



# Trowel Talk

The Official Newsletter of  
Plasterers' Local No 200

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SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2007



For over 100 years in the Labor Movement, all construction unions, used and referred to the AFL-CIO's "Plan" to settle the occasional disputes between crafts jurisdictions. Arising from decades of past decisions between the disputing crafts came "The Green Book of Decisions". The green book contains over 100 years of history of settled disputes.

For all these years the green book has been the go-to source to provide harmony between crafts and trades, to keep crafts jurisdictions safe from raiding by other crafts. It has been the safe and sane way to keep job-site harmony among crafts, benefiting not only the union, but the union contractor as well.

Federal laws have been enacted stating that unions could not strike or cause any other job actions against contractors over jurisdictional disputes. The Plan is the proven, best way to settle jurisdictional disputes between unions and has worked very well, until now.

In the beginning of this new century the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, led by their international general president Douglas McCarron, disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO. McCarron has claimed many reasons for disaffiliating, saying that the AFL-CIO's General President, John Sweeney was not progressive enough and that the Carpenters' per-capita tax to the AFL-CIO and Building Trades Councils could be better spent. It was a disturbing fact to all the trade unions to see the Carpenters break rank with their brother unions and go off on their own, especially without a vote to do so by the Carpenter's rank and file members.

By 2002 it had become very apparent that the true reason for the Carpenters' breaking away from the ancient alliance with the other trades was for one reason only . . . to begin the raiding and outright stealing of other crafts' jurisdiction. Since dropping from the AFL-CIO the Carpenters are no longer held accountable to the AFL-CIO's Plan decisions for jurisdiction.

The Carpenters' began writing contracts that are referred to as "Vertical Agreements", (vertical agreements place other union's craft work processes into their master labor agreement). This has resulted in the weakening of the entire Labor Movement, which can only result in labor unrest on projects being done by union signatory contractors.

The Carpenters' Union since disaffiliating from the AFL-CIO has lost thousands of members, mostly because of their

mercenary tactics of organizing. Most notable is the recent loss of over 450 members when the Carpenters' bullying and threats during contract negotiations with the Schmid Group resulted in Schmid not re-signing with the Carpenters. Schmid's subsidiary corp., Insul-Pro did assign their fire-proofing operations to Plasterers' Local #200 in Southern California. Yet, the Carpenters' boast of huge increases of both membership and signatory contractors. McCarron has been systematically gathering and dissolving carpenter's locals and merging them into District Councils to make their numbers appear to be larger than they really are. Some Carpenters' vertical contractors set their own wages for private work, all the way down to starvation wages with no real benefits for the working man, who pays the \$1.11 per hour dues check off to be members.

The Carpenters' rhetoric is filled with various reasons why they should be able to

## Plasterers, Carpenters and the "Plan" for Resolution of Jurisdictional Dispute

steal other crafts work, saying other crafts are unable to organize or cannot provide craft training, which is in reality the very things the Carpenters' are proving they are doing poorly as demonstrated daily in the walls and ceilings industry. Their idea of organizing is to organize the already organized and to throw stumbling blocks in the way of the other crafts' organizing attempts.

The Carpenters international is large and intimidating, but the fact is they have the same problems they have always had and that is providing enough, well trained framers, lathers and drywall hangers to their signatory contractors, at the same time pointing accusing fingers at the smaller craft unions, as if those smaller crafts do not count and that Carpenters' members are somehow superior merely because they use propaganda and false rhetoric to downplay the importance of the smaller unions.

The Plasterers' Union has chosen not to go down the road that the formerly-independent Lathers' Union has traveled. As the Lathers' have learned, it is a road to mediocrity, poor craftsmanship and the loss of union democracy.

In the case of finger pointing and false rhetoric directed at Plasterers' Local #200, the proof is in the pudding. Local #200's Plasterer Journeymen and Apprentices are the very best in Southern California as demonstrated by the superior work produced for our signatory contractor's day in and day out. Our members know how to hide bad framing and fudge on poor lath trims. Plasterer foremen are forever making up for time lost by



**JURISDICTION** continued here

slow framing and lathing and still we can make money for our signatory contractors at the end of the day. In many shops the carpenter has the ear of the contractor and hides their inabilities by blaming the plasterer for production rates that are below par, though the plasterer is forced to move guns and jump around on sites in counter productive ways.

