



# Plasterer & Cement Mason

SPRING 2022



# REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE



# A True Pro-Labor President

As he enters his second year in office, Joe Biden is making history as one of the most pro-worker, pro-labor Presidents in the history of the United States.

He signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law, the largest investment ever made in our infrastructure, an achievement that eluded his predecessor. This urgently needed bill will create 1.5 million jobs, including many for OPCMIA members. No President in my lifetime has done more to create good work for our brothers and sisters.

That alone would be enough to rank him among the best Presidents ever. But he has done much more.

President Biden saved our members' retirement security when he signed the historic \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, which included the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act. In addition to ensuring that OPCMIA members will be able to retire with the dignity they were promised, the law helped ease the burden of the COVID pandemic, created jobs, reduced poverty, fed families, and provided urgently needed relief for those who were suffering.

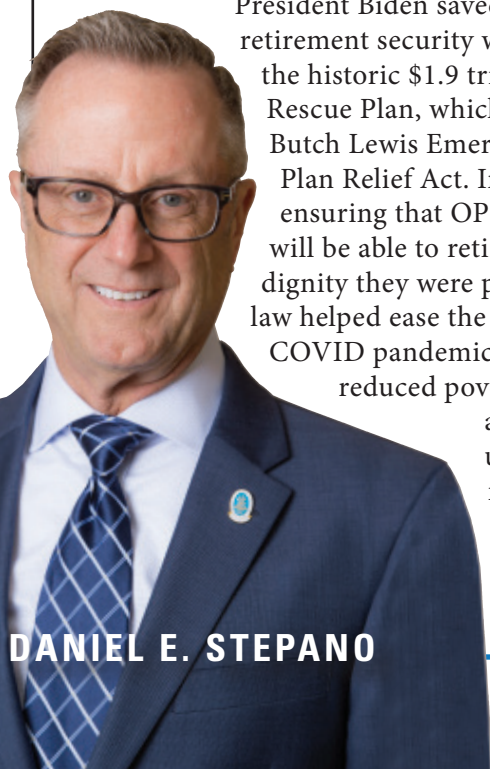
And there is more. Much more.

In February, President Biden signed an Executive Order requiring the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on all federal construction projects worth \$35 million or more. This will further increase work opportunities for OPCMIA members, strengthen our apprenticeship programs, expand pre-apprenticeship opportunities for underrepresented populations and veterans, advance health and safety protections, and ensure that projects are completed on time, with quality, efficiency, and exceeding the most rigorous safety standards in the world.

Also in February, President Biden's White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment issued a landmark report making nearly 70 recommendations to promote organizing and collective bargaining. It notes that "increasing worker organizing and empowerment is critical to growing the middle class, building an economy that puts workers first, and strengthening our democracy," and proposes measures to "increase private sector workers' access to information about their existing right to join and/or organize a union, and the legally-defined process of how to do so." Chaired by Vice President Kamala Harris and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, a fellow building trades member, the Task Force notes the disconnect between labor's growing popularity and shrinking union density and emphasizes the urgency of passing the PRO Act.

In addition, President Biden got more federal judges confirmed in his first year in office than any President in 40 years, and all are far more likely to side

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**DANIEL E. STEPANO**

# Verdaderamente, Un Presidente a Favor Del Trabajador

Mientras que comienza su segundo año como presidente, Joe Biden esta haciendo historia como uno de los presidentes a favor del trabajador/obrero en la historia de los Estados Unidos De América.

El ha firmado la Lay de La Inversión a la Infraestructura, y el Acta de Trabajos Sindicalizados, la inversión mas grande que se haya echo en los E.E. U.U. y este logro eludir a sus antecesores. Esta, tan urgente lay creara 1.5 millones de empleos, incluyendo muchos de estos empleos para los agremiados/miembros del OPCMIA. Ningún otro presidente en lo que llevo de vida ha creado buenos y bien pagados empleos para nuestros compañeros hermanas y hermanos trabajadores/obreros.

Tan solo eso es suficiente para posicionarlo como el mejor presidente de siempre. El aun ha hecho muchas otras cosas mas.

El presidente Biden salvo los planes de jubilación de nuestros agremiados/miembros al firmar el histórico plan de rescate de 1.9 trillones de dólares, el cual incluye el Butch Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act. (El Fuerte Plan De Emergencia para rescatar Fideicomisos de jubilación). Como resultado, asegurando de que los agremiados/miembros del OCMIA puedan jubilarse con la dignidad prometida, esta ayuda sobrelleva la pandemia del COVID, creando fuentes de trabajo, reduciendo la pobreza, alimentando a las familias, y suministrando apoyos financieros de emergencia para aquellas familias que se encontraban sufriendo.

Y hay mucho mas.

En febrero, el presidente Biden firmo una orden ejecutiva requiriendo el uso de (PLA'S) acuerdos sindicales colectivos por proyecto, esto será en todos los proyectos de construcción federales con un valor de \$35 millones o mas bajo estos acuerdos sindicales. Esto incrementara oportunidades de trabajo para nuestros miembros/agremiados del OPCMIA, refuerza nuestros programas de entrenamiento y capacitación, expande las oportunidades para programas de pre-entrenamiento y para la población no representada/no sindicalizada y veteranos de guerra, cuidado medico avanzado, protección de seguridad laboral, asegurando de que los proyectos se termine a tiempo, bajo una mejor calidad, eficiencia, superando las normas y estándares de seguridad laboral en el mundo.

También en febrero, la misión de la Casa Blanca bajo el presidente Biden; permitiendo y empoderando al

obrero/trabajador el ejercitar sus derechos de organizarse/sindicalizarse, rompiendo un record al hacer cerca de 70 recomendaciones para promover Organizarse/Sindicalizarse bajo acuerdos colectivos sindicalizados. Es evidente el “incrementando de trabajo de sindicalización y empoderamiento los cuales son críticos para que la clase media crezca. Construyendo una economía concentrada primordialmente en el trabajador/obrero y reforzando nuestra democracia”, e incrementa el acceso a los trabajadores en el sector privado para que puedan organizarse/sindicalizarse bajo los amplios derechos laborales existentes y poder afiliarse a un sindicato si lo desean, y el proceso legal de como hacerlo. “De igual forma; esta de acuerdo la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris y el secretario del Trabajo/Obrero Marty Walsh, un hermano y pasado miembro del Departamento de Edificación y Construcción”, La fuerza de esta misión hiso notar la anterior desconexión del crecimiento laboral y su popularidad y la pobre densidad sindical, y acentúa la urgencia de pasar el acta laboral PRO Act.

Adicionalmente, el presidente Biden ha asignado mas jueces Federales en su primer año de gobierno que cualquier otro presidente en los últimos 40 años, y todos se inclinan mas a favor del obrero/trabajados que al sistema empresarial. En su primer día de gobierno, despidió al Cónsul General que estaba en contra de los sindicatos de la Junta de Relaciones al Obrero/trabajo “NLRB” el a asignado numerosos representantes a favor del obrero/trabajador en cargos claves del “NLRB” Junta de Relaciones al Obrero/Trabajo.

Para concluir, en su primer año de gobierno miro el incremento de mas de 6 millones de nuevos empleos, el mejor record que cualquier presidente en la historia. El margen de desempleo bajo de 6.2 porciento a 3.9 porciento, el porcentaje mas bajo establecido en un solo año en la historia. Los reclamos de seguro de desempleo bajo de 18 millones a tan solo 2 millones. Aproximadamente 5 millones de empleados estadounidenses obtuvieron cobertura medica. La pobreza infantil bajo a lo que se espera sea el índice mas bajo nunca antes registrado.

En contraste con los presidentes electos anteriores y las mentiras esparcidas por los devotos de las administraciones anteriores. El presidente Bide a mantenido sus promesas y lo hizo sin ningún margen de error en el

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## Winter 2022

We are halfway to the next OPCMIA International Convention (2024). It seems like only yesterday that the delegates gathered to review and give their direction on a path forward. A slate of Officers was elected to do just that. We have, to the best of our ability, done that and are still striving towards our goals. Our financial health has never been better and our membership numbers rival some of the best in recent history.

