



# BUILDING TRADES NEWS

VOLUME 27, NO.1      LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO            FEBRUARY 2022

## COUNCIL GOES BIG FOR HOUSING

LA City Measure Will Generate \$800 Million Yearly



“The housing crisis is one of the most urgent matters facing the city of LA,” says Council Executive Secretary Chris Hannan, at the launch of the United to House LA initiative.

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**BY ANNE-MARIE OTEY**

Seeking to deal with the homeless crisis and generate good union jobs, the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council is supporting a ballot initiative for the city of LA.

The measure, slated to appear on the November election ballot, will raise millions of



SEE HOUSING PAGE 19



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

### THE STATE OF THE BUILDING TRADES IS STRONG

From Costa Mesa to Inglewood to Washington, DC, we're winning more jobs

2022 is starting off strong for the Building Trades. To see the Rams win the Super Bowl in our union-built stadium was a shining example for the world. SoFi Stadium is a showcase of what our Building Trades members can do. Many local residents started their lifelong careers on the job at this state-of-the-art stadium. During its construction, journeymen passed on their wisdom to apprentices. The economy and quality of life for the entire region improved, and we are now getting ready to build a \$1 billion Automated People Mover to get fans back and forth to the stadium in an environmentally friendly way.

Opportunities like that don't come along every day, but as we start 2022, we are fighting hard to create them as often as possible. In the city of Los Angeles, we will win hundreds of millions of dollars in work each year to build and preserve affordable housing, if voters pass the United to House LA ballot measure. We've just started gathering signatures to place it on the November 2022 ballot. We urge our members who live in the city of LA to sign the petitions and encourage their neighbors to do this too.

On the national level, President Joe Biden is setting the example. On Feb. 4, he signed an Executive Order mandating Project Labor Agreements for federal construction projects over \$35 million. With Biden's act, for the first time, Project Labor Agreements are the law of the land. Some previous Presidents have recommended PLAs. But only Biden has REQUIRED them.

#### Bad News for Union-Busters

Even a famous anti-union law firm, writing about the action, had to admit: "The Order continues to make good on President Biden's early promise to be the most 'union friendly' president in history."

That may be bad news for union-busters, but it's great news for us.

Biden's order creates good jobs in LA and Orange Counties, and helps increase union density in states like Nevada, South Carolina and Florida. A stronger Building Trades movement in those states helps all of us. The success of our brothers and sisters across the



BY CHRIS HANNAN  
Executive Secretary

country is our success, too.

President Biden also oversaw the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This sends \$1.2 trillion to the states for roads, bridges and transit. The Building Trades couldn't ask for anything better than this.

In Orange County, we just won a Community Workforce Agreement for the City of Costa Mesa. Just 10 years ago, this affluent city was a hotbed of anti-union politics.

Its Mayor bragged about how he would make Costa Mesa into a charter city, so that Costa Mesa could avoid paying prevailing wage on city-funded projects.

#### Taxpayers Deserve Better

It was a slap in the face to the Building Trades and the taxpayers, who deserve the best value for their money. So, the first thing the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California did was work with legislators to close the loopholes that made it too easy for cities to go charter and avoid paying decent wages.

Then we got to work in Costa Mesa itself. We appealed to the voters to elect new Councilmembers. We asked, didn't they deserve to have the best workforce—a skilled and trained workforce—on their city projects? The scheme to cut wages would lower quality, and run up bigger expenses in the long run to pay for the mistakes.

The members of our local affiliated unions in Orange County showed up, time and time again, at City Council meetings and elections.

A decade later, that Mayor is long gone. The current City Council and Mayor bring a worker-friendly point of view. And on Feb. 1, with our OC Representative Ernesto Medrano leading the charge, the Council voted for the CWA.

"We're giving every resident in Costa Mesa, with or without a college degree, the chance to be successful in life," one Councilman said. "And for that, I proudly support this motion."

We couldn't say it better. Whether the members of our local affiliated unions are building the stadium for the NFL's reigning champions, or upgrading Baker Fire Station 2 in Costa Mesa, they represent the best-skilled workforce in the nation. Together, we will continue to fight for more jobs for our members.



The affluent Orange County city of Costa Mesa saw the light and voted for a Community Workforce Agreement.

## BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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**PUBLISHER**  
Chris Hannan

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**  
Anne-Marie Otey

**SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**  
Barry Garfield

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Leslie Berkman, Robert Buscemi,  
Louis Keene, Beige Luciano-Adams,  
Karen Robes Meeks, Mark Edward Nero

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Victor Posadas, Hector Cruz Sandoval,  
Mark Savage, Jessica Sterling

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Cynthia Tan

**LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTIES BUILDING AND  
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**  
1626 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026 P 213.483.4222 •  
714.827.6791 • F 213.483.4419



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Sheet Metal Workers Local 105  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 170  
Teamsters Joint Council 42  
Teamsters Local 848  
Teamsters Local 952  
Teamsters Local 986

Change of address: Union members, please contact your local.



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The finishing Trades organize several programs under one roof in Commerce, where thousands of apprentices and journeymen learn and polish their skills



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COUNCIL MAKES  
POLITICAL  
ENDORSEMENTS

These are the unified endorsements of the LA/ Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated local unions. More endorsements will be made before the election.

**Primary Election: June 7**  
**General Election: Nov. 8**

THE COUNCIL ENDORSES:



**Robert Garcia:**  
US Congress,  
42nd District



**Christy Smith:**  
US Congress,  
27th District



**Nick Melvoin:**  
LA Unified  
School District  
Board,  
4th District

BUILDING TRADES POLITICS

KATIE PORTER RALLIES TRADES  
FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Leading Orange County Democrat promotes union jobs in new law

BY LESLIE BERKMAN

Katie Porter, the first Democrat elected to represent Orange County's 45th Congressional District, arrived Nov. 19 at IBEW Local 441 headquarters in Orange to celebrate. Congress had just passed the historic bipartisan infrastructure bill, which will generate thousands of jobs for Building Trades union members.

Union leaders at the meeting thanked Porter for her work to gain passage of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The bill sets the stage for a major overhaul of the nation's highways, bridges, ports, airports, dams, power grids, water systems and other infrastructure that has suffered from decades of neglect.

It makes additional investment in expansion of broadband and new green technology by, for instance, establishing a nationwide network of 500,000 recharging stations to support the manufacture of electric cars.

"We are celebrating these jobs," said Gloria Alvarado, Executive Director of the Orange County Labor Federation. "Workers and working families are going to be

SEE PORTER PAGE 6



L-r, Orange County Labor Federation President Kenny Williams; Gloria Alvarado, Executive Director of the OC Labor Federation; Rep. Porter, and Ernesto Medrano, Orange County Representative for the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council.

Photos by Hector Cruz Sandoval/Sandoval Media



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1. HealthCore Inc., The Value of Pharmacy and Medical Benefit Integration (2020).

2. Anthem/IngenioRx internal data, full year 2019.

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Construction completed in March of 2021





IBEW Local 441 hosted Rep. Katie Porter at its hall in Orange, with representatives of dozens of unions in attendance.

## PORTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

stronger. We wouldn't be able to do it without partners in Congress representing us."

Orange County Labor Federation President Kenny Williams also was keen on celebrating the good the infrastructure bill will do for communities and "raising folks into the middle class." He introduced Porter as someone he admires. "She has always been a warrior."

Ernesto Medrano, Orange County



Sam Hurtado, business representative for SMART Local 105.



Orange County Labor Federation President Kenny Williams.

Representative for the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, applauded the infrastructure bill as landmark legislation that is long overdue and for which labor has been waiting "for many presidents and many decades."

Porter said that unlike infrastructure investment during the Obama Administration that was intended primarily to jumpstart the nation's economy as it emerged from the Great Recession, the new legislation is much larger and will accommodate long-term projects to withstand the harsh hurricanes, floods and other effects of



*"The American people are really celebrating what unions have to offer."*

*—US Rep. Katie Porter*

climate change. It will also support solar, wind and other technologies that America needs to protect the environment and compete with China and other countries.

Porter said she expects infrastructure projects slated for the next 10 years will begin almost immediately and will include workforce development, with a major investment in registered apprenticeship training.

### Will Another Bill Pass?

But the outspoken former law professor, who since entering the House of Representatives in 2019 has earned a reputation for holding federal agency and corporate officials accountable with her tough questioning, did not want anyone to rest on their laurels. That same morning, the House passed companion legislation, called the Build Back Better bill, which may do even more for working families. Porter wants to enlist labor's continuing support to help make that a reality. Democrats hope to

get the companion bill through the Senate early in 2022.

Porter said the infrastructure bill will be incomplete without enactment of Build

Back Better. That seeks to further address climate change and strengthen the nation's social safety net by, among other things, providing affordable child care, home



IBEW Local 441 Business Manager Neal Lauzon welcomes all to the local's headquarters.