But I digress from the issue at hand; **CARPENTERS RAIDING LOCAL #200's WORK.**

The plasterer craftsmen of Local 200 have voted to keep the same Business Manager, Bob Pullen, and the same Business Agents to continue the fight to keep the plastering craft safe from aggressive raiding. On May 15, 2007 Plasterers' Local #200 filed suit against the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters for unfair competition. The new suit alleges that the Carpenters' Union has robbed work from Local 200 members by paying substantial amounts of money to vertical contractors, such as Standard Drywall and other drywall/lathing contractors in order to induce the vertical contractors to withdraw their plastering

work from Local 200's signatory contractors and instead assign that plastering work to their own employees represented by the Carpenters Union. The complaint in our lawsuit states that from July 2004 through June 2006 the Carpenters Union used their members' money to pay Standard Drywall \$1,036,326.00 to rob Local 200's members of work. Other vertical contractors are given large amounts of dues money to do the same as Standard Drywall and steal plasterers' work. These payments are reported in the Carpenters' own filings with the U.S. Department of Labor

Our complaint goes on to say that the Carpenters' Union gave these monies to their vertical contractors willfully, deliberately and maliciously with the intent to do harm to Plasterers' Local #200 and its members. In our suit, Plasterers' Local #200 estimates that harm to exceed \$7 million.

The OPCMIA Plasterers' Local #200 is small compared to the Carpenters' Union, but with your continued support we will continue to fight to preserve the craft of plastering and continue to insure our signatory contractors that the best craftsmen in the plaster industry are provided to them from Local #200.

Durante más de 100 años de Movimiento obrero, todos los sindicatos de la construcción, han recurrido y se han referido al "Plan" de AFL-CIO para resolver las disputas entre las jurisdicciones de diferentes oficios. "The Green Book of Decisions" (El Libro verde de las decisiones) fue el resultado de las decisiones tomadas a lo largo de décadas de disputas entre oficios. El Libro verde contiene más de 100 años de historia de disputas resueltas.

Durante todo este tiempo el Libro verde ha sido la fuente de referencia para garantizar la armonía en las profesiones y las ocupaciones, para salvaguardar las jurisdicciones de los oficios de incursiones de otros grupos profesionales. Ha constituido una manera sana y segura de mantener el equilibrio entre los puestos de trabajo de los diferentes gremios, beneficiando tanto al sindicato como al contratista del sindicato.

Se han promulgado leyes federales que prohíben el recurso a la huelga u otras medidas de presión laboral contra los empresarios por causa de disputas jurisdiccionales. El Plan ha sido el mejor modo constatado de resolver las disputas jurisdiccionales entre sindicatos y hasta ahora ha funcionado bien

Al principio de este nuevo siglo, el United Brotherhood of Carpenters (Sindicato de Carpinteros), dirigido por el presidente internacional Douglas McCarron, se desafilió del AFL-CIO. McCarron adujo muchas razones para desafiliarse. Afirmó que el presidente de AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, no era suficientemente progresista y que el impuesto per capita que los carpinteros pagaban a AFL-CIO y al Building Trades Councils (Asociaciones Sindicales de la Construcción) podría invertirse mejor. Ver a los carpinteros romper lazos con los sindicatos asociados y seguir por su cuenta resultó preocupante para el resto de grupos sindicales, especialmente sin haber existido una votación de los miembros carpinteros que validara esta acción.

En 2002 la verdadera razón por la que los Carpinteros rompieron sus antiguos lazos con otros gremios fue bastante evidente: entrometerse y robar abiertamente la jurisdicción de otros oficios. Desde que abandonaron AFL-CIO, los Carpinteros ya no cuentan para el Plan de AFL-CIO de Decisiones sobre la Jurisdicción.