As we continually review our objectives, we strive to move this great organization forward. We must always stay flexible while continuing to represent the OPCMIA membership in the plastering and cement masonry industry.

The aftershock of COVID-19 still has a ripple effect on this economy. One is the supply of goods being manufactured overseas and then shipped here for distribution. We are re-learning a hard lesson that many have forgotten – this time with microchips. We need to continue to move forward with manufacturing those and other critical components right here at home.

Tony Mihalevich a retired Business Agent once told me, if you need widgets, build widgets do not contract the work of manufacturing a widget to a foreign country to save money. You might need that

widget someday to defend your country, “then what.” I believe we can easily replace the word widgets with microchips and understand the jeopardy we would face.

The work outlook looks good in the immediate future. With the infrastructure money pouring into local governments, this helps generate work on infrastructure. If history holds true, this will create private investments generating more construction projects. Build Baby Build!

To meet the needs for skilled tradespeople, we must organize and train new members into our ranks. Union favorability among the newcomers to the workforce has never been brighter. During this unprecedented crisis that the world faced, it has brought the workforce to the conclusion there is strength in numbers and collectively bargaining provides that strength.

The cost of higher education has only increased, all the while union apprenticeships have remained, and continue to EARN WHILE YOU LEARN Apprenticeship Training. We all know that one person in our industry, nonunion, or a kid with no interest in college, but possesses good work ethics. Send them our way – to the hall or apprenticeship school, make them members!

*Spanish version on page 13*



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**Kevin D. Sexton**  
General Secretary-Treasurer

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#### REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

*Signatory Contractor Shimmick STG Rail, the joint venture contracted by HART for the Honolulu Rail Project. Journeymen Carl La'a, Isaac Badis and Adrian Nakashima members of Local #630, apply their skills for the pre-cast segment designed for the rail guideway.*

**Daniel E. Stepano, Editor**

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## Executive Vice President

**Todd A. Lair**



# Expanding Our Goals

It has long been said that unions in general have fallen short at promoting themselves. Although, we have always been involved in local recruiting through outreach, job fairs, social media, and others, we have found some success in recruiting new members and bringing past members back into our ranks.

Historically, school counselors have tried to steer young people towards college, and many have followed that path to complete their degrees, but only to find that they cannot earn a livable wage in their careers and are straddled with large student debt. Although this path has been successful for some, others find themselves working multiple jobs or seeking other career paths after college. The North American Building Trades Unions has been associated with the American School Counselors Association (ASCA) and the OPCMIA has had an affiliation with them as well.

We have attended a few of ASCA conferences and have developed relationships there. We are starting to see a paradigm shift with the guidance counselors as they see a need to have other avenues to direct students toward, realizing that not all students are bound for higher education. The trades have been very well received there and comments made by counselors unaware that apprenticeship opportunities existed. It was encouraging to the counselors to find

out about other career paths that they could promote to steer students towards to attain success. Especially, with the earn-while-you-learn concept of registered Apprenticeship Programs.

The OPCMIA is committed to expanding our goals with industry promotion and we are always looking for ways to increase our brand recognition. We are scheduled to attend twelve (12) trade show conferences this year and are always looking for other opportunities to promote our crafts. So far this year, we have attended the World of Concrete (WOC) in Las Vegas, Nevada where we exhibited OPCMIA's largest tradeshow booth in the central hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center. We demonstrated the concrete rider virtual reality machine and the fireproofing virtual reality sprayer. It was a great opportunity to show the industry that the OPCMIA is progressive and forward thinking. We teamed up with The Stucco Manufacturers Association and had several displays and live demonstrations performed by Plasterers from Local 797, Las Vegas, Nevada. At the outside booth, OPCMIA had a live concrete demonstration performed by OPCMIA's Steel Edge Women. At the recent trade shows, the displays and live demonstrations were informative, successful, and enjoyed by all.

Below are photos of OPCMIA's participation at the World of Concrete and CURT trade shows.









## Pre-Job Assignments

**W**hat makes pre-jobs so important, and when attending pre-jobs, what should be our goal?

Pre-job meetings are to address the project's timeline, description of work, and labor force needed to complete the project. Approved Project Labor Agreement (PLA), Community Workforce Agreement (CWA), and National agreements have language in the agreement to ensure all Building Trades Affiliates are included.

The agreements should address when a pre-job is to be held, which is normally not less than 10 days before the work is to begin. On larger projects sub-contractors may hold pre-job meetings after the GC starts the project.

The goal at the pre-job meetings is to obtain as much information regarding the project as possible and have a clear understanding of which union will perform the work. What information should we be looking for? The General Contractor (GC) should give an overview of the project and what work will be subcontracted to other contractors. The GC may also make work assignments for work they intend to self-perform. Sub-contractors should also make work assignments for work they will perform.

Be aware, that general contractors have been known to give a broad view of the work and make assignment to the wrong union; sub-contractors have also been known to do the same. If this occurs, you can make a request for a meeting with the parties involved to work out the differences. If the parties are unable to come to a resolution, we may need to file a work dispute.

If we receive the assignment, we must have documentation of the assignment. When an assignment is made without challenges it seems the project moves along well, but as we all know there can be lack of communication on job sites between

management and the people at the site. As we all know General contractors and sub-contractors change staff often and when this occurs there can be information lost in the process. Having proper documentation eliminates any chances or misunderstanding of assignments that are improperly changed. If a contractor makes changes to a work assignment, we must have documentation to prove the assignment has been changed.

Changes in assignments are different than Jurisdiction disputes, and with the written evidence of the original assignment there should not be a question as to who the work belongs to. If the evidence of the original assignment is questioned or is not recognized by the contractor or the other union, the next step is to present each parties' evidence to the Plan for Settlement of Jurisdiction (PLAN) for review of the assignment and evidence to determine which union prevails. Whomever prevails the PLAN then restores the original assignment.

What happens when the assignment of the work is unclear; what are our options. If a union is performing work not detailed at the time of the pre-job, the contractor can assign work that was not discussed, and that union may claim the work assignment simply by them performing the work the contractor has them doing. In the event of this occurrence, we may need to move forward with a work dispute. Remember, the PLAN is very clear, "there will be no work stoppages and the work is to continue during this process."

Can we file a grievance if a pre-job was not held for a project? There is no short answer to this question. We must first review the agreement to verify if the language specifies that a pre-job is to be held. In most cases a pre-job is held to remedy the possibility

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## Alberta Under Attack

**R**ight-wing conservative governments have a history of attacking trade unions and activists. We often see news reports of military juntas and tin pot dictators jailing and sometimes even killing trade union activists because they want to cling on to power and fear any opposition to their regime.

We in North America might think we are fortunate to not have to suffer the dictates of wholly inadequate men who hold on to power through the use of fear, oppression and torture. We in North America might think that our democratic institutions and our unions are foundationally strong and secure enough to withstand the attacks of right-wing governments. And while for the most part that is true, there are still some governments that will enact legislation to curtail the legitimate role of trade unions in our society.

Such is the case in Alberta. Only one in five Albertans approve of the job Premier Jason Kenney is doing. His government has completely mishandled the COVID pandemic; they have attacked the teachers and the nurses. The popularity of the United Conservative Party (UCP) is consistently in the low to mid 20 percentile and seemingly everything he touches turns to mud. The inadequacy of his government is now at a point where he is resorting to using legislation which will limit the free speech and free expression of the trade union movement in Alberta.

Bill 32 “Restoring Balance in Alberta’s Workplaces” as it is euphemistically known, severely restricts the legitimate work of local unions in Alberta. The legislation directly interferes with how union dues can be collected and spent.

The government has defined what “core activities” a union can undertake. Activities outside of the defined “core activities” can no longer be paid for by the local union. Further, union dues cannot be deducted, collected or remitted by an employer to the union unless the individual

union member annually approves of the deduction for any “non-core activities.”

