

*100-Year Anniversary*



**COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY BOOK**

# Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons'



International Association of the United States and Canada

We hereby Grant this  
**Charter**  
to

Local No. 592 - Eastern Pennsylvania  
Michael Fera Charles Quigley  
President Recording Secretary

and their legally elected successors, to constitute the Local herein named and known under the title of:

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association  
of the United States and Canada  
Local 592

to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the purpose of effecting a thorough organization of  
Plasterers, Cement Masons and Shophands

and the said Local, being duly formed, is empowered and authorized to function and operate under a Constitution not in conflict with this Charter and not at variance with the Constitution, laws, rules and regulations of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association and as revised and amended from time to time.

Provided also that the said Local be held in Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania and not removed therefrom, without the consent of the International Association, and in default thereof, or any part, this Charter may be suspended or revoked according to the Constitution of the International Association. Should the Local herein chartered be dissolved (either by its own act or by act of this International Association), suspended or forfeit this Charter, then the persons to whom this Charter is granted, or their successors, bind themselves to surrender the same with such other property as shall properly belong to this International Association.

The name and title of the Local herein chartered is the property of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association. Upon dissolution, suspension or revocation of this Charter, the name and title of the Local shall revert to the International Association and the above named and titled Local shall thereupon cease and desist from using the same for any purpose whatsoever. And further, in consideration of the due performance of the above, the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association does hereby bind itself to support the said Local in the exercise of all its rights, privileges and autonomy as a Local of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association as provided and set forth in the Constitution of this International Association and as revised and amended from time to time.

## Amended Charter

Original charter issued by Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers Internl. Assn.  
on the Fourth day of November A.D. 1916  
to Local Union 592

In Witness Whereof, We have subscribed our Names and affixed the Seal of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association this First day of March A.D. 1995



John J. Murphy  
GENERAL PRESIDENT

John J. Murphy  
GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

## Cement Masons and Plasterers Union, Local No. 592

CHARTERED BY OPERATIVE PLASTERERS & CEMENT MASONS  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION - 1916

2843 Snyder Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19145

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**BILL OUSEY, President/Business Manager**



**AFFILIATED WITH**  
Building & Construction  
Trades Councils of

Pennsylvania:  
Philadelphia  
Central Pennsylvania  
Scranton/Wilkes Barre  
York/Adams County  
Berks County  
Lehigh Valley

New Jersey:  
Camden  
Mercer/Burlington  
Atlantic City  
Middlesex  
Monmouth/Ocean  
Union

Delaware:  
Wilmington

**AFL-CIO COUNCILS**  
Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania  
Bucks County  
Delaware County  
New Jersey

Brother & Sister Members,

As the proud President and a 33 year member of Local 592, I congratulate the men and women who have united in solidarity to keep Local 592 going strong for 100 years!

Without the sacrifices and commitment of our past brothers and sisters we would not be where we are today. We began as a local of cement masons only; through the years we merged with smaller locals to further strengthen our presence in the work force. Today Local 592 represents cement masons, plasterers and shop hands in Eastern PA, NJ, DE & Maryland. It is through the pride and commitment of our members that we are able to claim the work of all major concrete performed in our jurisdictional territory. Together the officers and members of Local 592 have created a legacy to be proud of.

On behalf of the officers past and present we thank you for your continued support and look forward to growing in solidarity and building strong through Union for many more years to come.

Fraternally,

Bill Ousey  
President/Business Manager



## BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

MARK WILDSMITH  
Vice President  
MICHAEL SABATINI  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

## FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

JEFF BARNHART  
TIM REMENTER  
TOM SPARACIO  
TONY GATTO  
JIM KILKENNY

## FUND ADMINISTRATOR

JOE DIEHL  
Assistant  
JOE MOSKAUSKI

## APPRENTICE & SAFETY

INSTRUCTOR/COORDINATOR  
MARK HARDER  
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# A CENTURY OF SERVICE

THE 100-YEAR HISTORY OF OPERATIVE PLASTERERS'  
AND CEMENT MASONS' LOCAL NO. 592



*As society grew and man undertook projects to control and improve his surroundings, cement masons became a vitally important part of the community. Bridges, canals, dams, reservoirs and many other engineering feats would be impossible without the skills of O.P.C.M.I.A. cement masons. Together with the plasterers and fellow building tradesmen, they have played a key role in shaping the world that surrounds us.*

– From the O.P.C.M.I.A. History

Since 1916, all the major concrete projects in and around Philadelphia have been done by members of Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association Local No. 592. Power plants and high rises, bridges and highways, sidewalks and curbs are all the legacy of the local.

But before then ...

By the early 1830s, plasterers' locals were located in many of the nation's cities and some time before the Civil War came together to form the [National Plasterers Union](#) (which in some records is referred to as the National Plasterers Organization). The group's primary missions were to regulate, standardize and publicize the different scales of wages and working conditions; establish a traveling card system; institute apprentice training and regulations on a standard basis; and to acquaint local unions with the names of unworthy members who had to be disciplined or otherwise penalized as well as the names of incompetent applicants for membership.



## Report of Secretary-Treasurer

### Charters Granted.

No. 592, Philadelphia, Pa. (Cement Finishers).  
No. 593, Daytona, Fla.  
No. 594, Oakland, Cal. (Cement Finishers).  
No. 599, Panama, C. Z. (pending).

*The Plasterer*, December 1916

The union disbanded about nine years after it was organized, but the local unions continued to provide services to their members. However, an 1880 census report on trade unions does not list a plasterers' union in Pennsylvania.

Representatives of the remaining locals met in St. Louis in September 1882 to re-form the national organization, which they named the [Operative Plasterers National Union](#). Michael Mulvihill of Cincinnati was elected as the union's first president and J. J. Kennedy of Cleveland was elected secretary.

Eighteen delegates met in Cincinnati for the union's second annual convention in July 1883. During the convention, newly elected officers included [James W. Smith](#) of Philadelphia Plasterers Local 8 as president.

At the union's 1887 convention, its constitution was amended to include Canadian affiliation and the name of the union was officially changed to [Operative Plasterers' International Union of the United States and Canada](#).

Then in 1914, in recognition of the growing number of cement workers who had come into the union, its name was officially changed to [Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' International Association](#) (O.P.C.F.I.A.). In July 1915, the union reached an agreement providing that members of the United Brotherhood of Cement Workers would be admitted to the O.P.C.F.I.A.

Philadelphia's last veteran of the Civil War, William A. Jackaway, was a member of Plasterers Local 8 (which merged into Local 592 in 2015) and worked actively until he retired in the mid-1910s. Brother Jackaway passed away at age 103 in February 1945, and his name is forever carved on the granite monument at Gettysburg marking the battle's "Bloody Angle."

Cement masons build Pier 9 North on Cherry Street in Philadelphia in 1918, with concrete forms and reinforcements in the foreground. (Photo courtesy of [PhillyHistory.org](#), a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)

## ESTABLISHING A CEMENT LOCAL

With no cement masons local in Philadelphia throughout much of the following year, the O.P.C.F.I.A. chartered Cement Masons Local No. 592 on [November 4, 1916](#), to serve the city and the southeastern Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Delaware, Chester and Montgomery.

The local's first listing in *The Plasterer* (the "Official Journal of the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Association") in its December 1916 issue named [Brother Robert N. Cairns](#) as Local 592's first secretary. The following month, [Brother Charles J. Shea](#) was listed as the local's first business agent.

At the time, the local reported that conditions in its trade throughout the city were "fair" and its cement masons were earning \$4.40 per day in wages while working 8 hours per day during the week and 4 hours on Saturdays. The initiation fee for new members to be admitted into the local was \$25.

Conditions for Local 592 remained "fair" throughout 1917 as World War I was reaching its climax after the United States entered conflict. In fact, a report in the newspaper for Labor Day that year announced that organized labor in Philadelphia in general was "thoroughly satisfied with prevailing conditions" and wartime production was helping to drive demands for labor and higher wages. Frank McKosky, secretary of the [Central Labor Union](#), of which Local 592 was a member, further stated in the newspaper, "In a great many crafts, wages are at a record-breaking point, while in the others there is plenty of work and the employers only too gladly meet the unions' demands."

Before the end of the year, the local would add a corresponding secretary to its group of officers; [Brother Jacob H. Booth](#) would be the first to serve in that role.

Local 592 was also a member of the O.P.C.F.I.A. [District Council of Philadelphia](#) and Vicinity, along with plasterers locals No. 8 of Philadelphia; No. 106 of Camden, New Jersey; No. 129 of Germantown, Pennsylvania; No. 264 of Norristown, Pennsylvania; No. 491 of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania; No. 494 of Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania; and No. 574 of Chester, Pennsylvania. An announcement in the January 1918 *Plasterer* stated that "All contractors coming into the jurisdiction of the council must pay the highest prevailing rate of wages within the council and adhere to the five-days-a-week law."

### NO. 592, PHILADELPHIA

The following Composition Flooring Firms in this city who are unfair to organized labor:  
Macanite Company of America.  
Wood Adilum Flooring Co.  
The Marine Decking Supply Co.  
The Mineral Flooring Company of Philadelphia.  
The Builders are also unfair to us.  
WESLEY FARMBRY, Sec. 592.

*The Plasterer*, July 1921

No. 5—Chicago, Ill.  
No. 7—Toledo, Ohio.  
No. 8—Philadelphia, Pa.  
No. 10—Boston, Mass.  
No. 12—Peoria, Ill.  
No. 66—San Francisco, Cal.  
No. 76—Canton, Ohio.  
No. 86—Helena, Mont.  
No. 89—Vancouver, B. C.  
No. 110—Great Falls, Mont.  
No. 112—Oakland, Cal.  
No. 124—Ottawa, Ont.  
No. 165—Hammond, Ind.  
No. 170—Oklahoma City, Okla.  
No. 229—Newport News, Va.  
No. 275—Cambridge, Mass.  
No. 319—Texarkana, Ark.  
No. 334—Winnipeg, Man.  
No. 354—Pensacola, Fla.  
No. 355—San Rafael, Cal.  
No. 457—Okmulgee, Okla.  
No. 460—San Francisco, Cal.  
No. 502—Chicago, Ill.  
No. 508—Greensburg, Pa.  
No. 519—Syracuse, N. Y.  
No. 534—Boston, Mass.  
No. 564—Miami, Ariz.  
No. 567—New Orleans, La.  
No. 580—San Francisco, Cal.  
No. 582—Sacramento, Cal.  
No. 592—Philadelphia, Pa.  
No. 600—Casper, Wyo.  
No. 613—Arkansas City, Kan.  
No. 631—Vallejo, Cal.