Los Carpinteros empezaron a redactar contratos conocidos como "Acuerdos Verticales" (los acuerdos verticales colocan el trabajo de otros oficios en el acuerdo laboral principal). Esto ha provocado el debilitamiento del Movimiento obrero entero, lo que puede conducir únicamente a un malestar laboral en los proyectos

## Emplastadores, Carpinteros y el "Plan"

### de Acuerdo sobre la disputa jurisdiccional

realizados por contratistas signatarios del sindicato

El Sindicato de Carpinteros ha perdido miles de miembros desde que se desafilió de AFL-CIO, debido principalmente a sus tácticas mercenarias para organizarse. El caso más notable ha sido la pérdida reciente de más de 450 miembros, debido a que Schmid Group decidió no volver a firmar el contrato con los carpinteros a raíz del acoso y las amenazas recibidos desde el sindicato durante las negociaciones previas. La empresa subsidiaria de Schmid, Insul-Pro, asignó sus operaciones de protección contra fuego a Plasterers' Local #200 en California del Sur. Sin embargo, el Sindicato de Carpinteros alardea del fabuloso aumento en sus miembros y contratistas signatarios. McCarron ha unido y desunido locales de carpintería de manera sistemática y los ha hecho fusionarse en asociaciones locales para que los números parezcan mayores de lo que realmente son. Algunos de los contratistas de los acuerdos verticales con los carpinteros fijan sus propias tarifas para el trabajo privado, siguiendo una caída en picada hacia pagas irrisorias sin beneficios reales para el trabajador, que paga \$1.11 por hora de trabajo para ser miembro del sindicato.

La retórica del Sindicato de Carpinteros está llena de razones para justificar el robo del trabajo a otros gremios. Afirman que otros oficios

## New Apprentice Instructor

In the last Trowel Talk issue (Spring 2007) the Plasterers' Local #200 Joint Apprenticeship and training committee asked for qualified members to send in resumes for the position of apprentice instructor. After reviewing resumes and conducting interviews the J.A.T.C. selected Brother David Stockman to fill the position.

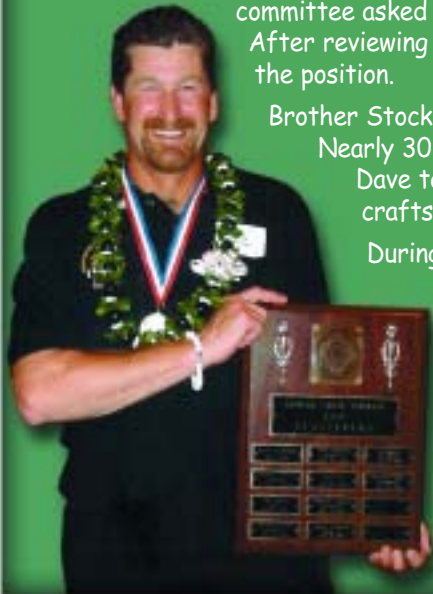
Brother Stockman brings a myriad of experience in the plastering craft to our apprenticeship program. Nearly 30 years of plastering under his belt and raising 2 young boys to manhood has helped prepare Dave to begin the task of transforming raw apprentice applicants into some of the finest plaster craftsmen California has to offer.

During his spare time Brother Stockman likes repairing computers, he is also a computer software whiz which will come in handy in his new position, tracking apprentices and craft processes.

Dave started out in our apprenticeship program and competed in the prestigious California statewide plastering contest, and he was the second California Apprentice to win the nearly impossible Hawaiian State Contest.

When Brother Stockman graduated from the apprenticeship program he was awarded the "Apprentice of the Year" trophy and was also recognized for his perfect attendance record.

Best of Luck Davell



### JURISDICCIONAL continued here

no son capaces de organizar o impartir cursos de capacitación, que son precisamente las cosas que ellos demuestran hacer mediocremente, como vemos a diario en la industria de techos y paredes. Su idea de organización es organizar lo ya organizado y lanzar bloques para obstaculizar los intentos de orden de otros gremios.

