

OPCMIA



PLASTERER AND CEMENT MASON

AMERICA'S OLDEST BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES INTERNATIONAL UNION • EST. 1864 • APRIL 2026



2026 WOC – OPCMIA APPRENTICE COMPETITION





And The Winner Is???

The OPCMIA!!!

The World of Concrete holds one of the largest trade shows every year in Las Vegas. Thousands of exhibitors try to gain the attention of over 60,000 attendees. It becomes a contest to see which exhibitor can get the greatest visibility, and, in turn, the most visits to their booth.

Once again, the OPCMIA truly represented its membership at the World of Concrete. We had a booth inside the center where attendees could use virtual reality equipment to experience the work of a plasterer or cement mason. We also had a booth outside the center where our Steel Edge Women demonstrated their skills to large crowds. There were other booths where our members displayed their work: with Local 200's plasterers doing live carving and sculpting, while Local 528's cement masons performing 3D printing of concrete.

And, to top it all off, the OPCMIA held its first apprenticeship competition at the World of Concrete in over twenty (20) years. Eight (8) plaster apprentices and sixteen (16) Cement Mason apprentices competed to win bragging rights as the best of the best within our organization, (see pages 22-33 for further details and winners). The competition was an enormous success.

I want to thank each of the apprentices for their hard work and professionalism. You could see the pride each apprentice took in their work, a feeling shared by each of the local apprenticeship coordinators who supported their members in the competition.

I am also very thankful to everyone who made the competition possible. Brother Tony Longbrake put together a team that had one mission: to hold a world-class event in front of the largest audience in our trades. It was not an easy task, but Brother Longbrake, along with the assistance from Locals 200, 300, 404, 500, 502, 600 and 797, made it happen. And, in doing so, this team helped to ensure that the OPCMIA was the biggest winner.

There is one additional person who played an important role at the World of Concrete, Executive Vice President Todd Lair. Todd has done a lot to increase the visibility of the OPCMIA at that show. He has also developed the OPCMIA's trade show schedule, as well as promoted the charity golf tournament that benefits the Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund, and the clay shoot to benefit the Union Sportsmen Alliance. His work has increased the OPCMIA's visibility both in and outside the industry. And, after a long career of service to our organization, Todd retired on January 31, 2026. I hope you will join me in wishing Todd and his wife Debbie a long and enjoyable retirement.

Continues on page 13

¿Y El Ganador Es???

¡EL OPCMIA!!!

El World of Concrete organiza una de las ferias comerciales más grandes cada año en Las Vegas. Miles de expositores intentan captar la atención de más de 60,000 asistentes. Se convierte en una competencia para ver qué expositor puede obtener la mayor visibilidad y, a su vez, la mayor cantidad de visitas a su stand.

Una vez más, el OPCMIA realmente representó a sus miembros en el World of Concrete. Tuvimos un stand dentro del centro donde los asistentes podían usar equipos de realidad virtual para experimentar el trabajo de un enlucidor o un albañil de cemento. También tuvimos un stand fuera del centro donde nuestras Steel Edge Women demostraron sus habilidades ante grandes multitudes. Hubo otros stands donde nuestros miembros exhibieron su trabajo: con los enlucidores del Local 200 realizando tallado y esculpido en vivo, mientras los albañiles de cemento del Local 528 realizaban impresión 3D de concreto.

Y, para rematar, el OPCMIA celebró su primera competencia de aprendices en el World of Concrete en más de veinte (20) años. Ocho (8) aprendices de enlucidor y dieciséis (16) aprendices de albañil de cemento compitieron por el derecho a presumir como los mejores entre los mejores de nuestra organización (ver páginas 22-33 para más detalles y ganadores). La competencia fue un éxito enorme.

Quiero agradecer a cada uno de los aprendices por su arduo trabajo y profesionalismo. Se podía ver el orgullo que cada aprendiz sentía por su trabajo, un sentimiento compartido por cada uno de los coordinadores de aprendizaje locales que apoyaron a sus miembros en la competencia.

También estoy muy agradecido con todos los que hicieron posible la competencia. El hermano Tony Longbrake armó un equipo que tuvo una misión: celebrar un evento de clase mundial frente a la audiencia más grande de nuestros oficios. No fue una tarea fácil, pero el hermano Longbrake, junto con la asistencia de los Locales 200, 300, 404, 500, 502, 600 y 797, lo hicieron posible. Y, al hacerlo, este equipo

ayudó a asegurar que el OPCMIA fuera el mayor ganador.

Hay una persona adicional que desempeñó un papel importante en el World of Concrete: el vicepresidente ejecutivo Todd Lair. Todd ha hecho mucho para aumentar la visibilidad del OPCMIA en ese evento. También ha desarrollado el calendario de ferias comerciales del OPCMIA, además de promover el torneo de golf benéfico que beneficia al Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund y el clay shoot que beneficia a la Union Sportsmen Alliance. Su trabajo ha incrementado la visibilidad del OPCMIA tanto dentro como fuera de la industria. Y, tras una larga carrera de servicio a nuestra organización, Todd se jubiló el 31 de enero de 2026. Espero que se unan a mí para desearle a Todd y a su esposa Debby una jubilación larga y placentera.

Con la jubilación del hermano Lair, nombré al hermano Joel Santos para servir como vicepresidente ejecutivo. La Junta Ejecutiva General confirmó por unanimidad mi nombramiento. Ellos saben, como yo sé, que Joel trabaja incansablemente con nuestros vicepresidentes, representantes internacionales y representantes de campo internacionales para llevar a cabo actividades de organización sin precedentes para fortalecer nuestra gran Unión. Organizar es extremadamente difícil, pero los éxitos de Joel y su equipo han incrementado la presencia de nuestra organización en todo Estados Unidos.

Y, con el nombramiento del hermano Santos como vicepresidente ejecutivo, quedó una vacante en la Junta Ejecutiva General. He nombrado al vicepresidente Fitzgerald Jacobs para ocupar esa vacante, lo cual también fue aprobado por unanimidad por la Junta Ejecutiva General. Fitz, como me gusta llamarlo, será una gran adición a este cuerpo deliberativo.

Finalmente, nombré al gerente de negocios del Local 518, Kevin Gard, para servir como vicepresidente de enlucidores, ocupando el puesto que anteriormente desempeñaba nuestro secretario-tesorero general, Chester Murphy. La Junta Ejecutiva General también

Continúa en la página 13



Can't Stop Us Now!

We recently held our International Apprentice Competition in Las Vegas alongside the energy and excitement of World of Concrete, and to call it a success would be a massive understatement. From the moment the competition began, the atmosphere was electric. Apprentices, instructors, staff, and attendees alike shared a level of enthusiasm that was impossible to ignore. Throughout the event, I heard the same sentiment repeated again and again — “When is the next one?” That kind of response speaks volumes. It tells us that what we are building together is not only working, but inspiring.

The team responsible for setting up the competition, staffing it throughout the event, and tearing it down afterward deserves tremendous recognition. Events of this magnitude do not simply come together on their own. They require planning, coordination, long hours, and a commitment to excellence that often goes unseen. From the layout of the competition floor to ensuring every participant had what they needed to succeed, this team delivered. Their professionalism reflected the very best of our organization and set the tone for everything that followed. Thank you to ITF Director Tony Longbrake, and the various JATC's and Local Unions for making this happen.

Positioned right next to the Apprentice Competition was our Steel Edge Women booth. Anyone who has attended World of Concrete and witnessed this display firsthand understands just how powerful it is. For those who have not yet had the opportunity, you are truly missing something special. This was not simply a booth — it was a full

demonstration of skill, teamwork, and pride. From setup and form setting to concrete pouring, stripping, and eventual teardown, every aspect was handled by the Steel Edge Women of OPCMIA. The confidence, capability, and energy they brought to the show floor was second to none.

While we all recognize that inclusion of women in the trades is an area where growth can and must continue, the fact that OPCMIA hosted the only booth dedicated specifically to women in our trades is a testament to our commitment. It sent a clear message: there is a place here for everyone willing to learn, work hard, and build something meaningful. The enthusiasm generated at that booth was contagious, and it left a lasting impression on all who stopped by.

Another impressive display drawing attention was a booth dedicated to 3D printing technology and the finishing of both interior and exterior walls. Members of OPCMIA Locals from the Pacific Northwest proudly showcased the process, demonstrating not only how these walls are printed but also the variety of finishes that can be applied. The conversations happening around that display were forward-looking and filled with possibility. Onlookers were eager to understand how 3D printing integrates into our crafts and what it means for the future of construction. Our members answered those questions with knowledge, confidence, and an unmistakable pride in their expertise.

Continues on page 15
Spanish Editorial on page 14
French on page 17



PLASTERER AND CEMENT MASON OPCMIA

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CONTENTS



- 18 OPCMIA Appointments
- 19 OPCMIA Apprentices
- 22 WOC Apprentice Competition
- 32 WOC Steel Edge Women
- 34 Local News
- 53 In Memoriam

COVER

Special thank you to everyone that helped make the 2026 OPCMIA Apprentice Competition a success!

Building Through Organizing

I am thankful, honored, and proud to serve as the newly appointed Executive Vice President and Director of Organizing for OPCMIA. I sincerely thank General President Sexton and the General Executive Board for their trust and confidence. I look forward to working with our Local leadership and membership as we continue to move our union forward.



My vision begins with a simple principle: organizing must be fully integrated into every level of our union. It cannot exist in isolation. Organizing is the responsibility of international leadership, Local officers, Business Managers, organizers, stewards, and members alike.

We must foster a culture where organizing is part of our daily work — from jobsite conversations to contractor relationships to community engagement. Every interaction is an organizing opportunity, and every Local must operate with a clear organizing plan.

Organizing is the foundation of our strength. It protects our work, supports our contracts, and creates opportunities for our members. My goal is to make organizing a shared responsibility at every level of OPCMIA.

As we move forward, the Organizing Department will focus on these key priorities: expanding Project Labor Agreements, strengthening apprenticeship programs, advancing market recovery efforts, and 3D printing.

PLAs play a critical role in securing union work and maintaining high standards on major projects, especially in low union density areas. We will continue building relationships with owners, developers, and community partners to grow PLA opportunities across the country.

Apprenticeships are essential to our future. We must recruit, train, and retain the next generation of plasterers, cement masons, and shop hands by strengthening outreach efforts, supporting the Local training programs, and creating clear pathways into our trades.

Market recovery remains a top priority in areas where union density has declined. We will support the Locals with organizing resources,

contractor outreach, and strategic campaigns to regain market share and bring more members into our union.