Many reports on the above subject are very indefinite. When disputes are adjusted we should be notified so the above may be corrected.  
Fraternally yours,  
T. A. SCULLY, Sec'y-Treas.

Until  
Further  
Notice  
Keep  
Away  
From  
These  
Cities

*The Plasterer*, October 1921

*Continued after the following spread.*

# THE LOCAL 592 JURISDICTION SERVICE AREA

At 100 years old in 2016, O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 592 represents cement masons, plasterers and shophands within a territorial jurisdiction that stretches through four states.

When the local was first chartered in November 1916, it was solely a cement finishers local — and would remain so until the early 1990s. During that time, several locals were merged into Local 592 to form the **Cement Masons & Plasterers Local 592 of Eastern Pennsylvania**: **Local 105** of Reading was merged on August 1, 1992; **Local 107** of York and **Local 233** of Allentown were merged on September 1, 1992; **Local 94** of Harrisburg was merged on October 1, 1992; and **Local 100** of Scranton/Wilkes-Barre was merged on March 1, 1993.

Then in July 1999, **Local 699** of South Jersey, Delaware and Northern Maryland became part of Local 592.

On September 1, 2015, in an effort to further strengthen the union's presence in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and northeastern Maryland, **Plasterers Local 8** was consolidated into Local 592.



Plasterers Local 8 apprentice graduation, 1930.

**PHILADELPHIA CEMENT MASONS — AREA 592**  
**Commercial Construction and Heavy & Highway**  
City of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania counties of Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware, Chester and Bucks

**SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY CEMENT MASONS — AREA 699**  
New Jersey counties Of Camden, Gloucester and Salem

**CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CEMENT MASONS — AREA 5**  
New Jersey counties of Burlington, Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset, Monmouth, Middlesex and Union

**ATLANTIC CITY CEMENT MASONS — AREA 33**  
New Jersey counties of Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland

**YORK CEMENT MASONS AND PLASTERERS — AREA 107**  
Pennsylvania counties of York, Lancaster and Adams

**SCRANTON/WILKES BARRE/WILLIAMSPORT CEMENT MASONS AND PLASTERERS — AREA 100**  
Pennsylvania counties of Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Lycoming, Sullivan, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, Columbia and Union

**READING CEMENT MASONS AND PLASTERERS — AREA 105**  
Pennsylvania counties of Berks, Lancaster and Lebanon

**HARRISBURG CEMENT MASONS AND PLASTERERS — AREA 94**  
Pennsylvania counties of Dauphin, Lebanon, Northumberland, Montour, Snyder, Juniata, Perry, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton and Schuylkill (Cement Masons only)

**ALLENTOWN CEMENT MASONS AND PLASTERERS — AREA 233**  
Pennsylvania counties of Lehigh, Carbon, Northampton and Schuylkill (Plasterers only)

**MARYLAND CEMENT MASONS — AREA 36**  
Cecil County, Maryland

**DELAWARE CEMENT MASONS — AREA 36**  
Entire State of Delaware

**PLASTERERS — AREA 8**  
City of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery and Chester; New Jersey counties of Burlington, Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Camden, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Somerset and Union, Princeton Borough and Trenton; Delaware counties of Kent, New Castle and Sussex; and Maryland counties of Carroll, Cecil and Harford

That May 1, Local 592 received a raise in daily wages from the cement contractors of the [Master Builders' Association](#) to \$5.20, or 65 cents per hour, up from \$4.40 per day. Conditions remained fair as 8 hours continued to constitute the workdays.

## FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL


While work remained steady, with a new Sears-Roebuck facility providing a large number of jobs for cement masons, the tide abruptly turned in May 1920 when Local 592 went on strike while asking for \$1 per hour in wages after its agreement with contractors expired on April 30. What's more, most all of the building trades in Philadelphia went on strike at the time, putting construction in the city "virtually at a standstill," the *Public Ledger* reported on July 14, 1920 – although the controversy was "not so much one of money as of the closed (union) or open (non-union) shop."

The employers' open-shop campaign, from which "war has been declared between the unions and employers," as the *Public Ledger* proclaimed, stretched well into the ensuing several years. During the conflict, on April 20, 1921, contractors announced that they would reduce the wages of all construction workers, including

dropping cement masons' wages from \$1 to 80 cents per hour.

By August, Local 592 members were locked out by their employers as they and the other building trades continued to fight against the open shop.

Employment conditions for the local remained "dull" into the first months of 1922, and in February, the local was again locked out – and would remain so until into August. Constant announcements in *The Plasterer* during that time warned brother cement masons looking for work to "stay away" from Philadelphia while Local 592 members continued to battle the open shop.



Cement masons pour the final concrete over the subway roof at North Broad and West Ontario streets in Philadelphia in June 1925. (Photo courtesy of PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)



Cement masons pour a concrete deck for a Pennsylvania Avenue improvement project in September 1931 in Philadelphia. (Photo courtesy of PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)

The local remained vigilant the next year and went on strike in May 1923 after contractors refused to give into demands for a raise for journeymen to \$1.12-1/2 per hour and double time for overtime.

But before the end of the decade, O.P.C.F.I.A. locals across the country would suffer "a severe blow" from the [Great Depression](#) of the 1930s, during which unemployment in the building trades soared. In the O.P.C.F.I.A. in particular, membership plummeted by the mid-Thirties to about 20,000, half the level of 1930, according to the local's history. (However, during that time, the union did open a Washington, D.C., office in the late 1930s to better serve the membership.)

Turmoil beset Local 592 and tragically climaxed in mid-1934 when factions within the local came to blows during an August 28 meeting in the Plasterers Hall that was called to arrange an election of officers. In the throes of the fight, member [John Vendura](#) shot and killed fellow member [Edward Dougherty](#). Subsequently, the following January a group from the local filed a request with the Common Pleas Court to appoint a "master to supervise an election of officers," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on January 16, 1935, because they felt that unless the election was controlled by the court, "disorder, violence and possible bloodshed may occur."

Local 592 apparently remained in a state of flux during the ensuing decade – a 1946 charter entry with the O.P.C.F.I.A. International Office states that the union's General Executive Board ruled that

Shortly after the United States entered World War II in December 1941, Cement Masons Local 592 converted its surplus funds into Defense Savings Bonds, initially investing \$3,500. "We intend to continue purchasing these bonds for the duration of this war," Local 592 Secretary Joseph P. Dougherty announced in the April 1942 issue of *The Plasterer*.



Cement masons pour concrete on Market Street just east of 30th Street in Philadelphia in September 1931. (Photo courtesy of PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)

“beginning October 1946, Local 592 be permitted to resume regular meetings and present officers retain their offices until election to be held June 1947.”

## BUILDING UP THE LOCAL

After the United States entered World War II in late 1941, members of the O.P.C.F.I.A. “served the cause in a number of ways, from completing defense projects well ahead of schedule to volunteering for the often hazardous duty of the Navy’s Construction Battalions (or ‘Seabees’),” the union’s history states.

With abundant work across the nation and in and around Philadelphia as wartime production spiked, on May 1, 1944, Local 592 wages were boosted to \$1.54 per hour. Even after the war, the local reached an agreement with the [General Building Contractors’ Association \(GBCA\) of Philadelphia](#) for another new, increased wage rate of \$2.25 per hour, effective May 1. The agreement not only covered the local’s members in the City of Philadelphia and Bucks, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties but also covered new O.P.C.F.I.A. locals 820 of Norristown and 105 of Reading.



Cement masons prepare to pour the concrete walls in the new Ludlow Street subway in Philadelphia in November 1948. (Photo courtesy of PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)

With construction still flourishing after the war as the country’s industries and cities turned to peacetime conversion, “the demand accelerated for the cement finishers represented by the O.P.C.F.I.A.,” according to the union’s history. “Highways, bridges, hospitals and school buildings were desperately needed, along with a multitude of other projects involving concrete work.” In that climate, national membership climbed over 62,500 by 1953, with 42 percent of the members working in the concrete construction industry.

Meanwhile, Local 592 journeyman wages increased to \$2.65 per hour on November 1, 1950, as part of a contract that would extend to April 30, 1952. At the same time, the local raised its initiation fee for new members from \$120 to \$175.

During that period, the local’s cement masons were working on one of the largest projects in the local’s history to date, construction of the [U.S. Steel Fairless Plant](#). Started in March 1951 and completed in late 1952, the facility included two blast furnaces and nine open-hearth furnaces and made steel beams and plates, among many other activities, on its 1,600-acre site along the Delaware River. (Peak employment at the plant would reach more than 8,000 in 1974 before the mill was closed in the late 1980s.)

After the local’s current wage agreement expired, the Federal Wage Stabilization Board (which was created to implement wage-control policies during the Korean War) approved another raise for the local to \$2.90 per hour on building construction retroactive to May 1, 1952. The board also granted the local’s Heavy and Highway journeyman masons a raise to \$2.75 per hour and Local 592 and Plasterers Local 8 home-construction members raises to \$2.72 and \$3.20, respectively, per hour, all also effective May 1.

The following year, Local 592 won a new, two-year contract for hourly raises of 20 cents the first year and 10 cents the second year, bringing total wages to \$3.20 per hour. The local also settled a new contract on heavy and highway construction with the contractors association that increased wages 20 cents per hour for a rate of \$2.95, effective July 6, 1953, to April 30, 1954.



Local 592 brothers (left to right) Robert Sherrod, Cesar Vuillermont, Adam Loeffler, (O.P.C.F.I.A. International First Vice President John J. Hauck), Charles Johnstone, Jerome Houston, Andrew Bowens and Charles Blockberger receive their 30-year membership cards from Vice President Hauck in July 1949.

Because its cement members did more than just “finish” cement, the Operative Plasterers’ and Cement Finishers’ changed its name to Operative Plasterers’ and Cement Masons’ International Association in 1951.

Construction of the iconic [Walt Whitman Bridge](#) across the Delaware River began in August 1953 with Local 592 members building the western half from the City of Philadelphia while cement masons from [O.P.C.M.I.A. Local No. 699](#) of New Jersey built the eastern half from Gloucester City in Camden County, New Jersey. The nearly 12,000-foot-long, seven-lane suspension bridge opened to traffic on May 16, 1957, and is now part of Interstate 76.

The local's Heavy and Highway members received another raise to \$3.05 on May 1, 1954, which would be in effect until April 30, 1955. The Contractors' Association of Philadelphia agreed to another increase to \$3.22-1/2 per hour beginning May 1, 1956.

