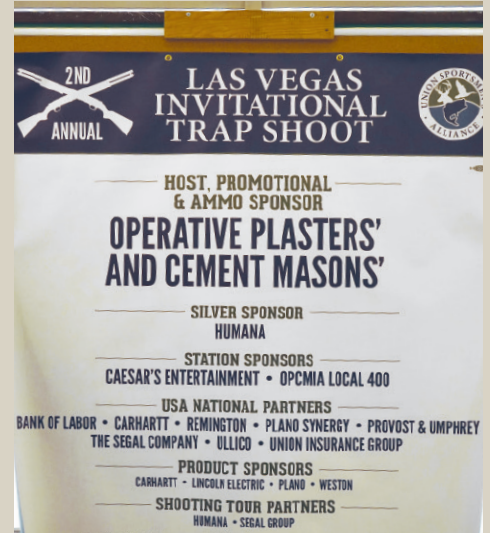


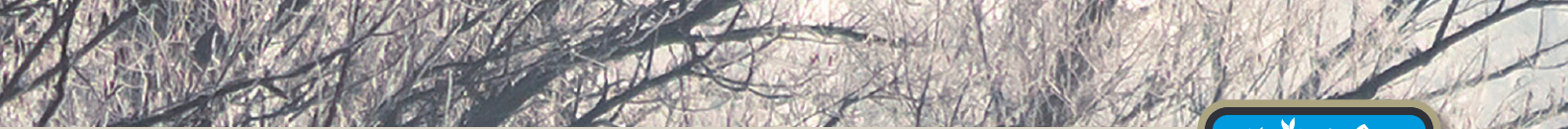


2nd Annual Union Sportsmen's Alliance Invitational Trap Shoot

The 2020 World of Concrete was held at the Las Vegas Convention Center on February 4 – 7, 2020. Also, scheduled was the 2nd Annual Union Sportsmen's Alliance Invitational Trap Shoot, February 3, 2020 at the Clark County Trap and Skeet Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Representing the OPCMIA were General President Stepano, General Secretary-Treasurer Sexton, Executive Vice President Lair, and other International Officers. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.





Local 132 – Ohio & Kentucky

During their winter training session, Local 132 Plasterer Apprentices worked on putting up some new walls at their Cincinnati, Ohio training facility. Lead by Instructor Jason Goforth, the apprentices built the walls, hung, and taped the drywall. They finished the inside walls with the Glidwall System and on the out-side of walls they did an EIFS sand finish along with some retro swirl on the flat areas. They finished off by doing some Trim and Crown Molding.

The Cincinnati and Dayton Cement Masons Apprentice classes came together and did a 2-day program on Polished Concrete Floors, at the same training center. Lead by Instructor Andy Kitchens, he taught, how to go through the process of grinding, densifying, and polishing the existing concrete floor. The Apprentices then prepared and performed some epoxy finish, on another part of the existing floor.



(Left to right) Apprentices Davon Franks, Adam Williams, Mike Krabbe, Richard Shaw, Devon Webb, Kevin Gowsell, Julius McGill, Instructor Jason Goforth and Nathaniel Nieves. (Not pictured Apprentice Dedrick Gooch).



Instructor Jason Goforth sharing some Plasterer talk, the do's and don'ts, while cutting and base coating shapes with first year Apprentices Richard Shaw and Julius McGill.



Filling miter joints in crown molding by 3rd Year Apprentices Adam Williams and Devon Webb



3rd Year Apprentice Devon Webb mixing molding plaster for filling miter joints in crown molding.



3rd Year Apprentice Kevin Gowsell, learning to adapt any tool in his bag for repairing any flaws in plaster trim sections.



(Left to right) 1st Year Apprentice Mike Krabbe and 2nd Year Apprentice Nathaniel Nieves laying out, to mechanically fasten plaster crown molding.



Cement Masons Apprentices doing the finishing touches on the Epoxy floor.

Local 132 – Ohio & Kentucky



Both Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio Local 132's Apprentice classes, sharing and doing the Polish Floor procedures.



Local Union 528 – Seattle, Washington

Local 528 held the 2nd Annual Apprenticeship Graduation and Awards Banquet on February 15, 2020 at Snoqualmie Casino, North Bend, Washington. Congratulations to Local 528's graduating Apprentices.



(At the podium) Local 528's Business Manager/Financial Secretary Eric Coffelt and retired General Secretary-Treasurer Bettermann at the gala event.



Plasterer Mentor of the Year Brother Seiki Hoy and Plasterer Business Agent Steve Peloquin.