Individual members will have to approve and opt in each year signing the authorization to opt in, in front of a union official. Employers will not be able to deduct non-core dues without that expressed written authorization. Should an employer deduct for non-core activities that practice will be deemed an unfair labour practice. The administrative burden for the opt-in option is excessive, expensive and completely in line with what right-wing governments have imposed on organizations they do not like and want to suppress.

And if you thought it could not get any worse, it does. Local unions will not be able to remit dues or assessments to any other trade union organization, including the ‘parent’ organization unless that parent organization uses those dues or assessments for the defined “core activities.” Our local union in Alberta cannot remit funds to the Building Trades of Alberta, the Alberta Federation of Labour, the Canadian Labour Congress or our International Union unless those parent organizations fall in line with “core activities.”

The previous (NDP) government banned donations to political parties from unions and businesses so why the current (UPC) government is further restricting legitimate union activity is directly attributable to their fundamental ideology: they loathe the trade union movement. They see the trade union movement as their adversarial opponent which must be eradicated by any measure; in this case Bill 32.

Bill 32: “Restoring Balance in Alberta’s Workplaces” is not at all about restoring balance. It is about suppressing the legitimate work of trade unions. The political leadership in Alberta can call it anything they want but that is only putting lipstick on the pig.



## Generation Z

Wondering about the future of organized labor? Maybe look no further than Generation Z. Gen Z is the generation born during and after 1997. Gen Z is the generation that follows the Millennial generation.

Gen Z is just coming into young adulthood and seems to be the most promising generation that realizes that in order for them to rise up economically, and to be able to retire with a decent pension, the union movement is just what they are looking for. These young adults, those in their early 20's, have already begun organizing at Starbucks and Amazon to name just a couple companies. Places where young people get their first taste of their work experience. In Buffalo New York, their first Starbucks was organized just a few months ago. That has led to Starbucks employees across the nation filing with the Department of Labor to organize individual stores across the U.S. Amazon employees are also organizing across the nation as young workers have come to the conclusion that even though these companies are making huge financial gains year after year, nothing it seems is making these companies see that their employees are at the front line of their services and products. Thusly deserving an affordable living. All the while seeing the executives of these companies retain huge bonuses and salaries that reach into the many millions of dollars each year.

Why is this particular generation turning to unionizing in numbers that have not been seen

in decades? That has not yet been adequately determined yet, but suffice to say that while they missed the Great recession of 2008, they have had to ride the seemingly unending Covid restrictions. These restrictions have led to many layoffs and uncertainty among their age group as to what their future job wise, or financially, will look like in the years to come. They also face a housing crisis the likes most Americans have never seen before. Rents are skyrocketing forcing many Gen Z youth to either live with their parents or share apartments to make ends meet. Today, owning a home is almost completely out of the question for this generation.

Considering many companies see \$15.00 an hour as a "Good" wage these days, it is no wonder that young workers are looking to organize to be able to just survive on their own. This generation seems to see a problem now and is looking to right this wrong for the future.

If you are asking what these primarily service industry employees have to do with our members, just remember that up until now, we have been fighting the good fight pretty much in a vacuum. If this generation can make union participation in all industries a norm and not an outlier, it will help every craft union move pay per hour up, as well as pensions.

If you are one to believe that all boats should rise evenly with the tide, Gen Z may be the answer we have all been waiting for.

We can only hope.



*Continued from page 2*

with workers than management. On his first day in office, he fired the union-busting general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, and he has appointed countless pro-worker officials to key positions.

To top it all off, President Biden's first year saw the creation of more than 6 million jobs, the best record of any President in history. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.2 percent to 3.9 percent, the biggest single year drop in history. Unemployment claims dropped from 18 million to just 2 million. Nearly 5 million Americans gained health care coverage. And child poverty dropped to what is expected to be the lowest level ever.

In contrast to the naysayers in the news media and the lies spread by devotees of the former President, Joe Biden has kept his promises—and

he did it with no margin for error in Congress. Of course, there remains much to be done, especially in curbing inflation/Corporate Greed, overcoming the COVID pandemic, and strengthening federal support for measures that make it easier for working families to get ahead, such as free universal prekindergarten and increased childcare assistance. And there are huge obstacles to overcome, not least the abject refusal of most Congressional Republicans to accept President Biden's efforts at bipartisanship outreach.

But let us give credit where credit is due: President Biden has kept his promises and delivered for our members and all working families under the toughest circumstances imaginable. And let us recognize that the only way to implement the rest of his agenda and address the challenges America's workers continue to face is to increase Democratic majorities in the House and Senate in this fall's critical mid-term elections.

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Congreso, y claro que aun falta mucho por hacer, especialmente en el encubrimiento de la inflación y ambición corporativa, sobresaliendo a la pandemia del COVID, y fortificando el apoyo federal con medidas que facilitan a las familias obreras salir adelante, como el kínder universal e incrementando la asistencia del cuidado infantil. Y si, ay muchos obstáculos por superar, como el repudio constante de los Congresistas Republicanos al no aceptar los esfuerzos vi-partidarios y exhaustos del presidente Biden.

Pero, ay que dar crédito a quien lo merece: El presidente Bide a mantenido sus promesas y cumpliéndole a nuestros miembros/agremiados y a todas las familias obreras/trabajadoras bajo las mas difíciles circunstancias imaginables. Y debemos reconocer que la única forma de implementar el resto de su agenda y darles frente a los retos que los obreros/trabajadores estadounidenses continúan enfrentando es el incrementar la mayoría de los demócratas en la casa de representantes y el Senado, en estas tan criticas elecciones-medias de otoño.

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of a grievance being filed. We must remember that each case has its own circumstances and should be addressed without initiating an impediment.

We must be prepared with strong written evidence of assignments and past practices. Saving this information may help contractors rethink their assignments and stop any jurisdiction disputes that

would take additional risk or time to resolve.

Over the years most change of assignments have been settled without filing with the PLAN. To protect our jurisdiction, and scope of work, we need to ask questions about the work, and be clear when making our claim to the work!

## Redefining The Remedies

There has been a meaningful change within the National Labor Relations Board ("Board" or "NLRB"). Back in July 2021, Jennifer Abruzzo began her term as the General Counsel of the NLRB. She immediately went to work issuing memoranda providing instructions to the office of the General Counsel. In these memoranda, General Counsel Abruzzo directed the attorneys in her office to pursue changes in the law that would strengthen employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively.

One of the most impactful changes sought by the General Counsel Abruzzo involves the remedies for violations of the National Labor Relations Act ("Act"). Typically, when an employer violates the Act by discharging an employee because of their support for or membership in a union, the remedy includes reinstatement and backpay. The Board calculates backpay in a specific way: that is, it determines how the employee would have made if they remained employed with the employer and then it subtracts how much money the employee actually made working for other employers after the discharge. General Counsel Abruzzo announced that not only will she seek backpay, but she will also seek additional monetary remedies, such as compensatory damages.

Unlike backpay, which is intended to replace an employee's lost earnings, consequential damages seek to make whole an employee for losses directly suffered as a result of an employer's unfair labor practices. For example, if an unlawfully discharged employee is unable to pay off their credit cards and they incur penalties, that is a form of consequential damages that an employer would have to pay as part of a remedy to the employee. Likewise, if an employee is unable to make a rent payment after an unlawful discharge and loses their home, the General Counsel will seek damages to cover the harm suffered by the employee.

These damages could include certain penalties or fees paid by the employee during the eviction process.

The Board has not awarded consequential damages in the past, although it has recognized that the National Labor Relations Act may permit such damages as part of a remedy. Back in November of 2021, the Board invited interested parties to submit briefs in a case called *Thryv, Inc.* on the issue of whether the Board should adopt that remedy going forward. General Counsel Abruzzo submitted a brief arguing in support of consequential damages as a remedy for conduct that violates the Act. In that brief, the General Counsel argued that an employee should be made whole for *all losses* suffered as a result of an unfair labor practice, including expenses, penalties, late fees, legal fees and/or other costs that flow from the employee's inability to make a payment because of losing their job. General Counsel Abruzzo went a step further, arguing that employees should also be entitled to damages for emotional distress, and/or injury to character, professional standing, or reputation.

