



PLASTERERS' LOCAL NO. 200
Operative Plasterers', Cement Masons' and Shop Hands'
International Association, AFL-CIO
 1610 W. Holt Avenue
 Pomona, CA 91768

Happy Halloween!



PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Walnut, CA
 Permit #50



Trowel Talk

*The Official Newsletter of
 Plasterers' Local No. 200*

Editor: DAVID FRITCHEL

SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

FALL 2007

What are you guys doing about that?

This seems to be the most popular question asked by our members today (usually over the phone) and occasionally a member will come to a meeting for the first time in 30 years to get something off his chest. Meetings are a great place to do that. More often than not, those issues have already gone into 'rehab' by the local and are on their way to recovery. Like most wounds, the healing process is dictated by the depth of the cut and not just by making a simple change.

Local 200's efforts to provide the most desirable workforce that is better trained than ever before is a joint effort between the local and its members. We expect our members to represent Local 200 on the jobs as professional mechanics and responsible employees that have a positive attitude. If you have a monkey on your back, leave it at home or someone else will be taking your job.

Back to the question, what are **you guys** doing about that?

Problem: We have several applicants coming into the local claiming to be a journeyman with years and years of experience.

Solution: Prove it. If you can't answer some basic questions about plastering then you will be coming in the local as an apprentice.

Problem: Some applicants may not be physically capable of performing normal work processes.

Solution: Now, all applicants entering the apprenticeship program must pass a physical agility test proving that they really can carry a bag or bucket of material. You may be surprised at the number of failures.

Problem: We get a call from an employer saying that the member we dispatched him does not have a good social security #. Why can't **you guys** send me legal workers?

Solution: All new applicants have their SS# verified by the Federal Government in a matter of minutes. Over 30 applicants have been turned away because of a bad SS# since January 2007.

Problem: Some members are still 'specialists' and don't know enough (usually lacking EIFS skills) to keep employed for longer periods of time.

Solution: We have EIFS upgrade classes for journeymen that will give members an AWCI certification.

Problem: I can't communicate with that guy. He might be a threat to my safety. Employers are worried about liability.

Solution: Non English speaking apprentices are required to enroll in ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to stay in the apprenticeship program.

Problem: Employers are demanding all employees have scaffold user certifications from Local 200.

Solution: If you don't have a scaffold certification then the employer is only obligated to pay you 95% of your wages and in some cases you will not be eligible for employment at all. (adopted in August 2000).

These are just some of the main topics addressed by our local and although they are not a quick fix, they are a step in the right direction. Some of the solutions require a lot of navigation through legal loopholes and a bureaucracy that the local must carefully approach. What can **you guys** as members in the field do to help your fellow workers (apprentices or journeyman) to improve, so everyone will benefit? By the way, it is much healthier to come to a meeting to get something off your chest than to take it to the job-site and 'trash talk' your partner to death. Let's not be our own worst enemy and let us all be part of the solution. This is your union.

Tom Castleman

As smart as you are . . . – DID YOU KNOW? –

- Thirty-five percent (35%) of the people who use personal ads for dating, are already married.
- The worlds' termite's population outweighs the worlds' human's 10 to 1.
- On average, 100 people choke to death on ball point pens every year, so be careful.
- More people are killed annually by donkeys than in air plane crashes.
- In every episode of Seinfeld there's a *Superman* somewhere.
- Cat's urine glows under a black light.
- 91% of Americans lie daily.
- A duck's quack does not echo. No one knows why.
- Two thirds of the world's egg plants are grown in New Jersey.
- A Gold Fish has a memory span of three seconds.
- All of the clocks in the movie *Pulp Fiction* are stuck at 4:20.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- A dragonfly has a life span of only 24 hours as an adult.
- Dr. Seuss coined the word *Nerd* in his 1950 book *If I ran the Zoo*.
- 791 People die from toasters around the world and 9 from shark attacks.

Now you know!!!

OFFICERS AND STAFF

PLASTERERS' UNION LOCAL 200

Bill Muffley
President

Phil Pastor
Vice President

Robert Pullen, Jr.
Bus. Mgr./Sec'y Tr.