Local 592's construction cement masons also gained a two-year contract beginning May 1, 1955, for rates of \$3.30 the first year and \$3.37-1/2 the second year through April 1957. When that agreement expired, the local – representing nearly 700 members – and the GBCA settled on a new, three-year pact that would expire April 30, 1960, and provided for a 40-cent per hour total increase while averting a possible strike by the local. The annual increases of 15 cents, 10 cents and 15 cents boosted the construction rate to \$3.77-1/2 for 1960.

In the meantime, Heavy and Highway gained a three-year pact commencing May 13, 1957, that would result in a \$3.62-1/2 hourly wage for the year ending April 30, 1960. The local's housing construction members also received a three-year deal from the [Home Builders of Philadelphia](#) that would give the cement masons \$3.37-1/2 per hour during the period ending April 30, 1960.

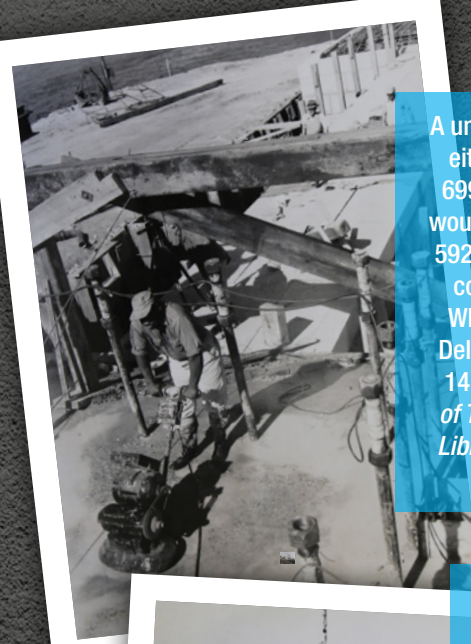
## STIRRED TO STAND FIRM

Into the 1960s, negotiations between Local 592 and its employing contractors' associations were not as cordial as they had been – and would remain tense at most times through much of the 1970s.

On May 1, 1961, a 10-hour-long bargaining session with a Federal



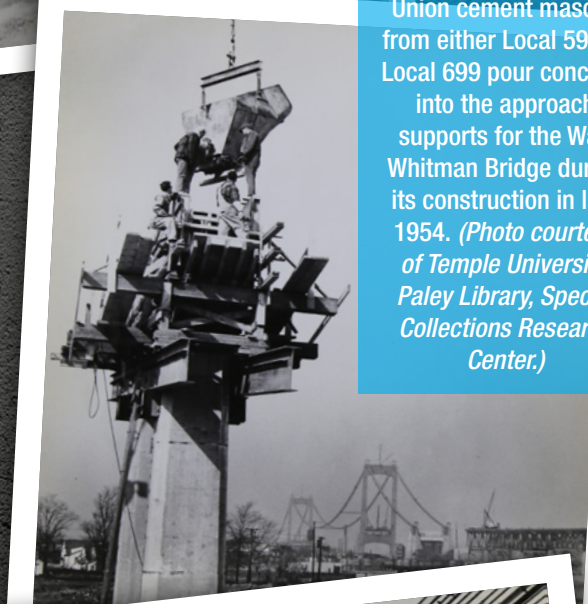
Longtime Local 592 Brother John C. Hauck (center), father of O.P.C.F.I.A. then-First Vice President John J. Hauck, celebrates his Golden Wedding Anniversary with Mrs. Hauck and family in December 1949. Brother Hauck Senior was a member of the Brotherhood of Cement Masons before the cement finishers were included in the International Association.



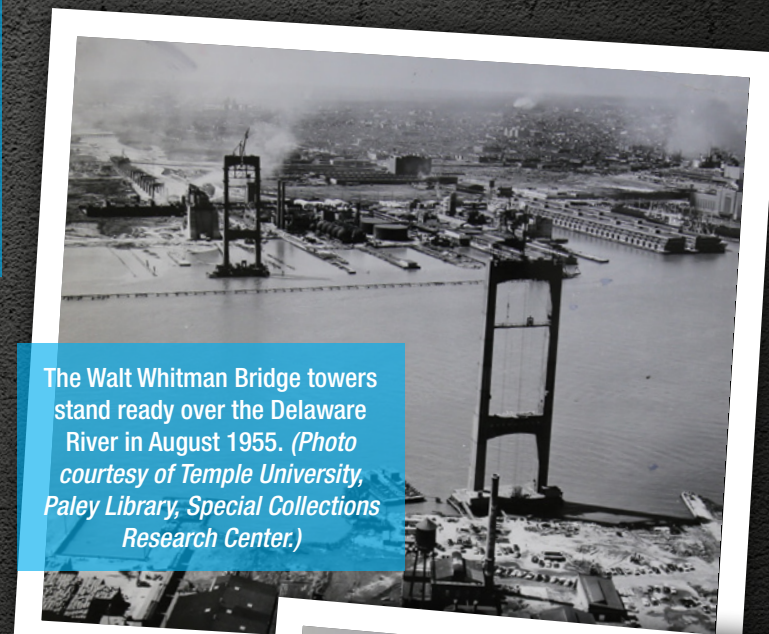
A union cement mason from either Local 592 or Local 699 of New Jersey (which would later merge into Local 592) polish concrete during construction of the Walt Whitman Bridge over the Delaware River on October 14, 1954. (Photo courtesy of Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center.)



Union cement masons from either Local 592 or Local 699 remove concrete forms during construction of the Walt Whitman Bridge on November 23, 1954. (Photo courtesy of Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center.)



Union cement masons from either Local 592 or Local 699 pour concrete into the approach supports for the Walt Whitman Bridge during its construction in late 1954. (Photo courtesy of Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center.)



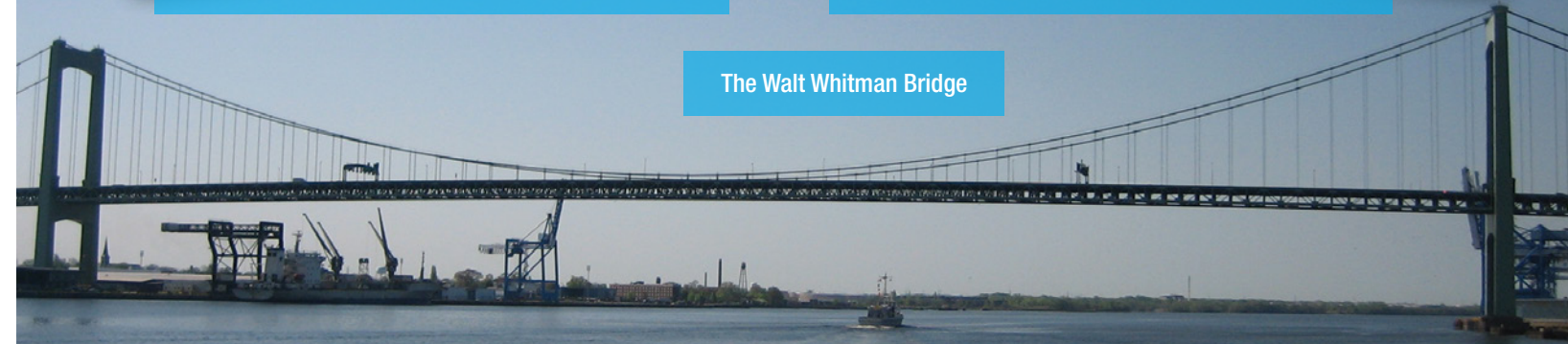
The Walt Whitman Bridge towers stand ready over the Delaware River in August 1955. (Photo courtesy of Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center.)



The Walt Whitman Bridge under construction in late 1956. (Photo courtesy of Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center.)



The Walt Whitman Bridge under construction in June 1956. (Photo courtesy of Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center.)



The Walt Whitman Bridge



Local 592 members picket the Municipal Services Building Project at Reyburn Plaza in Philadelphia on June 10, 1963, during a labor dispute. (Photos courtesy of Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center.)



mediator resulted in a stalemate after the local's contract had expired the night before. The 100 employing contractors in the local's five-county area were offering a 27-1/2-cent-per-hour wage increase and fringe-benefit package, which would boost workers' hourly wage to \$4.10 and welfare benefits to 15 cents per hour.

However, the local was also demanding that employers deduct the hourly union dues of its 700 members from pay, which the contractors would not accept.

In the end, Local 592 won a total raise to \$4.10 for the second year of a new contract, an additional 5 cents each year to the local's Welfare Fund and 7 cents per hour into a new Pension Fund – which would be created during the second year of the agreement.

The local was forced to call a strike against the Contractors Association of Eastern Pennsylvania and Philadelphia when that contract expired in April 1963, ultimately halting millions of dollars' worth of construction. [Business Manager Al Diorio](#) told the May 1 Daily News

that the 630-member local authorized the strike "in their fight for wage increases and a one-year contract."

The strike dragged into a third week after the local, which was

seeking a 60-cent-per-hour raise, refused to vote on a new offer following a three-hour conference with a Federal mediator on May 20. A major barrier to the settlement was the union's insistence that a cement finisher be present while cement is being poured, about which Brother Diorio told the May 21 *Inquirer* that the local "was trying to get back work once in its jurisdiction but which 'got stolen away from us little by little.'"

The local's membership rejected another offer from contractors on May 29 after the cement masons had gone back to work two days earlier when the Federal mediator announced an agreement had been reached. However, the contract was for three years, and members decided to hold out for a one-year deal.

As the strike continued into June, the local picketed the [Municipal Services Building](#) on Reyburn Plaza in downtown Philadelphia beginning June 10 because laborers there were doing the work of cement masons. A 125-man line established beginning at 7 a.m. by Local 592 shut down construction of that building as other building trades workers refused to cross. Two days later, the local extended it picketing to at least seven additional projects, including a school building at 20th and Catharine streets, a Temple University building, a University of Pennsylvania project at 38th and Spruce streets and an addition to the Sears store at 63rd and Market streets.

Three days later, the O.P.C.M.I.A. International Office assumed control of Local 592 and negotiated a new agreement in Washington D.C. with the Greater Philadelphia building contractors. The International then ordered the local to return to work after International officers signed the new contract, but Local 592 voted on June 14 to refuse the demand and continue its strike. Brother Diorio told the *Inquirer* that day that the local wanted a higher wage-and-fringe-benefit package than the one accepted by the International and that it was dissatisfied with the provisions of a guaranteed eight-hour day.

Local 592 finally came to terms with the International-bargained, two-year agreement on June 18, ending



The Local 592 Apprenticeship Committee meets in August 1964: (left to right) Tony Marrongelle, Albert Diorio, Frank Cook, Joseph Patti, Robert Hoffer and Joseph Washkill.