More importantly, General Counsel Abruzzo is not waiting for the Board to issue a decision in *Thryv, Inc.* Her office has recently approved a settlement with an employer that included backpay and consequential damages. In *American Backflow & Fire Prevention*, the employer engaged in multiple unfair labor practices, including the unlawful termination of two employees and the unlawful refusal to reinstate a third employee who had been on medical leave. Two of those employees suffered additional damages as a result of the employer's unlawful conduct. The General Counsel's office included those damages as consequential damages in the settlement agreement. Less than a week later, the General Counsel entered into another settlement in a case called *Queens Law Associates*. The settlement required the employer to pay \$60,000 in backpay and



consequential damages. That total also included an amount for front pay, which is an amount paid by an employer in exchange for an employee's waiver of their right to reinstatement.

General Counsel Abruzzo's efforts to seek new remedies is a major step in terms of improving the effectiveness of the National Labor Relations Act.

## DEL TESORERO Y SECRETARIO GENERAL DE FINANZAS

**Kevin D. Sexton**

Her willingness to obtain those remedies in any way possible while waiting on the Board is a welcomed change in approach to addressing the harm caused by an employer's unfair labor practices. While this effort should have been taken long ago, it is good to see that there is someone in the General Counsel's office who is willing to do what it takes to enforce the Act.

# Invierno del 2022

**E**stamos a tan solo la mitad del tiempo para nuestra Convención Internacional (2024). Parece que fue ayer desde que nuestros delegados se reunieron para revisar y presentar la dirección en la que debimos seguir adelante. Un grupo de oficiales fueron electos para seguir dichas indicaciones. Lo hemos hecho, y continuamos puchando lo mejor que podemos para conseguir nuestras metas. Nuestra situación financiera jamás ha estado en mejores condiciones, incluyendo el número de nuestros agremiados/miembros durante la historia reciente.

Mientras que continuamente revisamos nuestros objetivos, seguimos empujando para llevar nuestra organización adelante. Debemos mantenernos flexibles mientras continuamos representando a nuestros agremiados/miembros del OPCMIA en las industrias del Yeso (Plastering) y Mampostería (Cement Masons).

El Impacto después del COVID aun esta presente en la economía. Un ejemplo son los suplementos manufacturados al otro lado del mar y después su distribución. Nos encontramos re-aprendiendo una lección que muchos hemos olvidado – esta vez con micro-capsulas. Debemos seguir adelante manufacturando dichas micro-capsulas y todos esos componentes críticos aquí, en casa, en nuestro país.

Antonio (Tony) Mihalevich, un agente de negocios jubilado alguna vez me dijo, si necesitas palancas, constrúyelas, no contactes manufactureras extranjeras que lo hagan por ti para ahorrar dinero. Tal vez puedas necesitar esa palanca algún día para

defender tu país, y “entonces que”. Creo que podemos reemplazar fácilmente la palabra palanca con micro-capsula y entender el peligro que enfrentaremos.

La proyección de empleos se mira bien en el futuro inmediato. Con el dinero para la Infraestructura proporcionado a gobernantes locales el cual ayudara a general empleos en la infraestructura local. Si la historia se mantiene en la misma secuencia, esto también creara la inversión privada generando aun mas empleos en la industria de la construcción, A construir bebés, ¡a construir!

Para poder proporcionar trabajadores de oficio calificados bien capacitados, es necesario organizar nuevos miembros/agremiados a nuestras filas, La disponibilidad sindical sobre la nueva participación de empresas nunca a sido mejor. Durante esta extraordinaria crisis que enfrenta el mundo, a llevado a la fuerza laboral a la conclusión de que existe una súper fuerza en la sindicalización y acuerdos colectivos de donde proviene dicha fuerza.

El costo de una alta y buena educación se ha incrementado, y todos los imponentes centros de entrenamiento sindicalizados se han mantenido al margen, y continúan “Ganando un Sueldo mientras aprenden el oficio” Apprenticeship Training. Todos conocemos a alguna persona en nuestra industria, no-sindicalizados, o algún joven sin ningún interés en el colegio, pero sin embargo poseen buena ética de trabajo. Mándenlos hacia nosotros, al salón sindical o a La escuela de Entrenamiento Capacitación sindical, i háganlos nuestros agremiados/miembros!



## Pre-Apprenticeship “The Right Choice”

Recently research has been conducted into the effectiveness of pre-apprenticeships and prove that pre-apprenticeship programs have strong support from employers, Local Unions, and training providers, and that these programs also improve the prospects of individuals signing up for a registered apprenticeship, completing it and becoming journey persons in their respected crafts.

Contrary to some recent reports, pre-apprenticeships play an important role in improving labor market outcomes in the vocational education and training sector.

The Union pre-apprenticeship programs are a valuable mechanism to increase apprentice completion rates as it addresses one of the main causes of non-completion of a registered apprenticeship; that is, the mismatch between the expectations of a new apprentice and the reality of real-life work in the field they are entering.

There are many benefits for our NPIJATF Pre-Apprentice graduates when the delivery of these pre-apprenticeships' programs are delivered properly. Real life work skills in the Plastering and Cement Mason trades are achieved by completing projects in the community and on the Job Corps centers that we represent. Students also complete educational needs including GED, High school diploma and drivers' education courses, counseling and TEAP support if needed and basic

employability skills that are a must to be successful in the always changing work force. At the current time there is strong employment demand for students who have undertaken pre-apprenticeships and with the recent passing of the infrastructure bill all skilled trades are scrambling to find capable people to fill these positions.

Aside from the positive effect on completion rates and articulation to apprenticeships, there are other benefits associated with our pre-apprenticeships. These include the effect of filtering of participants by assisting them to decide if they are suited to a trade career; and value-adding, by lifting their grasp of trade theory and practice, and addressing deficiencies in areas such as literacy, numeracy and general employability related to the Plastering and Cement Mason Trades.

It is our goal at the NPIJATF that all 45 of our programs play a key role in allowing people to gain an insight into the reality of a trades career, and in helping to enhance the apprentice experience and building the way to sustainable apprenticeship and training pathways.

NPIJATF Pre-Apprenticeship Programs are critical for both mentoring and recruitment for our organization. Please reach out to our national office or field staff if you know of any applicants that are interested in any of our offered programs throughout the United States.

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ONLINE STORE



## OPCMIA

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OPCMIA Watch



11-152 OPCMIA



Ladies Tiger Stripe Polo



Mugzie OPCMIA



HI-VIS Cotton Long Sleeve



## OSHA Focus Four Construction Hazards



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

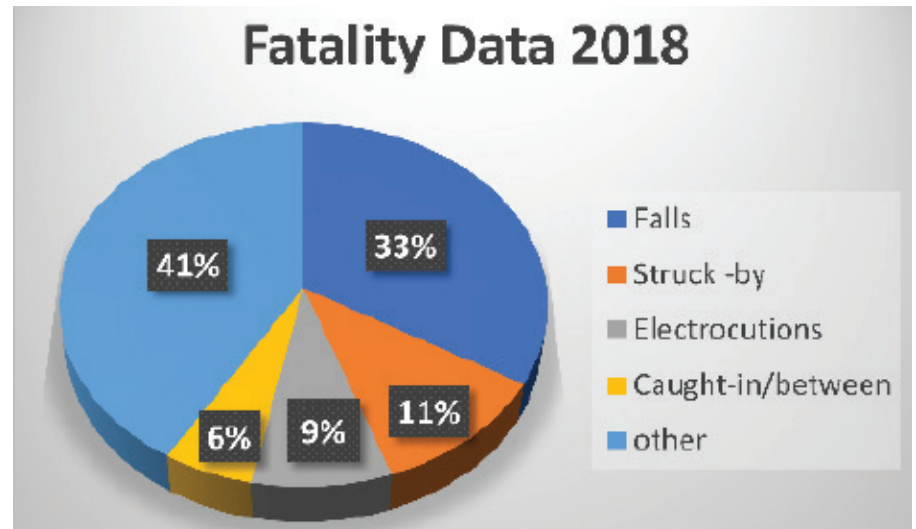
The first step in eliminating or protecting against any hazard in construction is to identify what the hazard is. We have known for a long time that falls, struck by objects, electrocution hazards and caught in between, cause more deaths on construction sites than any other hazards.