Rudy Rodriguez, who recently retired as organizer for UA Local 250.

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# JERRY NEIL PAUL

An Advocate for the Building Trades  
Asbestos-Related Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer and Asbestosis

**GOV. NEWSOM HAS SIGNED SB 447!**

**THIS MEANS FAIR TREATMENT FOR VICTIMS' FAMILIES,  
IN CASES WHERE THE VICTIM DID NOT SURVIVE THE TRIAL.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The Paul Law Firm has been representing the California Building Trades for the past 35 years. We have always been a California-based law firm, specializing in asbestos-related diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis, and representing the individual members. We are proud to say that we have had many landmark settlements and verdicts for our union brothers and their families totaling over \$3 Billion. One of the highlights of my career was when I, along with our mesothelioma client, Billy Joe Speicher from U.A. Local 250 Steamfitters/Pipefitters, went before the U.S. Senate and testified in front of the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, regarding asbestos legislation.

Jerry is also a Founder of the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America ([www.mesorfa.org](http://www.mesorfa.org)), along with his wife, Elizabeth Ann Paul, Executive Director, and Jim W. Kellogg, retired International Representative of the California Pipe Trades and past Vice President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, who have all served as Board Members since 2001. Since this time, we undertook the successful funding and opening of a mesothelioma research lab at USC/Norris Comprehensive Medical Center in Los Angeles under the direction of Lab Director Dr. Parkash Gill. Over the past 19 years novel new treatment options Veglin, which went through FDA-approved clinical trials phase 1 and 2, and now EPH B4, in FDA-approved clinical trials phase 1, have helped expand the depth of research and expand the types of treatment options. This offers greater hope to those afflicted with asbestos-caused cancer, with options not previously available. None of this could have been done without the support of the Building and Construction Trades Council of California and also Southern California Pipe Trades District Council 16, the Heat & Frost Insulators 16, along with the support from the Western States Conference, and all their able leaders and supporting local unions.

As asbestos disease and mesothelioma tend to surface later in life, we recommend workers take a chest X-ray screening every three years where the results are examined by a certified B reader radiologist, a doctor who is additionally trained to know what is and is not an asbestos marker and asbestosis. Plus you will increase your chance of discovery at an early stage, should you have lung cancer, which would likely respond better to treatment options.

**JERRY NEIL PAUL, ATTORNEY [JNP@THEPAULLAWFIRM.COM](mailto:JNP@THEPAULLAWFIRM.COM)  
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## BUILDING TRADES COMMUNITY

# RAISING MONEY FOR A CURE



UA District Council 16 presents a check for \$250,000 to the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America. L-r, foundation board member Jerry Neil Paul; Executive Director Elizabeth Paul; Shane Rucker, assistant executive director; Dr. Parkash Gill; John Ferruccio, DC 16 Director of Organizing and Rodney Cobos, Business Manager of DC 16.

Founded in 2001 by attorney Jerry Neil Paul and allies in the United Association, the Mesothelioma Research Foundation of America is a powerhouse that develops treatments and potential cures for mesothelioma. The disease, a cancer of the lining of the lungs often caused by asbestos exposure, has affected thousands of blue-collar men and women who worked in construction sites, shipyards and the military. The mission of the foundation is to raise awareness and fund the work of Dr. Parkash Gill, a leading oncologist and hematologist at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles.

On Dec. 8, the foundation and UA District Council 16 held their annual holiday lunch. Dr. Gill explained his lab's new breakthroughs, which include a treatment that lets patients avoid chemotherapy, using cutting-edge immunotherapy drugs instead. District Council 16 leaders presented a check for \$250,000 for the research. "We're making progress," Jerry Neil Paul told about 60 supporters who gathered at the Reef restaurant in Long Beach. "DC 16 is doing great work, along with all the Building Trades, contractor and vendors who support the efforts to beat mesothelioma."



Elizabeth Paul gives a homemade apple pie to Bob Modica, retired Local 582 business agent. Former LA Rams star quarterback Vince Ferragamo, center, supports the foundation and often attends fundraising events.

# THE GIFT OF FUN



Christmas joy was delivered to needy families, thanks to OPCMA locals in Los Angeles and Orange Counties who donated \$3,500 to buy children's bicycles and assemble them for the annual Spark of Love toy drive organized by LA firefighters and ABC Channel 7.