El Sindicato Internacional de Carpinteros intimida por su magnitud, pero el hecho es que tienen los mismos problemas de siempre, a saber: proveen a sus contratistas signatarios con suficientes ensambladores bien capacitados, instaladores de tabla roca y listones, mientras al mismo tiempo dirigen dedos acusadores a los sindicatos de oficios menores, como si no contaran y los miembros del Sindicato de Carpinteros fueran superiores de algún modo, simplemente porque utilizan propaganda y falsa retórica para reducir la importancia de los sindicatos menores.

El Sindicato de Yeseros elige no seguir el camino que ha escogido el anteriormente independiente sindicato de instaladores de listones. Como este último sindicato ha descubierto, es el camino de la mediocridad, las obras deficientes y la pérdida de la democracia sindical.

En el caso de los dedos acusadores y la falsa retórica dirigida a Plasterers' Local #200, el resultado es lo que cuenta. Los trabajadores yeseros y aprendices de Local #200 son los mejores en California del Sur, como han demostrado a diario con el excelente trabajo producido por nuestro contratista signatario. Nuestros miembros saben cómo ocultar un mal ensamblado de madera y esquivar listones mediocres. Los Yeseros están siempre compensando el tiempo perdido por un ensamblado e instalación de carpintería lento y aún obtenemos beneficios de nuestros contratistas.

Cambiando de tema; **INTROMISIÓN DEL SINDICATO DE CARPINTEROS EN EL TRABAJO DE LOCAL #200.**

Los Yeseros profesionales del Local 200 votaron para mantener el

mismo Gerente de Negocios, Bob Pullen, y los mismos Agentes de Negocios para continuar la lucha contra las intrusiones agresivas en el gremio de yeseros y salvaguardarlo. El 15 de mayo de 2007, Plasterers' Local #200 demandó a Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters (Asociación Sindical de Carpinteros de la región Suroeste) por competencia desleal. La demanda sostiene que la asociación Sindical de Carpinteros ha robado trabajo de los miembros del Local 200, mediante el pago de cantidades sustanciales de dinero a contratistas verticales, como Standard Drywall y otros contratistas en el sector de la tabla roca y los listones. De esta manera, inducen a los contratistas verticales a reasignar el trabajo de tabla roca a sus empleados representados por el Sindicato de Carpinteros, en vez de continuar encargándose a los contratistas signatarios del Local 200. La demanda sostiene que, desde julio de 2004 hasta junio de 2006, el Sindicato de Carpinteros utilizó el dinero de sus miembros para pagar a Standard Drywall la cantidad de \$1,036,326.00 con objeto de robar el trabajo a los miembros del Local 200. Asimismo, otros contratistas verticales reciben grandes cantidades de dinero de los sindicatos para robar el trabajo a los Yeseros, como en el caso de Standard Drywall. Estos pagos están recogidos en los documentos cumplimentados por el Sindicato de Carpinteros para el Department of Labor (Departamento de Trabajo) de Estados Unidos.

Nuestra queja añade que el Sindicato de Carpinteros otorga estas cantidades de dinero a los contratistas verticales intencionada y deliberadamente, con alevosía y con la intención de dañar a Plasterers' Local #200 y sus miembros. En nuestra demanda, Plasterers' Local #200 calcula que los daños y perjuicios ascienden a más de 7 millones de dólares.

OP&CMIA (Asociación Sindical Internacional de Yeseros y Cementeros) de Plasterers' Local #200 es pequeña en comparación con el Sindicato de Carpinteros, pero con su apoyo continuo seguiremos luchando para preservar el oficio de yesero y demostrar a nuestros contratistas que los mejores profesionales en la industria del yeso los provee Local #200.



# San Diego Construction Expo 2007

TOM CASTLEMAN

On April 28, 2007 Local 200 participated in the 4th Annual San Diego Expo. This event held at Qualcomm Stadium (called the 'Q' by locals) attracted more than 5,000 people who witnessed live demonstrations from craftsmen, participated in hands-on exhibits and walked around eating **FREE** hot dogs, **FREE** carne asada, and of course, sipping **FREE** drinks.