These four hazards constitute such a threat to construction workers that OSHA mandated they be covered in all 10- and 30-hour OSHA classes and labeled them **The Focus Four**.

2018 US data (most recent available) shows that **Falls** accounted for 338 out of 1,008 total deaths in construction or 33.5%.

Falls not only include falling from a height to the ground, but also, and more frequently, falling from a height to the walking/working surface the worker is on.

Some examples of common fall hazards are unprotected sides, edges, leading edges, hoist areas, holes, ramps, runways, walkways, excavations, roofs, wall openings etc. 112 workers or 11.1% died from



Falls





being **Struck by an Object**. These include falling, swinging, flying, and rolling objects. OPCMIA members face several potential Struck-By hazards in the course of our work. Most Cement Finishers have worked below another craft and had near misses when a tool or bolt was dropped from above. Being struck by a concrete bucket or other materials being hoisted or moved is always a danger.

86 workers died by **Electrocutions** in 2018 representing 8.5% of all construction fatalities that year. Electrical injuries can occur when a worker contacts energized overhead power lines with a tool or equipment. Workers can accidentally

or intentionally touch live circuits in panels boxes or wiring. Poorly maintained cords and power tools are another frequent cause of electrocutions.

There were 55 **Caught-in or Between** deaths in 2018, this represented 5.5% of those who died on the job. What is a Caught-in or Between hazard? It is a situation that results in a person being squeezed, caught, crushed, pinched, compressed between two or more objects, or compressed between parts of an object.

The pictures on this spread represent just some potentially fatal Focus Four hazards you may encounter on a jobsite.

The ITF works diligently to provide

our members with quality health and safety training, and the Focus Four subjects are no exception. The information for this article were sourced from ITF Focus Four training materials, developed by staff members Nick DeMonte, Anthony Kerstens, Kayleigh Jackson, Tim Nelson and Tony Longbreak.

These Train-the-Trainer courses provide local instructors and coordinators with everything they need to deliver quality instruction in these subjects to our members.

I hope everyone will take advantage of any trainings offered by your Local JATC and the ITF.

Stay safe and take care of each other.

–Deven





# OPCMIA Steel Edge Women

**Kilah Engelke**



Business Agent, Local Union 599/Area 558, State of Wisconsin

## Something to Prove

The Steel Edge Women made an impact at the World of Concrete this year in Las Vegas. While we had plenty to prove, I will start by talking about what we did NOT prove. We did not prove that anyone can do this work. As a matter of fact, and although that sentiment was expressed by some show attendees, that thought process is offensive – if you let things get to you. The fact of the matter is that not everyone can do this work and it is not for the faint of heart. But that qualification does not see gender lines. We are used to that, and it rolls off our strong shoulders just like all the other biased and unaware comments that come from those who do not understand why we are here or who fail to believe or admit that what they are seeing is real. It fuels



our fire to prove all the things that being at the World of Concrete this year allowed us to. For example, we profoundly proved that women are equals in the OPCMIA. Our team was made up of all levels of

OPCMIA members who are enjoying successful careers... from the best of the best Apprentices to top notch Journey workers to Apprenticeship Coordinators, Business Agents, Building Trades Presidents, Organizers, officers for our Locals, JATC Instructors, and even a reality TV star. We hit all the marks at all levels...just like our male counterparts.

And speaking of being on a Team, we also proved that our values as an organization let us come together as representatives from across the country – East to West,







North to South. No matter how far apart we live, practice, and hone our skills, we came together as a team with seamless success. That proves that our trainers are trained to the highest level and that they can project the most critical things that we all need to know to be productive contributors to our respective crews, locals, and to our trade and that those values are a priority in everything that we do. The Steel Edge Women that demonstrated our craft at World of Concrete 2022 had never worked together before to place and finish concrete. We have become acquainted with each other through other events as staff members in varied capacities, and we are Sisters and dear friends through participating in the Tradeswomen

Conferences, Conventions, professional trainings, and events like that. But like I said, a powerful statement was made as we were able to demonstrate that our consistency in training and projection of values allowed us to do what we had to do, to draw a crowd, and to impress our peers in the industry by doing what we have been trained so well to do. We proved that as an organization, we have a LOT to be proud of.

We proved that people are looking for ways to help show their daughters, sisters, nieces, and women that we care about – whether we are teaching, speaking to a

*continues on page 20*



*Continued from page 19*

group, or simply working and performing our craft, we inspire the next generation and it is of incredible value to our organization. The Steel Edge Women confirmed the importance of the concept that if you can see it, you can be it. I clearly remember one gentleman who was chatting on video and taking pictures to share with his daughter back at home. He thanked us for being there and for doing what we were doing because it allowed him to prove to his daughter that she can be anything she wants to be. His appreciation and what he was able to share with his daughter made every minute of planning, travel, prep, and execution worth it. I was honored to be a part of proving to any little girl or career seeking woman that she too could be a respected and valuable part of what has historically been considered a man's job.

One of the most progressive and important things we accomplished through showing up at WOC 2022 in January was that our organization values family. We proved that those of us who choose to be mothers are just as critical and important to our organization as those who choose not to be. We proved that a parent's professional value is not diminished because they have responsibilities that our members that are not parents don't. We proved that the OPCMIA supports women in their roles as mothers and that they are respected and valued for who they are as trades people just as much as they are valued as family members. That was evident as we came together as a team, not only to get the job done, but as we as Sisters who had the back of our Sister, Knuckles, who brought her four-and-a-half-month-old baby, Rowan to the show. All the duties of being a mom do not leave us when we clock in, and our group stepped up to help make sure that baby Rowan was taken care of when Mom needed a hand. And that help came from not only the Sisters but also from our team Executive Vice President, Todd Lair and from the International Training Fund Executive Director, Deven Johnson during his morning visits to our booth to come and get his baby fix, and from several of our OPCMIA Brothers who made it a point to help prove that this organization values family. The pictures of Todd holding little miss Rowan in the background while we place and finish concrete during one of our live hands-on demos says all that needed to be said about the progressive direction that the OPCMIA is going. I cannot say enough about how special that part of this



experience was to me – not only as a newer Mom, but also as an expecting Mom. I am so thankful and grateful to have become a part of an organization that supports women living and achieving their dreams without having to choose certain dreams over others.

As we came together to debrief after the show, we were able to take a critical look at all of the mental notes that we were taking throughout the course of the show and we will be sure to eliminate all the glitches that we may have experienced, and be better prepared to do a higher quality and even more productive job for the next time we get the chance to prove ourselves again...and that is nothing new to any of us as trades people – always determined to do better next time and learn from what didn't work the best the last time. We continue to look forward to every single chance that we get to prove that we are an integral part of being the best in the business.

### Steel Edge Women of the OPCMIA Virtual Meetings

Calling all Steel Edge Women! Please clear your calendars to make room for a series of what will be regular meetings from here forward. The plan is to use this time to get to know our Sisters from around the US and Canada, to discuss relevant business about our respective regions, to share in our successes and learn from our failures together, and most importantly to build each other up as we navigate our careers. Meetings will be held **quarterly via Zoom on the last Saturdays in April, July, October, and January** for an hour(ish) at 11 am EST. If you would like to get on the list to be invited, please email Kilah: [opcmia599.kilah@gmail.com](mailto:opcmia599.kilah@gmail.com) Looking forward to connecting!



## Assistance to Mayfield, Kentucky

OPCMIA provides assistance to those devastated by the severe weather outbreak when a tornado ripped through Mayfield, Kentucky.

