

# OPCMA



## PLASTERER AND CEMENT MASON

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

**Our Members Are  
Building the Future**



# Unity Is Strength

**A**s OPCMIA members, we understand the importance of quality. From the materials we place and finish to the training we receive to remain at the top of our craft and perform our work safely, quality is at the core of everything we do. We build quality into every project we undertake.

With that in mind, we all carry smartphones. When it is SAFE to do so, pull out your phone, snap a photo of the quality work you are performing, and tag our Facebook page, *Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association*. Let's flood social media with examples of OPCMIA craftsmanship and quality on display.

This June marked our Ninth Annual Rob Mason Golf Classic, benefiting the Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all the organizations and individuals who donated in support of our effort to provide scholarships to the dependents of our members.

On that note, if your dependent has been a recipient of a Patrick D. Finley Scholarship, we encourage you to post a photo on our Facebook page. We would love to celebrate their accomplishments.

This year, we raised the largest amount in the history of the event. As a result, we were able to award scholarships to the next three applicants on the list, bringing the total number of scholarships awarded this year to an even twelve. Since the scholarship program's founding, 120 scholarships have been awarded. What a fitting tribute to the legacy of Patrick D. Finley.

Recently, I received a text message from Retiree Bill Rogers, who wanted to share a documentary he was watching on Disney+. The documentary focuses on the construction of the original Disney theme park

and highlights OPCMIA members from Southern California who created many of the original themed plaster features. If you have Disney+, I encourage you to look it up and watch it. I know I will be.

Unity is strength, and we must remain united in today's environment. I generally avoid discussing politics because I believe everyone has the right to hold their own views. What matters most to me is how policies impact working families and the livelihoods of our members.

The continued attacks on workers' rights to join and belong to a union are harmful to working people and their families. The difference between union wages and benefits and those earned by nonunion workers performing the same work is significant. Employers often spend thousands of dollars fighting organizing efforts, resources that could instead be invested in better wages, benefits, training, and opportunities for workers. I believe every person deserves the opportunity to earn a livable wage and provide for their family with dignity.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as General President and Organizer of this great organization. It is an honor and privilege to represent the members of the OPCMIA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Sexton".

# La unión hace la fuerza

Como miembros de la OPCMIA, entendemos la importancia de la calidad. Desde los materiales que colocamos y terminamos hasta la capacitación que recibimos para mantenernos en la cima de nuestro oficio y realizar nuestro trabajo de manera segura, la calidad está en el centro de todo lo que hacemos. Construimos calidad en cada proyecto que emprendemos.

Con eso en mente, todos llevamos teléfonos inteligentes. Cuando sea SEGURO hacerlo, saca tu teléfono, toma una foto del trabajo de calidad que estás realizando y etiqueta nuestra página de Facebook, Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association. Inundemos las redes sociales con ejemplos de la destreza y calidad de la OPCMIA en exhibición.

Ayer se celebró nuestro Noveno Torneo Anual de Golf Rob Mason, en beneficio del Fondo de Becas Patrick D. Finley. Gracias a todas las organizaciones e individuos que donaron para apoyar nuestro esfuerzo de proporcionar becas a los dependientes de nuestros miembros.

En ese sentido, si tu dependiente ha sido beneficiario de una Beca Patrick D. Finley, te animamos a publicar una foto en nuestra página de Facebook. Nos encantaría celebrar sus logros.

Este año, recaudamos la mayor cantidad en la historia del evento. Como resultado, pudimos otorgar becas a los siguientes tres solicitantes en la lista, llevando el total de becas otorgadas este año a doce. Desde la fundación del programa de becas, se han otorgado 120 becas. Qué merecido tributo al legado de Patrick D. Finley.

Recientemente, recibí un mensaje de texto del jubilado Bill Rogers, quien quería compartir un documental que estaba viendo en Disney+. El documental se centra en la construcción del parque temático original de Disney y destaca a miembros de la OPCMIA del sur de California que crearon muchas de las características originales de yeso temático. Si tienes Disney+, te animo a buscarlo y verlo. Yo sé que lo haré.

La unidad es fortaleza, y debemos permanecer unidos en el entorno actual. Generalmente evito hablar de política porque creo que todos tienen derecho a tener sus propios puntos de vista. Lo que más me importa es cómo las políticas afectan a las familias trabajadoras y los medios de vida de nuestros miembros.

Los continuos ataques a los derechos de los trabajadores para unirse y pertenecer a un sindicato son perjudiciales para los trabajadores y sus familias. La diferencia entre los salarios y beneficios sindicales y los que reciben los trabajadores no sindicalizados realizando el mismo trabajo es significativa. Los empleadores a menudo gastan miles de dólares luchando contra los esfuerzos de organización, recursos que podrían invertirse en mejores salarios, beneficios, capacitación y oportunidades para los trabajadores. Creo que toda persona merece la oportunidad de ganar un salario digno y proveer a su familia con dignidad.

Gracias por la oportunidad de servir como Presidente General y Organizador de esta gran organización. Es un honor y un privilegio representar a los miembros de la OPCMIA.



# Together We Grow!

This statement seems self-explanatory. But what does it really mean? For the OPCMIA it means that we need to enlist the assistance of all 45,000 members for our organization to grow. You may be saying to yourself, we have local union officers who are responsible for organizing and recruiting new members at the local level. You may also be thinking the International has full time staff whose job duties include not only oversight of our local unions but assisting in organizing campaigns across the United States and Canada. While these local and International staff do a great job day in and day out organizing and working to expand our Membership across the United States and Canada, they cannot come close to the impact we could have if every one of our 45,000 members were out there spreading the word of the benefits of being in a Union.

I recently attended the AFL-CIO convention and there were multiple speakers discussing the importance of ensuring your entire membership is engaged for your Union to grow. One speaker made a statement that resonated with me, “members should not see their union dues as putting money in a candy vending machine and receiving instant gratification from the deposit,” “members should look at union membership as they would a gym membership. We pay a monthly amount just to be affiliated with the gym facility, but if we want to get a benefit from the membership we must put in the hard work to see results.” This statement could not be truer. If only a part of our organization is working towards increasing our membership the results will be a fraction of what

they would be if our entire membership were working toward expanding our union.

You may ask yourself, “how does increasing membership help my personal situation?” A valid question. An increase in membership at a local level, along with an increase in signatory contractors at a local level means we have more market share in our respective industry locally. How does that help you individually? More market share means there are less unrepresented workers performing our work. If there are less unrepresented workers performing our work, we are then in a much stronger bargaining position which means our signatory contractors have less nonunion employers to compete with. The larger the market share the more leverage we have to secure higher wages, better benefits, and stronger working conditions for our members. I am reminded of the saying “many hands make light work.” 45,000 members spreading the word and organizing will expand our membership and gain us the leverage we want much sooner than the fraction of those members employed by our local unions and our International performing those tasks.

TOGETHER WE GROW! TOGETHER WE WIN!

Fraternally,

Chester F. Murphy

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## ON THE COVER

*Local's 538 and 797 work  
on groundbreaking projects  
defining our future.*

# The Next Frontier Data Centers and Industrial Organizing Opportunities

Building upon the foundation we have established through organizing, training, and expanding market opportunities, the OPCMIA now finds itself positioned at the forefront of one of the fastest-growing sectors in construction: data centers and large-scale industrial development. Across North America, billions of dollars are being invested into projects tied to cloud computing, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, energy infrastructure, semiconductor facilities, and logistics expansion. These projects are creating tremendous opportunities for our Union and our signatory contractors.

For the OPCMIA, these projects represent far more than temporary job opportunities. They present a strategic pathway for long-term growth and organizing leverage in markets where union density has traditionally been low. Many of these facilities are being constructed in regions where our Union either previously had limited market share or where nonunion contractors have historically dominated the industry. Yet, despite those challenges, our affiliates continue to prove that when we combine strong relationships, skilled members, and coordinated organizing strategies, we can successfully compete and grow.

Data centers require extensive concrete work, site preparation, floor flatness expertise, fireproofing, and specialty finishes — all areas where OPCMIA members excel. These projects are often built on accelerated schedules with demanding performance standards, making highly trained union craftspeople essential to project success. Owners and developers increasingly recognize the value of a trained, productive, and reliable workforce, particularly when delays can cost millions of dollars.

As these opportunities continue to expand, we must also examine how large-scale industrial projects



create organizing leverage beyond the individual project itself. Every major project brings together thousands of workers, multiple contractors, and entire supply chains. That environment creates opportunities to engage unrepresented workers, introduce them to the benefits of union membership, and demonstrate the professionalism and skill that define the OPCMIA.

The true opportunity lies in using these projects to build lasting market presence, strengthen local unions, expand apprenticeship programs, and create pathways for future organizing campaigns. Large-scale industrial development provides a unique opportunity to establish relationships with contractors, owners, and workers that can extend well beyond a single project and create sustained growth for our Union.

This is why organizing cannot operate independently from market recovery, political action, contractor development, or training. Each of these efforts must work together in coordination. When we secure work opportunities for signatory contractors, we create opportunities for membership growth. When we grow membership, we strengthen our bargaining power and increase our ability to pursue future projects. And when we invest in training and apprenticeship, we ensure that owners continue to seek OPCMIA labor for the most demanding industrial work in the country.