Exhibitors included large construction firms, trade associations, tool and equipment manufacturers and building materials suppliers. "Helmets to Hardhats" which helps transition military men and women to a construction career were also there.

Local 200 apprenticeship provided a live demonstration using a competition booth

and new apprentice competitor Jose Luis Gonzales. It was quite amazing to watch spectators marvel at how a 'real' plaster mold can be created with just a little water and some dry powdery stuff. Raymond interiors provided a live EIFS demonstration using Local 200 plasterers Brett Michaels and John Dunlap. Other Union trades were there to show off their craft as well but so were **non** union wannabe construction workforce suppliers.

The purpose of the Expo is to attract new apprentices as well as experienced craftsmen. Young people made a big showing even if it was their mom or dad dragging them down by the ear to find a real job.

The Construction Tech Academy (CTA) of

San Diego is the firm that benefits the most from the proceeds of this event. They are a pre-apprenticeship program that prepares students for what is really going to face them in the construction environment. CTA also target young high school students who have no real plans of going to college and help them choose high school subjects that can help them in the construction industry.

Local 200 plans on participating next year but is also planning on having the State Competition there in two years. This would be a great place to show off what Plastering and Cement Masonry work is really about. Maybe we'll see you there next year (**free** food, **free** food).

# LOCAL ELECTION

Every 3 years the OPCMIA Plasterers' Local #200 holds a general election of Officers as described in the Local and International Constitution and By-laws. The offices of president, vice-president, and recording secretary, 5 members for the executive board, sergeant-at-arms and trust fund trustee were all white ballots (uncontested).

The offices of Financial Secretary/Business Manager and 4 business agents were contested. An election was held on May 12, 2007 and presided over by OPCMIA's International Vice-President, Brother Mike

Moylan. Brother Moylan observed and directed the election and counting of the votes with the election committee, whom were appointed by our membership.

The election committee was made of 3 members; Enrique Flores, Jr., Ezequiel Mendez and Neil Brosious, also observing the election were Local 200's President Bill Muffley and Vice-President Phil Pastor. The votes were tallied immediately at the close of the election with a fairly good turn out. *The results are as follows:*

**PRESIDENT** ..... William Muffley  
**VICE-PRESIDENT** ..... Phil Pastor  
**RECORDING SECRETARY** .... Tom Castleman  
**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** ..... Dave Fritchel  
**TRUST FUND TRUSTEE** ..... Ken Wesy

**EXECUTIVE BOARD** (5 members)  
 Gabriel Gamboa • Ron Holcomb  
 Jimmy Rodgers • Carlos Ponce • Ken West

<b>BUSINESS MANAGER</b>	<b>VOTES</b>
Robert L. Pullen, Jr. -----	131
Neil Marra -----	26
<b>BUSINESS AGENTS</b>	
Tom Castleman -----	125
Russ Nicholson -----	131
Tom Warren -----	127
Dave Fritchel -----	127
John Hernandez -----	48
Eddie Borrego -----	54

## California Statewide Plastering and Cement Mason Apprenticeship Contest

**Friday – August 17, 2007**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



The Plasterers' Union is the oldest of all established building trades unions; the trade is as old as ancient civilization. The skills of the plasterer in all its forms and evolutions are alive and well in today's modern construction world, just waiting for you to tap into their limitless blending of decoration, durability and function.

Apprentice plasterers and cement masons from San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, Fresno, San Francisco, Sacramento and beyond will be competing in a one day head to head competition to see who's skill, talent and productivity reigns supreme . . .

**DISNEYLAND HOTEL PARKING LOT AT DOWNTOWN DRIVE  
 1150 MAGIC WAY - ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA 92802**



## PLASTERERS' LOCAL NO. 200

*Operative Plasterers', Cement Masons' and Shop Hands'  
International Association, AFL-CIO*

1610 W. Holt Avenue  
Pomona, CA 91768



### 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*

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Cover send \$25.00 +  
\$3.95 shipping and  
handling to Local #200  
with the following  
information:**

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State,  
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# Say Cheese!



LOCAL 200



PLASTERERS ROCK!