Apprentice Group Picture: Instructors Mike Raymond (far left); Plasterer Instructor Rosie Bernard (on the right); and Apprenticeship Coordinator Tommy Parsons (on the far right).



(Left to right) Brother Mike Wentz, retired General Secretary-Treasurer Roger Bettermann, Brother Frank Benish, Brother Andrew Madrid and Brother Andrew Madrid, Jr.



President Tommy Parsons presents Cement Mason Brother Jack Meyers with his 60-Year Gold Card. Congratulations Brother Meyers on your outstanding achievement!

Continúa de la página 4

la bolsa de valores y el mercado financiero se ha desplomado junto a los reportes de balances considerablemente. Es por eso por lo que estamos preguntándole al congreso que nos apoyen con \$8 a \$10 billones de dólares para el Departamento de Seguridad de Fideicomisos de Jubilación, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation "PBGC" y ordenarles que comiencen a prepararse para asegurar y garantizar el que sus participantes reciban la suma completa pensión/jubilación por la cual han trabajado y ganado. Particularmente, el congreso debería aprobar una iniciativa bipartidaria para crear un programa, el cual permita algún seguro para las pérdidas de inversiones, e incluya asistencia financiera para los fideicomisos participantes.

Protegiendo Tu Seguro de Salud; Su seguro medico lo provee un fondo de un fideicomiso de multi-empleadores. Tu elegibilidad de cubrimiento esta basado en horas trabajadas. En un extenso periodo de desempleo, puedes perder tu cobertura, solo que tu puedas pagar tu propia póliza. Algo prácticamente imposible para muchos de nosotros. Así que le estamos urgiendo al Congreso el proveer y subsidiar una póliza de seguro medico en un 100% durante los próximos 15 meses, para asegurar que ustedes mantengan su cobertura medica. También le estamos exigiendo y urgiendo al Congreso que autoricen asistencia financiera directa para los fondos de fideicomisos de seguros médicos de multi-empleadores, para cubrir la escasez de contribuciones debido al desempleo como resultado de la Pandemia COVID-19. Y estamos mirando la forma de congelar las horas ahorradas en el banco del fondo del fideicomiso de seguros médicos, para que al regresar a trabajar esos bancos no se encuentren en ceros y obtener seguro medico rápidamente.

Protegiendo Tu Fondo De Multi-Empleadores: Adicionalmente a las soluciones que hemos recomendado anteriormente, El Congreso necesita componer el flujo gigantesco del CARES Act. "Ley de Cuidado Social" la cual rechazan a organizaciones de no lucrativas con excepción de aquellas bajo la ley 501 (c)(3) Organizaciones de Caridad No Lucrativas para recibir prestamos

federales y prevenir desemplear a sus empleados. Nuestros fondos Fideicomisos de Jubilación y seguros médicos deberían tener la posibilidad del mismo tipo de acceso a dichos prestamos, y así, poder continuar proveyendo el apoyo y asistencia que ustedes necesitan.

Invirtiendo en Nuestra Infraestructura: No existe manera mas rápida y segura de empujar la economía de los Estados Unidos De América al despertar de la devastación causada por la Pandemia del COVID-19 que finalmente hacer una inversión completa, la cual tanto necesitamos para rehabilitar nuestra infraestructura. Es por eso por lo que el OPCMIA, esta utilizando al Congreso para que de inmediato pasen un proyecto de ley a largo plazo directo a la infraestructura. El cual deberá incluir la construcción rápida de Hospitales, y edificaciones del cuidado de la salud para poder atender el apresuramiento desencadenado de infecciones del COVID-19 que necesiten tratamiento, al mismo tiempo la urgencia de reparar autopistas, carreteras y calles, puentes, represas, escuelas, y tantas otras edificaciones vitales. Al costo de prestamos todo el tiempo, hoy es el tiempo de hacer este tipo de inversiones, los cuales generaran dividendos inmediatos mucho mas rápido que el plan original general de gastos y costos. Sin Mencionar, de que todos los proyectos de infraestructura financiados por el Gobierno con la selección y protección completa del Gobierno Federal, incluyendo los sueldos predominantes.