Local 592 members and their wives celebrate the local's 50th Anniversary on November 19, 1966.

Celebrating the Local 592 50th Anniversary on November 19, 1966, were (left to right) an O.P.C.M.I.A. international vice president and Local 592 brothers Jack DeLisi, Dominic Martell, Frank Russo, Mario Maurizi, Jules Forte, Joe Milano, Joe Patti, an unknown member, Leo Donatucci and Spiro "Speedy" Douvris.



the seven-week-long strike. The pact granted a 35-cent wage package, the guaranteed eight-hour workday and free bad-weather gear for members. The masons received a 10-cent wage boost the first year and a total hourly wage boost to \$4.70, while welfare payments were upped 20 cents and pension benefits were increased 12 cents per hour.

Brother Diorio said in the June 19 *Inquirer* that members reluctantly accepted the contract terms they had previously rejected. He acknowledged that the local recognized its strike had “caused a great deal of havoc” and that the International was under heavy pressure to end it.

## STAYING MARKEDLY VIGILANT

With the labor dispute behind it, Local 592 was at work in 1966 and 1967 helping to build the new [Spectrum](#) indoor arena, among many other projects in Greater Philadelphia. Opened in September 1967 as part of what would become the [South Philadelphia Sports Complex](#), the facility was home to the National Hockey League’s expansion Philadelphia Flyers and the National Basketball Association’s Philadelphia 76ers. *(The Spectrum would be closed down in October 2009 and eventually demolished beginning in November 2010.)*

Local 592 members then helped raise the new, \$63 million [Veterans Stadium](#) multi-purpose facility beginning in October 1967 as part of the Sports Complex, which also included the aging, 100,000-

seat John F. Kennedy Stadium that had been built in 1926. Completed in April 1971, Veterans Stadium hosted the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League and the Philadelphia Phillies of Major League Baseball as well as other large sporting, entertainment and civic events until it was closed in September 2003. *(It was eventually demolished in March 2004.)*

However, work on the stadium was halted on September 24, 1968, when Local 592 members again found it necessary to walk off the job (the day after a 12-week-long strike by rodsetters had ended). Three cement masons from the local setup a picket line at Broad Street and Pattison Avenue at 8 a.m. that morning to enforce their demands to have a cement mason on duty to float concrete while it is poured for the stadium’s foundation.

The picket was removed at noon after the stadium contractor, McCloskey & Co., agreed not to pour concrete until 4 p.m. the next day to permit the cement masons and the laborers union – which usually smoothed concrete on small jobs – to resolve the situation. However, only a few of the 90 other workmen and allied trades who had honored the line were available for work for the remainder of the day, according to that day’s *Inquirer*.

After three days, the cement masons were back on the job on September 27 following a meeting with contractors that settled the dispute. With the resolution, the local agreed to rescind its limitation rule of 300 square feet per day per man on the finishing of floors, while procedures on settling future disputes were also put into place.

Shortly after Veterans Stadium was completed, Local 592 joined 15 other unions of the [Philadelphia Area Building and Construction Trades Council](#) in yet another strike beginning May 1, 1971, against contractors of the General Building Contractors Association. As a result, work on hundreds of city projects including apartments, highways, bridges and homes – constituting about 60 percent of the work being done in and around the city – was halted after four months of bargaining left both

*Continued after the following spread.*

# Local 592 Union Halls Through the Years

After Operative Plasterers' and Cement Finishers' Local 592 was chartered on November 4, 1916, the local's offices and union hall were located at the O.P.C.F.I.A. Hall at 1312 Melon Street in Philadelphia for nearly the local's first decade. By the mid-1920s, the local had moved to an office building at 1325 Arch Street in the city.

By the 1940s, Local 592 had again relocated to 1803 Spring Garden Street, where it would remain through the late 1960s. The local then moved to offices and a hall at 2511 Snyder Avenue, which it called home for the next four decades.

In 2009, Local 592 moved up the street into its new, current union hall at 2843 Snyder Avenue in South Philadelphia.

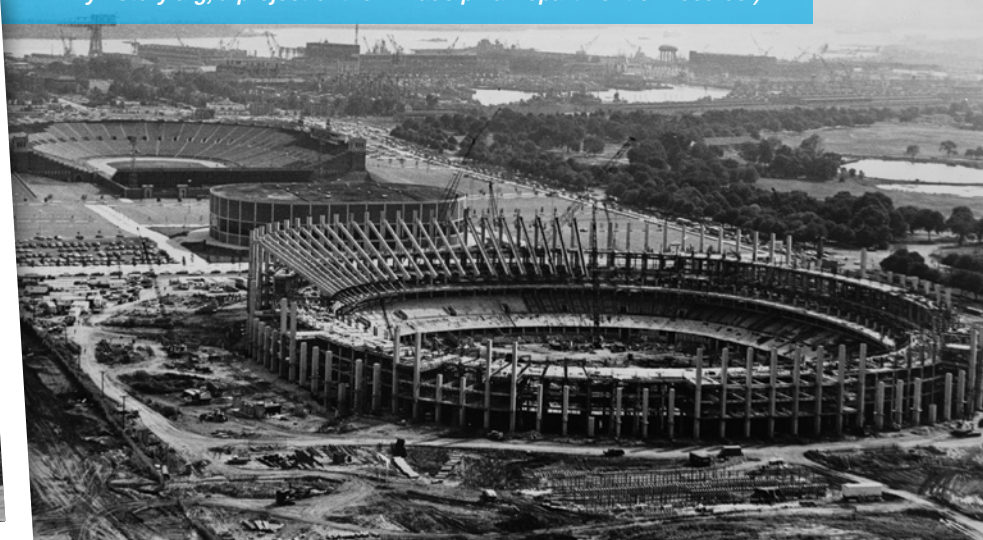
The Spectrum, 1967 (Author: Centpacrr at en.wikipedia.)

Veterans Stadium, 1971 (Photo courtesy of PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)



Construction of Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia in 1969. (Photo courtesy of PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)

Veterans Stadium under construction in the foreground, with the Spectrum and J.F.K. Stadium behind, in August in 1969. (Photo courtesy of PhillyHistory.org, a project of the Philadelphia Department of Records.)



Local 592 union hall at 2843 Snyder Avenue in Philadelphia, 2016.

# TRAINING – A PRIORITY FOR 100 YEARS

During Local 592's first several decades, its cement mason apprentices were primarily trained on-the-job, working every day with a journeyman cement mason. There was little to no formal classroom teaching of apprentices into the 1950s, while they learned their trade largely out in the field.

Following World War II, the influx of servicemen back into the workforce and a construction boom across the nation prompted the O.P.C.M.I.A. to begin establishing apprenticeship standards to assure a constant supply of highly skilled craftsmen into the industry. In 1946, the union joined with the Contracting Plasterers' International Association and the Associated General Contractors to establish the National Apprentice Training Standards, through which the union was able to "guarantee a steady flow of qualified plasterers and cement finishers into an ever-expanding construction industry," according to the O.P.C.M.I.A. History.

By the 1970s, a structured training program jointly administered by the union and the Greater Philadelphia Contractors Association had been established for Local 592 apprentices. During the three-year program, apprentices attended class one night per week for 18 weeks over their first two years. In 1975, starting wages for apprentices were half of the journeyman's rate – or \$4.38 per hour, and rates increased by 10 percent for each month an apprentice was in the program.

The classes were taught at Spring Garden College in Philadelphia into the 1980s, during which time the training program still required a three-year commitment of apprentices.

In the mid-1980s, the local purchased land across the street from its current union hall on Snyder Avenue for a training center of its

own. At 100 years in 2016, the local now operates its Apprentice Training Center at 2930 Snyder Avenue, which focuses on training its cement masons. Then on May 1, 1988, Business Manager John J. Dougherty, Financial Secretary Jack DeLisi and Vice President Anthony "Sonny" DiSabato negotiated a three-year agreement with the General Building Contractors Association and the Contractors Association of Eastern Pennsylvania that established a 25-cents-per-hour contribution for an Apprenticeship Training Fund for cement masons. With that, a formal training program was then established at Delaware County Community College.

The new program consisted of one full day per week of classroom training in theory, safety, blueprint reading and the evaluation and implementation of practical masonry techniques. Alternate weekly sessions were devoted to hands-on training, again with emphasis on safety and practical applications.

With the inclusion of Plasterers Local 8 into Local 592 in 2015, the local also now operates a second educational facility, the New Jersey Training Center at 711 Cherry Street in Gloucester City, which focuses on educating plasterers.

The local's Cement Masons apprenticeship requires a minimum of three years and 3,000 hours of classroom and on-the-job instruction. Its Plasterers apprenticeship requires a minimum of 3 years and 6,000 hours of instruction.

In addition, Local 592 also provides safety training for all members and journeyman-upgrade classes to keep the skills and knowledge of its cement masons and plasterers up to date with the latest technologies and techniques of the trades.



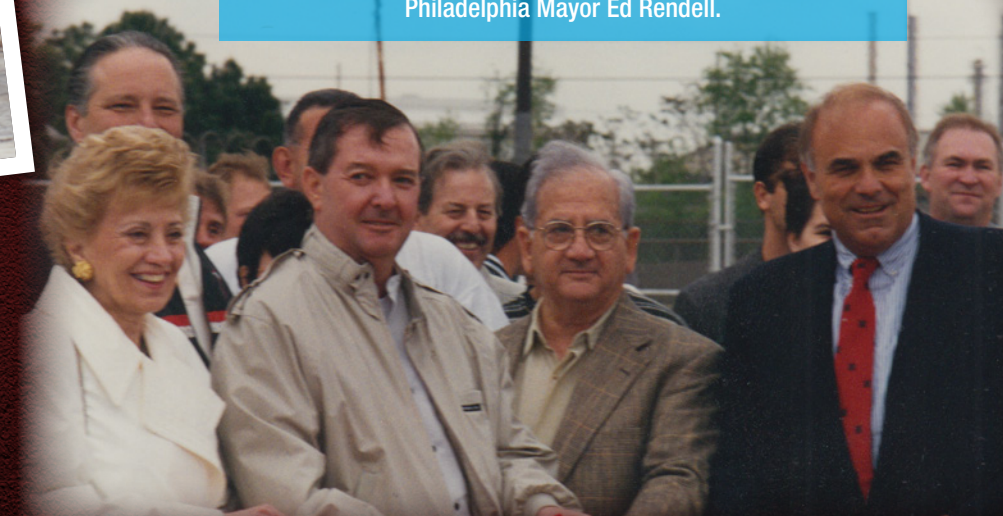
Local 592 Apprenticeship Class, 2016



Local 592 Cement Masons training center under construction.