Dave Fritchel
Business Agent

Thomas Castleman
Business Agent

Russ Nicholson
Business Agent

Thomas Warren
Business Agent

Ken West
Executive Board

Gabriel Gamboa
Executive Board

Ron Holcomb
Executive Board

Carlos Ponce
Executive Board

Jimmy Rodgers
Executive Board

Evelyn Boniche
Office Administrator

Jovita Penunuri
Administrative Assistant

George Allen
President Emeritus

David Fritchel
Editor

800-559-2701 • www.plastererslocal200.org

ROSEBURROUGH TOOL DISCOUNT

Any Plasterer who has ever used a precision plaster tool crafted by Roseburrough Tool, located in the City of Orange, appreciates all the thought, precision and expertise that is crafted into each and every one of their plastering tools. Compare a Roseburrough Tool to one from Home Depot or anyone else and you will quickly find there is no comparison. Even the tools that are made by another manufacturer and carried by Roseborough Tools are held to the same high quality standard of manufacture as those made on-site by Roseburrough Tools.

Now Paul Horton, the General Manager at Roseburrough Tools has consented to offer Local #200 members a 10% discount by just showing your Local #200 membership card before the time of purchase.

Just show your Union Membership card when you purchase a plaster tool to receive a 10% Discount and say hi to Paul.

ROSEBURROUGH TOOL CO.
 630 N. Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92686-0307



Show Your Pride On Your Ride

*Do you have a Local 200
 member on your gift list?*

To Order your OPCMIA
 Trailer Hitch
 Receiver Cover
 send \$25.00 + \$3.95
 shipping and handling
 to Local #200 with the
 following information:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Who's Counting Bush's Mistakes?

By Stephen Pizzo, News for Real

Posted on February 20, 2006, Printed on August 29, 2007 • <http://www.alternet.org/story/32382/>

Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best, "The louder he spoke of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons." And no administration in U.S. history has spoken louder, or as often, of its honor.

So let us count our spoons.

Emergency Management: They completely failed to manage the first large-scale emergency since 9/11. Despite all their big talk and hundreds of billions of dollars spent on homeland security over the past four years, this administration proved itself stunningly incompetent when faced with an actual emergency.

Fiscal Management: America is broke. No wait, we're worse than broke. In less than five years these borrow and spend-thrifts have nearly doubled our national debt, to a stunning \$8.2 trillion. These are not your father's Republicans who treated public dollars as though they were an endangered species. These Republicans waste money in ways and in quantities that make those old tax and spend liberals of yore look like tight-fisted Scots.

This administration is so incompetent that you can just throw a dart at the front page of your morning paper and whatever story of importance it hits will prove my point.

Katrina relief: Eleven thousand spanking new mobile homes sinking into the Arkansas mud. Seems no one in the administration knew there were federal and state laws prohibiting trailers in flood zones. Oops. That little mistake cost you \$850 million — and counting.

Medicare Drug Program: This \$50 billion white elephant debuted by trampling many of those it was supposed to save. The mess forced states to step in and try to save its own citizens from being killed by the administration's poorly planned and executed attempt to privatize huge hunks of the federal health safety net.

Afghanistan: Good managers know that in order to pocket the gains of a project, you have to finish it. This administration started out fine in Afghanistan. They had the Taliban and al Qaeda on the run and Osama bin Laden trapped in a box canyon. Then they were distracted by a nearby shiny object — Iraq. We are now \$75 billion out of pocket in Afghanistan and its sitting president still rules only within the confines of the nation's capital. Tribal warlords, the growing remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda call the shots in the rest of the country.

Iraq: This ill-begotten war was supposed to only cost us \$65 billion. It has now cost us over \$300 billion and continues to suck \$6 billion a month out of our children's futures. Meanwhile the three warring tribes Bush "liberated" are using our money and soldiers' lives to partition the country. The Shiites and Kurds are carving out the prime cuts while treating the once-dominant Sunnis the same way the Israelis treat the Palestinians, forcing them onto Iraq's version of Death Valley. Meanwhile Iran is increasingly calling the shots in the Shiite region as mullahs loyal to Iran take charge.