Most importantly, these successes continue to demonstrate the value of teamwork throughout our Union. International representatives, district councils, local unions, organizers, contractors, and members all play a role in expanding our footprint. The opportunities before us are significant, but so is the responsibility to seize them. If we remain united, strategic, and committed to organizing at every level, the OPCMIA will continue to grow stronger in both traditional markets and emerging industries for generations to come.

# La Próxima Frontera: Centros de Datos y Oportunidades de Organización Industrial

**B**asándose en la base que hemos establecido mediante la organización, la capacitación y la expansión de oportunidades de mercado, la OPCMIA se encuentra ahora posicionada a la vanguardia de uno de los sectores de más rápido crecimiento en la construcción: los centros de datos y el desarrollo industrial a gran escala. En toda América del Norte, se están invirtiendo miles de millones de dólares en proyectos relacionados con la computación en la nube, la inteligencia artificial, la manufactura avanzada, la infraestructura energética, las instalaciones de semiconductores y la expansión logística. Estos proyectos están creando enormes oportunidades para nuestro Sindicato y nuestros contratistas signatarios.

Para la OPCMIA, estos proyectos representan mucho más que oportunidades temporales de empleo. Presentan una vía estratégica para el crecimiento a largo plazo y una ventaja organizativa en mercados donde la densidad sindical ha sido tradicionalmente baja. Muchas de estas instalaciones se están construyendo en regiones donde nuestro Sindicato anteriormente tenía una participación limitada en el mercado o donde los contratistas no sindicalizados han dominado históricamente la industria. Sin embargo, a pesar de esos desafíos, nuestras filiales continúan demostrando que, cuando combinamos relaciones sólidas, miembros altamente capacitados y estrategias de organización coordinadas, podemos competir y crecer con éxito.

Los centros de datos, en particular, requieren un amplio trabajo de concreto, preparación del terreno, experiencia en nivelación y planitud de pisos, protección ignífuga y acabados especializados, todas áreas en las que los miembros de la OPCMIA sobresalen. Estos proyectos suelen construirse bajo cronogramas acelerados y estrictos estándares de desempeño, lo que hace que los trabajadores sindicalizados altamente capacitados sean esenciales para el éxito del proyecto. Los propietarios y desarrolladores reconocen cada vez más el valor de una fuerza laboral capacitada, productiva y confiable, especialmente cuando los retrasos pueden costar millones de dólares.

A medida que estas oportunidades continúan expandiéndose, también debemos examinar cómo los proyectos industriales a gran escala generan oportunidades

de organizar más allá del proyecto individual. Cada proyecto importante reúne a miles de trabajadores, múltiples contratistas y cadenas completas de suministro. Ese entorno crea oportunidades para involucrar a trabajadores no representados, presentarles los beneficios de la afiliación sindical y demostrar el profesionalismo y la habilidad que distinguen a la OPCMIA.

La verdadera oportunidad radica en utilizar estos proyectos para construir una presencia duradera en el mercado, fortalecer los sindicatos locales, ampliar los programas de aprendizaje y crear caminos para futuras campañas para organizar. El desarrollo industrial a gran escala ofrece una oportunidad única para establecer relaciones con contratistas, propietarios y trabajadores que pueden extenderse mucho más allá de un solo proyecto y generar un crecimiento sostenido para nuestro Sindicato.

Por esta razón, la organización no puede operar de manera independiente de la recuperación del mercado, la acción política, el desarrollo de contratistas o la capacitación. Cada uno de estos esfuerzos debe funcionar de manera coordinada. Cuando aseguramos oportunidades de trabajo para los contratistas signatarios, creamos oportunidades para el crecimiento de la membresía. Cuando aumentamos la membresía, fortalecemos nuestro poder de negociación y aumentamos nuestra capacidad para perseguir proyectos futuros. Y cuando invertimos en capacitación y aprendizaje, garantizamos que los propietarios continúen buscando mano de obra de la OPCMIA para los trabajos industriales más exigentes del país.

Lo más importante es que estos éxitos continúan demostrando el valor del trabajo en equipo en todo nuestro Sindicato. Representantes internacionales, consejos distritales, sindicatos locales, organizadores, contratistas y miembros desempeñan un papel en la expansión de nuestra presencia. Las oportunidades frente a nosotros son significativas, pero también lo es la responsabilidad de aprovecharlas. Si permanecemos unidos, estratégicos y comprometidos con la organización en todos los niveles, la OPCMIA continuará fortaleciéndose tanto en los mercados tradicionales como en las industrias emergentes durante las generaciones venideras.

# COMET

COMET stands for “Construction Organizing Membership Education Training.” It was developed back in the 1990s to educate union members about the importance of organizing. Over the course of three or four hours, members learn about the history of the labor movement, as well as their own union.

They also learn about the factors that affect a union’s market share and, by extension, its strength at the bargaining table. The interactive training also has members discussing the arguments for and against organizing, with special emphasis on how to address and overcome the opposition that some members may have to bringing in new members or signatory contractors.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers originally developed the COMET program. However, over time, other building trades unions – including unions who represent asbestos workers, carpenters, painters, plumbers, pipefitters, roofers, and sheet metal workers – developed and implemented their own COMET programs. The training has become so successful that it even got the attention of the largest association of non-union construction employers: the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). The ABC responded with their own “Coping with COMET” manual for their employer-members. The prospect of an intensified interest in union organizing, as embodied in the COMET program, was enough to put the ABC on the defensive.

General President Kevin Sexton felt strongly that the OPCMIA should have its own COMET training program. O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue LLP developed that program, which consists of a training manual, along with a series of charts and handouts. The new COMET program debuted earlier this year at the Organizers’ Conference and the East-West Business Managers Conference, both of which were held in Huntington Beach, California. The OPCMIA’s COMET



program follows much of the same framework as the programs utilized by other unions, especially when it comes to the general history of the labor movement and general principles regarding how unions build strength through growing their market share.

However, the OPCMIA’s program differs in two important ways from the programs developed and used by other unions. First, the overall

instruction is tailored to the trades of the OPCMIA, namely, the plasterer, cement mason, and shop hand trades. Second, and more importantly, the OPCMIA’s program educates participants on what OPCMIA members can do to help grow and strengthen their local unions and International Association through organizing. This additional instruction recognizes that it is not enough to convince members of the importance of organizing, we must encourage them to take part in our organizing efforts. No other COMET talks about involving members in organizing the unorganized.

Having successfully completed the training, all of the participants at the Organizing Conference and the East-West Business Managers Conference have gained the experience necessary to conduct a COMET training at their district councils and local unions. COMET is just a cornerstone of creating a stronger organizing culture within the OPCMIA. All of the training materials are available online and upon request from the International Association. Please contact the Executive Vice President and Director of Organizing, Joel Santos, for more information.

# Tradeswomen Come Together

**T**he Steel Edge Women are out there doing what they do best— getting it done. With packed schedules and no time to slow down, they continue to lead from the front and raise the bar every step of the way.

At World of Concrete 2026, we once again brought together an incredible group of Sisters from across the U.S. and Canada—many meeting and working side by side for the very first time—and together, they made one thing crystal clear: Steel Edge Women are second to none.

The overwhelming response and nominations from every corner of the country made selecting the team both exciting and incredibly difficult—a true testament to the talent, skill, and pride within our ranks. Now, we are carrying that momentum straight into World of Concrete 2027, and we can't wait to see the next team come together as we continue building something bigger, stronger, and better every year.

If you've never attended one of these shows, now is the time. Come experience the energy, the pride, and the power of this organization firsthand. You'll leave inspired, proud, and more excited than ever about where we're headed. We can't wait to see you there!

We're not stopping there—next up is another record-breaking moment: Tradeswomen Building the Nation in Houston October 2026. If you've never been, this is your sign to go. It's the kind of event you don't just attend—you feel it. The energy, the Union solidarity, the Sisterhood, and the pride in our trades all come together in one unforgettable experience that leaves you fired up, inspired, and ready to bring that momentum home. This conference is about lifting each other up, sharing knowledge, building confidence, and showing exactly what happens when strong women in the trades come together. And let's be honest—we're all



working toward the day when being a woman in the trades isn't seen as "non-traditional" at all, but simply as normal, respected, and equal. By the time you read this, registration will already be underway—but there's still a good chance you can make it happen. If you're a Steel Edge Woman and you know this is something you need to experience for yourself, reach out to Kilah ([kilah@opcmia599.com](mailto:kilah@opcmia599.com)) or Alise ([amartiny@opcmia.org](mailto:amartiny@opcmia.org)) for help navigating the process and getting pointed in the right direction.

A handful of Steel Edge Women will once again head to the conference on an OPCMIA scholarship, awarded to several lucky winners who earned entries by showing up and getting involved in our regular quarterly virtual caucuses. And that's what makes this so special—these opportunities grow when our sisters stay connected. On the fourth Saturdays in January, April, July, and October, women from across the country hop on Zoom to talk about the things that make them proud, the things that challenge them, and the ways they can advocate for themselves and each other. It's real conversation, real support, and real power. It's a chance to meet other women in the trades, trade advice, share wins, work through challenges, and be part of a community that wants to see you succeed. The energy is strong, the support is real, and the door is always open. We would love to meet you! These meetings are linked directly on the [OPCMIA.org](https://www.opcmia.org) homepage through the Steel Edge Women banner, and everyone is welcome.

