

A Word from the Coordinator

by Frank Benish
Coordinator/Training Director



Work is picking up and the Out of Work list is shrinking. I've noticed that some apprentices have been forgetting to take their names off the list after they are hired by a contractor. Please be sure to remove your name from the Out of Work list once you're working. You should take your name off even if the job is only for one day. Be sure to let Dispatch know your name and the contractor you're going to work for. Local 528 requires that your name be off the list when you are working. You may be brought up on charges by the Local if you do not fulfill this requirement. Have a safe, prosperous summer.

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

Kennewick Local 478 News

The apprenticeship is the beginning of the circle of life for all construction trade unions. Contractors, peers and the community gauge Union reputations on how well they develop their entry level craftsman into a fully functional Journeyman. To be a fully functional Journeyman you need to establish a few key character items as an apprentice.

1. Responsibility for quality of your work. If you see something that needs fixing then fix it don't wait for the next guy to fix it. That may be too late.
2. Dependability is a very important key to becoming a fully functional Journeyman. Plastering and Concrete Masonry are team activities. If you don't show up ready to go, then you hurt the rest of the team. Be on time and bring the tools you need for the job.
3. Strong work ethic is a must. You have to be a self starter and work hard for your contractors and the rest of the crew. Strive to be the best you can be and your hard work will be rewarded.
4. A good attitude is also a must and probably the most important. Everyone has personal problems but you

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Local Matters

by John Kearns
Business Manager
OPCMIA Local 528



Union Hall Update

Demolition has been completed and construction began May 28. Interior wall construction is progressing, plumbing is in place and electrical began work June 12. JJ Jefferson will be onsite June 13. Work is moving along quickly. We hope to be in the new offices by the end of August. Our Union Hall will now be much closer to the JATC office, so be sure to come over and become familiar with YOUR UNION, which is YOUR FUTURE!

*John Kearns, Business Manager
OPCMIA Local 528*



Plasterers Tips

by Matt Markham
Plasterers Education Director

Make sure to get your name on the Out of Work list if you get laid off. Also be sure to take your name off the list if you return to work. If you are out of work and want to come in and improve your skills, call me at (206) 919-7395. Work smart, work safe and take pride.

*Matt Markham, Education Director
Washington Plasterers Apprenticeship*

Kennewick *(Continued from first column)*

need to leave those at home, focus on your job and be able to take a little constructive criticism.

I am very proud of our apprentices and enjoy watching them growing through the years into fully functional Journeyman. Listen to your instructors and find a good Journeyman mentor to help you if you need it. You are our future, so take pride in being Union, work hard and live well.

*BC Smith, Business Manager
OPCMIA Local 478*

Hold Onto Those Paystubs!

You've been paid, the money is in your pocket or in the bank, so who cares about those paystubs? You should. If there is any question or dispute over hours, pay or benefits, you will need your paystubs in order to prove what you were paid and whether there is a discrepancy in payments to your benefits and vacation accounts. Another important reason to keep paystubs is to request to receive your raise earlier. The administration office runs two months behind in reporting apprentice work hours to the apprenticeship. You may have already worked enough hours to qualify for a raise, but the apprenticeship will not know until two months later. If you kept your paystubs, you can bring them into the apprenticeship to prove that you qualify for a raise right away.

Call for Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers to assist in a pour for a very special project. The Kitsap 9-11 Memorial will incorporate two steel beams recovered from the twin towers of the World Trade Center (WTC), and will honor the victims and heroes of 9/11. Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue was the third in the nation to apply for the WTC artifacts and the first in Washington State to receive approval. Volunteers are needed late July or early August. Contact Frank at (206) 762-9286 to volunteer.

Heads Up: Fall Classes

Summer is just beginning and it may seem early to start thinking about Fall Classes. But it's never too early to reserve a spot in your calendar. Remember that attending training is a requirement of apprenticeship. Fall classes last one week and will run through the month of September. Here are the topics and tentative dates for Cement Mason Apprentices. Plasterer Apprentice class dates are still pending but will also start in September.

First Year Apprentices	Sept. 9-13
Basic Flatwork & Setup	
Second Year Apprentices	Sept. 16-20
Exposed Aggregate & Trowel Machine	
Third Year Apprentices	Sept. 23-27
F Numbers, Superflat & Polishing Samples	

Don't know what some of those topics mean? Here's your chance to find out!



You May Be Missing Out on Valuable GI Bill Benefits!

Both the Cement Masons and Plasterers Apprenticeships are certified for veteran's education benefits, A.K.A. the GI Bill. Qualified veterans may receive benefits to supplement the reduced income they receive as apprentices. We currently have only three veterans taking advantage of this opportunity to supplement their paycheck. Here's what you need to do to sign up for the program:

- Find out if you are eligible by calling the DVA at (888) 442-4551 or visiting www.gibill.va.gov. As a veteran, you have ten years after your separation from service to use your GI Bill benefits.
- If you are eligible, contact our office at (206) 762-9286 to make an appointment to fill out GI Bill paperwork.
- If approved, you will need to provide our office with copies of your paystubs every month so that we can bill for your benefits.

It's that easy!

MCHUMOR.com by T. McCracken



"Now you know where you left your tools."