Iran: The administration not only jinxed its Afghanistan operations by attacking Iraq, but also provided Iran both the rationale for and time to move toward nuclear weapons. The Bush administration's neocons' threats to attack Syria next only provided more support for religious conservatives within Iran who argued U.S. intentions in the Middle East were clear, and that only the deterrent that comes with nuclear weapons could protect them.

North Korea: Ditto. Also add to all the above the example North Korea set for Iran. Clearly once a country possesses nukes, the U.S. drops the veiled threats and wants to talk.

Social Programs: It's easier to get affordable — even free — American-style medical care, paid for with American dollars, if you are injured in Iraq, Afghanistan or are victims of a Pakistani earthquake, than if you live and pay taxes in the good old U.S.A. Nearly 50 million Americans can't afford medical insurance. Nevertheless the administration has proposed a budget that will cut \$40 billion from domestic social programs, including health care for the working poor. The

administration is quick to say that those services will be replaced by its "faith-based" programs. Not so fast...

"Despite the Bush administration's rhetorical support for religious charities, the amount of direct federal grants to faith-based organizations declined from 2002 to 2004, according to a major new study released yesterday...The study released yesterday "is confirmation of the suspicion I've had all along, that what the faith-based initiative is really all about is de-funding social programs and dumping responsibility for the poor on the charitable sector," said Kay Guinane, director of the nonprofit advocacy program at OMB Watch."

The Military: Overused and over-deployed.

Former Defense Secretary William Perry and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright warned in a 15-page report that the Army and Marine Corps cannot sustain the current operational tempo without "doing real damage to their forces." ... Speaking at a news conference to release the study, Albright said she is "very troubled" the military will not be able to meet demands abroad. Perry warned that the strain, "if not relieved, can have highly corrosive and long-term effects on the military.

With military budgets gutted by the spiraling costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the administration has requested funding for fewer National Guard troops in fiscal 2007 — 17,000 fewer. Which boggles the sane mind since, if it weren't for reserve/National Guard, the administration would not have had enough troops to rotate forces in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly 40 percent of the troops sent to those two countries were from the reserve and National Guard.

The Environment: Here's a little pop quiz: What happens if all the coral in the world's oceans dies? Answer: Coral is the first rung on the food-chain ladder; so when it goes, everything else in the ocean dies. And if the oceans die, we die.

The coral in the world's oceans are dying (called "bleaching") at an alarming and accelerating rate. Global warming is the culprit. Nevertheless, this administration continues as the world's leading global warming denier. Why? Because they seem to feel it's more cost effective to be dead than to force reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. How stupid is that? And time is running out.

Trade: We are approaching a \$1 trillion annual trade deficit, most of it with Asia, \$220 billion with just China — just last year.

Energy: Record high energy prices. Record energy company profits. Dick Cheney's energy task force meetings remain secret. Need I say more?

Consumers: Americans finally did it last year — they achieved a negative savings rate. (Folks in China save 10 percent, for contrast.) If the government can spend more than it makes and just say "charge it" when it runs out, so can we. The average American now owes \$9,000 to credit card companies. Imagine that.

Human Rights: America now runs secret prisons and a secret judicial system that would give Kafka fits. And the U.S. has joined the list of nations that tortures prisoners of war. (Shut up George! We have pictures!)

I could go on for another 1,000 words listing the stunning incompetence of the Bush administration and its GOP sycophants in Congress. But what's the use? No one seems to give a fig. The sun continues to shine in this fool's paradise. House starts were up in January. The stock market is finally back over 11,000.

But don't bother George W. Bush with any of this. While seldom right, he is never in doubt. Doubt is Bush's enemy. Worry? How can he worry when he has no doubts?

Me? Well, I worry about all the above, all the time. But in particular, I worry about coral.

Stephen Pizzo is the author of numerous books, including "Inside Job: The Looting of America's Savings and Loans," which was nominated for a Pulitzer.

31st ANNUAL

Apprenticeship



1st Place



Local 630's (Hawaii) Instructor Joe Gervacio with Apprentice Michael Daquioag.



2nd Place



Local 300's (Fresno) Instructor Joe Bonilla with Apprentice Abraham Rodriguez.