# Midterm elections: Time to vote your pocketbook. It Matters

Come this November 3rd will have been 2 years since our last federal election. Mid-term elections are elections that are held in the middle of a presidential term. Thus, midterm elections are usually described as a referendum on the job the President has done the previous 2 years.

All 435 house members are up for election and 33 (one third of the one hundred U.S. Senator's) are up this year also. Although Republicans control both the U.S. House and Senate, their lead is separated by only a handful of votes in both houses. Therefore, every house election and every Senate race is of vital importance in terms of what party will control the agenda of not only what bills will go to the floor of that body, but also who will control committee agendas. This is the meat and potatoes of National politics. Which party is in control.

There are dozens of issues that organized labor, and more specifically our own OPCMIA that we track, and work to improve for our members each year. Here are the three key issues that we work to improve and strengthen every year. While there are many more issues your union works on daily, these three are an annual fight in most cases.

## Project labor agreement, (PLA's)

PLA's are a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establish the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project. PLA's are highly effective in keeping our members working and providing us with good wages, health care, and pensions.

## Federal Davis Bacon Law

This law sets a wage floor for federal construction projects that prevent government spending from



undermining local wages and living standards. Twenty-eight states also have "Little Davis Bacon" laws, or state prevailing wage laws that apply to state funded construction projects.

## State Right to work laws.

The right to work law, commonly called by some as the Right "to not" work law. It means in effect that employees are entitled to work in unionized workplaces without

actually joining a union or paying union dues. Right to work laws limit the power of labor unions. The law makes "Closed Shops" illegal, by which union membership is a condition of being hired as well as continued employment. In the past year we have seen a Federal Right to work law submitted by Rep. Burlison, R Mo. and Senator Lee, R Ut Which would effectively wipe out those states that do not have the anti-union right to work statutes.

Both President Obama and President Biden supported your union on these issues by each signing executive orders in support of PLA's, Davis Bacon, and against right to work laws.

If there ever was truth to the old adage "Vote with your pocketbook," the time is now. Vote for those people that support our issues listed above. Call their campaign offices and ask them where they stand on these issues. Tell them about your position on these issues and that you will be watching how they vote.

AND THEN, VOTE YOUR POCKETBOOK. IT MATTERS

# L'union fait la force

**E**n tant que membres de l'OPCMIA, nous comprenons l'importance de la qualité. Que ce soit dans les matériaux que nous posons et finissons ou dans la formation que nous recevons pour rester au sommet de notre métier et travailler en toute sécurité, la qualité est au cœur de tout ce que nous faisons. Nous intégrons la qualité dans chaque projet que nous entreprenons.

Dans cet esprit, nous avons tous un téléphone intelligent. Lorsque c'est SÉCURITAIRE de le faire, sortez votre téléphone, prenez une photo du travail de qualité que vous réalisez et identifiez notre page Facebook, Association internationale des plâtriers et cimentiers. Inondons les médias sociaux d'exemples du savoir-faire et de la qualité de l'OPCMIA.

Hier a eu lieu notre neuvième Classique annuelle de golf Rob Mason, au profit du Fonds de bourses Patrick D. Finley. Merci à toutes les organisations et à tous les individus qui ont fait un don pour soutenir notre effort visant à offrir des bourses aux personnes à charge de nos membres.

À ce sujet, si votre personne à charge a reçu une bourse Patrick D. Finley, nous vous encourageons à publier une photo sur notre page Facebook. Nous serions ravis de célébrer leurs réalisations.

Cette année, nous avons amassé la plus grande somme de l'histoire de l'événement. Par conséquent, nous avons pu attribuer des bourses aux trois prochains candidats sur la liste, portant le nombre total de bourses décernées cette année à douze. Depuis la création du programme de bourses, 120 bourses ont été attribuées. Quel bel hommage à l'héritage de Patrick D. Finley.

Récemment, j'ai reçu un message texte du retraité Bill Rogers, qui voulait partager un documentaire qu'il regardait sur Disney+. Le documentaire porte sur la construction du parc thématique original de Disney et met en lumière des membres de l'OPCMIA du sud de la Californie qui ont créé bon nombre des éléments décoratifs en plâtre originaux. Si vous avez Disney+, je vous encourage à le chercher et à le regarder. Je sais que je le ferai.

L'unité fait la force, et nous devons rester unis dans le contexte actuel. J'évite généralement de parler de politique, car je crois que chacun a le droit à ses propres opinions. Ce qui compte le plus pour moi, c'est la façon dont les politiques affectent les familles de travailleurs et les moyens de subsistance de nos membres.

Les attaques continues contre le droit des travailleurs de se joindre à un syndicat et d'en faire partie nuisent aux travailleurs et à leurs familles. La différence entre les salaires et avantages syndicaux et ceux des travailleurs non syndiqués effectuant le même travail est significative. Les employeurs dépensent souvent des milliers de dollars pour lutter contre les efforts d'organisation, des ressources qui pourraient plutôt être investies dans de meilleurs salaires, avantages, formations et opportunités pour les travailleurs. Je crois que chaque personne mérite la possibilité de gagner un salaire décent et de subvenir aux besoins de sa famille avec dignité.

Merci de m'offrir l'opportunité de servir comme président général et organisateur de cette grande organisation. C'est un honneur et un privilège de représenter les membres de l'OPCMIA.



Visit our website  
**OPCMIA.org**

# ¡Juntos Crecemos!

Esta frase parece explicarse por sí sola. Pero, ¿qué significa realmente? Para la OPCMIA significa que necesitamos contar con la ayuda de todos los 45,000 miembros para que nuestra organización crezca. Puede que te digas a ti mismo, tenemos oficiales sindicales locales que son responsables de organizar y reclutar nuevos miembros a nivel local. También puedes pensar que el Internacional tiene personal de tiempo completo cuyas funciones incluyen no solo la supervisión de nuestros sindicatos locales, sino también ayudar en campañas de organización en Estados Unidos y Canadá. Aunque estos empleados locales e internacionales hacen un gran trabajo día tras día organizando y trabajando para expandir nuestra Membresía en Estados Unidos y Canadá, no pueden acercarse al impacto que podríamos tener si cada uno de nuestros 45,000 miembros estuviera allá afuera difundiendo los beneficios de pertenecer a un sindicato.

Recientemente asistí a la convención de la AFL-CIO y hubo varios oradores que hablaron sobre la importancia de asegurar que toda tu membresía esté involucrada para que tu sindicato crezca. Un orador hizo una declaración que me llamó mucho la atención: “los miembros no deberían ver sus cuotas sindicales como poner dinero en una máquina expendedora de dulces y recibir gratificación instantánea por el depósito”, “los miembros deberían ver la afiliación sindical como ven una membresía de gimnasio. Pagamos una cantidad mensual solo por estar afiliados al gimnasio, pero si queremos obtener un beneficio de la membresía, debemos esforzarnos mucho para ver resultados.” Esta declaración no podría ser más cierta. Si solo una parte de nuestra organización trabaja para

aumentar nuestra membresía, los resultados serán solo una fracción de lo que serían si toda nuestra membresía trabajara para expandir nuestro sindicato.

Quizá te preguntes, “¿cómo ayuda el aumento de membresía a mi situación personal?” Es una pregunta válida. Un aumento de membresía a nivel local, junto con un aumento de contratistas firmantes a nivel local, significa que tenemos más participación de mercado en nuestra industria respectiva localmente. ¿Cómo te ayuda eso individualmente? Más participación de mercado significa que hay menos trabajadores no representados realizando nuestro trabajo. Si hay menos trabajadores no representados realizando nuestro trabajo, entonces estamos en una posición de negociación mucho más fuerte, lo que significa que nuestros contratistas firmantes tienen menos empleadores no sindicalizados con quienes competir. Cuanto mayor sea la participación de mercado, más influencia tenemos para asegurar mejores salarios, mejores beneficios y condiciones laborales más sólidas para nuestros miembros. Me viene a la mente el dicho “muchas manos hacen el trabajo más ligero.” 45,000 miembros difundiendo el mensaje y organizando expandirán nuestra membresía y nos darán la influencia que queremos mucho antes que la fracción de esos miembros empleados por nuestros sindicatos locales y nuestro Internacional realizando esas tareas.

¡JUNTOS CRECEMOS! ¡JUNTOS GANAMOS!

En solidaridad,

Chester F. Murphy

# Ensemble, Nous Grandissons !

Cette déclaration semble aller de soi. Mais qu'est-ce qu'elle signifie réellement ? Pour l'OPCMIA, cela veut dire que nous devons solliciter l'aide de nos 45 000 membres afin que notre organisation puisse croître. Vous vous dites peut-être que nous avons des dirigeants syndicaux locaux qui sont responsables de l'organisation et du recrutement de nouveaux membres au niveau local. Vous pensez peut-être aussi que l'International dispose de personnel à temps plein dont les tâches incluent non seulement la supervision de nos syndicats locaux, mais aussi l'aide aux campagnes d'organisation partout aux États-Unis et au Canada. Bien que ces employés locaux et internationaux fassent un excellent travail jour après jour pour organiser et travailler à l'expansion de notre effectif aux États-Unis et au Canada, ils ne peuvent pas avoir l'impact que nous pourrions avoir si chacun de nos 45 000 membres faisait connaître les avantages d'être syndiqué.