**Pictured (left to right) is OPCMIA International Field Representative Benny Lanni, Local 908's Business Manager Geoffrey Mirly, Local 908's retired member Brother Larry Mott, and Vice President, Assistant to the General President Joel Santos delivering eight (8) pallets of bottled water to the distribution site in Mayfield, Kentucky.**





## Local Union 11 – Northern Illinois

### Northern Illinois Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 11 JATC 2022 Third Year Apprentices

Northern Illinois Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 11 JATC would like to congratulate the 2022 Third Year Apprentices on completion of their Apprenticeship classes. This year's class consisted of ten (10) Cement Mason Apprentices and one (1) Plasterer Apprentice.



**Third Year Apprentices:**  
(left to right) Austin Landry, Tanner Hanley, Gerardo Gelacio, James Silva, Tyler Lucas, Omar Alonzo-Paredes, Jake Saieva, Michael Reeze, Nathaniel Varble, Evan Groom, Instructor Matt Trelloff and Will Ritze. Congratulations to all!

## Local Union 72 – Spokane, Washington

OPCMIA International Representative and Executive Director of the International Training Fund, Deven Johnson, visited the Local 72 Apprenticeship Class in December.

Pictured with the class are Business Manager Mike Wright, Apprenticeship Instructor Steve Dickinson and Apprenticeship Instructor Marcus Olin.





Local 72 has fielded an impressive group of apprentices and is serving the industry in the highest traditions of the OPCMIA.





## Local Union 592 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Local 592's President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith and Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, along with Officers and Apprentice Instructors congratulate Local 592's graduating Apprentices. Congratulations and thank you to all.



**2021 GRADUATING APPRENTICE CLASS** – *Back row (left to right)* Vice President Dennis Fife, Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, Ken Grazier, Tom Bui, Joe Kane, Jr., Mike Collins, Blaine Crawford and Lamont Leslie; *Middle row (left to right)* Apprentice Instructor Anthony Ditri, Doug Kiker, Mike Conway, Anthony Vellozzi, Matt Hartigan, Joanne Murphy, Tyler Milburn, President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith and Apprentice Instructor/Coordinator Rob Petracci. *Kneeling (left to right)* Fred Hoch, Zach Shore, Isaiah Flores and Giovanni Spataccino.



**APPRENTICE SWEARING IN** – *(Left to right)* Joanne Murphy, Joe Kane, Jr., Tom Bui, Giovanni Spataccino, Ken Grazier, Lamont Leslie, Isaiah Flores, Tyler Milburn, Zach Shore, Mike Conway, Fred Hoch, Anthony Vellozzi and Blaine Crawford; Officers: Vice President Dennis Fife, President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith, Field Representative Neal Kline, Jr. and Fund Administrator Joe Moskausk.

# OPCMIA POLITICAL DRAWING CONTEST!

Dear Sister and Brother Members:

I wanted to thank everyone who has participated in the Political Drawing Contest, which is a key component of our work strengthening the OPCMIA's political infrastructure. This contest is just the start of many programs to engage our base and promote our union values in the world of politics. Be on the lookout for more political incentive programs. Feel free to ask your local Political Officer of any opportunities you can take part in.

There were many designs to review over the last few weeks and all were very well put together. The one that I felt best encapsulates our organization came from Local 528, Seattle, Washington. The winner of this Political Drawing Contest is Lisa Laizure. I want to thank you for the design you submitted (shown on the right) and will now be representing the Political Watch Group from here on out.

Congratulations on your hard work and imaginative design.

Fraternally yours,

Daniel E. Stepano  
General President

**Congratulations to Lisa Laizure, on the right, who won the \$1,000.00 for the Political Watch Logo design. She is the daughter of Local 528's Cement Mason Sister Teresa Ort, on the left.**



Political Drawing Contest Winner





## Northeast District Council

On November 13, 2021, the Northeast District Council recently attended a Job Fair for High School Graduates and Volunteer Firefighters (ages 18-30) from Central Islip, Long Island, New York. The Job Fair was held at the Islip Town Fire & EMS Museum & Education Center.

*(Left to right) Kenneth Delanty, NEDC Organizer/Local 262's Instructor, Michael Holzknicht, NEDC Apprentice Director/Executive Assistant to the NEDC Business Manager and Frank Martorano, NEDC Business Agent/Delegate.*



## Local Union 109 – Akron and Canton, Ohio

Congratulations to Local Union 109 members presented with 30, 40 and 50-Year awards acknowledging their years of services.

*(Left to right) Local 109's Business Manager William Taggart and recipient Brother Dana Tournoux proudly displays his 30-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin.*



On a recent visit to his home Local 109, International Vice President Richard Bailey received his 40-Year Gold Card acknowledging his years of service from Business Manager William Taggart. Brother Bailey began his membership with the OPCMIA on July 16, 1979, working as an Apprentice Cement Mason with area contractors in the Akron, Canton, and Cleveland, Ohio areas. Congratulations Brother Bailey on 43 years of continuous service with the OPCMIA.

*(Left to right) Local 109's Business Manager William Taggart proudly presenting International Vice President Richard Bailey with his 40-Year Gold Card, Lapel Pin and Certificate, along with Local 109's President Mark Anderson.*



*(Left to right) Local 109's Business Manager William Taggart and proud Brother Richard Mayle displays his 50-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin. Congratulations Brother Mayle on your achievement.*



# Local Union 143 – Champaign & Southern Illinois & Paducah, Kentucky

**L**ocal Union 143 presented 25, 30, and 50-year awards to their membership acknowledging their years of service. Congratulations!



*(Left to right)* Brother Matthew Jamison receives his 25-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin from Business Manager Jeff Mozingo.



*(Left to right)* Brother Millard Talkington receives his 25-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin from Business Agent Keith Hancock.



*(Left to right)* Brother James Talkington receives his 50-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin from Business Agent Keith Hancock.



*(Left to right)* Brother Noel Hinton receives his 50-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin along with congrats from Business Manager Jeff Mozingo.



*(Left to right)* Business Agent Keith Hancock congratulates Brother John Pankey, Jr. on receiving his 30-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin.



*(Left to right)* Brother Anthony "Tony" Baldarotta receives his 30-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin from Business Manager Jeff Mozingo.



*(Left to right)* Business Manager Jeff Mozingo proudly presents Brother Stephen Shaw with his 50-Year Gold Card, Certificate and Lapel Pin.



## Local Union 500 – Corona, California

**O**n Saturday, December 4, 2021, Cement Masons Local Union No. 500 hosted the 2nd Annual Christmas Drive-Thru Giveaway again this year, while following all the COVID-19 guidelines set forth by the CDC.

Once again, Local 500's Business Manager Jack Alvarado and the Officers felt it was important that they

give back to the membership for all their hard work and dedication. Close to 500 members participated and each member received a t-shirt, hat, coffee mug, 2022 calendar book, knit cap, \$25.00 Home Depot gift card and a \$25.00 In-n-Out Gift Card. Congratulations and thank you to all!



**Amazing accomplishment by member Juan Gomez who is a 64-year member and is 102 years old attended with his son Eugene Gomez who is a 33-year member. Sad to report Brother Juan Gomez passed away on February 2, 2022.**

**Present in photo is (left) Business Manager Jack Alvarado with his father-in-law (right) Jerry Samaniego who is a 45-year member and the Great-Grandson of Juan Gomez and along with the Grandson of Eugene Gomez is Dominick Young in the back who is the son of Local 500's Business Agent David Young.**



# Local Union 527 – St. Louis, Missouri

On December 9, 2021, Cement Masons Local 527 held their annual membership meeting and presented 2021 service awards to their members for 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 years of continuous service. Along with presenting Apprentices with Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship Program. Congratulations to all and thank you!



## 25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

*Front row (left to right)* Thomas Heffernan, Phillip Baumann, Keith Hoffman, Edward Karius, Gerald Nanney and George Davis. *Back row (left to right)* Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Tucker, Business Representative Joseph Knott, Business Representative James Renick, Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, Financial Secretary Brad Campbell, and President Daniel Flavin.