3rd Place



Local 200's Instructor-Coordinator Clyde Ingram and Apprentice Jose L. Gonzalez.



OPCMIA Annual Statewide Conference

August 16-18, 2007 Delegates and Agents from California's Plasterers', Cement Masons and Shop Hands Local, came together to discuss and strategize issues that concern our members and their families. One of the main topics of discussion was the Carpenters' Union leadership's aggression in trying to organize contractors doing our Historic Crafts with possible illegal monetary kick backs, as well as the continual lies and deceptions being spread about our Pension Trust Funds.

- Speakers included our new General President Pat Finley and General Financial Secretary Earl Hurd.
- Senator Lou Correa, spoke on the need to pass a balanced state budget and of Southern California's infrastructure needs that could create new jobs for working families.
- Bob Balgenorth, President of State Building and Construction Trades Council, spoke about the recent Washington Post article, about the shameless way the Carpenters' leadership uses \$8.00 homeless men to man carpenters' picket lines to make demands on contractors.
- Richard Slawson, Executive Secretary of Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, spoke about infrastructure needs and the current 28 project labor agreements and of over \$27 billion already slated for prevailing wage projects in L. A. and Orange Counties.
- Art Pulaski, California Labor Federation, spoke about effect of 7 million uninsured residents on the National and California economies and health care challenges facing working families in California.
- Jack Davis, Council for Plasterers' Local 200, spoke on the progress of the various suits against Carpenters' union Leadership.

Annual Statewide Apprenticeship Contest



On Friday, August 17th 2007, the Labor/Management Statewide Apprenticeship Committee held the 31st Annual Statewide Apprentice contest of Plasterers' and Cement Masons in conjunction with the OPCMIA Statewide Conference, in a huge tent, under the 95 degree Southern California sun, apprentices of each craft went head to head to show their skills and expertise. The weather was hot but it didn't detour the determined apprentices from showing what they had learned and accomplished in their various local JAC's. Also invited to compete in the statewide contest were Apprentices from Oregon and Hawaii.

In the Plasterers' contest, first place went to Michael Daquioag, representing Local #630 Hawaii. In second place was Abraham Rodriguez, representing Local #300 Fresno and in a respectable third place was Local #200's own 4th period apprentice Jose L.

Gonzalez. The judges had their work cut out for them trying to judge the best of the best of the most beautiful and skillfully done competition booths. Every one of the apprentices booths were so close to perfection, the judge's tallies were only 3 points different from first place to third place. Local #200 was well represented by Brother Gonzalez. All of his hard work and diligent practicing after work with instructors Clyde Ingram and David Stockman, was very evident in this completed booth.

Jose Gonzalez will no doubt continue to compete, but will journey out soon and that will leave the door open for the next generation apprentice. Apprentice competition not only builds character in the apprentice, but also has financial rewards. Not only does a competitor receives approximately \$500.00 in tools but also receives \$150.00 for just competing. First place receives a cash prize of \$1,000.00. 2nd place a prize of \$750.00 and 3rd place receives a \$500.00 cash prize. If you think you may know of an apprentice that has what it takes to be a champion, contact our apprenticeship office and make recommendations to Clyde or Dave at (909) 865-1773.



Brother Ken Rhodes doing demonstrations of La Habra Finishes.



Late afternoon judging of the apprentices' completed booths.