J'ai récemment assisté au congrès de l'AFL-CIO où plusieurs intervenants ont discuté de l'importance d'engager tous les membres pour permettre à votre syndicat de grandir. Un intervenant a fait une déclaration qui m'a marqué : « Les membres ne devraient pas voir leurs cotisations syndicales comme de l'argent mis dans un distributeur de bonbons pour en retirer une gratification instantanée », « les membres devraient considérer l'adhésion syndicale comme ils le feraient pour un abonnement à un gym. Nous payons un montant mensuel simplement pour être affiliés à la salle, mais si nous voulons profiter de l'adhésion, nous devons travailler fort pour obtenir des résultats. » Cette déclaration n'a jamais été aussi vraie. Si seulement une partie de notre organisation travaille à augmenter notre effectif, les résultats seront

une fraction de ce qu'ils pourraient être si tous nos membres travaillaient à élargir notre syndicat.

Vous vous demandez peut-être : « Comment l'augmentation du nombre de membres améliore-t-elle ma situation personnelle ? » Une question pertinente. Une augmentation du nombre de membres au niveau local, accompagnée d'une augmentation du nombre d'entrepreneurs signataires au niveau local, signifie que nous avons une plus grande part de marché dans notre industrie locale. Comment cela vous aide-t-il individuellement ? Une plus grande part de marché signifie qu'il y a moins de travailleurs non représentés qui effectuent notre travail. S'il y a moins de travailleurs non syndiqués qui font notre travail, nous sommes alors en position de négociation beaucoup plus forte, ce qui veut dire que nos entrepreneurs signataires ont moins d'employeurs non syndiqués avec qui rivaliser. Plus la part de marché est grande, plus nous avons de pouvoir pour obtenir des salaires plus élevés, de meilleurs avantages et de meilleures conditions de travail pour nos membres. Cela me rappelle le dicton : « Plusieurs mains rendent le travail léger. » 45 000 membres qui font connaître le syndicat et organisent permettront d'élargir notre effectif et d'obtenir le pouvoir que nous voulons beaucoup plus rapidement que la fraction de membres employés par nos syndicats locaux et notre International qui accomplissent ces tâches.

ENSEMBLE, NOUS GRANDISSONS ! ENSEMBLE, NOUS GAGNONS !

En solidarité,

Chester F. Murphy

## CHRISTIAN BETANCOURT

Appointed Trustee to the OPCMIA International Training Fund

Effective March 1, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton appointed Brother Christian Betancourt as a Trustee to the OPCMIA International Training Fund. Brother Betancourt is a proud second-generation Plasterer. Christian graduated from the apprentice program in 2004. During his Twenty-eight years of membership Christian was appointed to Local 200's Executive Board in 2012, appointed to the Southern California Plastering Institute Trust Fund in 2015, appointed Plasterers' Business Agent for Local 200 in 2016 and was elected to the position of Local 200 Business Manager/Financial Secretary in 2024. One of Christians proudest moments and still stands to date is at 25 years of age working for a Signatory Contractor and being known as a "Drag-man" by his local union brothers. Christian stated along with his beautiful wife Jessica of 29-years they raised three children sons Christian, Daniel and daughter Julian. They have been able to enjoy plenty of camping trips all over the western states of America.



## DENNIS FIFE

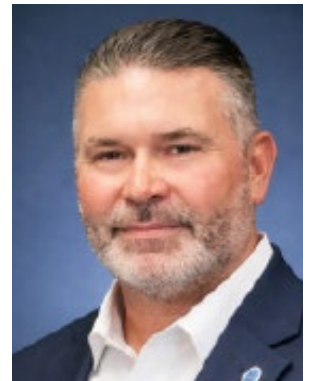
Appointed Deputy International Representative

Effective April 9, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Dennis Fife to the position of Deputy International Representative of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment. Brother Fife became a member of Local 592 in August 1996. He completed his apprenticeship program in 1999.

Throughout his career he led many projects as a foreman, earning the respect of his fellow members through his leadership and dedication to the trade. In January 2014, Brother Fife was appointed to Local 592's Executive Board, serving six years. In 2020, he was appointed Vice President and Business Agent for the local as well as Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic District Council of Plasterers' and Cement Masons. In

June of 2025 Brother Fife was appointed and serves as Business Manager and President of both organizations. Brother Fife also serves as a Trustee on the Pension and Health & Welfare Funds for both Local 592 and Local 891.

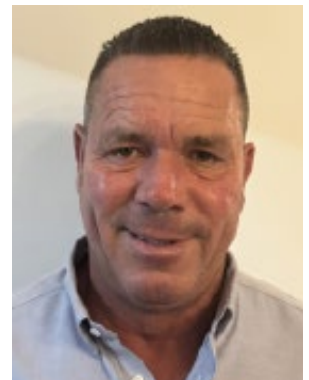
Brother Fife has exemplified the values of solidarity, leadership, and service. Above all he is a devoted and proud family man. Dennis and Nicole have been married for 25 years and have four children Ava, Dennis, CJ, and Anabel.



## JAMES RENICK

Appointed Deputy International Representative

Effective April 9, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of James "Jim" Renick to the position of Deputy International Representative of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment. Brother Renick joined local 527 November 1994 as a journeyman. He has held multiple positions, International Organizer from 2005 – 2011, Local 527 Organizer 2012 – 2014, local Business Agent 2015 – 2023 and his current position as Business Manager from 2024. Brother Renick looks forward to serving in this appointed position.



## JEREMY BOCK

Appointed Deputy International Representative

Effective April 9, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Jeremy Bock to the position of Deputy International Representative of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board unanimously approved the appointment. Brother Bock became a member of Local 3 in April 2004 as an apprentice and graduated in April 2007. Throughout his career as both an apprentice and

journeyman, he worked for Woemmel Plastering. Brother Bock served on the Local's Executive Board from 2013 to 2019 and was elected Vice President in 2019. In 2021, he was appointed Business Manager and was subsequently elected in 2022.

Brother Bock is especially thankful to all the members of the OPCMIA, and Local 3 in St. Louis, MO, for their continued support and trust.



### KILAH ENGELKE

#### Appointed Deputy International Representative

Effective April 9, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Kilah Engelke to the position of Deputy International Representative of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive board



unanimously approved the appointment. Sister Engelke began her career in February 2002 and completed her apprenticeship in 2005. Currently in her 27<sup>th</sup> year in the trades she has held multiple roles; Training Director 2011 - 2018, Business Agent and Recording Secretary 2018 – 2023 and currently serving as OPCMIA Local 599 Wisconsin as an Agent representing the Milwaukee Area and the Statewide Local's Business Manager. She is a founding member and President of empowHER, a non-profit affinity group for women in the construction industry. Kilah has held the position of Financial Secretary for the Milwaukee Building Trades, Chairwoman of the OPCMIA Women's Committee for the Steel Edge Women, and the OPCMIA representative for the NABTU Tradeswomen Committee. The role she is most proud of is being mommy to her little girl Marleigh, six, and her little guy Ryder, three.

### MICHAEL D'ONOFRIO

#### Appointed Deputy International Representative

Effective April 9, 2026, General President Kevin D. Sexton announced the appointment of Michael D'Onofrio to the position of Deputy International Representative of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. The OPCMIA General Executive Board



unanimously approved the appointment. Brother D'Onofrio began his career in 2006 as a Laborer with Local 79, pushing a broom and working with a shovel. He made the decision early on that he wanted more; wanted a trade, a skill, and a future built on craftsmanship and pride. That decision led him to join Local 780, where he became a Cement Mason and built his career through hard work, discipline, and commitment to this union.

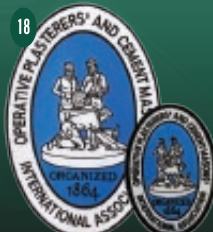
Brother D'Onofrio has served in many roles; 2018 appointed to examining board, 2019 Apprenticeship Coordinator/Training Director, and elected to examining board, 2020 – 2024 became Executive Assistant to the NEDC Business Manager/Financial Secretary, and appointed NEDC Trustee, 2022 and 2025 elected Union Trustee and January 15, 2026 he was elected Business Manager/Financial Secretary of OPCMIA Local 780 and The Northeast District Council.

Brother D'Onofrio stated, "I have a lot of years left, and I am all in for this trade, for this union, and every single member, and to leave this organization stronger than found. This is not just a position it is a commitment and I will give it everything I have!"



# 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  
2in 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.



[promoplace.com/opcmia](http://promoplace.com/opcmia)

POWERED BY  
**Awards  
& T-Shirts**  
Specialists, Inc.  
USA UNION MADE APPAREL, ENGRAVING & MORE

### NICOLA DEMONTE

Appointed to the Finishing Committee with the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC)

Nick Demonte has recently been appointed to the Finishing Committee with the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC), further strengthening OPCMIA's presence and voice within the concrete industry. This appointment reflects an ongoing commitment to advancing finishing practices, workforce development, and high-quality training standards.