Our members are our greatest asset. By engaging members, developing the Local leadership, and working together across the International and Locals, we can build lasting strength.

The challenges facing labor today are real — from non-union competition to changing industries and economic uncertainty. But so are our opportunities. With discipline organizing, unified leadership, and engaged membership, OPCMIA can grow stronger than ever.

My commitment is straightforward: to lead an Organizing Department that is proactive, strategic, and results-driven — and to work alongside every Local to build opportunities for our members.

Together, we will organize, grow, and secure a stronger future for OPCMIA.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to working alongside General President Sexton, General Secretary-Treasurer Murphy the General Executive Board, and our Locals. Together, we will organize, grow, and build a stronger future for OPCMIA.

Thank you for your continued support.

Construyendo A Través De La Organización

Estoy agradecido, honrado y orgulloso de servir como el recién nombrado Vicepresidente Ejecutivo y Director de Organización de OPCMIA. Agradezco sinceramente al Presidente General Sexton y a la Junta Ejecutiva General por su confianza. Espero con interés trabajar con el liderazgo y la membresía de nuestros Locales mientras seguimos avanzando nuestra unión.

Mi visión comienza con un principio simple: la organización debe integrarse plenamente en todos los niveles de nuestra unión. No puede existir aislada. La organización es responsabilidad del liderazgo internacional, los oficiales locales, los gerentes de negocios, los organizadores, los delegados y los mismos miembros.

Debemos fomentar una cultura donde la organización sea parte de nuestro trabajo diario — desde las conversaciones en el sitio de trabajo hasta las relaciones con los contratistas y la participación comunitaria. Cada interacción es una oportunidad de organización, y cada Local debe operar con un plan de organización claro.

La organización es la base de nuestra fortaleza. Protege nuestro trabajo, respalda nuestros contratos y crea oportunidades para nuestros miembros. Mi objetivo es que la organización sea una responsabilidad compartida en todos los niveles de OPCMIA.

Mientras avanzamos, el Departamento de Organización se enfocará en estas prioridades clave: ampliar los Acuerdos Laborales de Proyecto, fortalecer los programas de aprendizaje, impulsar los esfuerzos de recuperación de mercado y la impresión 3D.

Los ALP desempeñan un papel crítico en asegurar trabajo sindical y mantener altos estándares en proyectos importantes, especialmente en áreas de baja densidad sindical. Seguiremos construyendo relaciones con propietarios, desarrolladores y socios comunitarios para aumentar las oportunidades de ALP en todo el país.

Los aprendizajes son esenciales para nuestro futuro. Debemos reclutar, capacitar y retener a la próxima generación de yeseros, albañiles de cemento y ayudantes de taller fortaleciendo los esfuerzos de divulgación, apoyando los programas de formación locales y creando vías claras hacia nuestros oficios.

La recuperación del mercado sigue siendo una prioridad en las áreas donde la densidad sindical ha disminuido. Apoyaremos a los Locales con recursos de organización, difusión a contratistas y campañas estratégicas para recuperar cuota de mercado y atraer a más miembros a nuestra unión.

Nuestros miembros son nuestro mayor activo. Al involucrar a los miembros, desarrollar el liderazgo Local y trabajar juntos entre el Internacional y los Locales, podemos construir una fortaleza duradera.

Los desafíos que enfrenta el trabajo hoy son reales — desde la competencia no sindical hasta industrias cambiantes e incertidumbre económica. Pero también lo son nuestras oportunidades. Con organización disciplinada, liderazgo unificado y membresía comprometida, OPCMIA puede fortalecerse más que nunca.

Mi compromiso es directo: liderar un Departamento de Organización que sea proactivo, estratégico y orientado a resultados — y trabajar junto a cada Local para crear oportunidades para nuestros miembros.

Juntos, organizaremos, creceremos y aseguraremos un futuro más fuerte para OPCMIA.

Agradezco la oportunidad de servir y espero trabajar junto al Presidente General Sexton, el Secretario-Tesorero General Murphy, la Junta Ejecutiva General y nuestros Locales. Juntos, organizaremos, creceremos y construiremos un futuro más fuerte para OPCMIA.

Gracias por su continuo apoyo.

The Physical Demands Inherent in Our Work

Management and labor collaborate to cultivate a workplace culture that fosters a sense of belonging. This is achieved through clear communication, accountability, and collaboration. Recently, many general contractors and construction managers have begun offering on-site counseling for the workers' well-being. This is largely because management recognizes that construction workers are more productive, with fewer injuries, when their well-being is shown attention and well-maintained. It is a mutually beneficial arrangement. I encourage all our members to take advantage of any of these programs or incentives on-site as needed.

Throughout my life, I have heard many people discuss a standard of life. Often, these standards include things like your home, vehicle, health insurance, pensions, and so on. However, workplace standards are often overlooked, undervalued, and ignored within our pursuit of life standards. Working standards are important—just as the ones in our lives outside of work.

Workplace standards need to be recognized and treated as a standard of all OPCMIA Members' lives. Workplace standards can become contagious; this was especially evident after the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a greater focus on workplace well-being, with genuine attention to workers' mental health. As cement masons, plasterers, and shop hands, we should recognize that many of these initiatives begin with job-site safety. This sense of security must never be taken for granted.

This includes returning home every day to our loved ones, returning home to gain rest to perform our duties effectively the next day, and so on, consistently over days, weeks, and sometimes months. I was always taught that there are 24 hours in a day—8 hours for work, 8 hours



for rest, and 8 hours for free time. This is essential—use your time wisely.

As OPCMIA members, our lives demand a rigorous life-work balance due to the physical demands inherent in our work. While I can only speak from my own experience as a plasterer, I have consistently refined my life-work balance over the years, continually enhancing it with age. These changes were primarily driven by experiences, both positive ones

and negative ones, knowledge gained, and the wisdom accumulated through both on-site and off-site. These adjustments have significantly contributed to my personal and professional well-being.

Maintaining a life-work balance is crucial. Often, this can be achieved through meticulous planning and effective communication within the workplace.

We frequently overlook and take essential standards for granted such as mandatory breaks and lunches. Many workers before us were never offered or provided with a lunch break. Although the break-time, or lunch break standard, is now widely recognized, it is sometimes overlooked by many of us. Simple planning, such as preparing a packed lunch in the evening for the next workday, can significantly contribute to maintaining a standard in the workplace.

A proper life-work balance empowers us to exercise greater autonomy in our job duties. When combined with a strong work ethic, a good life-work balance enables us to produce high-quality results for management and enhances our membership within the OPCMIA, which is renowned for its quality results in a timely manner. This positive influence can be contagious and should be encouraged.

As OPCMIA members, we should never underestimate our capabilities. We are the OPCMIA, and we must be proud of our achievements.

NPIJATF and Job Corps: A Hard-Fought Victory— and a Call to Action

On January 4, 2026, Congress passed a critical funding bill that ensures continued support for the National Plastering Industry's Joint Apprenticeship Training Fund (NPIJATF) and the Job Corps program through July 1, 2027. This action represents more than a budgetary decision, it is a recognition of the essential role that workforce development, apprenticeship, and skilled trades play in strengthening our economy and sustaining the labor movement.

This victory did not come easily. Over the past several years, Job Corps and affiliated training programs have faced relentless hurdles, including proposed funding cuts, administrative roadblocks, and legal challenges that threatened their very existence. Lawsuits and policy uncertainty created instability for students, instructors, and labor organizations alike. Despite these obstacles, the commitment of labor advocates never wavered. Through organized resistance, public engagement, and persistent advocacy, supporters made clear that dismantling Job Corps would mean abandoning opportunity for thousands of young people seeking a pathway into meaningful, skilled careers.

We extend sincere gratitude to the members of Congress on both sides of the aisle who stood up for Job Corps and the NPIJATF by supporting this funding bill. Their leadership helped protect access to training, preserve union career pathways, and reinforce the value of registered apprenticeships. We



also thank the local OPCMIA unions across the country, whose organizing, outreach, and political engagement were instrumental in keeping this issue front and center. Just as importantly, we recognize NPIJATF Instructors and Coordinators, the concerned citizens, educators, parents, Job Corps students and graduates who raised their voices and shared their stories in defense of these programs.

While this funding victory is significant, the fight is far from over. Continued support for Job Corps and NPIJATF depends on active participation from the labor community. We must fully utilize Job Corps programs and embrace their graduates by bringing them into our apprenticeship systems, mentoring them, and helping them build long-term union careers. These young workers represent the future of our trades and the broader labor movement.

By investing in Job Corps graduates and strengthening partnerships with NPIJATF, labor organizations can grow their ranks, preserve craft excellence, and ensure that union values endure for generations to come. This moment calls not for complacency, but for renewed commitment. Together, we can turn this hard-won funding into lasting progress for workers, unions, and the labor movement as a whole.

In Solidarity,
Jerry

OPCMIA Apprenticeship Competition and Training Initiatives

The OPCMIA apprenticeship competition held January 20–21, 2026 was a tremendous success and a powerful demonstration of the skill, discipline, and craftsmanship that define our organization. A total of 24 apprentices took part in the competition, which included 8 Plasterers and 16 Cement Masons. Throughout the two-day event, each apprentice was challenged to apply the knowledge and techniques they have developed through their training, all while working under competitive conditions that mirrored real-world jobsite expectations. The level of professionalism, attention to detail, and pride shown by every participant was impressive and spoke volumes about the strength of the OPCMIA apprenticeship program. All the apprentices are to be congratulated for a job well done, as they clearly demonstrated why OPCMIA apprentices are recognized as the best in the world at what they do.

