



Cement Masons Local 600



May 2016

Also View on Local 600 Website

A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we complete the first quarter of 2016, we are seeing our economy and construction projects improving greatly and there seems to be full employment for a large number of our members. We are actively organizing new members, both journeyman and apprentices to fill the need for Cement Masons in our industry. If you are between jobs or laid off, please contact the Union office in your area and place yourself on our out of work list. This provides you with added income and benefits and assists your Local Union in manning our projects and protecting our work from other trades that will do our work if given the chance.

As to Organizing and protecting our work as Cement Masons, your Business Agents have signed 57 new agreements in the first three months of this year with non union contractors that provides work for our membership. Your Business Agents working alongside Richard Brain, Director of Compliance for Local 600 currently has 77 open cases on non union contractors working in our area on prevailing wage projects. Because of their efforts, there has been \$399,069.00 received in stop notices by the State in penalties for non union contractors not abiding by the same rules our contractors must follow. In addition, we have another \$60,546.03 in penalties currently in process with the State, giving us a total of \$459,615.84 in the first three months of this year in penalties against non union contractors that compete for against our union contractors for prevailing wage projects such as schools and infrastructure work.

Financially, your Local Union is sound and continues to grow. The Net Assets of your Local Union has increased from \$2,354,464 in January of 2015 to \$2,649,920 as of January 01, 2016. This is an increase of \$295,456 for 2015. Your Trust Funds also are very healthy and I am again, please to announce the health of our Pension Plan is one of the top 3 in our industry and in the Green Zone. Our Health and Welfare plan is doing well, although all the Trustees continue to diligently monitor it in light of double continued digit increases in the cost of health care yearly. Kaiser and Health Net are asking for significant increases this year. On a bright note, at our March Health and Welfare Trust meeting, we were able to increase the self pay from 25 to 30 hours if you fall short on your work hours for medical coverage. Should you have any questions on your benefits, you may contact the Trust Funds directly at 626.444.4600.

We are pleased to announce that we will be going back to **Magic Mountain** this year for our Union BBQ in August. I look forward to seeing you and your family there for a day of fun and relaxation away from the job site. More details on tickets and motel information will be available in a future mailer. In closing, please do not hesitate to contact your local business agent or myself for any reason you feel you may need assistance. It is our pleasure to serve the membership of this great Local Union. The address and phone numbers for all our offices can be found on our website at www.cementmasons600.org. God Bless !!



Sincerely & fraternally yours,

Scott Brain
Financial Secretary and Business Manager

In Memory of Patrick D. Finley OPCMIA General President



It is with a very heavy heart that I have to advise the passing of **Patrick D. Finley**, the General President of the Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO. General President Finley passed away on April 10, 2016 at his home and with his family.

General President Finley possessed an unwavering commitment to, as well as an unshakeable optimism in, the OPCMIA and its membership. He worked tirelessly to expand organizing, collective bargaining and training at every level in our organization, even during some of the most difficult times in recent history. He also firmly believed that every one of us possesses the ability, strength and values to make the OPCMIA the finest organization in the building trades. General President Finley knew that, by bringing out the best in every member, our organization will thrive and grow for years and decades to come. Indeed, the OPCMIA is stronger and better off because of General President Finley's vision, dedication and hard work.

Patrick Finley was not just our General President. He was also a dedicated husband, father and grandfather. He always took great pride in his family and they were always on his mind and in his heart while he served our organization and our membership.

On behalf of every member of this organization, I express our deepest condolences to the entire Finley family. They will be in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.