In addition to this new role, Nick currently serves on ASCC's Education & Training Committee and Sustainability Committee, contributing to initiatives that support contractor education and forward-thinking industry practices. Nick is involved with the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA), contributing to committees focused on Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP) and Fall Protection, further



supporting safety and best practices across the industry.

Nick is actively involved with several American Concrete Institute (ACI) committees, including:

- 302-00 Construction of Concrete Floors
- 310-00 Decorative Concrete (Joint ACI-ASCC)
- 310-0J Polished Finishes
- 390-00 Polished Concrete
- E703-00 Concrete Construction Practices

Through this involvement, OPCMIA-ITF continues to play a key role in shaping industry standards, best practices, and training that directly impact the quality and durability of concrete construction across the country.

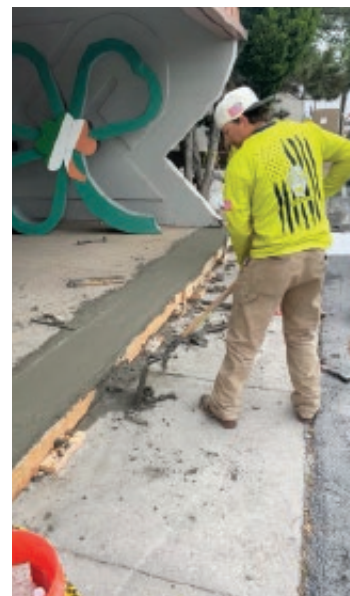
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## OPCMIA – APPRENTICES

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# Local 577 – Colorado

1st year apprentices on a small project at Local 9 SMART. The process included cutting some concrete and demo it along with tie rebar, forming and finally pouring exposed aggregate.



# 9TH ANNUAL ROB MASON C BENEFITING THE PATRICK D.

The 9th Annual Rob Mason Classic Golf Tournament benefiting The Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at the Turf Valley Golf Resort. General President Kevin Sexton reminded the guests in attendance that the dream of former General President Patrick D. Finley to support union member families in helping their children continue their education has been realized. From the first scholarship in 2010 to date the foundation has awarded 120 scholarships. It is an honor and privilege to continue supporting the generations of young adults that will make a difference!



# CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

## FINLEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND





# 9TH ANNUAL ROB MASON C

## BENEFITING THE PATRICK D.



# CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

## FINLEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND





# 9TH ANNUAL ROB MASON C

## BENEFITING THE PATRICK D.

### From Dream To Reality

The Rob Mason Classic Golf Tournament has been supporting union members families in helping provide educational opportunities since 2010. Here are two collages of past winners and their union member parents.



# CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

## FINLEY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS





# CONGRATULATIONS TO PATRICK D. FINLEY S

On behalf of the Officers and members of the OPCMIA, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes in pursuing your dreams. **FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!**  
Each of the twelve recipients were awarded \$5,000.00 to further their educational goals.

## **OPCMIA Scholarship Winner SAUL ARELLANO JR.**

**Pictured with his father, Saul Arellano of Local 502**

**Saul will be attending Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH**

My name is Saul, and I am the proud son of Saul Arellano, who has been a member of Cement Masons Local 502 for over 23 years.

This fall I will be in my sophomore year at Case Western Reserve University, where I am majoring in Biology. I hope to one day work in medicine or the biotechnology field, utilizing science to further human health. Outside of school, I was involved in my high school's National Honors Society, French Honors Society, and school band, and I continue to learn French and pursue my musical growth in college.

I would like to thank the OPCMIA for choosing me to receive this scholarship and for all the opportunities OPCMIA has provided for me and my family.



## **OPCMIA Scholarship Winner**

**EVIE R. BALDWIN**

**Pictured with her father,**

**Abel Baldwin of Local 518**

**Evie will be attending University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO**

Hello I'm Evie Baldwin! I will be attending The University of Central Missouri where I will obtain my Bachelor of Science in Psychology. I hope to become a therapist and own my own office where I will offer alternative options to therapy other than just sitting and talking.

My dad is Abel Baldwin. He has been a member of the local 518 for 25 years. So, for my entire life I have seen the impact the union has had on people's lives. I am fully aware that if it was not for the hard work my dad put into his line of work, I would not have the opportunities I have or been able to do the things that I have done. I will forever be grateful for the union.

# 2026 WINNERS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner ZOE A. BURNS**  
**Pictured with her father and mother Charlie and Valerie Burns of Local 528**  
**Zoe will be attending University of Washington Seattle, WA**

Hello! My name is Zoe, and I am a student at the University of Washington, where I am studying Early Childhood and Family Studies. My dream is to become a 2nd-grade elementary school teacher, and one day, I hope to add "children's book author and illustrator" to my title as well.

I've lived in Washington my whole life, and I've seen firsthand how the work of unions, like the one my parents have been a part of for many years, shapes strong, supportive communities. Those values of fairness, collaboration, and care are what drive me to pursue a career in education, where I can help create safe, inspiring spaces for young learners to grow and thrive.



**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner MICHAEL E. CARROLL**  
**Pictured with his father Michael Carroll Jr. of Local 755**  
**Michael will be attending California State University of Northridge**

Hi everyone, my name is Michael Carroll III and the proud son of Michael Carroll Jr. My father joined local 755 just three days after I was born and has been a member for over 23 years. He is not the only family member to be part of local 755. I come from generations of local 755 craftsmen, including my grandfather and my great-uncle who have worked and dedicated many years to this craft, and shaping our family's lives.

This fall is my senior year at California State University of Northridge where I will be completing a bachelor's in public health. I will also be continuing my education in pursuit of a bachelor's in radiologic sciences. In addition, I have also been working two part-time jobs, and volunteering at two hospitals. My hospital volunteer work has solidified my passion in the healthcare field, where I hope to make an impact. I want to become a radiology technician because I want to play a meaningful role in helping patients through the process of diagnosing and understanding their health issues. I am interested in combining patient care with medical imaging to help provide answers that guide treatment and improve outcomes for people.

I would like to thank OPCMIA, and everyone involved with this honor for contributing to my education and for all the opportunities OPCMIA and local 755 have afforded me and generations of my family. I am profoundly grateful and proud for this opportunity and to be chosen as the recipient of the Patrick D. Finley Scholarship.





# CONGRATULATIONS TO PATRICK D. FINLEY S

On behalf of the Officers and members of the OPCMIA, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes in pursuing your dreams. **FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!**  
Each of the twelve recipients were awarded \$5,000.00 to further their educational goals.

**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner ZULEMA ESPARZA**  
**Pictured with her father Sergio Esparza of Local 300**  
**Zulema will be attending California State University, Stanislaus**

My name is Zulema Esparza, and I am very grateful to be a recipient of the OPCMIA "Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund." I am the daughter of Sergio Esparza, a dedicated and hardworking member of Local Union 300 in Oakland, California, for 24 years.

From an early age, my parents instilled in me the importance of education and the endless opportunities it offers. In 2023, I graduated from Golden Valley High School as salutatorian, with a 4.28 cumulative GPA and was a proud member of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and the Women's Empowerment Club. It was my parents' unwavering support and love that enabled me to persevere in all my current and future academic endeavors.

This upcoming academic year at California State University, Stanislaus, will be my last. I currently maintain a 4.00 cumulative GPA and intend to be a first-generation graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing.

I am grateful to OPCMIA for selecting me as a recipient. Gracias a mi familia por sus sacrificios y su apoyo. Todo lo que he logrado es reflejo de sus esfuerzos y siempre deseo ser un orgullo para ustedes.



**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner ASHLYNE GORDON**  
**Pictured with her father, Chad J. Gordon of Local 633**  
**Ashlyne will be attending University of Wisconsin, River Falls, WI**

Hi! My name is Ashlyne Gordon, and I am graduating from St. Croix Central High School in Hammond, Wisconsin. One of my greatest passions is dance, which I have been involved in for the past 16 years. I also work at a childcare center, an experience that has helped inspire and prepare me for my future career path.

My dad has proudly been a member of Local Union 633 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the past 10 years. This fall, I will be attending the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, where I plan to major in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged me throughout my journey and helped shape me into the person I am today. I am especially grateful to the OPCMIA Patrick D. Finley Scholarship for their generosity and support in helping me pursue my dream of becoming a kindergarten teacher.

Thank you!

# 2026 WINNERS OF THE CHOLARSHIP AWARD



**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner GABY CORDON-LOPEZ**  
**Pictured with her father, Selvin Cordon of Local 534**  
**Gaby will be attending University of Massachusetts**  
**Dartmouth, Dartmouth, MA**

My name is Gaby Cordon-Lopez, and I am currently a senior in high school at GLCPS with a strong passion for helping others through healthcare. I am so grateful for the opportunity I have received. It is an honor to receive a scholarship from Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund. I am fully committed to attending University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where I plan to study nursing. My goal is to complete four years of study and earn my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), which will prepare me for a career dedicated to caring for and supporting people in need.