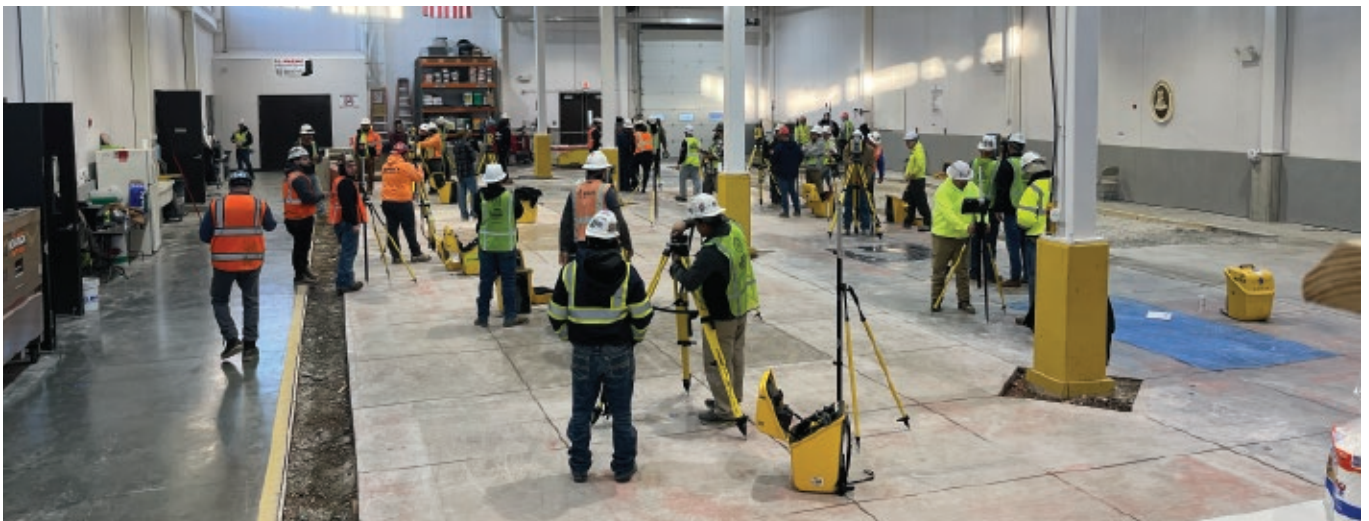
On behalf of the OPCMIA and myself I would like to personally thank those who put countless hours and time in to making the competition a huge



success; Steve Tasco from Local 200, Caleb Matheny from Local 300, Armando Pena Local, Richard Griffith Local, Patrick Garica from Local 500/600, Antonio Acevedo from Local 502, Carlo Perez from Local 577, Freddy Medina Local, Angel Ricon Local, and Tony Vivas from Local 797. Your dedication to the OPCMIA, the competition, and to your apprenticeship shows and is greatly appreciated! I also want to

thank the judges for their time and dedication to the competition. Cement Mason Judges Richard Bailey, Dave Kirkpatrick, Gordan McCleary, and Plastering Judges Dan Stepano, Mike Moylan, and Brett Henry whose comment was “The craft is in good hands with these talented young men.” Thank you all! Without you the competition would not have been the success it was!

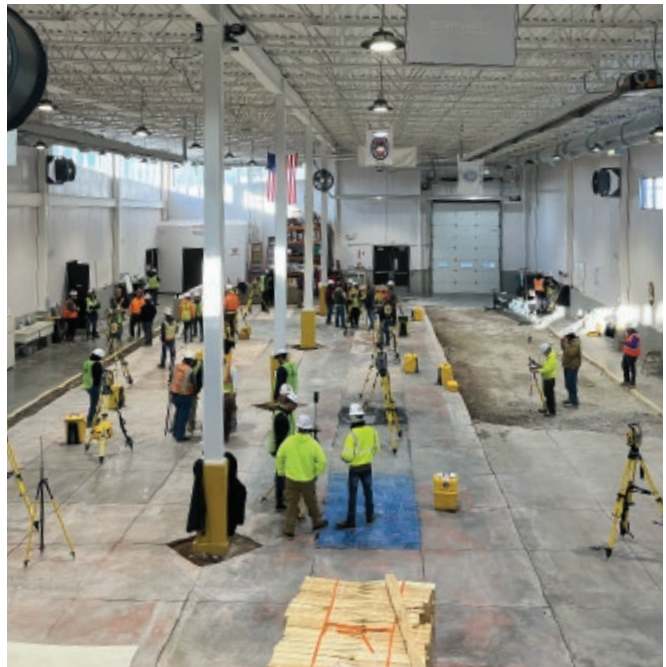
In addition to showcasing apprentice excellence through competition, OPCMIA continues to invest in advanced training opportunities that prepare members for the evolving demands of the industry. Recently, the OPCMIA–ITF instructed a Robotic





Total Station (RTS) course at Local 502, drawing 42 participants eager to expand their technical skill sets. The course provided hands-on instruction in setting up the robotic total station, making connection between the robot, tablet, and prism. Establishing control points and accurately laying out and collecting points. This training emphasized precision, efficiency, and the importance of embracing new technology in the field. By offering cutting-edge courses like RTS instruction, OPCMIA-ITF reinforces its commitment to innovation and ensures that members remain highly skilled, competitive, and ready to meet the needs of modern construction projects.

The National Apprenticeship Week is taking place April 26–May 2, 2026. This nationwide celebration brings together employers, educators, unions, and industry partners to highlight the value of Registered Apprenticeship programs and the strong career pathways they create through classroom instruction and hands-on training. Throughout the week, events across the country will showcase how apprenticeships strengthen our workforce, industries, and economy.



We hope each apprenticeship has the opportunity to participate in National Apprenticeship Week as we recognize the dedication of apprentices, instructors, and mentors who are building the future of our trades.

Looking ahead, the attached OPCMIA-ITF 2026 schedule outlines upcoming training opportunities and continued educational initiatives.

OPCMIA-ITF Training Schedule	
Course	Date
Robotic Total Station 102 (Must have completed 101 to attend)	April 20-26
Instructor Training Program	June 8-12
OSHA 510	August 17-20
OSHA 500	September 14-18
OSHA 502 #1	September 22-24
OSHA 502 #2	September 29 - Oct 1
Coordinators Meeting	TBD

Et Le Gagnant Est???

L'AIOPCA!!!

Le World of Concrete organise chaque année l'un des plus grands salons à

Las Vegas. Des milliers d'exposants cherchent à attirer l'attention de plus de 60 000 visiteurs.

Cela devient un concours pour voir quel exposant peut obtenir la plus grande visibilité et, par conséquent, le plus de visites à son kiosque.

Encore une fois, l'OPCMIA a véritablement représenté ses membres au World of Concrete. Nous avons un kiosque à l'intérieur du centre où les visiteurs pouvaient utiliser du matériel de réalité virtuelle pour vivre le travail d'un plâtrier ou d'un cimentier applicateur. Nous avons aussi un kiosque à l'extérieur du centre où nos Steel Edge Women ont démontré leurs compétences devant de grandes foules. Il y avait d'autres kiosques où nos membres présentaient leur travail: les plâtriers du Local 200 faisaient des sculptures et des tailles en direct, tandis que les maçons en ciment du Local 528 réalisaient de l'impression 3D de béton.

Et, pour couronner le tout, l'OPCMIA a tenu sa première compétition d'apprentissage au World of Concrete depuis plus de vingt (20) ans. Huit (8) apprentis plâtriers et seize (16) apprentis cimentiers applicateurs ont concouru pour gagner le droit de se vanter d'être les meilleurs des meilleurs au sein de notre organisation (voir pages 22-33 pour plus de détails et les gagnants). La compétition a été un énorme succès.

Je tiens à remercier chacun des apprentis pour leur travail acharné et leur professionnalisme. On pouvait voir la fierté que chaque apprenti mettait dans son travail, un sentiment partagé par chacun des coordonnateurs locaux d'apprentissage qui ont soutenu leurs membres dans la compétition.

Je suis également très reconnaissant envers tous ceux qui ont rendu la compétition possible. Le frère Tony Longbrake a assemblé une équipe ayant une seule mission: organiser un événement de classe mondiale devant le plus grand public de nos métiers. Ce n'était pas une tâche facile, mais le frère Longbrake, avec l'aide des Locaux 200, 300, 404, 500, 502, 600 et 797, y est parvenu. Ce faisant, cette équipe a contribué à faire de l'OPCMIA le plus grand gagnant.

Il y a une autre personne qui joue un rôle important au World of Concrete: le vice-président exécutif Todd

Lair. Todd a beaucoup fait pour accroître la visibilité de l'OPCMIA à ce salon. Il a aussi élaboré le calendrier des salons de l'OPCMIA, ainsi que promu le tournoi de golf caritatif au profit du Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund et le tir au fusil pour soutenir la Union Sportsmen Alliance. Son travail a augmenté la visibilité de l'OPCMIA tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur de l'industrie. Et, après une longue carrière de service à notre organisation, Todd a pris sa retraite le 31 janvier 2026. J'espère que vous vous joindrez à moi pour souhaiter à Todd et à son épouse Debby une retraite longue et agréable.

Avec la retraite du frère Lair, j'ai nommé le frère Joel Santos au poste de vice-président exécutif. Le Conseil exécutif général a confirmé ma nomination à l'unanimité. Ils savent, tout comme moi, que Joel travaille sans relâche avec nos vice-présidents, représentants internationaux et représentants de terrain internationaux pour mener des activités d'organisation sans précédent afin de renforcer notre grande Union. L'organisation est extrêmement difficile, mais les succès de Joel et de son équipe ont renforcé la présence de notre organisation à travers les États-Unis.

Et, avec la nomination du frère Santos au poste de vice-président exécutif, il y avait un poste vacant au Conseil exécutif général. J'ai nommé le vice-président Fitzgerald Jacobs pour combler ce poste vacant. Cette vacance, nomination également approuvée à l'unanimité par le Conseil exécutif général. Fitz, comme j'aime l'appeler, sera un excellent ajout à ce corps délibératif.

Enfin, j'ai nommé le gestionnaire d'affaires du Local 518, Kevin Gard, au poste de vice-président des plâtriers, comblant le poste précédemment occupé par notre secrétaire-trésorier général, Chester Murphy. Le Conseil exécutif général a également approuvé cette nomination à l'unanimité. J'ai vu Kevin se

former comme apprenti et évoluer pour devenir un compagnon et un leader au niveau local. J'ai hâte que Kevin Gard intègre le personnel de l'International dans un avenir proche.

On dit que le changement est la seule constante dans la vie, mais je sais que ce n'est pas vrai. Il y a une autre constante: le dévouement que tous les dirigeants de cette grande organisation consacrent à servir les intérêts de tous nos membres. Ce dévouement mènera à d'autres victoires en 2026 et au-delà pour l'AIOPCA.

Continued from page 2

With Brother Lair's retirement, I appointed Brother Joel Santos to serve as the Executive Vice President. The General Executive Board unanimously confirmed my appointment. They know, as do I, that Joel works tirelessly with our Vice Presidents, International Representatives, and International Field Representatives to carry out unprecedented organizing activities to strengthen our great Union. Organizing is extremely difficult, but the successes of Joel and his team have increased our organization's presence across the United States.