Dignitaries celebrate the grand opening of the Local 592 Apprentice School: (left to right) Councilwoman Ann Verna, Brother John Dougherty, Brother Dominic Martell and Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell.



sides still “far apart,” the *Daily News* reported, as contracts expired on April 30.

The Trades Council was seeking an agreement whereby a common expiration date would be provided for all contracts with its 67 trade unions. Council Business Manager Thomas J. Magrann explained that staggered expiration dates of contracts “produced additional competition and pressures for higher wage settlements.”

Local 592 was the last union to settle its contract, agreeing to terms on August 20 while member cement masons had been working under a contract extension. The local’s current rate was \$5.50 per hour and a wage freeze was in place throughout the Building Trades, leaving unions to fight for other concessions – but later that year on December 3, 1971, the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee approved a 39.6-percent wage increase over two years for Local 592.

## ANOTHER STRIKE, MORE WORK

Less than three years later, several unions of the Building Trades, including Local 592, again had to strike for wage concessions for an across-the-board \$1.50 per hour increase and additional fringe benefits for the coming year. The carpenters, laborers, millwrights, floor layers and cement masons walked off jobs on the morning of May 1, 1974, in another dispute with the GBCA and the Contractors Association of Eastern Pennsylvania (which represented mostly highway work) over new contracts – while 17 other unions also had their contracts expire and did not have new pacts.

The plumbers, steamfitters, paperhangers and sheet metal workers would join the strike later in its first day. Altogether, the walkout initially curtailed work on almost \$490 million worth of projects, including the [U.S. Courthouse](#) at 6th and Market streets; the [Hilton Hotel](#) at 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard; subway work at 15th and Market streets; and Interstate 95 in Philadelphia.

After seven days, the striking unions settled on one-year contracts following a four-hour bargaining session with a Federal mediator.

When the dust again settled, Local 592 was back to work on a growing number of major projects, including the [Limerick Generating Station](#) next to the Schuylkill River in Limerick Township. Employing over 100 Local 592 members during its construction beginning in 1974, the nuclear energy plant would be able to produce enough energy to power more than 2 million

homes once its second unit was completed in 1989, according to literature of Exelon Corporation, which operates the facility.

Local 592 members were also building the \$330 million [Center City Commuter Connection](#) (commonly referred to as “the commuter tunnel”) beginning in the summer of 1978. The crucial project connected two separate regional commuter rail systems, the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Reading Railroad, once it was completed in November 1984. Many of the local’s cement masons were working on the two-phase expansion of the Philadelphia’s subway system to also stretch the rail system to the city’s stadiums and arena.

## GROWING THE CITY & LOCAL

An historic “building boom” in Philadelphia beginning in the mid-1980s resulted in a new skyline for the city and employed countless Local 592 cement masons on multiple projects. Primary among those were the construction of office buildings and condo towers in the so-called “Center City.”

The local also gained a new, two-year contract effective May 1, 1986, for its Building Construction members, giving the cement masons a raise to \$15.25 per hour the first year. Beginning May 1, 1987, another increase of \$1.10 per hour would be divided between wages and fringe benefits “at the option of the union.”

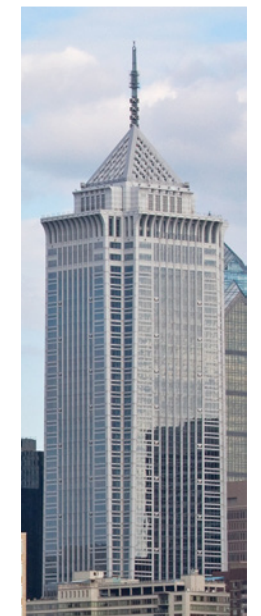
Foremost out in the field was construction of the [Liberty Place](#) skyscraper, shopping and hotel complex, which Local 592 members helped become the first buildings in the city to surpass the height of the William Penn statue on top of Philadelphia City Hall. The 61-story [One Liberty Place](#) was started in 1985 and when completed in 1987 was the tallest skyscraper in the city; the 58-story [Two Liberty Place](#) was started in 1988 and when completed in 1990 was the city’s second-tallest building.

Next up for Local 592 members and the City of Philadelphia was the [Mellon Bank Center](#), a 54-story skyscraper that was also completed in 1990 with the labor of union cement masons. (The building was renamed BNY Mellon Center in 2009.) Meanwhile, the local worked from 1988 through 1990 on the 45-floor [Blue Cross-Blue Shield Tower](#) or IBX Tower (now the G. Fred DiBona Jr. Building), which was built with a steel skeleton surrounding a reinforced concrete core.

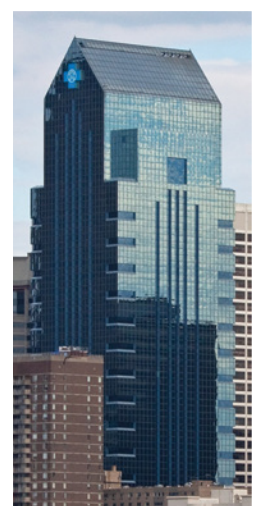
Additional high-rise structures and towers that rose in downtown Philadelphia thanks to Local 592 labor and skill included the 55-story [Bell Atlantic Tower](#) (now Three Logan Square) in 1991

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Sister Gloria Snipe was Local 592’s first female journey-level cement mason when she entered the local in 1980.



BNY Mellon Center



Blue Cross-Blue Shield Tower, 1990 (or the IBX Tower, now the G. Fred DiBona Jr. Building)

Local 592 presents a Political Action Committee check to O.P.C.M.I.A. international officers on October 9, 1984: (left to right) Financial Secretary Jack DeLisi, the International financial-secretary, Business Manager Dominic Martell, International President Mel Roots, Business Agent John Dougherty and an unknown participant.

Liberty Place



# Local has Served the International Well

*Local 592 has provided a long line of top-ranking officers to the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association over the years, including three International General Presidents.*



Brother Dominic A. Martell, who was an International Vice President until he was appointed the union's General Secretary-Treasurer in 1991, served as International General president from November 11, 1992 to August 31, 1996.

Brother John Dougherty was first appointed General President of the O.P.C.M.I.A. in 1996. He was elected to a second five-year term during the union's 49th international convention in August 2004.



Brother Patrick D. Finley, who had been general secretary-treasurer of the union since 1996, was elected by the union's executive board to serve the remainder of Brother Dougherty's unexpired term following his retirement, beginning Jan. 1, 2007. He was reelected and served in the top position until his death on April 10, 2016.

Among other Local 592 members to serve the International throughout the past century, Brother John J. Hauck was elected as First Vice-President of the union in 1943. Brother Hauck had joined the local as an apprentice in 1919 and served as its business agent.



and the twin 41-story **One Commerce Square** and **Two Commerce Square** on West Market Street.

The local received a three-year contract effective May 1, 1991, that increased wages to \$18.10 the first year for Construction Building masons. For each of the next two years through April 30, 1994, the local received 90 cent raises into members' wages and benefits.

In the midst of the expansion within its city, the local itself also grew during that time with the mergers of neighboring locals 94, 100, 105, 107 and 233 into the Philadelphia group. Subsequently, the **Cement Masons & Plasterers Local 592 of Eastern Pennsylvania** was re-chartered by the O.P.C.M.I.A. on March 1, 1995, enlarging the local's jurisdiction well beyond Greater Philadelphia.

Work was abundant and remained promising during much of the second half of the 1990s – and would continue as such into the 2000s as the area enjoyed an ongoing construction surge.

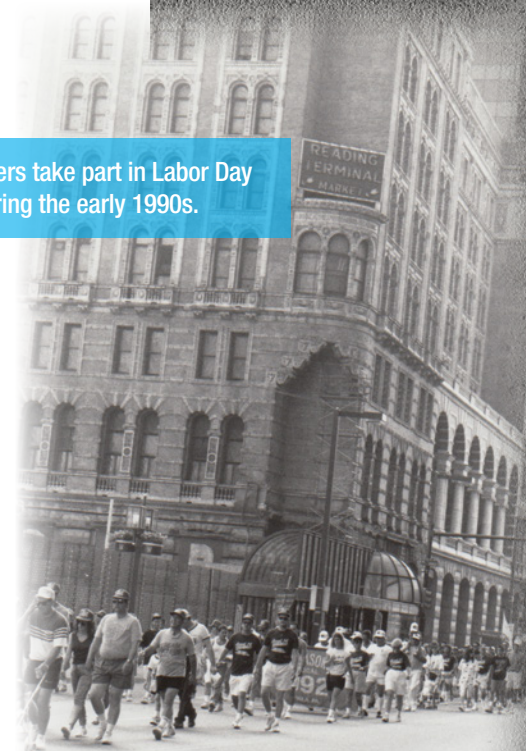
What's more, by the end of the millennium, Local 592 had established a **Job Targeting Program** through which the Philadelphia area of the local instituted a pin-pointing check-off of 25 cents per hour from each member's wages, allowing contractors to lower their bids on projects. Through the program, contractors still paid full wages to members while benefits were submitted without the amount that was "pin-pointed," which the union later paid to its Fund Office using the pin-pointing fund.

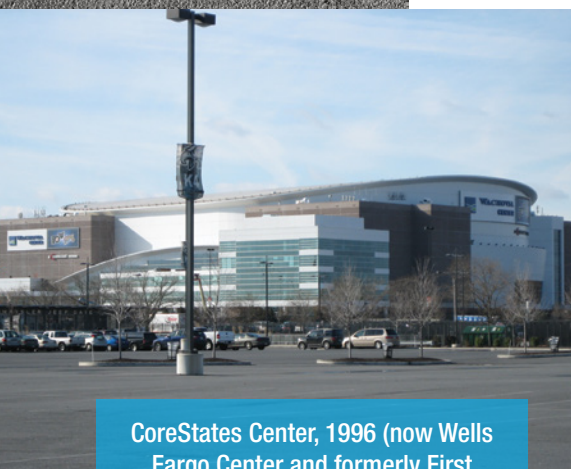


Local 592 brothers and officers "Sonny" DiSabato, John Dougherty, Mike Fera, Jack DeLisi and Pat Finley at an event in the early 1990s.



Local 592 members take part in Labor Day parades during the early 1990s.





CoreStates Center, 1996 (now Wells Fargo Center and formerly First Union Center and Wachovia Center)

"We are over 90 percent successful in winning concrete jobs against non-union competition by having our contractors bid jobs with sometimes up to \$10 per hour less than our (wage) package," Local 592 [Business Manager Mike Fera](#) reported in the local's Winter 2000 newsletter, *The Straight Edge*.