Por medio de estos y muchos otros esfuerzos, tu Sindicato OPCMIA esta luchando a cada paso del camino para protegerte, a ti y a tu familia de cualquier daño, ya sea por el virus o el desplomamiento de la economía, y para crear nuevas oportunidades de empleo para el futuro. Te invito a que visites nuestra pagina web y redes sociales regularmente, para responder cuando mandamos una alerta para tomar acción, para estar al tanto de nuestros hermanos y hermanas en las dos partes, tanto en las redes sociales como en el lugar de trabajo. Por 156 años, nuestro sindicato/unión a enfrentado muchas batallas y guerras, depresiones, pandemias y muchas otras crisis al mantenernos unidos. Nosotros también sobrepasaremos este evento juntos y unidos. Y cuando esta crisis llegue a su final, aun estaremos aquí, construyendo nuestras dos grandes naciones.

Local Union 528 – Seattle, Washington



Business Agents and Office Staff: (Left to right) Joanne Moore, Linda Riggs, Marilyn Kennedy, Jose Belica, Sean O'Donnell, Jeff Ableman, Joseph Neff, Travis Metzger, Mario Silva, Justin Palachuk, Steve Peloquin and Business Manager/Financial Secretary Eric Coffelt.

LOCAL NEWS

Local Union 21 – Des Moines, Iowa

Congratulations to Local 21, Des Moines, Iowa, members being presented with their service awards for 30, 50 and 60 years of continuous service. Congratulations to all and thank you.



All of the following are 30-Year Gold Card and Lapel Pin Recipients: (Left to right) Brothers Jason Odom, Kenny Bentley, Don Anderson and Jim Agan.



Brother Robert Biedenbach proudly displays his 50-Year Gold Card.



Brother Joseph Ballantini proudly displays his 60-Year Gold Card.

Local 132 Ohio & Kentucky

On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, Local 132's Cincinnati & Kentucky Business Representative Andy Kitchens and International Representative Joseph Ciacchi met with Amy McGrath (Democratic candidate to unseat Senator Mitch McConnell) and her staff at her campaign office in Lexington, Kentucky.

They proudly presented her with the OPCMIA endorsement and the contribution. Amy McGrath was very "Thankful" for the OPCMIA's endorsement and contribution. Local 132 will do what they can do through this election year to help bring her and all our candidates over the finish line.



(Left to right)
Business Representative Andy
Kitchens, Amy McGrath and
International Representative
Joseph Ciacchi.

Local Union 394 – Phoenix, Arizona

On hand to present 40, 50 and 60-Year Gold Cards to Local 394's members were Vice President Chester Murphy, along with International Representative Angel Valadez. Congratulations to all the recipients.



GOLD CARD RECIPIENTS: (Left to right) International Representative Angel Valadez, 40-year recipient Brother Raymond Schwahn, 50-year recipient Brother Cipriano Cardenas, 60-year recipient Brother Gordon Hulen, 60-year recipient Brother Jerry Henke and Vice President Chester Murphy.

Local Union 534 – Boston, Massachusetts

Congratulations to Local 534's Cement Mason Brother William Redmond on receiving his 30-Year Gold Card, Lapel Pin and Certificate.



(Left to right) President John Sweeney, 30-Year Gold Card recipient Brother William Redmond and Business Manager/Financial Secretary Peter Stracuzzi.

I N M E M O R I A M

**January 1, 2020 THROUGH
April 2020**

CLARK J. JACKSON

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 Clark J. Jackson who passed away July 15, 2016. Brother Jackson was 79 years old and a member of the International since August 1960 – 55 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.

MARCELINO A. GONZALEZ

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 Marcelino A. Gonzalez who passed away June 10, 2019. Brother Gonzalez was 84 years old and a member of the International since October, 1965 - 53 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.

MORTUARY CLAIMS

LOC CITY, STATE NAME

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN JANUARY 2020

265	Twin Cities, MN	Behrendt, James G.
018	Central, IL	Bromley, Richard L.
502	Chicago IL	Bussler, Rod R.
600	Los Angeles CA	Cano, Severo
200	Los Angeles, CA	Cole, Orie A.
600	Los Angeles CA	De Los Santos, Richard
300	Oakland, CA	Eaton, James L.
109	Akron, OH	Fedeli, Randal
599	ST of Wisconsin	Gnewikow, Donald
082	Portland, OR	Graves, Charles
111	Erie & Niag Co NY	Greger Jr., Lorenz K.
633	Minneapolis, MN	Grimm, Rick A.
592	Philadelphia PA	Harder, John K.
592	Philadelphia PA	Kenon, Cleo
011	Northern, IL	Krawczyk, Henry J.
599	ST of Wisconsin	Landsverk, Christopher
592	Philadelphia PA	Lloyd, Kirk R.
527	St. Louis, MO	Luecke, Robert C.
009	Buffalo NY	Lytle, James R.
514	Detroit MI	Mancini, Paul
592	Philadelphia PA	McLoughlin, James J.
500	Santa Ana CA	Mendoza, Jose Cruz
300	Oakland, CA	Nelson, Philip
755	Los Angeles CA	Noble, Stephen
514	Detroit MI	Pegelo, Kenneth
592	Philadelphia PA	Pero, Stephen D.
300	Oakland, CA	Petree, Lloyd
886	Toledo, OH	Quaintance, Edwin G.
300	Oakland, CA	Thayer, Daniel O.