And, with Brother Santos' appointment to Executive Vice President, there was a vacancy on the General Executive Board. I have appointed Vice President Fitzgerald Jacobs to fill that vacancy, which was also approved unanimously by the General Executive Board. Fitz, as I like to call him, will be a great addition to this deliberative body.

Finally, I appointed Local 518 Business Manager Kevin Gard to serve as a Plasterers Vice President, filling the position previously held by our General Secretary-Treasurer, Chester Murphy. The General Executive Board also unanimously approved of this appointment. I have watched Kevin train as an apprentice and develop into a journeyman and a leader at the Local level. I look forward to Kevin Gard coming onto the International's staff in the near future.

They say that change is the only constant in life, but I know that is not true. There is another constant: the dedication that all of the officers of this great organization have to serving the interests of all of our members. That dedication will lead to more wins in 2026 and beyond for the OPCMIA.



EDITORIAL - KEVIN SEXTON, PRESIDENTE GENERAL DE OPCMIA

Continuación de la página 3

aprobó por unanimidad este nombramiento. He visto a Kevin entrenar como aprendiz y convertirse en un oficial calificado y un líder a nivel local. Espero con interés que Kevin Gard se incorpore al personal del Internacional en un futuro cercano.

Dicen que el cambio es la única constante en la vida, pero sé que eso no es cierto. Hay otra constante: la dedicación que todos los oficiales de esta gran organización tienen para servir los intereses de todos nuestros miembros. Esa dedicación conducirá a más victorias en 2026 y en adelante para el OPCMIA.



Visit our website
OPCMIA.org

¡Ya nada nos detiene!

Recientemente llevamos a cabo nuestra Competencia Internacional de Aprendices en Las Vegas junto con la energía y emoción del World of Concrete, y decir que fue un éxito sería quedarse muy corto. Desde el momento en que comenzó la competencia, el ambiente era eléctrico. Aprendices, instructores, personal y asistentes compartían un nivel de entusiasmo imposible de ignorar. Durante todo el evento, escuché el mismo sentimiento repetirse una y otra vez: “¿Cuándo es la próxima?” Ese tipo de respuesta dice mucho. Nos indica que lo que estamos construyendo juntos no solo está funcionando, sino que está inspirando.

El equipo responsable de organizar la competencia, atenderla durante todo el evento y desmontarla después merece un reconocimiento enorme. Eventos de esta magnitud no se logran solos. Requieren planeación, coordinación, largas horas y un compromiso con la excelencia que muchas veces pasa desapercibido. Desde la disposición del área de competencia hasta asegurarse de que cada participante tuviera lo necesario para triunfar, este equipo cumplió. Su profesionalismo reflejó lo mejor de nuestra organización y marcó la pauta para todo lo que siguió. Gracias al Director de ITF, Tony Longbrake, y a los diferentes JATC's y Sindicatos Locales por hacer esto posible.

Justo al lado de la Competencia de Aprendices estaba nuestro stand de Steel Edge Women. Cualquiera que haya asistido al World of Concrete y haya visto esta exhibición en persona entiende lo poderosa que es. Para quienes aún no han tenido la oportunidad, realmente se están perdiendo de algo especial. No era simplemente un stand: fue una demostración completa de habilidad, trabajo en equipo y orgullo. Desde el montaje y la colocación de formas hasta el vaciado de concreto, el desmolde y el desmontaje final, cada aspecto fue realizado por las Steel Edge Women de OPCMIA. La confianza, capacidad y energía que llevaron al piso de exhibición fueron incomparables.

Si bien todos reconocemos que la inclusión de mujeres en los oficios es un área donde el crecimiento puede y debe continuar, el hecho de que OPCMIA haya presentado el único stand dedicado específicamente a mujeres en nuestros oficios es prueba de nuestro compromiso. Envié un mensaje claro: aquí hay un lugar para todos los que quieran aprender, trabajar duro y construir algo significativo. El entusiasmo generado en ese stand fue contagioso y dejó una impresión duradera en todos los que pasaron por ahí.

Otra exhibición impresionante que llamó la atención fue un stand dedicado a la tecnología de impresión 3D y el acabado de muros interiores y exteriores. Miembros de los Sindicatos Locales de OPCMIA del Noroeste del Pacífico mostraron con orgullo el proceso, demostrando no solo cómo se imprimen estos muros, sino también la variedad de acabados que se pueden aplicar. Las conversaciones en torno a esa exhibición eran visionarias y llenas de posibilidades. Los asistentes estaban ansiosos por entender cómo la impresión 3D se integra a nuestros oficios y qué significa para el futuro de la construcción. Nuestros miembros respondieron esas preguntas con conocimiento, confianza y un orgullo inconfundible en su experiencia.

Dentro de los salones de exhibición, nuestro stand de realidad virtual ofreció otro ejemplo de cómo nuestra organización está adoptando la innovación. Atendido por varios Representantes Internacionales, el stand ofreció al público la oportunidad de experimentar aspectos de nuestros oficios a través de simulaciones inmersivas en VR. Lo que hizo que esta exhibición fuera particularmente impactante no fue solo la tecnología en sí, sino las conversaciones que la acompañaron. Los representantes usaron la experiencia de VR como un puente para hablar sobre el trabajo real de los Albañiles de Cemento, Yeseros y Ayudantes de Taller, explicando las habilidades requeridas, las trayectorias profesionales disponibles

y el orgullo que implica dominar un oficio. Fue educación, reclutamiento e inspiración, todo en uno.

Mientras recorría el evento, no pude evitar notar la fuerte y visible presencia de OPCMIA en cada rincón. Los 70,000 gafetes entregados a los asistentes mostraban nuestro nombre y logotipo. Grandes pancartas y señalización marcaban las entradas de los salones. Afuera, calcomanías en el suelo dirigían a los visitantes hacia nuestras demostraciones y exhibiciones. Nuestra presencia no era sutil: era audaz, profesional e inconfundible. Esa visibilidad importa. Refuerza quiénes somos y asegura que nuestra organización sea reconocida como líder en la industria.

Cuando regresé a la Sede, llevé conmigo una renovada sensación de energía y optimismo. El talento y conocimiento demostrados por nuestros aprendices fue extraordinario. Verlos competir, resolver problemas y mostrar sus habilidades reforzó mi confianza en que nuestros oficios no solo son fuertes hoy, sino que están evolucionando para el mañana. La próxima generación

está adoptando nuevas tecnologías mientras honra las habilidades fundamentales que definen nuestros oficios. Son innovadores, decididos y ansiosos por superar límites.

Así que, cuando digo que “ya nada nos detiene”, lo digo de corazón. El tren proverbial avanza firme por la vía, ganando impulso con cada meta que alcanzamos. OPCMIA no se queda quieta. Estamos avanzando, adaptándonos y liderando. La pasión que presencié en Las Vegas no fue temporal: fue un vistazo a nuestro futuro. Y si la energía, el orgullo y la determinación que se mostraron en la competencia de este año son un indicio, ese futuro es increíblemente brillante.

Fraternalmente,

Chester F. Murphy

EDITORIAL – CHESTER MURPHY, OPCMIA GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER

Continued from page 4

Inside the exhibition halls, our virtual reality booth provided yet another example of how our organization is embracing innovation. Staffed by several International Representatives, the booth offered members of the public an opportunity to experience aspects of our trades through immersive VR simulations. What made this display particularly impactful was not just the technology itself, but the conversations that accompanied it. Representatives used the VR experience as a bridge to discuss the real-life work of Cement Masons, Plasterers, and Shop Hands — explaining the skills required, the career pathways available, and the pride that comes with mastering a trade. It was education, recruitment, and inspiration all rolled into one.

As I made my way through the event, I could not help but notice the strong and visible presence of OPCMIA everywhere I turned. The 70,000 badges issued to all attendees displayed our name and logo. Large banners and signage marked hall entrances. Outside, decals on the ground directed visitors toward our demonstrations and exhibits. Our presence was not subtle — it was bold, professional, and unmistakable. That visibility matters. It reinforces who we are and ensures that our organization is recognized as a leader within the industry.

When I returned to Headquarters, I carried with me a renewed sense of energy and optimism. The talent and knowledge demonstrated by our apprentices was extraordinary. Watching them compete, problem-solve, and showcase their skills reinforced my confidence that our trades are not only strong today but are evolving for tomorrow. The next generation is embracing new technologies while honoring the foundational skills that define our crafts. They are innovative, determined, and eager to push boundaries.

So, when I say you “can’t stop us now,” I mean it wholeheartedly. The proverbial train is moving steadily down the track, gaining momentum with every milestone we reach. OPCMIA is not standing still. We are advancing, adapting, and leading. The passion I witnessed in Las Vegas was not temporary — it was a glimpse of our future. And if the energy, pride, and determination on display at this year’s competition are any indication, that future is incredibly bright.

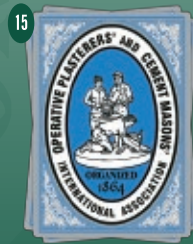
Fraternally,

Chester F. Murphy



OPCMIA

MEMBER MERCHANDISE



- 1. Wind Jacket**
Chambray four-way stretch fabric. Water repellent, wind resistant. 4.2oz, 92/8 poly/spandex.
Full Zip S-4X
1/4 Zip L-2X
- 2. Tiger Stripe Polos**
20oz, 100% dry-wicking poly. High perceived value, great subtle heathered texture, and self-fabric collar.
Black S-4XL
Tall L-2XL
Royal Blue S-4XL
Tall L-2XL
Ladies S-3XL
Charcoal S-4XL

- 3. Aqua Dry Polos**
Moisture wicking, wrinkle resistant aqua-dry pique. 5.4oz, 96/4 poly/spandex.
Outdoor Logo S-4X
Logo L-2X

- 4. HI-VIS Cotton Long-Sleeve T-Shirt**
Zin silver 3M front and back laminate striping. Shoulder-to-shoulder taping, double-needle stitched sleeves and hem. 6.1oz, 100% cotton.
Orange S-4XL
Lime S-4XL

- 5. Pullover**
High-quality heavy weight pre-shrunk fabric. 9.5oz, 80/20 cotton/poly.
Black S-3X
Lime Green S-3X

- 6-11. T-Shirts**
High-quality heavy weight pre-shrunk fabric. Shoulder-to-shoulder taping, double-needle stitched sleeves and hem. 6.1oz, 100% cotton.
6. Safety Green S-4X
7. Steel Edge Women S-3X
8. Crossed Floats OPCMIA Style S-4X
9. OPCMIA Style S-4X
10. Bend Don't Break OPCMIA Style S-4X
11. Distressed Text OPCMIA Style S-4X

- 12. Watch**
Swiss quartz movement with USA made battery. Water resistant to 100ft. Men's 41.00mm

- 13. Black Tumbler**
Food grade 304 - 18/8 stainless steel travel mug covered with water-proof, neoprene/poly wetsuit material. Spill-resistant lid is BPA and phthalate free. Non-skid bottom. 16oz

- 14. Big Daddy Mug**
Clean, cylindrical design glass mug with intricate design molded into heavy base. Comfortable handle. 16oz

- 15. Playing Cards**
Premium casino-grade linen playing cards. Poker Size

- 16. Buck® Bantam™ BHW Lockback Knife**
Lightweight, heavy-duty pocket knife. 5 1/8" thermoplastic handle with finger grooves and clip. 3 5/8" stainless steel blade.