The local grew again to close out the millennium when in July of 1999 Local 699 of South New Jersey, Delaware and Northern Maryland, which had been chartered by the O.P.C.F.I.A. on May 16, 1938, became part of Local 592 and its jurisdiction.

## CONTINUING TO CONTRIBUTE

Despite a nationwide economic recession in the early 2000s (brought on by the crash of the so-called "Dot-com bubble"), the onset of "Y2K" was a relatively strong time for Local 592. In addition to ample work continuing in the city, construction of the [South Philadelphia Sports Complex](#) along Interstate 95, the new home of Philadelphia's professional sports teams, was well underway and supplying more work for the local's members.

Heavy and Highway cement mason journeymen also gained a new, four-year contract to begin the millennium, with a \$22.40-per-hour rate effective May 1, 2000. For each of the ensuing three years, the members were provided with increases of \$1.45 per hour, which could be apportioned among wages, the Cement Masons Local Union No. 592 Health and Welfare Fund, Pension Fund and Apprentice Fund.

The [CoreStates Center](#) (which would be renamed the First Union Center, the Wachovia Center and – most recently – the Wells Fargo Center), had opened in 1996 as the first facility in the Sports Complex. Local 592 cement masons and plasterers helped build the \$210 million home of the Philadelphia Flyers and Philadelphia 76ers over a two-year period.

Local 592 then poured and finish [Lincoln Financial Field](#) from May 2001 to August 2003 and [Citizens Bank Park](#) from June 2002 to April 2004. The \$512 million, 69,000-seat Lincoln Financial football stadium became home to the Philadelphia Eagles and Temple University Owls; the \$458 million, 43,600-seat Citizens Bank baseball stadium became home to the Philadelphia Phillies.

Construction of what would become the tallest skyscraper in Philadelphia (and 19th tallest in the entire United States) – the 58-story [Comcast Center](#) – began in 2005 with Local 592 members on the job, pouring its central concrete core among many other contributions. To prevent the tower from swaying too much in the wind, it was constructed with a 300,000-gallon, double-chambered concrete tuned liquid column damper, the largest such damper in North America, the Inquirer reported in an April 15, 2007, article. According to the December 22, 2007, Inquirer, tenants began moving into the building in early December 2007, ahead of the scheduled completion in March 2008.

Meanwhile, more construction projects on which the local's members would work came to its jurisdiction, including a renovation of the 30th Street Post Office to accommodate an Internal Revenue Service regional service center. Philadelphia School District projects and the [Symphony House](#) condominium and theater at Broad and Pine streets in the city also provided employment to Local 592.

But in late June 2006, serious strike talk was in the air for the first time in a long time as Building Trades locals sought new and improved contracts from the GBCA when agreements expired May 1. However, the 1,200-member-strong Local 592 was able to settle on a new, three-year



Citizens Bank Park



Lincoln Financial Field



Local 592 members working on construction of Lincoln Financial Field in 2001.



Local 592, Area 699 members (left to right) Bob Teti, Lou Settimi, Field Representative Joe Caucci, Joe Romano, Field Representative Bill Settimi, Wayne Caucci and Rich Kaelin were some of the brothers who donated their time in the fall of 2000 for two consecutive Saturdays to help restore concrete sidewalks and driveways at the Magnolia, New Jersey, Train Station.



## Local Gives Back

Local 592 member (and current business manager) Bill Ousey installs a plaque honoring Philadelphia police officer Thomas Trench, who was killed in the line of duty on May 29, 1985, at 17th and Spring Garden streets on May 3, 2005. In addition to the countless service projects and efforts in which the local takes part, Local 592 members have volunteered their time and have donated materials to help install hundreds of plaques throughout the city in memory of policemen and firefighters who lost their lives on the job as far back as the late 1800s. (Photo used with permission of Philadelphia Inquirer. Copyright© 2016. All rights reserved.)



contract on May 3 that provided a total 6.5-percent compensation hourly increase of \$3 the first year, \$3.10 the second year and \$3.15 the third. During that final year, the local's plasterers and cement masons would earn \$46.26 per hour: \$27.25 in base pay and \$19.01 in health, pension, savings and other benefits.

## WAVERING TOWARDS 100 YEARS

Conditions for Local 592 and union labor, in general, throughout Philadelphia and the local's jurisdiction deteriorated quickly beginning in the second half of the 2000s as construction work began to dry up considerably. On the upcoming, massive [Philadelphia Convention Center](#) expansion project, in particular, the local and the Building Trades had to take on City Council in December 2007 after municipal leaders invited non-union firms to work on the project. The conflict was defused, however, when Council on December 14 rescinded the invitation.

That evening, Council did impose new diversity rules on the Building Trades locals in order to work on the \$700 million Convention Center job. But Local 592 was "happy" to share the information with the city – as its membership was roughly 25 percent minority while its apprentices were about 65 percent minority at the time, the December 15 *Daily News* reported. Brother Fera even told the newspaper that he was "proud of the growing diversity in his union."

By the end of the first decade of the millennium, employment in the Philadelphia-area construction industry was running at about 40 percent, the *Inquirer* reported on April 29, 2010. With Building Trades union contracts about to expire and only a few major projects in the works, including the

Philadelphia Union soccer stadium and substantial roadwork initiatives, most unions were not seeking wage increases at the time. In fact, Local 592 was asking for \$1.75 an hour to be added to its Pension and Health and Welfare funds.

However, when contracts did expire on April 30, 2010, the cements masons and laborers, carpenters and operating engineers went on strike against heavy and highway members of the Contractors Association of Eastern Pennsylvania, halting all major road construction in the area. After workers manned jobs under terms of the old contract for two days, they picketed major work sites over the next several days, including the [South Street, Commodore Barry, Girard Point and Roosevelt Boulevard connector bridges](#), after a new agreement could not immediately be reached.

Two years later, the struggle against the non-union element reached yet another boiling point for Local 592 and its fellow unions when the Building Trades "staked a line-in-the-sand position that mixed union and non-union projects won't be tolerated," the September 13, 2012, *Inquirer* reported. At the center of the ongoing skirmish, "after months or protests, pickets and punches," was the renovation by a non-union contractor of the historic [Goldtex](#) factory building on 12th Street into an apartment complex.

Concrete suppliers both union and non-union honored the Local 592 picket line on the project. After months of stalemate, in the end the concrete contractor, GFI, signed a full agreement and the job was completed by union cement masons. "There had to be an end," Local 592 [Business Manager Bill Ousey](#) told the September 13 *Inquirer*. "I'd rather work with the Pestronks (the non-union general contractor) than be against them. They are developers, and we want developers in this city. They just have to pay the prevailing wages."

## PICKING UP STEAM AGAIN

By April 2015, construction-industry employment had finally recovered from the recession of the previous few years and building projects in and around the city were on the rise. But while most Center City projects were built by contractors using union labor, union construction projects were "less prevalent" in the suburbs, as the May 1 *Inquirer* described.

In an effort to reverse that trend, Local 592 joined five other Philadelphia Building Trades unions in an attempt to make union labor more marketable in the suburbs. The locals each



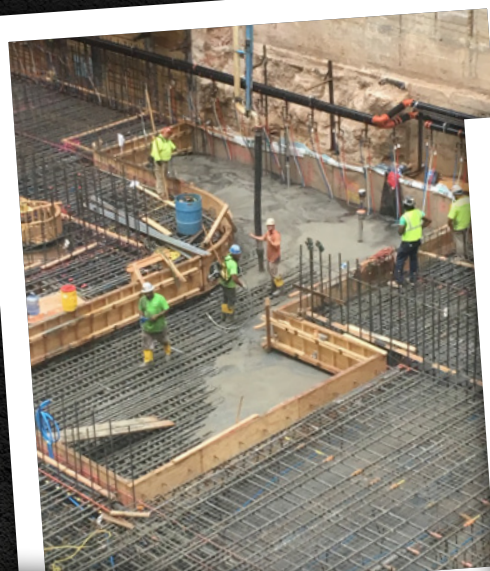
Comcast Center's concrete core construction in 2005. (Photo courtesy of Cool890 at the English language Wikipedia.)



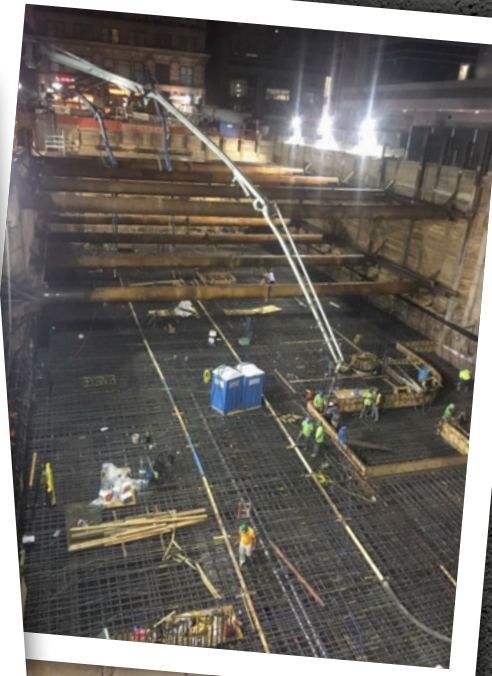
Comcast Center under construction in 2006.



Comcast Center, completed in 2007.



Local 592 members pour concrete for the W Hotel complex in downtown Philadelphia in 2015, the largest concrete pour ever performed in the city.



settled new, three-year contracts with the GBCA on May 1, after their previous agreements had expired the day before, that included a concession package for projects in the Pennsylvania suburbs.

The O.P.C.M.I.A. itself moved to further strengthen its presence in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and northeastern Maryland when it consolidated Plasterers Local 8 into Local 592 on September 1, 2015. With the merger, the local now represents all union cement masons, plasterers and shophands within its territorial jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, another construction boom was underway in earnest and the Philadelphia skyline was growing again – as Local 592 members were being put to work at a rapid pace. At the heart of it all was the 2014 start of the \$1.2 billion, 59-story, state-of-the-art [Comcast Innovation and Technology Center](#), which will be the city's tallest structure once it is completed in 2017. Standing right beside the Comcast Center, it will also be one of the largest buildings in the country.

Among the many other building and road construction and improvement projects that Local 592 members were making realities as it approached its 100th anniversary in November 2016 was the 755-room combined [Element by Westin and W Hotel](#) tower in downtown Philadelphia. Soon after work on the 51-story skyscraper began in May 2015, Local 592 performed the largest concrete pour in the city's history as part of the project's development.

