

A Word from the Coordinator

by Frank Benish
 Coordinator/Training Director



I'm happy to report that work is continuing to pick up. Apprentices can expect to stay busy for the foreseeable future. Spokane Local 72 recently merged their apprenticeship into ours. Our apprenticeship now covers the entire state of Washington as well as Northern Idaho. Winter training classes are going full swing. Attendance has been great in both Eastern and Western Washington. **A reminder: You need to make an appointment if you want to meet with the Coordinator.** Due to the merger, I'm not always in the office as I have been spending part of my time in Spokane. There will be a changing of the guard at the Plasterers Apprenticeship. Matt Markham will retire on February 7 and Rosie Bernard will step in as Education Director. Congratulations to Matt on his retirement and Rosie on her new duties.

*Frank Benish, Coordinator
 Cement Masons & Plasterers
 Training Centers of Washington*

Kennewick Local 478 News

Winter has set in over Central Washington and most of our membership is laid off or work has significantly slowed due to the freezing cold weather. If you find yourself laid off or slow, winter is a good time to make sure that your tools are put in good working order, repaired or replaced before spring. If you are missing tools from the tool list you were given when you joined, work on trying to get those as well. Another thing to keep in mind during the winter is not to get too far out of physical shape. Being in decent shape when work starts back up again makes the transition from the couch to the work site much easier and helps your chances of getting a good spot on a crew when the work breaks. Not too many employers are sympathetic to a poor work performance due to being out of shape. Work hard and be good to each other. Have a great 2014!

*B.C. Smith, Business Manager
 OPCMIA Local 478*

Local Matters

by John Kearns
 Business Manager
 OPCMIA Local 528



Construction spending has been low for the last five years. But 2013 and 2014 construction spending is expected to increase by 30% over 2010 spending. Many of the contractors I have met with over the past couple months have voiced their concerns about whether Local 528 would be able to supply enough qualified Masons to complete the projects they have on the books. If you are nearing the completion of your Apprenticeship please consider continuing your education as many contractors are in need of foremen. I would like to thank Matt Markham for seven years of work with the Plasterers Apprenticeship and 32 years as a Member of the OPCMIA as he will be retiring soon. I would also like to welcome Rosie Bernard as the new Plasterer Education Director.

*John Kearns
 Business Manager/Financial Secretary
 OPCMIA Local 528*



Plasterers Tips

by Matt Markham
 Plasterers Education Director

I hope all of you have had a great holiday. I'm looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming classes. Don't forget your progress reports. I would like to thank all of our journeymen that have been training our apprentices out in the field for the past seven years. Thanks again for your support.

*Matt Markham, Education Director
 Washington Plasterers Apprenticeship*

*The Apprenticeship Seeks
 Female Applicants
 Interested parties should*

*contact us at
 (206) 762-9286.*



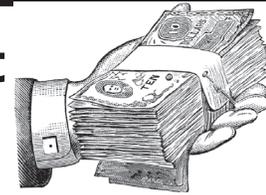
Spokane Local 72 News

We had a great year in 2013 and expect to be busy again in 2014. We will be recruiting more apprentices this spring to try and meet the demand. If you have friends or family who are interested in a career in cement masonry, please let them know that now is a good time to apply. We are excited about our merger with the Washington Cement Masons Apprenticeship program, and having Scott Hogue instructing classes this year. A huge thank you to Frank Benish and Miya Cohen-Sieg for all the work they did to accomplish the merger. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and looking forward to great New Year.

*Jim Geren, Business Manager
OPCMIA Local 72*



How to Get a Raise



Apprentices who become eligible for raises according to the schedule described in their Standards of Apprentice must also be in good standing with the Apprenticeship and the Union. In order to be in good standing, the apprentice must be in compliance in the following areas:

1. Up to date on Work Progress Reports
2. Up to date on Union dues
3. Attend required classes or have a minimal number of excused absences
4. Keep the Union and the Apprenticeship updated on contact information and status



Cement Mason Apprentices Katie and Kelly Sharp joined Cement Mason Instructor Randy Nickell, Coordinator Frank Benish and Local 528 Business Agent Eric Coffelt in pouring concrete for the Kitsap 911 Memorial. The memorial features two steel beams recovered from the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. Congratulations to Kelly and Katie on volunteering their time to this worthwhile project. For more information about the memorial, visit <http://www.kitsap911memorial.org/>.