- 17. Black & White Cap**
Unstructured, relaxed, perfect profile cap. Plastic snapback tab closure. 7.5oz poly cotton twill front. Contrasting nylon mesh back.

- 18. Patches**
Full back embroidered patches.
Small 2.7" W x 4" H
Large 7.5" W x 11" H

All items are USA and/or Union Made and decorated. Please see website for pricing and additional information.



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Awards & T-Shirts
Specialists, Inc.
USA UNION MADE APPAREL. EMPLOYING 4 MORE!

Rien ne peut nous arrêter maintenant!

Nous avons récemment tenu notre Compétition internationale des apprentis à Las Vegas, parallèlement à l'effervescence du World of Concrete, et dire que ce fut un succès serait un euphémisme énorme. Dès le début de la compétition, l'atmosphère était électrisante. Apprentis, instructeurs, personnel et visiteurs partageaient un enthousiasme impossible à ignorer. Tout au long de l'événement, j'ai entendu le même sentiment répété maintes et maintes fois — « Quand est la prochaine? » Ce genre de réponse en dit long. Cela nous montre que ce que nous construisons ensemble non seulement fonctionne, mais inspire.

L'équipe responsable de l'installation de la compétition, de son encadrement pendant l'événement et de son démontage mérite une reconnaissance immense. Des événements de cette envergure ne se montent pas tout seuls. Ils exigent planification, coordination, de longues heures et un engagement envers l'excellence qui passe souvent inaperçu. De l'aménagement de l'aire de compétition à la garantie que chaque participant ait ce qu'il lui fallait pour réussir, cette équipe a livré la marchandise. Leur professionnalisme reflétait le meilleur de notre organisation et a donné le ton pour tout ce qui a suivi. Merci au directeur ITF Tony Longbrake, ainsi qu'aux différents JATC et syndicats locaux pour avoir rendu cela possible.

Positionné juste à côté de la compétition des apprentis se trouvait notre kiosque Steel Edge Women. Quiconque a assisté au World of Concrete et vu cette présentation de ses propres yeux comprend à quel point elle est puissante. Pour ceux qui n'ont pas encore eu l'occasion, vous manquez vraiment quelque chose de spécial. Ce n'était pas simplement un kiosque — c'était une démonstration complète de compétence, de travail d'équipe et de fierté. De l'installation et du coffrage au coulage du béton, au décoffrage et au démontage final, chaque aspect a été pris en charge par les Steel Edge Women de l'OPCMIA. La confiance, la capacité et l'énergie qu'elles ont apportées au plancher d'exposition étaient inégalées.

Bien que nous reconnaissons tous que l'inclusion des femmes dans les métiers est un domaine où la croissance peut et doit se poursuivre, le fait que l'OPCMIA ait organisé le seul kiosque dédié spécifiquement aux femmes dans nos métiers témoigne de notre engagement. Cela a envoyé un message clair : il y a une place ici pour quiconque est prêt à apprendre, travailler fort et construire quelque chose de significatif. L'enthousiasme généré à ce kiosque était contagieux et a laissé une impression durable sur tous ceux qui se sont arrêtés.

Une autre présentation impressionnante qui a attiré l'attention était un kiosque dédié à la technologie d'impression 3D et aux finitions des murs intérieurs et extérieurs. Des membres des Locaux de l'OPCMIA du Nord-Ouest Pacifique ont fièrement montré le procédé, démontrant non seulement comment ces murs sont imprimés, mais aussi la variété de finis qui peuvent être appliqués. Les conversations autour de cette présentation étaient tournées vers l'avenir et pleines de possibilités. Les spectateurs étaient désireux de comprendre comment l'impression 3D s'intègre à nos métiers et ce que cela signifie pour l'avenir de la construction. Nos membres ont répondu à ces questions avec savoir-faire, confiance et une fierté évidente de leur expertise.

Dans les halls d'exposition, notre kiosque de réalité virtuelle a offert un autre exemple de la manière dont notre organisation adopte l'innovation. Tenue par plusieurs représentants internationaux, le kiosque offrait au public la possibilité d'expérimenter des aspects de nos métiers par des simulations immersives en RV. Ce qui rendait cette présentation particulièrement marquante n'était pas seulement la technologie elle-même, mais les conversations qui l'accompagnaient. Les représentants utilisaient l'expérience RV comme un pont pour discuter du travail réel des cimentiers, plâtriers et manœuvres — expliquant les compétences requises, les parcours

Suite en page 21

JOEL SANTOS

Executive Vice President

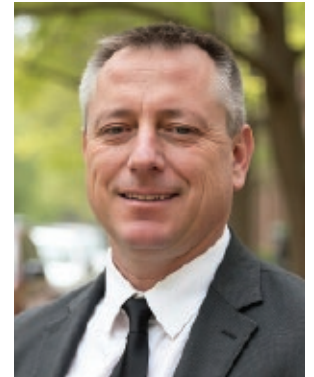
Effective February 2, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Brother Joel Santos to the position of OPCMIA Executive Vice President of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment. Brother Santos held the position of Vice President and Chief of staff of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association from January 29, 2024, until his present appointment.



KEVIN GARD

Appointed OPCMIA Vice President

Effective February 2, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Brother Kevin Gard to the position of OPCMIA Vice President of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment. Brother Gard joined Local 518 as a 4th generation plasterer apprentice in September of 2000. He worked for contractors in Kansas City as a plasterer and on concrete crews until 2016. He was appointed Business Agent for the Plasterers by previous Business Manager, Dave Kirkpatrick. He was elected Business Manager in 2020 and re-elected in 2023. In 2022 General President Daniel Stepano appointed Brother Gard as Deputy International Representative. Brother Gard has served on the Executive Board of Local 518, a trustee of several ERISA funds, Treasurer of The Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council, among several other boards representing workers in Local 518's jurisdiction. He has been married to his wife Tasha for 20 years. They have 2 children Gabrielle (21) and Drake (18).



FITZGERALD E. JACOBS

Appointed General Executive Board Member

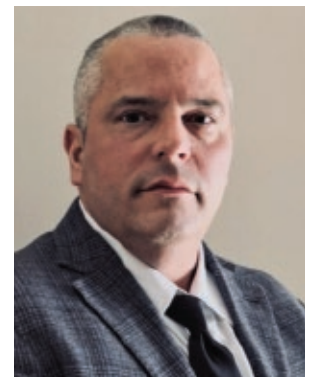
Effective February 2, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Fitzgerald Jacobs to the position of Executive Board Member of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment of Brother Jacobs as an OPCMIA Executive Board member. Brother Jacobs was elected OPCMIA Vice President at the 53rd OPCMIA Convention.



DAVID GENTILE

Appointed OPCMIA International Representative

Effective March 1, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Brother David Gentile to the position of OPCMIA International Representative of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment. Brother Gentile began his career at Local 40 in Providence Rhode Island as a plasterer apprentice in 1997 at the age of 19. He spent the next 20 years



OPCMIA - APPOINTMENTS

working in the field for various signatory contractors, plastering and spray fireproofing. In 2017 he was appointed Business Agent of Local 40 until 2019 when he was elected Business Manager/Financial Secretary. In 2023 he was elected Financial Secretary of the Northeast Conference. Brother Gentile has graciously accepted this appointment and looks forward to continuing to work for the betterment of the organization.

CHARLES "CHUCK" WANAT

Appointed Trustee to the OPCMIA International Training Fund

Effective March 1, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton appointed Brother Chuck Wanat as a Trustee to the OPCMIA International Training Fund. Brother Wanat is a 32-year member of OPCMIA. He began his career as a first-year apprentice with Cement Masons Local 404 Cleveland, Ohio in 1994. He



won the Cement Mason International Apprenticeship Competition at the 1996 World of Concrete. During his career as an apprentice and journeyman he worked in the commercial construction industry throughout Ohio and abroad with Cleveland Cement Contractors. In the early 2000's he was appointed to the position of Organizer with the Local Union and then elected President in 2003, positions he held through mid-2006. He was appointed, then elected as President/Business Agent in 2006 through mid-2014. In July 2014 when he was elected to the position of Business Manager/Financial Secretary. Brother Wanat also serves as the President of the Ohio Conference of Plasterers and Cement Masons, Secretary of the Cement Masons Local 404 JATC, Chairman of the Local 886/404 Pension Fund, OCPCM Health and Welfare Fund, Ohio Profit Sharing Annuity Fund, OCPCM Combined Funds and is also an Executive Board member of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council. Brother Wanat and his wife Stacy have been married for 31 years and have two daughters Taylor (25) and Tori (19) whom they are extremely proud of.

OPCMIA - APPRENTICES

Local 527 – St. Louis Missouri

Congratulations to the 2025-Graduating Apprentices!

(L to R) Business Manager James Renick, Apprenticeship Coordinator Michael Behlmann, Brothers Cameron Steinhoff, Gene Acinelli, Elias Mendoza, Brother Jeffrey Caputa and Financial Secretary Brad Campbell.



Local 300 – Northern, CA



Local 300 Plasterer Apprentices



Local 300 Plasterer Apprentices perform EIFS Brick at the local union office.



Apprentices at LU 300 new facility of Northern California JATC, learning to do set-up



(Front Row L to R) Apprentices instructors Brothers Steven Tumlinson, Jose Raya and Business Agent Walter Orellana

Local 592 – Philadelphia, PA

Local 592 congratulates 2025 apprentice graduating class! Continue to look to the future.