*Not pictured:* 25-Year members not in attendance were Joseph Ell, Joshua Gain, Roger Gregory, Kevin Hales Jr., John Hardey, John Laws, Gary Lewandowski, Joseph Meeker, Derrick Newsom, Darrell Otte, Timothy Pinson, Larry Richards, Jimmie Smith, Gilbert Thebeau III and Roman Tylka, Jr.



## 30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

From left to right Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Tucker, Business Representative Joseph Knott, Business Representative James Renick, Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, 30-Year member June Schall, Financial Secretary Brad Campbell, and President Daniel Flavin.

*Not pictured:* 30-Year members not in attendance were Mark Crosby, Mathew Mullen, and Kevin Woolbright.



## 40-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

*Front row (left to right)* Joseph Consiglio, Michael McDonnell, and Robert Aubuchon.

*Back row (left to right)* Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Tucker, Business Representative Joseph Knott, Business Representative James Renick, Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, Financial Secretary Brad Campbell, and President Daniel Flavin.

*Not pictured:* 40-Year members not in attendance were James Barrett, Darryl Ghoston, Irv Graff Jr. David Schwenck, Dennis Staffen and Rickey Sutterfield.



## Local Union 527 – St. Louis, Missouri



### 50-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

*(Left to right)* Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Tucker, Business Representative Joseph Knott, Business Representative James Renick, Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, 50-Year member Dennis Gregory, Financial Secretary Brad Campbell and President Daniel Flavin.

### 60-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

*Not pictured:* 60-Year members not in attendance were Anthony Falcetta, Richard Gutermuth and Sam Ventimiglia.

### 70-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

*Not pictured:* 70-year members not in attendance were Vernon Jaycox and Robert Gilsinger. Sad to report Brother Gilsinger passed away on October 15, 2021.



### COMPLETION OF APPRENTICESHIP

*Front row (left to right)* Apprentices were Zach Kirk, Rolando Maldonado, Chris Harrington, and Apprenticeship Instructor Scott Downs. *Back row (left to right)* Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Tucker, Business Representative Joseph Knott, Business Representative James Renick, Business Manager Kurt Dierkes, Financial Secretary Brad Campbell, and President Daniel Flavin.

*Not pictured:* Apprentices not in attendance were Gregory Battreal, Nick Kueneke, Andrew Bicklein and Logan Smith.



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## Local Union 528 – Seattle, Washington

**L**ocal Union 528 had a birthday celebration to honor one of their oldest union members, Cement Mason Peter Nova. Brother Nova turned 92 years old on February 12, 2022. He has been a proud member of Local 528 since October 12, 1954.



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION – 92 Years Young

On February 11, 2022, the Apprentices came over to enjoy some cake with Brother Pete Nova. *Back Row, standing: (left to right) Francisco Barajas-Aguilar, Mike Raymond, and Marquis Barber. Center Row: (left to right) Brandon Lee, Keitel Bartley, Vincent Fuentes, Jose Cuevas-Vera, Scott Boylan, Keaton Barnett, Daniel Kervran and Kelly Crow, Jr.; Front Row, kneeling: (left to right) Local 528's Business Agent/President Travis Metzger (blue shirt), Business Manager Eric Coffelt, David Dawson, and Instructor Scott Sewell. Far right, standing: Retired General Secretary-Treasurer of the OPCMIA Roger Bettermann. Front, seated: Honoree Brother Pete Nova*



*(Left to right) Local 528's Business Agent Justin Palachuk, Business Agent/President Travis Metzger, Business Manager/Financial Secretary Eric Coffelt, Retired General Secretary-Treasurer Roger Bettermann, and Business Agent/Recording Secretary Marilyn Kennedy. Front, seated: Brother Pete Nova*



*Mentor of the Year Award Recipients are selected from nominations received from the field and then chosen by an appointed committee.*

### CONGRATULATIONS – Mentor of the Year Recipients

Local 528's Journeyman Plasterer Collin (Drew) Horace recipient of the 2021 Mentor of the Year Award from Plasterer Business Agent Raymond Dumas.



Local 528's Journeyman Cement Mason Danielle Green recipient of the 2021 Mentor of the Year Award.



Local Union 528's members on a jobsite.

Journeymen Plasterers Richard Brainard, Jr., and Mike Gratzner with Rolling Plains Construction.

## Local Union 538 – Omaha, Nebraska

At the December meeting of Local Union 538/Area 561 members were presented with Gold Cards, Lapel Pins and Certificates to acknowledge their years of service.

*(Left to right) 25-Year Gold Card recipient Brother Jim Jenney, 30-Year Gold Card recipient Brother Paul Paisley and 30-Year Gold Card recipient Brother Gerald Kubik. Congratulations to all!*



## Local Union 577 – Denver, Colorado

Congratulations to Local Union 577 member Brother Eddie Saiz on his retirement.

Local Union 577 member Eddie Saiz being congratulated on his well-deserved retirement by Vice Presidents Richard A. Bailey (left side) and Joel Santos on (right side). Eddie has been a member of the OPCMIA since June 20, 1978, approximately 44 years. Brother Saiz retired on April 1, 2022, after serving as the Cement Masons Job Corp instructor in Collbran, Colorado for 27 years. Congratulations Brother Saiz on your retirement and thank you.



Local Union 577 members at work on a tilt warehouse project in Centennial, Colorado. They are employed by ESD Concrete serving Colorado Springs, Colorado area.



Denver members Brother Mark Jack and Brother Chad Bryan on front lift, Brother Rocque Akram and Brother Mike King on lift in the rear.



## Local Union 592 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**L**ocal 592's President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith, Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, and Officers congratulate and honor members of Local 592/Reading Area. Also, Local members were pre-

sented with their 50-Year and 70-Year Awards.

Local 592's past and present Officers honored Fran Pietrini on his retirement. A big CONGRATULATIONS and thank you to all.



*Back row (left to right) Jacob Bahlinger, Jr., President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith, and Field Representative Nick Bair (Areas York, Reading & Harrisburg). Front row (left to right) Jason Pope, former Business Manager Gene Martin (Reading Local 105), Brooke Manbeck, Local 592's Fund Administrator Joe Moskauski, Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, Vice President Dennis Fife, and Field Representative Tim Rementer (Areas Allentown & Scranton).*



*(Left to right) Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, former Financial Secretary and 70-Year member Jack Delisi, former President/Business Manager and 50-Year member Mike Fera, Jr., President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith, and Vice President Dennis Fife.*



**Sad to report retired Vice President/Business Agent Anthony "Sonny" DiSabato passed away on February 22, 2022.**



*(Left to right) President/Business Manager Mark Wildsmith, Financial Secretary Mike Sabatini, former President/Business Manager Mike Fera, Jr., honoree Local 592's Health & Welfare Board of Trustees since 1988 Fran Pietrini, former Financial Secretary Jack Delisi, Vice President Dennis Fife, former Fund Administrator Anthony DiSabato, Jr., and former Vice President/Business Agent Anthony "Sonny" DiSabato.*



# Local Union 599 – State of Wisconsin

Congratulations to the following proud members of Local Union 599 on receiving their service awards for 25, 30 and 60 years.



Local 599/Area 558 Milwaukee Plasterers at the December 2021 Christmas meeting (left to right) Mark Miller, Adam Koper, Douglas Jackson, Jade White, Statewide Organizer Trae James and Alex Lovas.



(Left to right) Local 599/Area 845 Business Agent Felix Ramirez presents Brother Steven Christman with his 25-Year Gold Card, Lapel Pin and Certificate



(Left to right) Local 599/Area 845 Business Agent Felix Ramirez presents Brother Kent Neale with his 30-Year Gold Card.