Earl F. Hurd, General Secretary-Treasurer

Dates to Remember

April 28, 2016, Pension/IRA Trust Fund Meeting
Trust Offices

May 3, 2016 / Tues @ 6:30pm
Ventura Area Membership Meeting

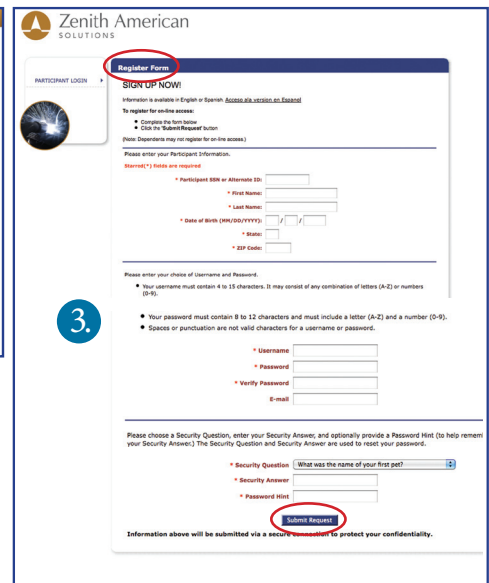
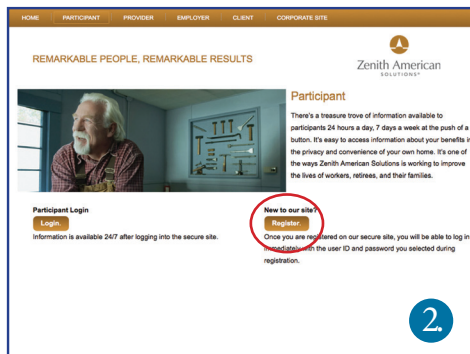
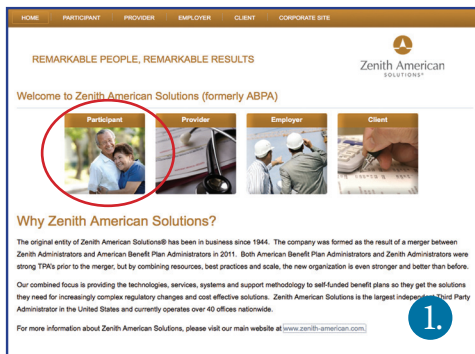
May 12, 2016 / Thurs @ 7:00pm
Bell Gardens Union Membership Meeting

May 30, 2016 / Union Holiday
Memorial Day

June 9, 2016 / Thurs @ 7:00pm
Bell Gardens Union Membership Meeting

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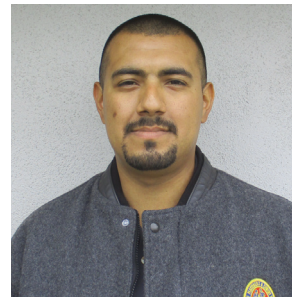
Access Your Eligibility and Contribution History Online



The Cement Masons Southern California Trust Funds reminds all participants that you can access your eligibility and contribution history Online. You can check personal information such as your address and if any changes are necessary. **1.** Visit www.abpa.com and click on “Participants”; **2.** On the Participant page, click on “Register”; **3.** Complete the Register Form and then click on “Submit Registration”. For assistance with this process, feel free to contact Zenith American Solutions, 5417 N. Peck Rd., Arcadia, CA 91006, or Tel: 626.444.4600.

Business Agent Update

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ricardo Gonzalez and Daniel Sechslingloff as full time Business Agents at the beginning of this year. Brother Gonzalez is working out of the Bell Gardens office and has replaced Brother Munoz in his retirement. Brother Sechslingloff is replacing the position previously held by David Baldwin in San Luis Obispo. Please note that the San Luis Obispo / Santa Barbara area office has been moved from Los Osos to Santa Maria, which hopefully will be more central and convenient for the majority of members residing in that Santa Barbara / San Luis Obispo area. The new address is 500 South Broadway, Suite 241, Santa Maria, CA 93454. Phone numbers are (805)862-4192, Cell is (805)431-1255 and fax is (805) 862-4193. I have known both brothers to be dedi-



*Ricardo Gonzalez
Newly appointed Business Agent
Bell Gardens Office*



*Daniel Sechslingloff
Newly Appointed Business Agent
Santa Maria Office*

cated and invested in our Local Union. I have the utmost confidence that both Ricardo and Daniel will serve the membership well.

Fraternally yours,
Scott Brain

Save
The
Date

Saturday, August 6, 2016

We are pleased to announce the return of
the Cement Masons Local 600
Annual Picnic!



Details Will Be Mailed Soon!

Dates to Remember Continued

June 16, 2016 / Thurs - Health & Welfare Trust Meeting

June 21, 2016 / Tues @ 6:30pm
Santa Maria Area Membership Meeting

July 4, 2016 / Union Holiday - Independence Day

July 5, 2016 / Tues @ 6:30pm
Ventura Area Membership Meeting

July 14, 2016 / Thurs @ 7:00pm
Bell Gardens Union Membership Meeting

July 26, 2016 / Tues @ 6:30pm
Bakersfield Area Union Membership Meeting

July 28, 2016 / Thurs Pension/Vacation Trust Meeting

See More Dates on Local 600 Website (“Events”)

Daniel E. Stepano Elected as the New General President of the OPCMIA

On April 16, 2016, the General Executive Board of the Operative Plasterers' & Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO ("OPCMIA" or "International Association") elected Daniel E. Stepano as the new General President of the International Association. Stepano will serve the remainder of the term of General President Patrick D. Finley, who passed away at home in presence of his family on April 10, 2016.