Apprentice graduates: Dalton Dobleman, David Krmpotich, George Gittenger, Jr, Wilson Rosario, Jose Anibal Alicea, Aidan R. Hoffman, Peter Pitzo, Isaiah Smith, Steven Kilian, Jamar Banks. No pictured: Taylor Hession, Su-Layman Elliott, Michael Hutcheon, Roberto Aguilar-Gil. Also pictured are Local 592 administration & instructors: Dennis Fife, President, Neal Kline, V.P., Rob Petracci, Financial Sec., Joe Moskauski, Fund Administrator, Michael Sabatini, Jr, Jim Kilkenny, James Fife, Nick Bair, Frank Belusik, Instructor. Anthony Ditri, Instructor.

ÉDITORIAL – CHESTER MURPHY, SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL TRÉSORIER DE L'OPCMIA

Suite de la page 4

de carrière disponibles et la fierté qui accompagne la maîtrise d'un métier. C'était à la fois de l'éducation, du recrutement et de l'inspiration.

En parcourant l'événement, je n'ai pu m'empêcher de remarquer la présence forte et visible de l'OPCMIA à chaque tournant. Les 70 000 badges délivrés à tous les participants affichaient notre nom et notre logo. De grandes banderoles et de la signalisation marquaient les entrées des halls. Dehors, des autocollants au sol dirigeaient les visiteurs vers nos démonstrations et expositions. Notre présence n'était pas subtile — elle était audacieuse, professionnelle et indéniable. Cette visibilité compte. Elle renforce qui nous sommes et garantit que notre organisation est reconnue comme un leader au sein de l'industrie.

À mon retour au siège, j'ai ramené avec moi un regain d'énergie et d'optimisme. Le talent et les connaissances démontrés par nos apprentis étaient

extraordinaires. Les voir compétitionner, résoudre des problèmes et montrer leurs compétences a renforcé ma confiance que nos métiers ne sont pas seulement solides aujourd'hui, mais qu'ils évoluent pour demain. La prochaine génération adopte de nouvelles technologies tout en honorant les compétences fondamentales qui définissent nos métiers. Ils sont innovateurs, déterminés et désireux de repousser les limites.

Donc, quand je dis que « rien ne peut nous arrêter maintenant », je le pense de tout cœur. Le train proverbial avance régulièrement sur les rails, prenant de l'élan à chaque jalon franchi. L'OPCMIA n'est pas immobile. Nous avançons, nous adaptions et nous dirigeons. La passion que j'ai vue à Las Vegas n'était pas temporaire — c'était un aperçu de notre avenir. Et si l'énergie, la fierté et la détermination affichées lors de la compétition de cette année sont un indicateur, cet avenir s'annonce incroyablement prometteur.



OPCMIA 2026 WORLD OF CONCRETE APPRENTICESHIP COMPETITION



General President, Kevin Sexton addressing the finalist on their hard work and professionalism for a job well done!

(L) Plaster 3rd Place – Adelaido Jimenez of Local 797

(L Ctr) Plaster 2nd Place – George Paz-Mitchell of Local 200

(R Ctr) Cement mason 2nd Place – Edgar Camacho of Local 500

(R End) Cement Mason 3rd Place – Porfirio Alvarez Jr. of Local 502

On January 20-21, 2026, OPCMIA held its first competition in 20 years! Eight plasterers' and sixteen cement masons competed at the World of Concrete. Every trade has that one who says, "I am the best at this, and you know it!"; in this contest it was a showdown! Who was able to brag about being the best??



Congratulations to all the contestants that participated in 2026 World of Concrete Apprenticeship Competition!

THE TROPHY GOES TO?



Plaster Apprentice 1st Place – Ricardo Vidaurri of Local 300



Cement Masons Apprentice 1st Place – Jarrison Morrison of Local 404



OPCMIA 2026 WORLD OF CONCRETE



PLASTERERS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS • PLASTERERS' APPRENTICE



PLASTERERS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS

- Harold Wion LU 132
- George Paz-Mitchell LU 200
- Manuel Chimborazo LU 262
- Ricardo Vidaurri LU 300
- Edgar Esparza LU 502
- Joel Ramos Jr. LU 528
- Makoa Fonoimoana LU 630
- Adelaido Jimenez LU 797

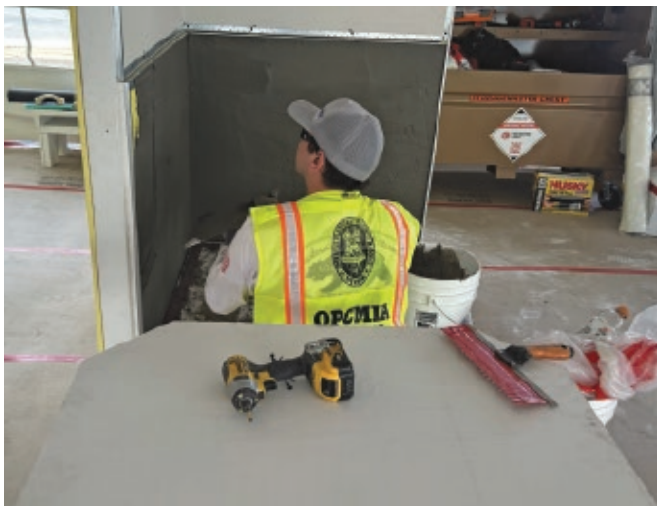




APPRENTICESHIP COMPETITION



TICE PARTICIPANTS ▪ PLASTERERS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS





OPCMIA 2026 WORLD OF CONCRETE



PLASTERERS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS ■ PLASTERERS' APPREN





APPRENTICESHIP COMPETITION



PLASTERERS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS • PLASTERERS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS





OPCMIA 2026 WORLD OF CONCRETE



CEMENT MASONS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS • CEMENT MASONS' APPRENTICE





APPRENTICESHIP COMPETITION



CEMENT MASONS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS

CEMENT MASONS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS

- Zakary Howard LU 132
- Anthony Aldana LU 300
- Jorge Olguin Herrera LU 400
- Jarrison Moore LU 404
- Austin Shepherd LU 404
- Edgar Camacho LU 500
- Porfirio Alvarez Jr. LU 502
- Tyler Gourley LU 528
- Jordan Dowdy LU 534
- Dean Moat LU 599
- Cesar Sanchez LU 600
- Gabriel Daquioag LU 630
- Blake Thompson LU 633
- Nicholas Harney LU 692
- Anthony Herrera LU 797
- Malcolm Boehm LU 919

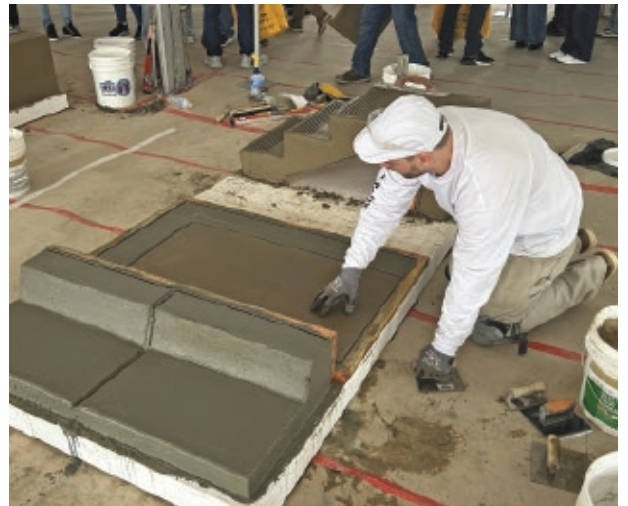




OPCMIA 2026 WORLD OF CONCRETE



CEMENT MASONS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS ■ CEMENT MASONS' APP

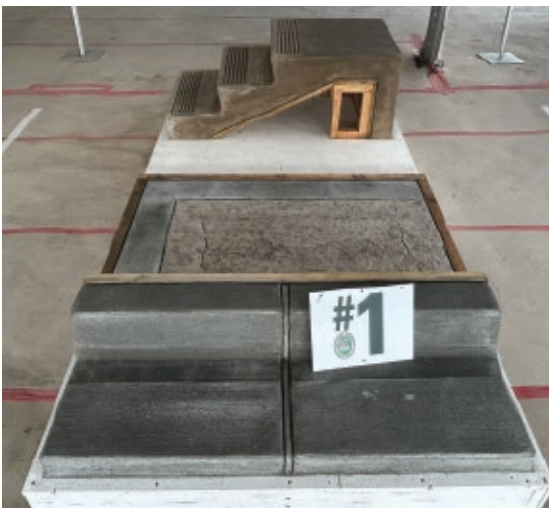
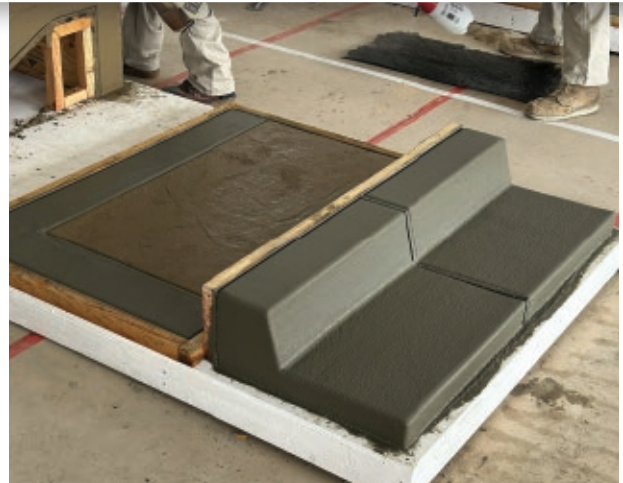




APPRENTICESHIP COMPETITION



APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS ■ CEMENT MASONS' APPRENTICE PARTICIPANTS





WORLD OF CONCRETE- OPC

The Steel Edge Women attended the 2026 World of Concrete. Representing this year was OPCMIA Vice President/General Executive Board Member Alise Martiny, International Field Representative Jasmine Lakich, Business Manager of local 599 Kilah Engelke and Christy Babcock, Northern California Cement Masons Joint Apprentice and Training Committee Director Veronica Godinez, Apprenticeship Coordinator Tina Read and Whitney Chandler of LU 518, Jennifer Tull of LU 90, Nevaeh Del Read of LU 502, Shyanne Cooper of LU 404, Brittani Cain of LU 528, and Anabel Desjardins-Bissonnette of LU 929.

OPCMIA STEEL EDGE WOMEN ▪ OPCMIA STEEL EDGE WOMEN ▪



MIA STEEL EDGE WOMEN



OPCMIA STEEL EDGE WOMEN • OPCMIA STEEL EDGE WOMEN



NORTHEAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northeast District Council swearing in of officers. Congratulations!