One year later, with the local's centennial celebration just months away, union cement mason crews were at work in early June 2016 laying more than

450,000 cubic yards of concrete for new luxury condominiums at [500 Walnut Street](#). While throughout the City of Philadelphia and the expansive Local 592 jurisdiction, the burgeoning construction was demanding cement for more skyscrapers, roads, bridges, schools, sidewalks and countless other structures, enough concrete would be poured for the Walnut Street project alone to fill more than five Olympic-sized swimming pools.

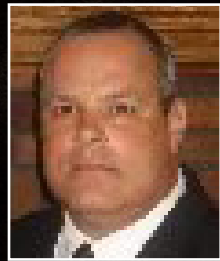
During May 2016, the O.P.C.M.I.A. General Executive Board chartered the [Mid-Atlantic District Council of Plasterers, Cement Masons and Shop-Hands](#). Local 592, along with Local 891 representing Baltimore, Washington and Richmond, affiliated with the new District Council at the direction of the General Executive Board.

On October 8, 2016, the Mid-Atlantic District Council called to order its inaugural convention, during which Brother Ousey was elected its president/business manager; Local 592 [Brother Mark Wildsmith](#) was elected vice president; [Brother Michael L. Sabatini](#) was elected financial secretary-treasurer; and [Brother Mark Hard](#) was appointed recording secretary. Local 592 brothers [Anthony Gatto](#), [James Kilkenny](#) and [Thomas Sparacio](#) were elected to the council's Executive Committee.

At 100 years, Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local No. 592 serves over 1,300 members throughout its four-state jurisdiction within the Construction Building, Home Building and Heavy and Highway cement and plastering industries ... and continues to build onto its century-long legacy.



# Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 592 Current Officers



Bill Ousey  
President/Business Manager



Michael Sabatini  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer,  
Business Representative



Mark Wildsmith  
Vice President,  
Business Representative



Jeff Barnhart  
Field Representative



Tom Sparacio, Jr.  
Field Representative



Anthony Gatto  
Field Representative



Tim Rementer  
Field Representative



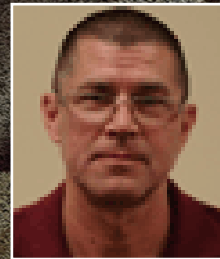
James Kilkeny  
Field Representative



Joe Diehl  
Fund Administrator



Joe Moskausk  
Assistant Administrator



Mark Harder  
Apprentice & Safety Instructor



Rob Petracci  
Apprentice & Safety Instructor



Jason Ercolano  
Sergeant Of Arms



Simon Holmone  
Recording Secretary



Dennis Fife  
Executive Board

Zane Walker  
Executive Board



Neal Kline  
Executive Board



Anthony Ditri  
Executive Board



Robert Landi  
Union Trustee



Donald Council  
Union Trustee

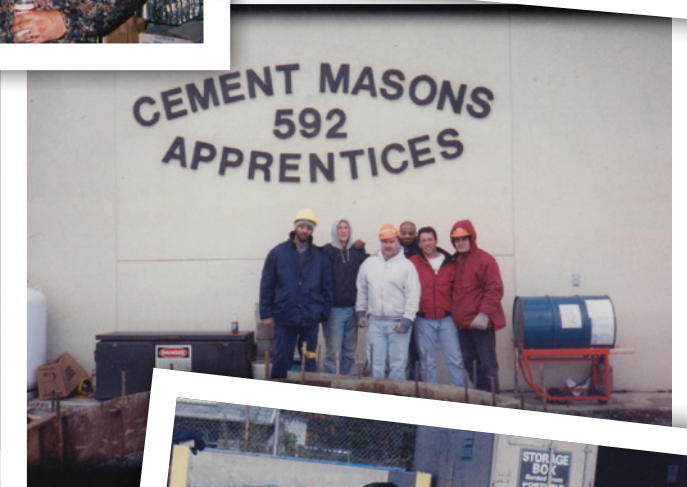












**Congratulations and Best Wishes  
Cement Masons and Plasterers Local 592**

***100th Anniversary***



**THE OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' AND CEMENT MASONS'  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

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**EARL F. HURD**  
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WORKERS LOCAL 14**



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**Hugh D'Imperio  
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**Joe Rowland**  
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**Anthony Jacobs**  
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**Perry Virgilio**  
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**Vince Chandler**  
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**Eric Oree (Hanif)**  
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**O.P.C.M.I.A Local 222**

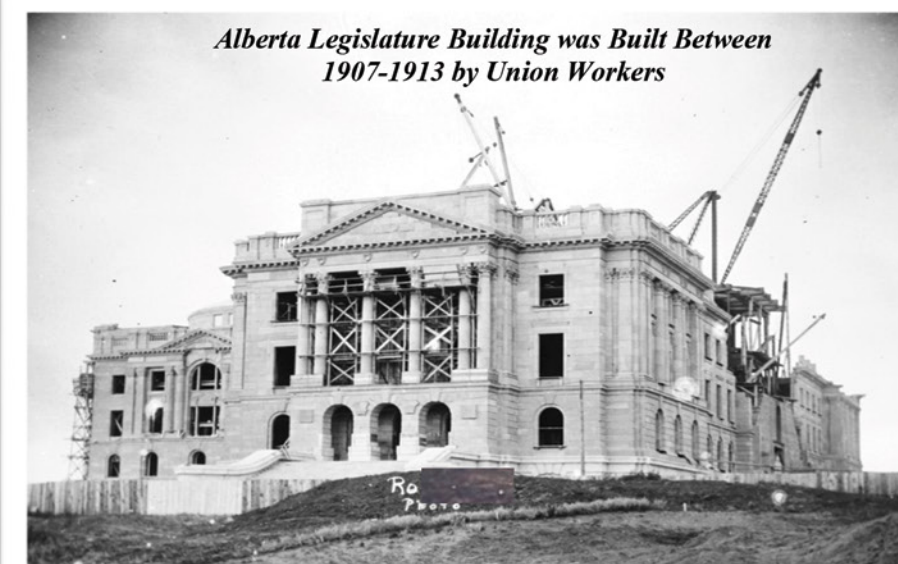
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# Local 592

CONGRATULATIONS TO **LOCAL 592** OF  
**PHILADELPHIA** FOR ACHIEVING 100 YEARS

THE OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' AND CEMENT MASONS INTERNATIONAL IS THE  
OLDEST BUILDING TRADE UNION IN NORTH AMERICA. IT WAS FORMED IN 1864  
AND HAS CONTINUED TO BE IMPORTANT TO THE  
BUILDING INDUSTRY IN NORTH AMERICA



**OPMICA Canadian Local 222** which currently services the Provinces of  
Alberta, Saskatchewan, & Manitoba was formed in 1907 in the city of Edmonton  
Alberta and was chartered as Local 372 a merger of four locals in the late 1990s creating  
one local known today as Local 222 which has been building the provinces since then.

For over a **Century** the legacy of the Plasterers skills is evident today in the intricate plas-  
ter in historic Landmarks such as the Alberta Legislative Building and the Cements Ma-  
sons of Local 222 have laid the foundations of many important structures including  
schools, hospitals and bridges that the Province has relied on for over a century.

From Alberta's infancy as a Province, through two world wars, the Great Depression  
and into the post-war era of oil and gas development, {which lead to the introduction of  
the fireproofing trade} and up to the present day, the skilled Plasterers, Cement Masons'  
and Fireproofers have proudly been building Alberta for over a Century.

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# Congratulations on Your 100th Anniversary



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Daniel Missig  
Vice President

Richard Davis  
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Paul Metcalf  
President/Business Representative

Executive Board – Nicola Demonte  
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Jeffrey Jordan  
Curtis Kozak  
Michael Ruffo

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Congratulations  
Local 592  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Business Manager

Lawrence J Picardi Sr.  
Secretary-Treasurer

John Manley  
President – Area 5

## BUSINESS AGENTS

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Jim Stika  
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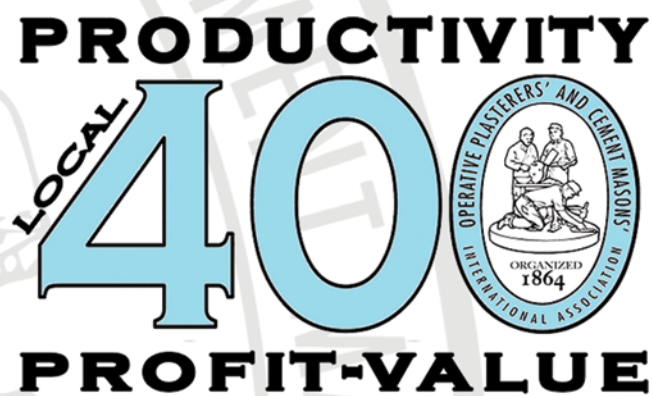
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JAMES PICKET - PRESIDENT  
JOSE JIMENEZ - VICE-PRESIDENT

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GEROYICE PICKETT - RECORDING SECRETARY

JESSIE TORRES - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

JERRY ZAMORA - BUSINESS AGENT - SAN JOSE  
CODY BIK - BUSINESS AGENT - SACRAMENTO  
JEFF PATTON - BUSINESS AGENT - STOCKTON  
JOSE JIMENEZ - FIELD AGENT - CHICO/REDDING

ORGANIZING DIRECTOR  
ERNESTO GONZALEZ

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Raul Sanchez, Vice President  
Michael Phillips, Rec. Secretary  
Edgar Godinez, Sgt-at-Arms

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Jose Bolivar  
Timothy Dortch  
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ON YOUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!

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WAYNE MILLER, PRESIDENT  
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STEPHEN PETTIT  
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# CONGRATULATIONS

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and Plasterers Local 592  
on your  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



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KEVIN C. BOYLE  
*Business Representative*

PAUL E. SHEPHERDSON  
*Business Representative*

210



Operative Plasters &  
Cement Masons Local 592,  
**Congratulations**  
**on 100 Years!**



From The Members,  
Officers, & Staff of  
IBEW Local 743  
Reading, PA

## Congratulations!

Thank you, Local 592 officers and members, for your continued dedication to improving the working conditions and living standards of Plasterers, Cement Masons and Shophands throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region.