Hard work and dedication are values that have always been important in my family. Both my father and my brother work Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons, and my father has proudly been working there since 2018. Their commitment and strong work ethic have inspired me to stay focused on my own goals.

I hope to use my education and future career as a nurse to make a positive difference in the lives of many people by providing compassionate care and support to those who need it most.



**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner BROOKLYNN J. PORTER**  
**Pictured with his father, Stephan Porter of Local 300**  
**Brooklynn will be attending San Jose State University,**  
**San Jose, CA**

Brooklynn Porter is an undergraduate at San Jose State University and is majoring in psychology. Brooklynn received an associate's degree in psychology from Yuba Community College. Outside of academics, he works as both a paraeducator at the local elementary schools and as a respite care worker. Brooklynn has a long history of working with people with disabilities due to previous employment as a behavior technician for an Applied Behavior Analysis clinic. Brooklynn is also working on ASL fluency to aid children and to build community. Brooklynn aims to continue to work with youth with disabilities by furthering his education. For now, he occupies his time with activism, art, and community. After graduation, he plans on going back to school for a master's degree. Brooklynn aspires to be a school Occupational Therapist or a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst for youth with his own practice.





# CONGRATULATIONS TO PATRICK D. FINLEY S

On behalf of the Officers and members of the OPCMIA, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes in pursuing your dreams. **FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!**  
Each of the twelve recipients were awarded \$5,000.00 to further their educational goals.

**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner TANNER R. PRICE**  
**Pictured with his father Robert Michael Price of**  
**Local 18**  
**Tanner will be attending Concordia University**  
**Mequon, WI**

Tanner Price is a Junior at Concordia University Wisconsin majoring in Business Management. In addition to pursuing his degree he is also a member of the football team. He plans to pursue a career in construction project management after graduation. He got his love for construction from working with his dad, Bob Prize. This experience inspired him to peruse project management in an effort to improve people's lives that work in the trades.



**OPCMIA Scholarship Winner BRENT E. QUIGLEY**  
**Pictured with his father, Charles R. Quigley, Jr. of Local 592**  
**Brent will be attending West Chester University West Chester, PA**

Hello, my name is Brent Quigley, and I am from West Chester, Pennsylvania. I am a recent high school graduate who held high honors and joined the National Honors Society. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the help and support of my family. During high school, I played soccer, tennis, and worked as a referee. I am passionate about giving back to my community and have volunteered at my local food cupboard and library for four years now. I will be attending West Chester University this fall and am planning to study biochemistry. Eventually, I want to get a job in the pharmaceutical industry. For the past few years, my father, Charles Quigley Jr., has been a member of Local 592 in Philadelphia. For over 40 years before that, my grandfather, Charles Quigley Sr. was a proud member. I want to thank the OPCMIA for granting me the Patrick D. Finley Scholarship as this union has always been a big part of my life and I am very grateful to receive this help.

# 2026 WINNERS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



## **OPCMIA Scholarship Winner SARAH THREINEN**

**Pictured with her father, John Threinen of Local 633**

**Sarah will be attending Rochester Community & Technical College, Rochester, MN**

My name is Sarah Threinen, and I am from Kasson, Minnesota. I am the daughter of John Threinen, who has been a proud member of Local 633 for over 20 years. I currently hold my dental assisting license and have worked as a dental assistant for the past two years, which has helped me gain valuable hands-on experience in patient care and strengthened my passion for the dental field.

I am currently furthering my education as a second-year dental hygiene student at Rochester Community and Technical College. Through my program, I am continuing to build my clinical skills, deepen my understanding of oral health, and develop my ability to educate and support patients in improving their oral health. My goal is to become a compassionate and knowledgeable dental hygienist who makes a meaningful impact in my community by promoting preventive care and helping patients feel confident about their smile.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to pursue this career path and for the support that has helped make my education possible. I am especially thankful for my father's dedication and hard work, which has led me to opportunities that allow me to further my passions and continue my education. I would also like to sincerely thank the OPCMIA Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund for awarding me this scholarship and for investing in students like me who are working toward their educational and professional goals.



## **OPCMIA Scholarship Winner KAYLEE VENSLOSKY**

**Pictured with her father, Brian Venslosky of Local 526**

**Kaylee will be attending Mount Aloysius College Cresson, PA**

Hello, my name is Kaylee Venslosky, and I am the proud daughter of Brian Venslosky, a member of OPCMIA Local 526 Pittsburgh, PA since 2008. I have been involved in track & field, mock trial, National Honor Society, student council, and a number of clubs and organizations throughout my high school career. I am a recent graduate from Central Cambria High School in Ebensburg, PA, where I was named valedictorian of my graduating class.

I would like to thank the OPCMIA for choosing me to receive this scholarship, as I am preparing to enter nursing school in the fall. I will be attending Mount Aloysius College with intentions to progress onto graduate school in a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program, hoping to eventually become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.



# Local 538 – Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota

Local 538 members are working on a \$421 million project under General Contractor Kiewit Infrastructure in Omaha, Nebraska. The streetcar project is a 3-mile modern system currently anticipated to begin full operations in Spring 2027. The \$421 million project will run between downtown and Midtown Omaha, estimated to be completed in 2028.





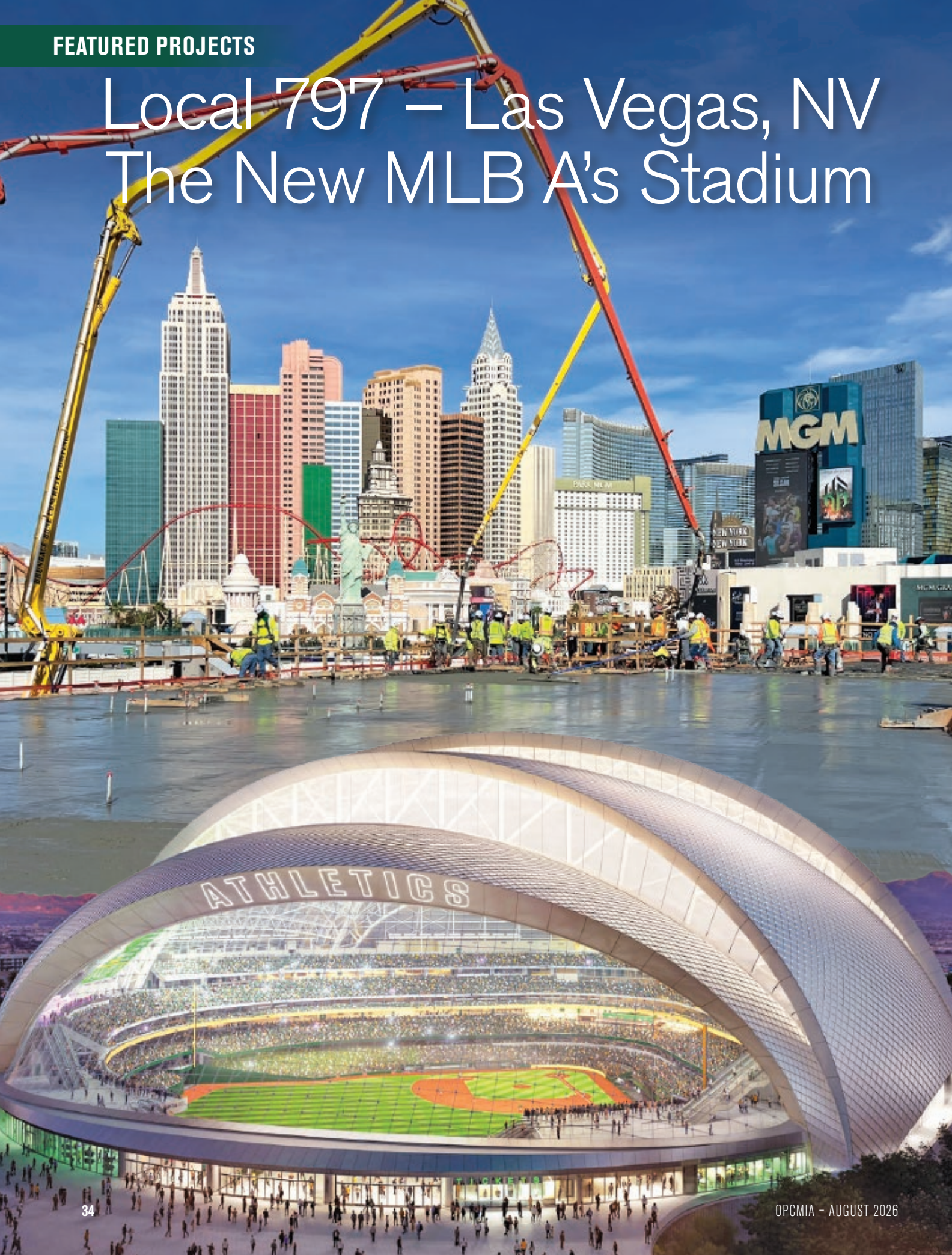
# Local 797 – Las Vegas, NV The New MLB A's Stadium

Local 797 Journeymen and Apprentice Cement Masons began working on this groundbreaking project on June 23, 2025. A 2-billion-dollar project at site of the old Tropicana Hotel at the corner of Las Vegas Blvd and Tropicana Avenue on the Las Vegas strip will house the new A's Stadium. The stadium will be covered and seat capacity of 33,000. The stadium is scheduled to be completed and open for the 2028 Major League Baseball Season!