(L to R) Brother Michael D'Onofrio being sworn in as NEDC Business Manager by Northeast District Council President Brother Dale Alleyne



NEW YORK CITY GATEWAY PROJECT INTRODUCTIONS
(L to R) Michael D'Onofrio with New York State Governor Kathy Hochul at a rally for the Gateway Project



(L to R) Local 780 Business Agent Pasquale D'Angelo, Local 262 Business Manager and NEDC President Dale Alleyne, Northeast Business Manager Michael D'Onofrio and New York State Governor Kathy Hochul at a rally for the Gateway Project.

LOCAL 9 - BUFFALO, NY

The Buffalo Building Trades hosted their yearly sportsman dinner giving the proceeds to purchase jackets and hats for special needs children. They hosted A fishing trip where many of the children could get out and enjoy nature. OPCMIA Vice President Paul Brown and his niece Paige Colgrove spent the day spreading love.



LOCAL 11 - NORTHERN, IL

New Year, New Facility!



Third Year Apprentices: Agustin Rodriguez, Alberto Herrera, Austin Bentz, Brandon Bohr, Brayan Romero, Collin Talkie, Darius Triplett, David Salas, Edgar Martinez, Edwyn Ochoa, Emiliano Vazquez, Jamie Salas, Jessica Taylor, Joe Reyes, Jonathan Barajas, Jorge Reyes, Max Sheetz, Michael Guzman, Pete Bellino, Troy Moss. **Pictured alongside the apprentices:** Apprentice Coordinator Joe Savoia, Cement Mason Instructor Dave Black, and Bob Eye of Scurto Cement.

NEW YEAR NEW FACILITY

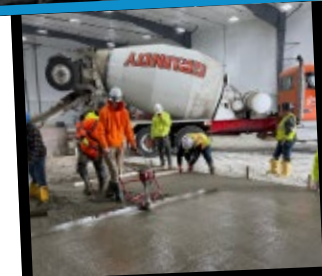
OPCMIA Local 11 is proud to kick off the new year in our new training facility, continuing our commitment to preparing the next generation of skilled cement masons.

This hands-on Laser Screed training provided third-year apprentices with real-world experience and advanced instruction designed to strengthen skills, precision, and craftsmanship on the jobsite.

A sincere thank you to Bob Eye for leading the Laser Screed instruction, and to Scurto Cement for generously providing the Laser Screed equipment that made this training possible.

Thank you to the apprentices for their hard work and dedication to help ensure Local 11 is built for long term success.

Built Union. Built right.
Built for the future.



Check out our website.
www.apprenticeshiplocal11.com



LU 148 – ATLANTA, GA

Celebrating distinctive years of service. Local Union 148 recognizes over 40 years of service. Members receive their certificates and pins.



Congratulations to Brother Jerry C. Payne 40 years of service



Congratulations to Brother Jack Johnson on 60-years of service.



Congratulations to Brother Joseph A. Whitfield on 70-years of service.

LOCAL 200 – SOUTHERN, CA

Congratulations to Bill Rodgers former Business Manager of local 200, former Executive Director of NPIJATF (Job Corps). First winner of the California Statewide Plastering Apprenticeship Competition in 1976!



(L to R) Business Manager Christian Betancourt, 50-year gold card and certificate member Brother Bill Rodgers, OPCMIA Executive Vice President/Director of Organizing Joel Santos, and former OPCMIA Executive Vice President Todd Lair

LOCAL 222 - ALBERTA, CN

Local 222 continues to show value and appreciation for their members by honoring them with their certificates and pins for their dedicated years of service.

Congratulations!

Celebrating 10 years of service not pictured Ahmad Abdi, Herbert Ashley, Andy Banfield, Dawson

Cameron, Patrick Crawford, Jeffery Drake, Derek Ewasiuk, Diriye Issa, Corey Lubig, Marcio Pacheco, and Mathew Vattamala Abraham.



(L to R) Business Manager George Emery, 10-year recipient Brother Marco Daniel Sotelo Lopez



(L to R) Business Agent Stephen Stirrat, 10-year recipient Brother German Escobar



(R) 10-year recipient Brother Josh Shirton



(R) 10-year recipient Brother Justin Kulbaba



(R) 10-year recipient Brother Miguel Angel Vargas Lozano



(R) 10-year recipient Brother Mohamed Grat



(R) 10-year recipient Sister Muriel "MJ" Temraz

Celebrating 15 years of service not pictured Mohammed Ali, Cody Elderkin, Fay Service, and Deborah Wood. Congrats!
 Celebrating 20 years of service not pictured Glenn Boreham, Andrew Buck, Louie Del Ben, Christopher Correia, John Hofer, Jody Jakubowski, Cheryl Leblanc, and Brent O'Bertos.



(R) 20-year recipient Brother Andrew Buck

LOCAL 222 – ALBERTA, CN – Continued



(R) 20-year recipient Brother Barry Ranville Celebrating 25 years of service not pictured Recep Inekci, and Brian Jones



(R) 25-year recipient Brother Doug Brady



(R) 25-year recipient Brother Eric Nicholas Celebrating 35 years not pictured Brother Tom Lemky

LOCAL 300 – NORTHERN, CA

Local 300 celebrates their distinctive members for their dedicated years of service and recognizes the exceptional skills of their members.



Retired Business Agent, Gary Clark, celebrates 50 years of service. (L to R) Celebrating with him is retired Cement Mason Director Mark Gonzalez, Senior Business Agent Greg Levy, retired Business Agent, recipient of 50-year gold card and certificate Gary Clark, OPCMIA Vice President Emilio Aldana, and Business Agent, Mark Johnson.



Retired member Randy Hill presented with his 40 year and 50-year certificates. (L to R) OPCMIA GST Chester F. Murphy, OPCMIA Vice President Emilio Aldana, 40 and 50-year recipient Brother Randy Hill, Business Agent Israel Vargas and retired ITF Coordinator Tim Nelson.



(L to R) Apprentice Anthony Aldana, OPCMIA Vice President and Former Business Manager 25-year recipient Emilio Aldana, Business Manager Marshall Vasquez.

LOCAL 300 - NORTHERN, CA – Continued



(L) Business Manager Marshall Vasquez receives his 40-year certificate and pin



Skilled in their craft local members perform concrete polishing at the local office.



LOCAL 300 – NORTHERN, CA – *Continued*



(L to R) Senior Business Agent Greg Levy with German Orozco Sr. and German Orozco Jr.



(L to R) Business Agents Walter Orellana and Israel Vargas attend a Job Corps job fair in San Francisco

LOCAL 400 – NORTHERN, CA

On Thursday, October 9th, 2025, members gathered at the Sacramento Main office, for their Union meeting to celebrate and honor the dedication and service of active members and retirees. The evening was marked by heartfelt recognition of the incredible contributions made by our brothers and sisters. We are proud of our members who stood alongside Business Manager Cody Bik, President Jose Jimenez, and Vice President Jorge Romero, as they joined us in paying tribute to the strength, solidarity, and hard work that define our Union.



Guadalupe Pantoja – 25-years



James Moe – 25-years

LOCAL 400 - NORTHERN, CA - *Continued*



Jose Navarro - 25-years



Lloyd Stanley - 25 years



Jose V. Jimenez 25-years



Tomas Santana - 25-years



Trinidad Ramirez - 25-years

LOCAL 500 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

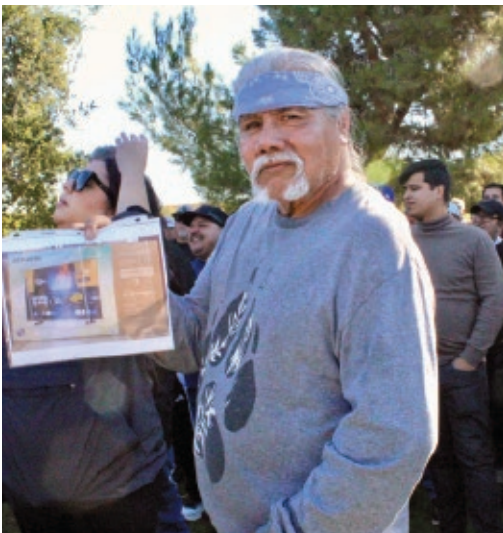
2025 Christmas Celebration was held on December 6th!



Local 500 Union officers



A good time and good food were had by all!



LOCAL 500 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA – *Continued*



Prizes were plentiful! (L to R) Business Agent Leo Reyes with Brother Julio Ceja Grand prize 85" TV



(L to R) Business Manager Jack Alvarado with Brother Javier Almanza



(L to R) Son Brother Sylvester Vangyi and Father Brother Seng Vangyi enjoyed the festivities. Sylvester was a TV winner for the 2nd year in a row and this year he was kind enough to give the TV to his father who is a 45-year member!



Business Manager Jack Alvarado, President Frank Crouch, Vice President Erick Valencia and Brother Jerry Samaniego with the Redlands Fire Department. Cement Masons Local 500 donated over 100 toys to the Redlands Fire Departments Spark of Love toy giveaway.



Local 500 donated funds that made it possible for the Pediatric Oncology nursing staff of Loma Linda University medical Center to provide Christmas gifts to the patients and their families.



LOCAL 518 - KANSAS CITY, MO

On September 27, 2025, local 518 held its annual picnic. Members were honored for their dedication, service and contributions they have made to the local.



(L to R) 25-year membership award OPCMIA Vice President/Local Business Manager Kevin Gard, Brother Juan Garcia, and Brother Stanley Werts. Not pictured Jerry Heflin, Copi Hill, George Ikerd, Joseph James, Leslie Lakey, Bruce Neer, Cosme Rodriguez, Andrew Sanchez, and Melvin Whifers



(L) 25-year membership award Richard Krefft



(L) 30-year membership award Sister Tina Read. Not pictured Brothers Weston Ash, Melvin Brisbin, Michael Cammack, Mike Ford, Marlon Jackson, William Lohmeyer, Heath Nolan, Ronnie Penner, Ronald Perkins, and Clint Sims



(L to R) 40-year membership award Brothers John Layton, Anthony Mihalevich, Phil Mount, Timothy Prentiss, and Sister Suzanne Breuer. Not pictured OPCMIA General President Kevin Sexton, Brothers Gregory Anderson, Calvin Barrett, Kevin Barrett, Merle Heath, Steve Jennings, Dennis Kelley, Kenneth Miller, Rick Nolan, Gregory Overfield.