Local 599/Area 558 Brother Robert Pichler receives his 60-Year Gold Card, with his son-in-law at his side, Mitchell Frank, a 30-Year Gold Card member. (Left to right) Local 599/Area 558 Business Agent Kilah Engelke, 30-Year member Brother Mitchell Frank, 60-Year member Brother Robert Pichler and Local 599/Area 558 Business Agent Bart Swearingen



**LOCAL CONSTRUCTION TRADE UNIONS AND META HOUSE:** Milwaukee, Wisconsin Building Trades Council donated funds to the Meta House, a local nonprofit organization, and Statewide Organizer Trae James was our representative.

Meta House supports local women and children as they fight to rebuild their families from the devastating effects of addition, trauma, and poverty.

The Milwaukee's Building Construction Trades Council presented a check for \$9,510.00 to benefit Meta House. Their gift will cover utility costs for the families living at Meta House throughout the month of January 2022, ensuring they have a warm and nurturing place to heal. The donation was made possible through the Milwaukee's Building Trades Partner for "Heat for the Holidays" campaign, which mobilized several local unions with a donation.



## Local Union 783 – State of Texas

**L**ocal 783 member retiring as JATC Coordinator of former Cement Masons Local 681, now Local 783, State of Texas.

*(Left to right) Brother Isaiah Wheatfall proudly receives his 50-Year Gold Card, Lapel Pin and Certificate along with congratulations from Vice President Mauricio Robles.*

**Brother Isaiah Wheatfall is retiring after 52 years of membership at Cement Masons Local Union 783 and after serving 21 years as Cement Masons JATC Coordinator. Brother Wheatfall has announced his retirement, effective February 28, 2022. Congratulations Brother Wheatfall on your retirement and thank you!**



## Local Union 797 – Las Vegas, Nevada

**C**ongratulations and thank you to the members of Local Union 797 on receiving their 25 and 50-Year Gold Cards, Certificates and Lapel Pins for years of service.



**(Left to right) 25-Year Gold Card member and Western Regional Manager for Job Corps Brother Jeff Wagner and Business Agent Jesse Barajas.**



**(Left to right) 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Lizardo Garcia and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.**



(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Monty Davis and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Ubaldo Diaz and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Cesar Diaz and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Jose Mercado and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Jorge Garcia and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



(Left to right) 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Ken Ward and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 25-Year Gold Card member Brother Frank Burns and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



(Left to right) President Paul Benigno, 50-Year Gold Card member Brother Miguel Enciso and Business Manager Marc Leavitt.



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# I N M E M O R I A M

December 1, 2021 THROUGH December 31, 2021

## GUADALUPE A. GOMEZ

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 Guadalupe A. Gomez who passed away October 19, 2021. Brother Gomez was 69 years old and a member of the International since June 13, 1984 - 37 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.

## LELAND A. TOURVILLE

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 Leland A. Tourville who passed away November 11, 2021. Brother Tourville was 84 years old and a member of the International since October 7, 1963 - 58 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 DECEMBER 2021

919	Vancouver, BC CN	Antunes, Jose
300	Oakland, CA	Azevedo, Philbert
633	Minneapolis, MN	Becker, Robert T
518	Kansas City, MO	Butterfield, Ted R
527	St. Louis, MO	Capstick, Robert G
300	Oakland, CA	Casey, Eugene
527	St. Louis, MO	Conboy, Thomas
90	East St. Louis, IL	Crain, Harvey L
526	Pittsburgh, PA	Dotson, John W
518	Kansas City, MO	Fain, Terrance P
143	Southern, IL	Ferrari, Ralph
200	Los Angeles, CA	George, John W
528	Seattle, WA	Grospe, Xavier O
600	Los Angeles, CA	Hernandez, Frank J
265	Twin Cities, MN	Lakosky, Leonard J
500	Santa Ana, CA	Martinez, Richard
919	Vancouver, BC CN	McLoughlin, John
527	St. Louis, MO	Moore, Jerry 5C
265	Twin Cities, MN	Moore, Kenneth
599	ST of Wisconsin	Niehoff, Elmer J
200	Los Angeles, CA	Robb, Robert Walter
600	Los Angeles, CA	Sanchez, Manuel G
926	Charleston, WV	Sanders, Virgil Dean
502	Chicago, IL	Schmalzer, Richard E
502	Chicago, IL	Slojowski, Luzjan W
200	Los Angeles, CA	Stalnaker, Charles Ollin
500	Santa Ana, CA	Valadez, Mathias A
891	Washington, DC	Wantz, Robert H
82	Portland, OR	Williams, Gordon
528	Seattle, WA	Wilson, Richard E
886	Toledo, OH	Young, James A

### LOC CITY, STATE NAME

#### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN JANUARY 2022

500	Santa Ana CA	Aguirre, Vidal
500	Santa Ana CA	Andrade, Angel R
526	Pittsburgh PA	Arzenti, Thomas
502	Chicago IL	Backes, Jerome D
143	Southern, IL	Benson, Arvid F
555	Portland OR	Breese, Gary
518	Kansas City, MO	Bryan, Benjamin F
630	Honolulu, HI	Cambra Jr, William
886	Toledo, OH	Campbell III, John A
132	Ohio & Kentucky	Cannon, Ralph J
500	Santa Ana CA	Castillo, Gabriel
109	Akron, OH	Daniels, Greg
82	Portland, OR	DeLaitre, John
780	New York, NY	Dombkowski, Edward A
783	Austin TX	Dukes, Glenn H
90	East St Louis, IL	Dunphy, Frank R
886	Toledo, OH	Flegle, Jeffrey A
692	Indianapolis, IN	Gibbs, Dickie
400	Sacramento, CA	Gomez, Guadalupe A
527	St Louis, MO	Hoffman, Harold S
630	Honolulu, HI	Kamakeeaina, Herbert A
886	Toledo, OH	Mellen Jr, John R
600	Los Angeles CA	Nila, Lorenzo
200	Los Angeles, CA	Peel, Howard Ellery
600	Los Angeles CA	Reyes, Jesus
514	Detroit MI	Salazar Rodriguez, Rodolfo
527	St Louis, MO	Sevier, Leroy
502	Chicago IL	Torres, Joseph A
500	Santa Ana CA	Trego, Jimmy
514	Detroit MI	Vitale, Pietro
633	Minneapolis, MN	Wilson, Scott Jerral

### LOC CITY, STATE NAME

#### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN FEBRUARY 2022

919	Vancouver, BC	Battiston, Marcello
518	Kansas City, MO	Billinger, Leon R
300	Oakland, CA	Blackmun, Coleman
502	Chicago IL	Bosits, Imre
926	Charleston WV	Brown, Donald O
502	Chicago IL	Bruinius, Robert A
780	New York, NY	Buccini, Anthony
518	Kansas City, MO	Burge, Wesley A
404	Cleveland, OH	Carriero, Antonio
780	New York, NY	Celestina, David P
400	Sacramento, CA	Chavez, Bernie M
592	Philadelphia PA	DeSantis, Daniel
502	Chicago IL	Difino, Vito
780	New York, NY	Duarte, Manuel S
502	Chicago IL	Femminella, Agostino
919	Vancouver, BC	Ferreira, Antonio R
600	Los Angeles CA	Gabel, Anthony D
003	St Louis MO	Gianino, Louis M
527	St. Louis, MO	Gildehaus, Gary
527	St. Louis, MO	Gilsinger, Robert
599	ST of Wisconsin	Hanson, Dudley
527	St. Louis, MO	Hemmer Sr, Reginald
502	Chicago IL	Johnson, Steven K
600	Los Angeles CA	Lopez, Jose M
692	Indianapolis, IN	Mark, Francis
600	Los Angeles CA	Martinez, Augustine
527	St. Louis, MO	Meyer, Daniel W
404	Cleveland, OH	Mikula, Izmeal
500	Santa Ana CA	Miranda, Leonard
109	Akron, OH	Porter, James R
527	St. Louis, MO	Schiele, Stephen
780	New York, NY	Schoonmaker, Phillip
500	Santa Ana CA	Tomaszewski, George A
500	Santa Ana CA	Valdez, Henry G
111	Erie & Niag Co NY	Vastola Sr, Franklyn

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