In Solidarity,

**Douglas L. Taylor, Vice President**  
Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association

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## From Your Friends at District Council 21

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades  
Of Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware & New Jersey

Painters \* Drywall Finishers \* Glaziers \* Glassworkers  
Architectural Metal \* Wallcoverers \* Sign and Display \* Stadium Workers

**Congratulations**  
**Operative Plasterers &**  
**Cement Masons L.U. 592 on**  
**your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Joseph T. Ashdale  
Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer

Fran McLaughlin  
Director of Servicing

Matthew Trzaska  
Director of Organizing

Michael Previtera  
Fund Administrator

**Business Representatives & Organizers**

Mark Allendorf	Tom Boetefuer	James Burke	A.J. Casparro	Leonard Cid
Matthew Cortez	Robert Cross	Tim Crowther	Gary Forte	Chuck Green
Robert Griffiths	Joe Kelly	Ken Kraft	Bill Kresz	Michael Laughlin
Chuck Murtha	Ed Simpson	Bernie Snyder	Don Steinmeier	Michael Varnes
	Frank Watton, Jr.	Joseph Weiss		

**Director of Training**  
Michael Schurr

**Training Instructors**

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Joe McGee	Martin McNulty	Michael Metz	Dave Santangelo

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***Congratulations Local 592!***

Thank you for all you have done for our great  
City of Philadelphia over 100 years.

City Councilman Mark Squilla, First District

Phone: 215-686-3458

Email: [mark.squilla@phila.gov](mailto:mark.squilla@phila.gov)



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# Congratulations!



**ERECTORS**

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## Congratulations Cement Masons and Plasterers Local 592 On Your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

Laborers' Local Union 57  
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Business Manager

Michael Carfagno Stanley Sanders Charles Blackwell Robert Greenfield George Hutt Francis Rafferty Marcial Gonzalez Confesor Plaza Chris Guest Regina Fincher Brenda Joubert Anthony Talarico Rahine West	Secretary Treasurer President Vice President Recording Secretary Executive Board Executive Board Field Representative Field Representative Auditor Auditor Auditor Sergeant at Arms Organizer
--	---

Executive Board and Staff


**"BEST WISHES LOCAL #592 ON YOUR 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY"**

**SCRANTON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL  
OF SCRANTON AND VICINITY**

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TOM CALPIN, VICE PRESIDENT**

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 CEMENT MASONS AND PLASTERERS, LOCAL UNION #592  
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 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS & ALLIED TRADES  
 HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS AND ASBESTOS WORKERS, LOCAL UNION #38  
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 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL & REINFORCING  
 IRON WORKERS, LOCAL UNION #489  
 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS AND HELPERS, LOCAL UNION #13  
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 UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL UNION #645  
 UNITED UNION OF ROOFERS, WATERPROOFERS, & ALLIED WORKERS, LOCAL UNION #30



## CONGRATULATIONS TO CEMENT MASONS AND PLASTERERS LOCAL 592 ON YOUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

**PLASTERERS' LOCAL 262 WISHES THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS  
OF LOCAL 592 MANY MORE YEARS OF SUCCESS.**

PLASTERERS' LOCAL 262  
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# Congratulations

On Your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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*100 Years of Craft Excellence*

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BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES  
CRAFTWORKERS

Happy 100th Anniversary  
to Operative Plasterers and  
Cement Masons Local  
No. 592

We wish you continued  
success



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Salutes the Members & Leadership of  
Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local No. 592  
on another year of building a better Philadelphia.



Congratulations and Thank you!



**BEST WISHES FROM LOCAL 5 ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS**

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Jack D. Koch, Business Representative	Joseph Rittenhouse, VP
Joseph M. Williams, Business Representative	Walter J. Micka, Recording Sect.
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2601 New Road, Northfield, NJ 08225   Phone: 609-646-7888   Fax: 609-646-7887	1500 Caton Center Dr. Suite J, Baltimore, MD 21227   Phone: 410-247-0029   Fax: 410-247-0026



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*Congratulations*  
TO  
EVERYONE AT THE OPERATIVE PLASTERERS &  
CEMENT MASONS LOCAL NO. 592  
ON YOUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Best Wishes O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 592!*

From  
Mercer and Burlington Counties, New Jersey,  
Building and Construction Trades Council



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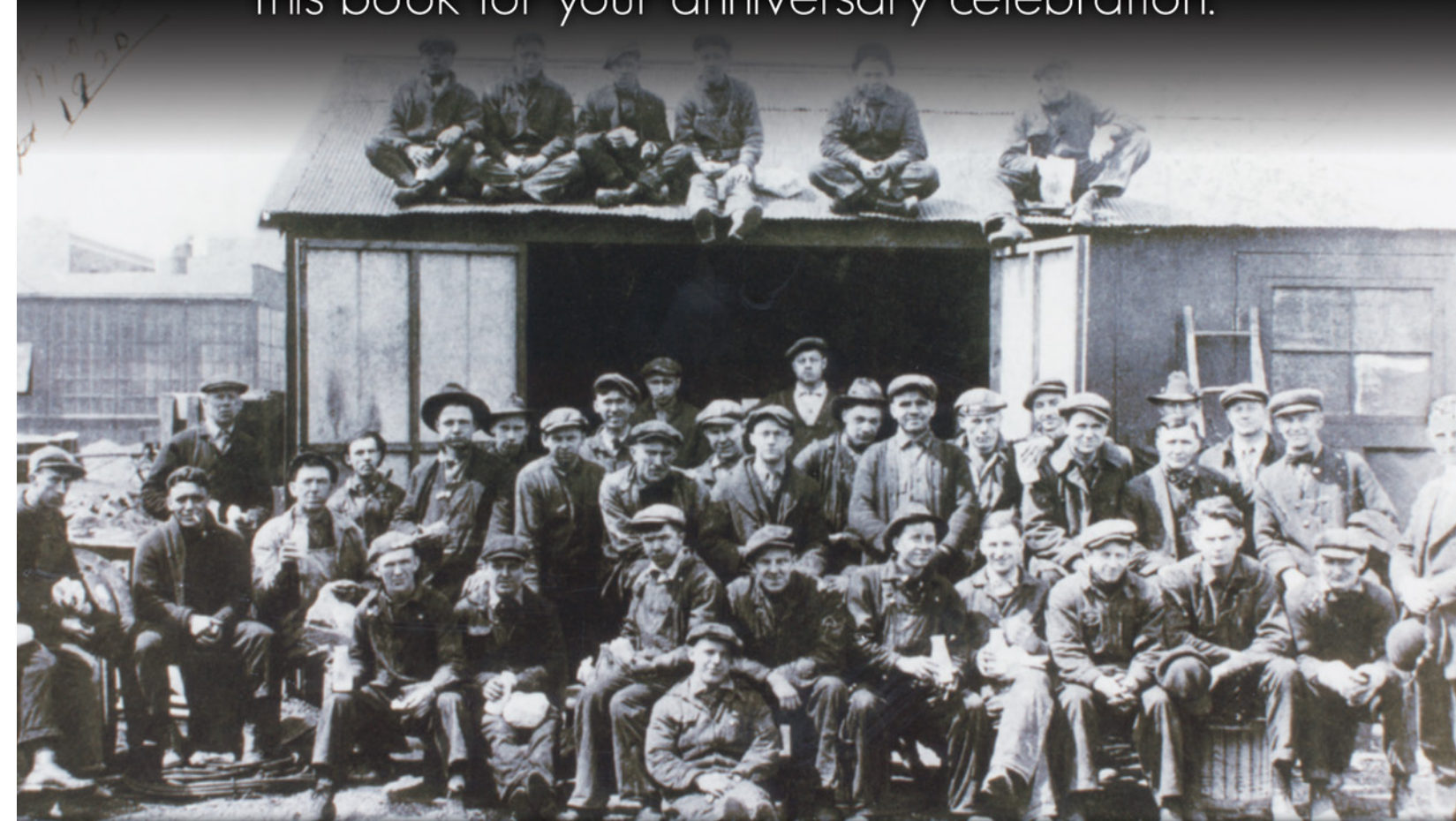
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# Some of Our O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 592 Br others from Over the Years ...



Brother Hugh McGowan  
(dec. 1937)



Thomas Stewart  
(dec. 1937)



H. C. Weatherford  
(dec. 1938)



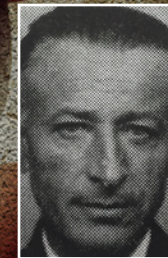
Michael Boschetti  
(dec. 1940)



Charles Qualls  
(dec. 1941)



Hugh Hamilton  
(dec. 1941)



Pasquale Pennacchiotti  
(dec. 1956)



Angelo Fiore  
(dec. 1957)



Hugo Guzzi  
(dec. 1957)



W. L. Smith  
(dec. 1957)



Caesar Vuillermet  
(dec. 1958)



Eddie Newsom Jr.  
(dec. 1958)



John Filko  
(dec. 1941)



Michael Naas  
(dec. 1941)



Spencer Brown  
(dec. 1941)



Charles Hammerick  
(dec. 1942)



William Dukes  
(dec. 1942)



Cornelius Saffri  
(dec. 1943)



Frank Cupo  
(dec. 1958)



Giulio DiRocco  
(dec. 1958)



Harry B. Harris  
(dec. 1958)



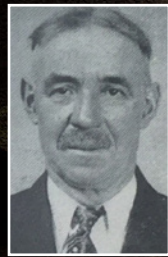
Johnnie L. Williams  
(dec. 1958)



William Clarence Ford  
(dec. 1958)



Peter Weissmann  
(dec. 1959)



Frank Donahue  
(dec. 1943)



Nazarene Cerci  
(dec. 1943)



Ray Vuillermet  
(dec. 1943)



Dominick Marini  
(dec. 1944)



Alexander Sims  
(dec. 1947)



Russell Gray  
(dec. 1948)



Albert Diorio



Anthony 'Sonny' Sabato



Anthony Marrongelle



Bill Ullsh



Bob Ross



Business Manager  
Joseph Patti



Patrick Boylan  
(dec. 1949)



Sabatino Bernucci  
(dec. 1949)



Jason Naccariella  
(dec. 1950)



John Diamond  
(dec. 1951)



Tulio Montanari  
(dec. 1951)



Alfredo Alpini  
(dec. 1952)



Business Manager  
Mike Fera



Dave Williams



Dalevan Williams Sr.



Frank 'Pete' McLaughlin



Frank McLaughlin Sr.



Frank Russo



Charles Johnstone  
(dec. 1954)



Gaetano Forte  
(dec. 1954)



Mathew Packi  
(dec. 1954)



Charles O. Turpin  
(dec. 1955)



Frank Zera  
(dec. 1955)



Andy Bowen  
(dec. 1956)



Jack Barnhart



Jack DeLisi



Jim Giglio



Jules Forte



Mario Maurizi



Mike Angellilli



Spiro 'Speedy' Douvris