(L) 40-year membership award Brother Anthony Pollard



(L) 40-year membership award Brother Timothy Robins



(L) 60-year membership awarded to Brother Jerry Heenan, and 50-year membership award not pictured Brother Danny Shuler

LOCAL 527 - ST. LOUIS, MO

Local 527 honors their dedicated members for 25 to 70 years of service. Congratulations!



(L to R) Business Manager James Renick, 25-year recipient Brother Gabe Fuller and Financial Secretary Brad Campbell.



(2nd L to R) 30-year award recipients Brothers Steve House, Mark Gutermuth, Brian Keith Richey and Steve Sutherland



(2n L to R) 40-year award recipients Brothers Richard Toeniskoetter, Michael Schumer and Charles Wilson



(C) 50-year award recipient Brother David Menke



(2nd L to R) 60-year award recipients Brothers Tommie Pummill, Thomas Ostermeyer, James Rohr and Harold Regot



(C) 70-year award recipient John Grewe

LOCAL 528 – SEATTLE, WA

Building the Future Together – Local 528 & Local 300 Lead the Way in 3D Concrete Printing

OPCMIA is proud to celebrate the collaboration between Local 528 and Local 300 as they join forces to claim new scopes of work in the rapidly evolving tech side of construction. Recently, some of the Local 300 plasterer apprenticeship team traveled to Local 528's training center for hands-on 3D Concrete Printing (3DCP) training—an exciting step toward shaping the future of additive construction.

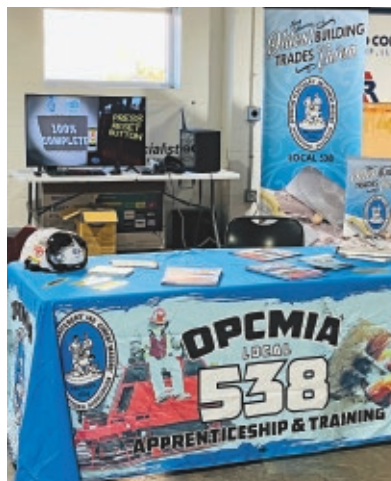
The strength of our apprenticeship programs is the foundation for innovation, and this partnership demonstrates how we're building that future together. By embracing cutting-edge technology while upholding the highest standards of our craft, these locals are ensuring OPCMIA remains at the forefront of modern construction.

A special thank you to Local 300 apprenticeship instructors Caleb and James for their leadership and commitment to adapting, learning, and guiding their trade into new frontiers.



LOCAL 538 – NEBRASKA

Iowa Building trades Union Skilled Trades Expo October 2025, in Des Moines Iowa. Many attended and were able to use the interactive kits. In attendance Vice President Alise Martiny.



LOCAL 538 – NEBRASKA – *Continued*



(L to R) Business Agent Francisco Alcantara represented local 538 at the 2025 Ben Nelson Gala in Omaha Nebraska where is met Former President Joe Biden.



IN MEMORY OF: ERNEST C. PETRY
With Heavy Hearts Local 538 Cement Masons and Plasterers mourns the loss of Ernest C. Petry who passed away October 15, 2025. Ernest had 41 years of service with Local 538 Omaha Nebraska, he will be missed.

LOCAL 592 – PHILADELPHIA, PA

Brother Joseph Dolente 40-year dedicated member of local 592 receives his distinctive card and certificate. Congratulations!



(L to R) Neal Kline Vice President, Brother Joseph Dolente recipient, Rob Petracci Financial Secretary, and Dennis Fife Business Manager

LOCAL 599 – STATE OF WISCONSIN

Local 599 Area 845 celebrated 25-year membership of Sister Connie Kobiella's dedicated service!



(L to R) Brother Tom Reiherzer, Sister Connie Kobiella 25-year recipient and Business Agent Felix Ramirez

LOCAL 780 - NEW YORK

Local 780 swearing in of New Business Manager. Congratulations!



(L To R) Brother Michael D'Onofrio being sworn in as Local 780 Business Manager/Financial Secretary by Local 780 President Timothy Porter.



Local 780 Brothers Antonio Mancini and John Glickman being sworn in as Examining Board members by Local 780 President Brother Timothy Porter in September 2025



Local 780 Brother Conor Porter being sworn in as an Examining Board member and Brother John Glickman being sworn in as Local 780 Trustee by Local 780 President Brother Timothy Porter in January 2026.

LOCAL 797 - LAS VEGAS, NV

Local 797 a "Royal Flush" Sponsor for the WWCCA 2nd Annual Las Vegas Classic Golf Tournament. Four members represented the local in the tournament.



(L to R) Participating in the tournament were Brothers Torin Rogers, Doug Rogers, Chris Barreras, and David Turner Jr.

LOCAL 797 – LAS VEGAS, NV – *Continued*



It is always a great time! Local 797 held their annual picnic. GREAT FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!



HONORING 50-YEAR MEMBER (L to R)
*Brother Tim Morton, 50-year recipient,
and Business Manager, Marc Leavit*



HONORING 40-YEAR MEMBER
*(L) Brother Dave Turner,
40-year recipient*



HONORING 30-YEAR MEMBER
(C) Brother Albert Lemonds, 30-year recipient



The trustees of local 797 attended the 2025 IFEBP Annual Conference. Thank you for all you do!

PHOTO CONTEST



Post to your page and tag the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons International Association with your best jobsite photos and videos to compete for your chance to win one of five \$50.00 gift cards from the OPCMIA Webstore. Winners will be picked at the end of each month.

GOOD LUCK!

SCAN THIS
CODE TO OPEN
OPCMIA PAGE



IN MEMORIAM

The Officers and members of the OPCMIA extend their sincere condolences to the families of the dearly departed brothers and/or sisters.

SHANNON FOLEY

NOVEMBER 11, 1974 – DECEMBER 18, 2025

Brother Foley became a member of Local 90 on December 11, 1997, and completed his apprenticeship and attained journeyman status in 2000. A proud third generation member (shared by two brothers) of Local 90, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, father, with two sons now members. Prior to being elected Business Manager in May 2014 and serving as Financial Secretary-Treasurer to the Illinois State Conference Shannon held the position of OPCMIA Sergeant-at-Arms from 2002 – 2008, and Local 90's Vice President from 2008 – 2014. He was Appointed OPCMIA Deputy International Representative January 2, 2025, by General President Kevin D. Sexton.



June 01, 2025, THROUGH September 30, 2025

PHILIPS S. ARMENTA

Local #400, San Jose, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Philips S. Armenta who passed away June 16, 2025. Brother Armenta was 62 years old and a member of the International since September December 11, 1959 – 66 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.

FRED K. VIDALES

Local #400, Vallejo, CA

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the officers and members of Local Union 400 report the death of Brother Fred K. Vidales who passed away July 14, 2025. Brother Vidales was 65 years old and a member of the International since September 10, 1987 – 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.

LOC CITY, STATE NAME

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN SEPTEMBER 2025

400	Sacramento, CA	Armenta, Phillip S
502	Chicago, IL	Barucca, Albert A.
926	Charleston WV	Casto, William B
528	Seattle, WA	Jacobson, Donald O
633	Minneapolis, MN	Kittel, Arlen J
526	Pittsburgh, PA	Ingagliato, Guy J
502	Chicago, IL	Lundsberg, Gary A
003	St Louis, MO	Muyleart, Lew A
518	Kansas City, MO	O'Neal, Douglas
500	Corona, CA	Perez, Joseph M
300	Oakland, CA	Sanchez, Severino G
502	Chicago, IL	Sheehan, Patrick J.
780	New York, NY	Vallari, William R
400	Sacramento, CA	Vidales, Fred K
538	Omaha, NE	Vidmar, Leonard L

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN OCTOBER 2025

502	Chicago, IL	Abrams, Clyde D.
630	Honolulu, HI	Akamine, Samuel C
400	Sacramento, CA	Avelar, Salvador A
527	St. Louis, MO	Davis, Jody L
886	Toledo, OH	Downard, Lisa L
082	Portland, OR	Evans, Edward L
400	Sacramento, CA	Flores, Raul
400	Sacramento, CA	Horner, Carl E

LOC CITY, STATE NAME

400	Sacramento, CA	Horsley, Edward
090	East St. Louis, IL	James, Aaron Steven
527	St. Louis, MO	Karius, Timothy P
400	Sacramento, CA	Lawrence, Ernest H
502	Chicago, IL	Marino, Gerard E
528	Seattle WA	McReynolds, Raymond
592	Philadelphia PA	Moran, Joseph
600	Los Angeles CA	Mutlak, Wadud H.
919	Vancouver BC CN	Pinto, Martin D
200	Los Angeles, CA	Reyes, Rodolfo B
200	Los Angeles, CA	Rittner, Stefan
400	Sacramento, CA	Stansbery, Francis W
926	Charleston WV	Stover, Linden R
400	Sacramento, CA	Yruegas, Alvaro F

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN NOVEMBER 2025

692	Indianapolis, IN	Catlin, Daniel R
502	Chicago IL	Gerhartz, Peter
404	Cleveland, OH	Howell, Jerry
780	New York, NY	Kelly, Michael V.



LOC CITY, STATE NAME

783	Austin TX	Luna, Felix D.
502	Chicago IL	Moore, Eddy R.
780	New York, NY	Muscarello, Armando
919	Vancouver BC CN	Pletka, Frank
029	Jersey City, NJ	Potoczniak, Raymond M
592	Philadelphia PA	Rutledge, Isaac
600	Los Angeles CA	Sanchez, Edwin A
111	Erie & Niag Co NY	Strzemeski, Stanley
111	Erie & Niag Co NY	Vitiello, Michael J.
502	Chicago IL	Wiesbrook, Ronald E
502	Chicago IL	Wilson, Donald
090	East St. Louis, IL	Wodochek, Jr., Robert J
527	St. Louis, MO	Wolf, Herbert A

DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN DECEMBER 2025

527	St. Louis MO	Barrett, James R
502	Chicago IL	Carter, Gary M
502	Chicago IL	Casalina, Dominic A
502	Chicago IL	Crimaldi, Guy L.
780	New York, NY	Dossantos, Manuel
500	Corona, CA	Huffman, Mark D
502	Chicago IL	Lagerholm, Timothy R
200	Los Angeles, CA	McCabe, Robert J
300	Oakland, CA	Moschini, Remo
538	Omaha, NE	Petry, Ernest C
528	Seattle WA	Wallace, Warren W

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