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN FEBRUARY 2020

502	Chicago IL	Arnold, Gerald W.
599	ST of Wisconsin	Brandt, William
600	Los Angeles CA	Cammarano, Michael J.
780	New York, NY	Capello, Frank
300	Oakland, CA	Castaneda, Arnulfo
502	Chicago IL	Cavanaugh, Edward B.

LOC CITY, STATE NAME

300	Oakland, CA	Chilton, Leon
109	Akron, OH	Davis Sr., James E.
200	Los Angeles, CA	Earl, Neil Glenn
090	East St. Louis, IL	Elmendorf, Raymond E.
400	Sacramento, CA	Gonzalez, Marcelino A.
600	Los Angeles CA	Hernandez Sr., David
797	Las Vegas, NV	Hone, Bert
526	Pittsburgh PA	Jaworski, Richard
500	Santa Ana CA	Jordon, OD
797	Las Vegas, NV	Mercado, Oscar
780	New York, NY	Muscarello, Herbert
262	NYC & 5 Boroughs	Nardella, Leonard J.
600	Los Angeles CA	Ocampo, Manuel Q.
143	Southern, IL	Owens, Howard William
780	New York, NY	Prudente, Ferdinando
502	Chicago IL	Rios, Ramon
886	Toledo, OH	Robertson, David G.
526	Pittsburgh PA	Robinson, Gerald J.
018	Central, IL	Ruffini, Ruffini
630	Honolulu, HI	Sadang, Narciso
502	Chicago IL	Scholten, John G.
502	Chicago IL	Schramm, Henry C.
109	Akron, OH	Seaver, James
200	Los Angeles, CA	Smith, Gordon M.
262	NYC & 5 Boroughs	St. Louis, Robert
502	Chicago IL	Westra, Edward J.
502	Chicago IL	Wisek, Glen

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN MARCH 2020

692	Indianapolis, IN	Behan, David
538	Omaha, NE	Bettin Jr., Claude
527	St. Louis, MO	Brcic, Joseph
526	Pittsburgh, PA	Brown, Lloyd
500	Santa Ana, CA	Carmona, Jose
500	Santa Ana, CA	Cooper, Bernie
300	Oakland, CA	Durgin, Hubert
200	Los Angeles, CA	Heck, David
400	Sacramento, CA	Jackson, Clark
780	New York, NY	Juers, John
502	Chicago, IL	Kaminski, Richard
018	Central, IL	Kaufman, Jean
502	Chicago, IL	Laube, David
534	Boston, MA	Lavita, Angelo
500	Santa Ana, CA	Madrid, Benjamin
502	Chicago, IL	Magee, Willie

LOC CITY, STATE NAME

502	Chicago, IL	Magee, Willie
502	Chicago, IL	Magee, Willie
502	Chicago, IL	Metzger, Joseph
018	Central, IL	Mitchell, Thomas
526	Pittsburgh, PA	Murphy Jr., David
692	Indianapolis, IN	Myers, Lewis
600	Los Angeles, CA	Noriega, David
528	Seattle, WA	Oquist, James
633	Minneapolis, MN	Pederson, James
780	New York, NY	Roman, Franco
500	Santa Ana, CA	Silva, Seferino
502	Chicago, IL	Smith, Andrew
502	Chicago, IL	Smith, Andrew

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN APRIL 2020

090	East St Louis, IL	Buettner, Franklin
633	Minneapolis, MN	Differding, Adolph
633	Minneapolis, MN	Galvin, Wallace
478	Pasco, WA	Juarez, Terry
633	Minneapolis, MN	Kadrluk, Richard
502	Chicago, IL	Kuyppers, Peter
502	Chicago, IL	McLaughlin, Terry
018	Central, IL	Richardson, Lampton
400	Sacramento, CA	Roman, Vincent
502	Chicago, IL	Trezzo, Eugene
404	Cleveland, OH	Turk, Raymond
633	Minneapolis, MN	Vruno, Joseph
797	Las Vegas, NV	Williams, Ruzer

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