



Trowel Talk

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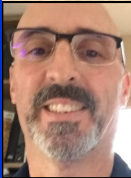
Next meeting will be held on February 12th at our S. San Francisco hall. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.

Our Next Holiday:
Martin Luther King Day
Monday January 21st, 2019

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Message from the Business Manager



Happy New Year everyone and I hope you and your families had a great Christmas and Holiday Season.

Pension Allocation:

At our allocation meeting last May the membership approved us to move .40 cents from our Supplemental Pension to our NorCal Pension to buy back more benefits on January 01, 2019. After meeting with the Actuary for our pension we were able to buy back the following benefits effective January 01, 2019:

- We were able to pay for the cost of restoring the 1.95% Accrual Rate going forward from January 01, 2019.
- We were able to pay for the cost of restoring the 1.95% Accrual Rate for the 2018 Plan Year.
- We were able to pay for the cost of restoring the 1.95% Accrual Rate for the 2016 Plan Year.

All active members will receive these benefit improvements effective January 01, 2019. Also, as we have done the last two years, we will be looking at what other benefit improvements we could buy back in July with our raise.

Points Account:

Below are the plan rules and an explanation of how a member is eligible for a points account reimbursement. These rules are closely regulated by the IRS and the Trustees of the plan have little or no room to change them. If you have any questions about your eligibility for the Points Account, please contact us.

Under the Plan's rules, reimbursement from the Points Account is only available to a participant who:

- (1) is eligible for benefits under the Plan, or
- (2) was eligible for benefits under the Plan within the prior sixty (60) months, including through COBRA coverage, and who has maintained his or her enrollment continuously on the out-of-work list of a participating Local Union and been available for dispatch since his last period of Plan coverage, or
- (3) has retired and has deferred retiree coverage under the Plan due to coverage under another group welfare plan in place since the time of retirement. [Article VI, Section B(3)(a).]

This restriction is due to the legal requirement that an HRA such as the Points Account must be "integrated" with full group health coverage. In other words, the Points Account benefits cannot be offered to a participant who is not enrolled in the Plan's group health coverage. (For this reason, participants who are leaving the Plan's group health coverage should be encouraged to use their Points Account for all possible expenses, in order not to forfeit their balance.)

OPCMIA Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund:

The application forms for the OPCMIA Patrick D. Finley 10th Annual Scholarship are available. The application and related documents must be post marked by April 1st to be accepted. If you have a full-time undergraduate student that would like to apply for this scholarship you can download the application at www.opcmia.org. We also have copies in both of our union halls and can mail them to you upon request.

Work Outlook:

Even with the recent rains the demand for manpower is still high and looks to remain high throughout this year. If you are not working, please contact one of the union halls so we can put your name on the out of work list and hopefully get you back to work. At this moment there is a high demand for journeypersons that are skilled in EIFS applications and fireproofers. Also, if you know any skilled plasterers that are not in the union please have them contact us about joining the union.

Next Union Meeting:

Our next Union Meeting will be at our South San Francisco Office on Tuesday, February 12th at 5:30 PM. Please make every effort to be in attendance. There are a lot of changes and new things happening with the Local and being at the Union Meetings is the best way to get the information first hand. The employees and officers of the Local are working hard and diligently to make the best decisions possible for the future of our Local. We are trying to grow the Local by organizing non-union workers and contractors while continuing to grow our apprenticeship program. Growing our numbers and attracting new apprentices are essential to our future and we need more of our younger members to be involved in our union.

In Closing, I hope to see you at our February Union Meeting and Please be safe out there!

Thank you for your continued support,

Bob Noto

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019

Business Agent's Report

If you are out of work make sure your name is on the out of work list.



Also, make sure you call in once a week or your name will be dropped off the list for not checking in.



As I look forward to 2019 I am encouraged by the number of Plastering projects that are in progress and those that are in the works in the 46 counties of Northern California. I am also encouraged that it is getting harder and harder for non-signatory contractors to cheat their plasterers out of their wages on prevailing wage projects. Having said that, there are still new and old players who are willing to try. As a result, I filed 15 complaints for wage and apprentice violations in 2018. It is starting to have an effect as these contractors realize that someone is watching them. As a result, a number of these contractors are beginning to change their ways as they try to keep from being fined or even disbarred from bidding on future projects. I hope that you are encouraged that we are working to keep your wages high and keep the playing field level for our contractors to be able to bid on these projects. Have a Happy and Safe 2019.

Tim Nelson



Happy New Year, everyone. 2018 was a good year for union construction in the Bay Area, and everything points to 2019 being a great year as well.

If you are out of work, please put your name on the out of work list. We can always use Plasterers that have interior training. We are even running short on sand and cement gun work plasterers. Like I wrote earlier, 2019 is going to be a great year.

If you've started working four or five months ago, you should be eligible for medical insurance. If you think you qualify for medical insurance, please call either the Oakland hall or South San Francisco Hall. We will contact HS&BA and verify that you are eligible. We have received several calls from members that are eligible for coverage but have never received a medical application packet. Let us know if you are getting close to being eligible. I want you to have the medical coverage that you've worked for.

Last but not least, this will be my last newsletter as your Business Agent. I've been a Plasterer with Local 66 for 40 years and have had the pleasure of being your Business Agent

for the last 11 years. Now it's time for me to start the next phase of my life, retirement. We've seen and been through a lot in those 11 years. We were able to survive an economy that was just short of a depression. Now we are in an economy that is going gangbusters. Our members deserve these good times to make up for the bad.

I see a very bright future for our local and our membership. Israel Vargas, who started out as our organizer, will be taking my position as Business Agent. Isreal has been able to bring in a number of plasterers from the non-union sector. This is not an easy accomplishment. Stepping on a non-union jobsite has its own set of dangers. Israel has been able to not just walk on the non-union jobsite but has been successful in getting the plasterers on these sites to become Local 66 members. The imagination he used in bringing in new members will continue to build and help grow this local. Our membership will continue to get the same great service you've come to expect. I hope you will join me in welcoming Isreal Vargas as your next Business Agent.

Thank you again for the privilege of being your Business Agent.

Work safe, work smart.
Jeff Crothers



Hello everyone. First, I would like to thank Jeff Crothers for the outstanding work he did with us. We very much appreciate it and congratulate him on his retirement. As some of you may know, since Jeff is leaving, a decision needed to be made, and by a unanimous vote, I was appointed to take and continue with Jeff's position as Business Agent for our Local when he retires. It is my honor to accept this position. I pledge to continue working under our constitution and I'm looking forward to working with you. I would also like to thank everybody for your support.

In the meantime, I'm still an Organizer and I'm still visiting non-union plastering projects and reaching out to these contractors as well. The response has been great, many new members have been dispatched to Frey, Freas, Ironwood, K.H.S.S., and Onyx. I'm currently working with many other potential members that are in the process of meeting requirements, and I'm still reporting to the O.P.C.M.I.A. (International). Please welcome our new members, and if you know someone who wants to join or start a new career in the Plastering Industry please have them contact me at (650) 438-2649. Thanks for your support and I hope to see you soon in one of my visits. Be safe out there; Go Union!

Israel Vargas

Mike Moylan



Congratulations on 40 Yrs

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