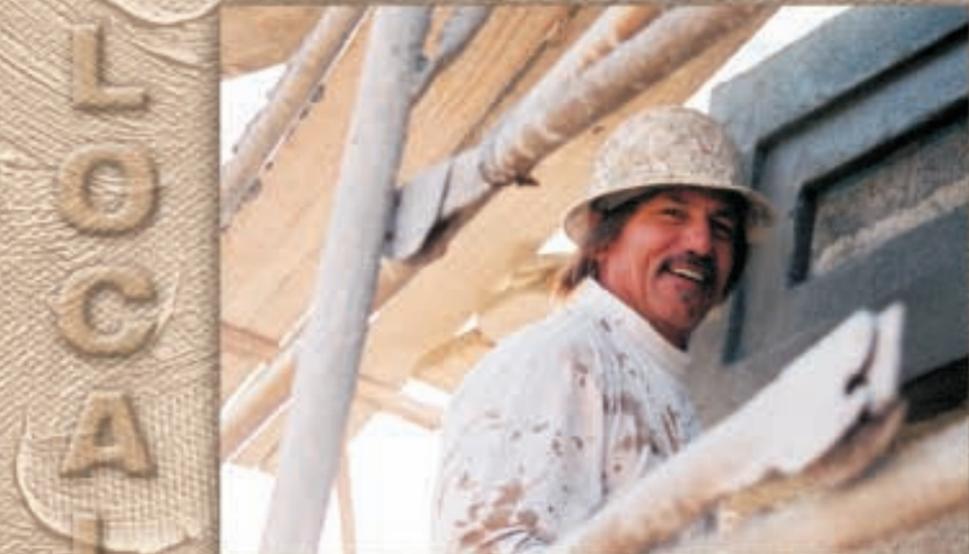
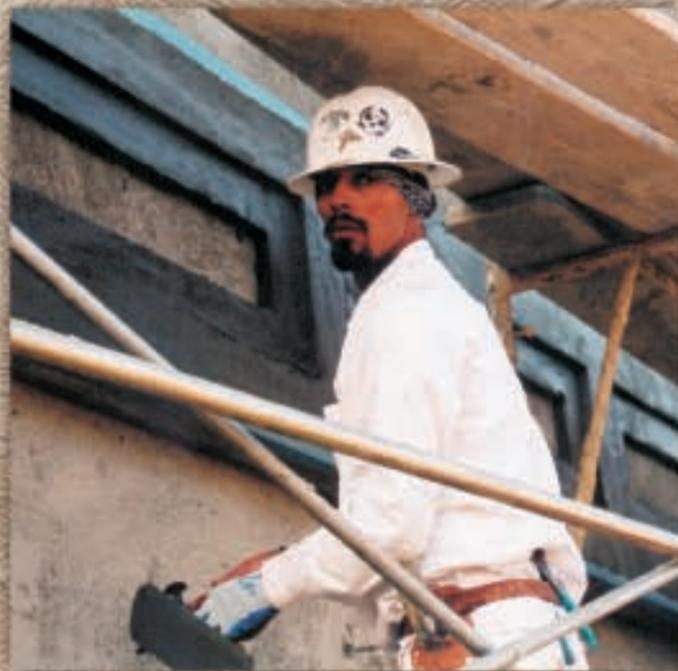
40 Years of Dedication

A special thanks and appreciation from Local # 200's Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee to Joe Krader. After 40 plus years of dedication to the training and molding of young men and women into Journeyman Plasterers, Joe Krader has decided to take a well deserved retirement from sitting on the Local #200's J.A.T.C. and Trust. Aside from his normal duties and schedules as Plastering Superintendent for companies like Alpine Plastering and Matrix Wall Systems, Joe gave unselfishly of his time and energies over the years to promote Plasterers Apprenticeship goals. Joe has always and tirelessly attended meetings and functions to help to advance the idea of training and guidance of those who chose to begin a career in plastering. Joe's own son Timm Krader started out as a Plasterers Apprentice, became a Journeyman and has gone on to found and own Matrix Wall Systems, who employs many Journeymen and Apprentices from Local # 200. Both Joe and his son Timm, a plasterer's apprenticeship committee member himself, know the importance of training to provide union signatory contractors the best plasterer craftsmen in So Cal. The competition for work among our signatory contractors is so great and qualified training is the only answer for our contractors to be able to compete and make a profit in the plastering trade. Our contractors know they can depend on the expertise, performance and pride instilled in our Local #200 plaster craftsmen, instilled from the first days that their training began as Apprentices.

The Committee will miss Joe's style and wisdom as a committee member, and will also miss the firm hand and direction he gave the committee as Joint Chairman. Joe has sat as co-chairman on the Plasterers Apprenticeship Committee and watched over the program for over 40 years and though he really deserves his rest he will be missed by all who know him.

Thank you Joe for your years of dedication.





PLASTERERS
ROCK!



S
A
Y

C
H
E
E
M
S
T
R

L
O
C
A
L

2
0
0