# Local 797 – Las Vegas, NV The New MLB A's Stadium



## UCON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKS SUMMIT

On May 28, 2026, the UCON Association Annual Public Works Summit was held at the Anaheim Hilton. The Cement Masons negotiating Committee were one of this year's sponsors. The event was attended by Southern California Apprentice Director Armando Pena and Co-Coordinator Manny Villa. Also in attendance were Business Agent David Young, Chairman OPCMIA Vice President Fitzgerald Jacobs, Business Manager Jack Alvarado, Business Manager Ricardo Gonzalez, Business Agent Leo Reyes, and Business Agent Jacob Borzilieri.



(L to R) David Young, Fitzgerald Jacobs, Jack Alvarado, Ricardo Gonzalez, Leo Reyes and Jacob Borzilieri

## LOCAL 11 – NORTHERN, IL

Time really flies! Congratulations to Troy Cox Business Agent for Local 11 Area 362 on 40 years of dedicated service and his retirement!

*(L to R) Matt Trieloff Business Manager, Brother Troy Cox and Tony Frescura Local President and Business Agent for Area 161*



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## LU 18 – ILLINOIS

Celebrating 50 years of dedicated service

*(L to R) Business Agent Paul Wilkerson and 50-year recipient Brother David Sammis Congratulations!*



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## LOCAL 40 – PROVIDENCE, RI

Local 40 Providence, Rhode Island was visited by BuildRI's Executive Director/ General Counsel Greg Mancini who spoke to the membership about how the organization secures PLA jobs in R.I. for all our local unions. Greg Mancini presented our newly appointed Business Manager Keith Lee with 25 years of working with the union's plaque.

*(L to R) Business Manager/ Financial Secretary Keith Lee, and BuildRI's Executive Director/General Counsel Greg Mancini*



## LOCALS 72- SPOKANE, WA & 577 – DENVER, CO

A total of 8 Cement Masons from locals 72 & 577 worked together for Acme Paving in Penrose, CO under a PLA using a Hydraulic roller to complete a paving rehabilitation on the site removing concrete panels and repouring them.



## LOCALS 72- SPOKANE, WA & 577 - DENVER, CO – Continued



## LOCAL 300 – NORTHERN, CA

Congratulations to our 40-year members for their dedicated service!



(L to R) President/Senior Agent Greg Levy, Brother Charles Jackson recipient of 40-year certificate and pin and OPCMIA International Vice President Emilio Aldana



(C) Brother Tony Thon 40-year certificate and pin recipient

## LOCAL 300 – NORTHERN, CA – *Continued*



*Local 300 and 400 Plasterers' and Cement Masons' District Council*

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## LOCAL 400 – NORTHERN, CA

Cement Masons Local 400 held union meetings in San Jose and Vallejo, CA to formally recognize and honor the award recipients for their outstanding contributions, dedication, and long-standing commitment to the organization. The ceremony was conducted alongside Business Manager Cody Bik, President Jose Jimenez, Business Agent Ernesto Gonzalez, Vice President Jorge Romero, and Organizer Juan Orozco.



*Crispin Benitez (25 years)*



*Juan Estrada Frias (25 years)*

## LOCAL 400 – NORTHERN, CA – *Continued*



*Jose T. Garcia (25 years)*



*Cesar Gonzalez (25 years)*



*Israel Grajeda (25 years)*



*Octavio Herrera (25 years)*



*Arnulfo Lopez (25 years)*



*Jose Alberto Ramirez (25 years)*

**LOCAL 400 – NORTHERN, CA** – *Continued*



**Sebastian Gomez (25 years)**



**Juan Rico Mendoza (25 years)**



**Mario Sandoval (25 years)**



**Lucio Almeida (30 years)**



**Cid Anzurio (30 years)**



**Alonso Iniguez (25 years)**

## LOCAL 400 - NORTHERN, CA – Continued



*Carlos Ramirez Barajas (25 years)*



*Fernando Belmonte (25 years)*



*Jose M Martinez (25 years)*



*Juan Coral (25 years)*



*Mario Cruz (25 years)*



*Moises Davalos (25 years)*

## LOCAL 400 – NORTHERN, CA – *Continued*



*Santiago Jimenez Sandoval (25 years)*



*Jose R Gonzalez (30 years)*



*Gene Jackson (60 years)*

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## LOCAL 500 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Brother Frank Armenta is presented with membership certificate and plaque for 70-years of membership at his home

**(L to R) Business Agent Leo Reyes, Brother Frank Armenta, and Business Manager Jack Alvarado**



## LOCAL 538 - NEBRASKA, IOWA, SOUTH DAKOTA

Local 538 celebrates 70 years of service



*(Ctr) Brother Roger Hamilton from Cedar Rapids, Iowa receives his 70-year certificate and plaque from Business Manager Adam Nevins. Celebrating with Brother Hamilton is his family. Congratulations and thank you!*



*Apprentices of LU 538 are instructed by Apprentice Instructor Bob Osterhoudt*



## LOCAL 538 – NEBRASKA, IOWA, SOUTH DAKOTA – *Continued*



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## LOCAL 555 – OREGON

Business Manager Nicholas ‘Nick’ Harrington addressing the membership in Boise, Idaho



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## LOCAL 600 – SOUTHERN, CALIFORNIA

Local 600's Annual Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 16, 2026. Members were honored for 25, 30, 40 and 50 years of continuous membership. Local 600 also celebrated Man of the Year and Apprentice of the Year.



(L to R) Armando Pena, Hugo Fernandez, Jose de Jesus Gomez, Manuel de Jesus Cruz, Felix Leyba, Kevin Martin, Roberto Lemus, Armando Flores, Bus. Manager Ricardo Gonzalez, Cortez Adams, Orlando Aguilar, Bus. Representatives Jose L. Vega, Thony Sarmiento and Jacob Borzillieri

## LOCAL 600 – SOUTHERN, CALIFORNIA – *Continued*



### 30-YEAR RECIPIENTS –

(L to R) Traveon Adams, Sergio Fuentes, Bus. Representative Thony Sarmiento, Jose Alvarez, Bus. Manager Ricardo Gonzalez, Gerardo Avila and Bus. Representatives Jacob Borzilier and Jose L. Vega.



### 40-YEAR RECIPIENTS –

(L to R) Scott A. Wardlow, Carlos Piceno, Business Representative Thony Sarmiento, Jose R. Payan, Bus. Manager Ricardo Gonzalez, Arturo G. Rojas and Bus. Representatives Jacob Borzilier and Jose L. Vega



### 50-YEAR RECIPIENTS –

(L to R) Bus. Representative Thony Sarmiento, Craig S. Johnson, Bus. Manager Ricardo Gonzalez and Bus. Representatives Jacob Borzilier and Jose L. Vega

## LOCAL 600 – SOUTHERN, CALIFORNIA – Continued



### APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

(L to R) Bus. Representatives Jacob Borzileri and Hugo Fernandez, Bus. Manager Ricardo Gonzalez, Apprentice of the Year Cesar Sanchez and Bus. Representatives Jose L. Vega and Thony Sarmiento



### MAN OF THE YEAR

(L to R) Bus. Manager Ricardo Gonzalez, Man of the Year Armando Pena and OPCMIA Vice President, Fitzgerald Jacobs



Local 600 Executive Board (L to R) Bus. Manager Ricardo Gonzalez with some members of Local 600's Executive Board, Jose Alvarez, Edgar Godinez, President James Andrews, Jose Amador-Gonzalez and OPCMIA Vice President, Fitzgerald Jacobs

## LOCAL 780 – NEW YORK

Dedicated to serving,



*President Timothy Porter and Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer swore in Antonio Mancini as Recording Secretary and Camille Villarini to the Examining Board at Local 780's Executive Board Meeting.*

---

## LOCAL 797 – LAS VEGAS, NV

Celebrated for 30-years of distinctive service. Congratulations!



*(L to R) Business Manager Marc Leavitt, recipient Brother Eric Ames, and President Paul Benigno*



*(C) Recipient Brother Shawn Wollerton*



*(C) Brother Isaac Leos and staff of local 797*

## LOCAL 797 – LAS VEGAS, NV – Continued



(R) Brother Matias Ojeda



(C) Brother John Stewart

## IN MEMORIAM

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

### ARTHUR “ART” STURMS

NOVEMBER 30, 1968 – APRIL 1, 2026

Brother Sturms became a member of local 11 June 7, 1996. During his career Brother Sturms held many positions, Chairman of the Local 11 Fund, Delegate of the Building & Construction Trades Council of Northwestern, Ill in 2003, Secretary-Treasurer of the District Council of Northern, Ill 2014 to 2026, Administrator/Trustee for the Construction Industry Fund, Administrator/Trustee for the Fox Valley & Vicinity Construction Workers Pension Fund and Local 11's Apprentice Teacher/Coordinator, Recording Secretary, Business Agent and Business Manager/Financial Secretary. Brother Sturms will truly be missed.