Daniel Stepano has faithfully served the International Association and its membership at both the local and international levels. Just prior to the April 2016 election, Mr. Stepano served as the Executive Vice President and as a General Executive Board member. He has served in these positions since June 1, 2004; and was elected to these positions during the 50th Convention in 2009 and 51st Convention in 2014. Stepano has

also served as the Director of Organizing since January 1, 2007. General President Stepano looks forward to working closely with the officers, staff and membership of the OPCMIA, its State and Provincial Conferences, and Local Unions. He strongly believes that by working together, we can tap into the creativity, experience, knowledge and skills of our officers and members to grow, develop and strengthen our organization for decades to come.



Daniel E. Stepano
General President OPCMIA

Founded in 1864, the OPCMIA is the oldest labor organization in the building and construction trades. For more than 150 years, the International Association has led the way in providing the best representation for working Plasterers, Cement Masons and Shophands throughout the United States and Canada.

For more information, please contact the OPCMIA at (301) 623-1000, or visit www.opcmia.org.

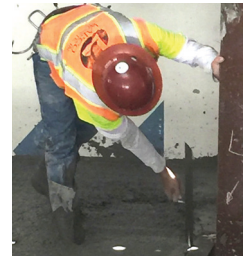
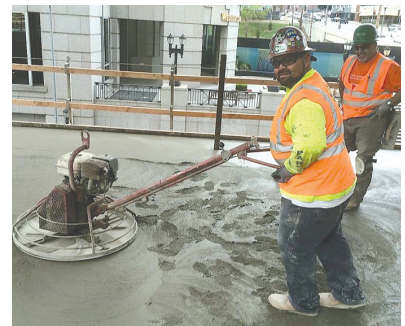
Local 600 Welcomes New Signatory Contractors

Martinez Landscape
Prime Axis
RK&G Construction
R Brothers, Inc.

Dura Art Stone Construction
American Restore
Concrete North
KAR Construction

Horizon Construction
A&E Painting

Local 600 On the Job



Visit: www.CementMasons600.org



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Dept of Labor UPDATE

In an effort to update you with regards to the ongoing Department of Labor lawsuit and investigation into myself, Brother Briceno and Melissa Cook, I feel is best to insert the Introduction Statement from Peter Morris, Legal Counsel for Jaime Briceno and myself to Magistrate Judge, Alicia G. Rosenberg dated March 30, 2016 in a court ordered settlement conference. The introduction is as follows:

“Your Honor: This is a case that should have never been brought by the Department of Labor (“DOL”). Nothing Cheryle Robbins, the purported ‘whistler blower’, did was motivated by a good-faith belief that Mr. Brain engaged in any wrongdoing or any genuine regard for the trust fund beneficiaries. Robbins sole interest in making the unfounded claims about Brain was protecting her position as head of the Audit and Collections Department for the Trust Funds.

When she found out in early 2011 that the trust funds were going to conduct a long-overdue compliance audit of her department, that she knew would reveal serious problems in the way the department operated (and potentially uncovering the fact that she was improperly holding a contractor’s checks from deposits as a favor), Robbins began a campaign to attempt to prevent the audit. When her efforts to convince the individual trustees that the audit was unnecessary did not pan out, Robbins set her sights on eliminating the strongest proponent of the audit, Scott Brain.

This culminated in Robbins concocting a scheme to disparage Mr. Brain to his superior at the Cement Masons International Union with false allegations that Brain improperly assisting contractors to avoid paying contributions to the trust funds. When this did not work out, Robbins, with assistance of a Cement

Masons official Tom Mora, who was a rival of Brain, brought the weight of the DOL to bear on Brain by repeating her false allegations to a DOL investigator who had been tipped off by Mora. Unfortunately, the DOL bought Robbin’s claims against Brain, which was never investigated in any meaningful way, hook, line and sinker.

Nor did the DOL investigate, or apparently even consider, despite repeated requests, the plain and compelling evidence of Robbin’s improper motives for her “whistle blowing” actions. Instead, the DOL has championed Robbins in this case, even after it was revealed (only after this Court ordered the DOL to produce interview summaries and notes) that Robbins lied to two DOL investigators, falsely claiming that an associate of Ms. Cook’s had admitted that Robbins was wrongfully retaliated against. As the detailed discussion in the brief submitted herewith shows, Brain, Briceno and Cook did not improperly retaliate against Robbins, nor did they pressure or influence Zenith, the employer of Louise Bansmer and Cory Rice, to terminate them.”

Hopefully this introduction to the Magistrate judge in a recent settlement conference is informative and assists in keeping you, the membership up to date. As I have stated in earlier newsletters, I will continue to fight for the truth and what is right for you, the Trust Fund Participants and members of our Local Union. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding any of this or rumors you may hear in the field, please feel free to contact me at 323.771.0991 or by cell phone at 323.816.0761.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
Scott Brain

Visit: www.CementMasons600.org