January 01, 2026, THROUGH March 31, 2026

#### JOSE R. HERRERA

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 Jose R. Herrera who passed away January 21, 2026. Brother Herrera was 76 years old and a member of the International since December 12, 1972 – 53 years.

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

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

#### PABLO BONILLA JR.

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 Pablo Bonilla Jr. who passed away January 10, 2026. Brother Vidales was 82 years old and a member of the International since September 09, 1985 – 40 years.

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

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

## LOC CITY, STATE NAME

### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN JANUARY 2026

|     |                    |                      |
|-----|--------------------|----------------------|
| 502 | Chicago IL         | Alexander, Grady     |
| 600 | Los Angeles CA     | Bolivar, Carlos      |
| 090 | East St. Louis, IL | Braun, Francis J.    |
| 598 | Ontario, CN        | Cardoso, Fernando F. |
| 592 | Philadelphia PA    | Delisi, Jack M       |
| 090 | East St. Louis, IL | Foley, Shannon M.    |
| 599 | ST of Wisconsin    | Kramer, Kevin J      |
| 502 | Chicago IL         | Lonero, Vito F.      |
| 514 | Detroit MI         | Longo, Quirino       |
| 528 | Seattle WA         | Madrid, Andrew       |
| 886 | Toledo, OH         | Mercier, Michael G   |
| 599 | ST of Wisconsin    | Peters, Jerome       |
| 692 | Indianapolis, IN   | Platz, Russell E     |
| 599 | ST of Wisconsin    | Puidokas, Richard    |
| 500 | Corona CA          | Rangel, Alphonso H   |
| 527 | St. Louis, MO      | Smith, Vern C        |
| 599 | ST of Wisconsin    | Wermeling, Leonard N |

### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN FEBRUARY 2026

|     |                    |                       |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 780 | New York, NY       | Alves, Antonio A      |
| 109 | Akron, OH          | Buza, Robert A.       |
| 797 | Las Vegas, NV      | Dibona, Francesco     |
| 592 | Philadelphia, PA   | Didio Jr, Joseph      |
| 527 | St. Louis, MO      | Eder, Richard         |
| 692 | East St. Louis, IL | Hendrixson, Robert E  |
| 502 | Chicago IL         | Hernandez, Guadalupe  |
| 797 | Las Vegas, NV      | Ramirez, Gilbert A    |
| 502 | Chicago IL         | Scannicchio, Edward W |
| 780 | New York, NY       | Scappaticci, Thomas   |

## LOC CITY, STATE NAME

### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN MARCH 2026

|     |                 |                         |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 500 | Corona, CA      | Bonilla Jr, Pablo       |
| 528 | Seattle, WA     | Griffith, Donald C      |
| 500 | Corona, CA      | Harris, Virgil C        |
| 797 | Las Vegas, NV   | Hernandez, Epifanio     |
| 400 | Sacramento, CA  | Herrera, Jose R         |
| 500 | Corona, CA      | Hix, Larry L            |
| 555 | Portland, OR    | Hughes, Patrick         |
| 500 | Corona, CA      | James, Sammie R         |
| 780 | New York, NY    | Kelly, Matthew M.       |
| 780 | New York, NY    | Mastropasqua, Peter     |
| 500 | Corona, CA      | Montesdeoca, Florentina |
| 502 | Chicago, IL     | O'Brien, William L      |
| 528 | Seattle, WA     | Osborn, Richard         |
| 200 | Los Angeles, CA | Pullen Jr, Robert L     |
| 500 | Corona, CA      | Rodriguez, John S       |
| 538 | Omaha, NE       | Snook, Ronald E         |
| 797 | Las Vegas, NV   | Urban, Larry            |
| 502 | Chicago, IL     | Walczak, John T.        |

### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN APRIL 2026

|     |                 |                       |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 518 | Kansas City, MO | Affolter, Robert H    |
| 555 | Portland OR     | Cole, Forrest Laverne |
| 514 | Detroit, MI     | Crapanzano, Luciano   |
| 780 | New York, NY    | Digrandi, Richard     |

## LOC CITY, STATE NAME

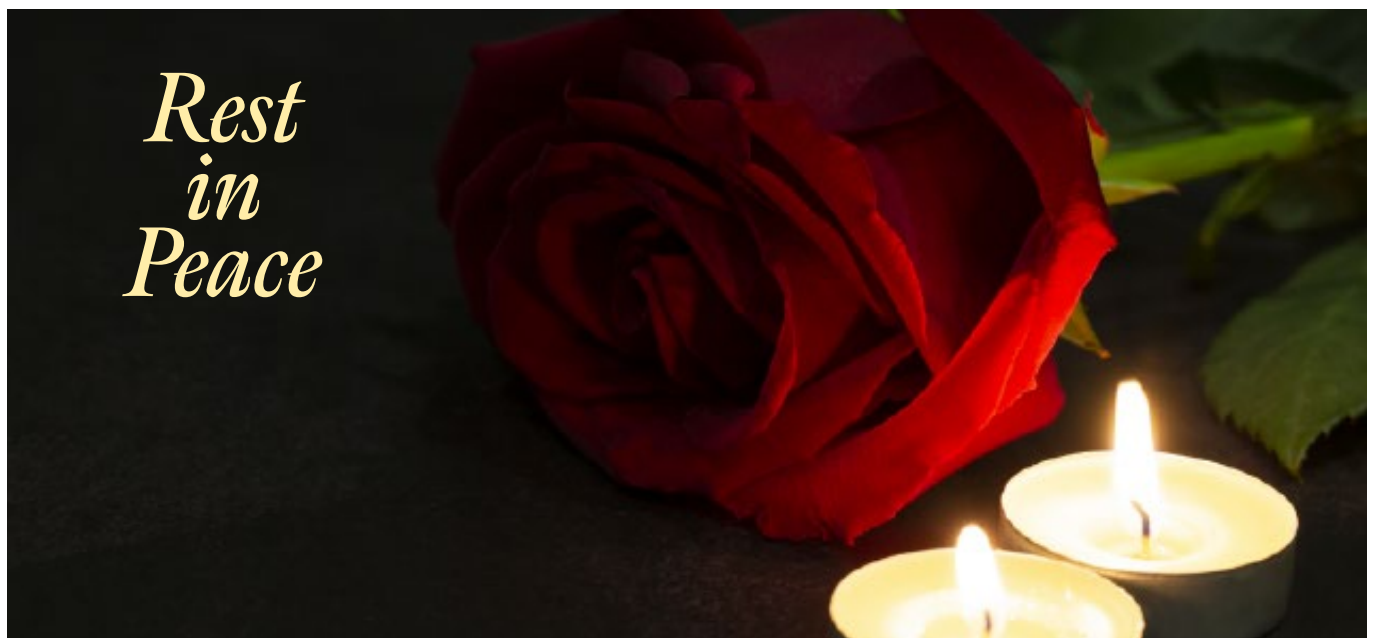
|     |                  |                      |
|-----|------------------|----------------------|
| 600 | Los Angeles, CA  | Estrada, Daniel      |
| 502 | Chicago, IL      | Gabe, Robert A.      |
| 527 | St. Louis, MO    | Gronemeier, Gerald L |
| 528 | Seattle, WA      | Gudmundsson, Jon     |
| 528 | Seattle, WA      | Holman, Caron F      |
| 600 | Los Angeles, CA  | Hopson, Sidney L.    |
| 526 | Pittsburgh, PA   | Hrnchar Jr, Daniel   |
| 780 | New York, NY     | Inquanti, John J.    |
| 780 | New York, NY     | Lattanzio, Livio     |
| 143 | Southern, IL     | Lusby, Larry J.      |
| 502 | Chicago, IL      | Macias, Jesus R.     |
| 500 | Corona, CA       | McDonough, Fremont   |
| 919 | Vancouver BC CN  | Pires, John N        |
| 502 | Chicago, IL      | Rasmussen, Vernon    |
| 500 | Corona, CA       | Rivera, Arturo Z     |
| 592 | Philadelphia, PA | Roberts, James       |
| 502 | Chicago, IL      | Rykal, Franklin J.   |
| 082 | Portland, OR     | Tribbett, Eugene A   |
| 527 | St. Louis, MO    | Walton, Mark S       |
| 148 | Atlanta, GA      | Westly, James H      |

### DEATH BENEFITS PAID IN MAY 2026

|     |                  |                       |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------|
| 797 | Las Vegas, NV    | Affolter, Robert H    |
| 528 | Seattle, WA      | Cole, Forrest Laverne |
| 592 | Philadelphia, PA | Crapanzano, Luciano   |
| 592 | Philadelphia, PA | Digrandi, Richard     |
| 600 | Los Angeles, CA  | Estrada, Daniel       |
| 528 | Seattle, WA      | Gabe, Robert A.       |
| 633 | Minneapolis, MN  | Gronemeier, Gerald L  |
| 018 | Central, IL      | Gudmundsson, Jon      |
| 555 | Portland, OR     | Holman, Caron F       |
| 502 | Chicago, IL      | Hopson, Sidney L.     |
| 500 | Corona, CA       | Hrnchar Jr, Daniel    |

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