David Casey, business agent for Plasterers Local 200, sold the idea of participating in the toy drive to the District Council that includes Cement Masons Locals 500 and 600 and Plasterers Local 755. Casey said members chose to provide bicycles because "they are a big-ticket item that not every family can afford." Casey is shown above left with Local 200 Business Manager Tom Castleman, center, and Local 600 Business Manager Fitzgerald Jacobs.

The money donated purchased about 25 bicycles that were delivered unassembled to Local 200 headquarters, where the local's members put them together. "It was a lot of fun," Casey said. On Dec. 8 the bicycles were ready to be loaded into a U-Haul and driven to a firefighting training facility for distribution to nonprofit organizations. Each bicycle arrived with a helmet, too.

LA City firefighter Michael Marquez, coordinator for Spark of Love, said each Christmas when toys are given out, bicycles are reserved as something special for the children enduring the most hardship, starting with those who lost their homes in fires during the holiday season. "I know for sure those children have nothing," Marquez said, adding that the bicycles "bring tears of joy to the family. It gives them a little ray of hope."



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# GOOD START TO A GREAT FINISH

District Council 36 brings four apprenticeship programs under one huge roof in Commerce

## UA LOCAL UNION 250 WELCOME TO 2022!

It's a new year for UA Local 250, and Ben Clayton is proud to be the new Business Manager. "This local was founded in 1938," Clayton says, "and even before that, Steamfitters and Pipefitters were organizing in Southern California."

Today, Local 250 is thriving with members working on infrastructure, oil and gas refineries, energy facilities, housing, sports

complexes, schools and more.

"If you look at the faces of our members, you will see that we represent all our local communities," he says. "Some members are moving into retirement, many are in the prime of their careers, and then we have those starting out, in their first year of apprenticeship. This system guarantees the best-trained workforce, where we pass

down skills from generation to generation, and also learn the newest techniques in our field."

Clayton looks to the Local 250 staff, officers and members to propel the local to a successful 2022 and beyond. "Even with the pandemic threat, our members are out on the job and staying safe," he says. "We will continue our union's proud traditions."

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18355 S. Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90248-4217



Local 1136 apprentice Erick A. Lopez shows what he's learning as he carefully applies joint compound, known as "mud."

BY JAMES DUFFY V

By the time IUPAT DC 36/Local 1247 apprentice Antoinette Hooker-Jefferson completes her training, she will have gone from working in hospitals to constructing them.

She raised six children as a nurse but wanted to ply a new trade after the Covid pandemic overwhelmed her. She says many of her coworkers, doctors and nurses, died. She thought she might be next, so she found another kind of work.

"I was an RN, but I started from the bot-

tom up just like this, becoming a CAN, LPN, RN," Hooker-Jefferson says.

In the same orderly way, joint labor/management apprenticeships guide newcomers to learn their craft until they journey out into their new careers.

To make the process for thousands of apprentices more efficient, in 2020, four training programs of IUPAT District Council 36—Floor Covering, Glazing, Drywall Taping and Finishing, and Painting—moved under one massive roof in Commerce, becoming the Finishing Trades Institute.

"It works well with all the Trades working together," Luis Robles, Business Manager of District Council 36, tells "Building Trades News" on a recent visit. "We all help each other out."

The warehouse is a hive of activity. As Robles speaks, dozens of apprentices and instructors are creating what looks like a miniature city of structures. In view of the Floor Layers, Tapers and Drywall Finishers erect units that can be deconstructed, for new apprentices to build again.

### A Statewide Resource

The training provided in the facility is so advanced, Building Trades members from across California come to train.

Instructor Sean Padilla, a Floor Layer for 32 years, directs one of his apprentices to straighten the lines of the floor tiles he was setting.

"He didn't finish following his control line, and he started running," Padilla says. Had they been working at a jobsite, the

apprentice's miscalculation would have compromised the alignment of all the tiles on a floor.

Padilla currently instructs 17 apprentices on floor covering, carpet, resilient floors, turf, shin covering, floor preparation, blueprint reading and math.

The Local 1247 apprentices have it easier than those who came before them in just one way: They all wear "ProKnees," a newer type of shin guard that protects and supports their lower legs. The contraption offers more comfort to the workers than classic knee pads. That comfort becomes necessary when most hours include sliding along a cement floor.

As Padilla corrects his student, the others, including Hooker-Jefferson, pause to listen, and then they all adjust their layout.

BUILDING TRADES NEWS 11

Photos by  
**HECTOR CRUZ SANDOVAL/  
SANDOVAL MEDIA**





"It's a good job," says Drywall apprentice Luis Cisneros, wielding his bazooka to apply mud. "It pays the bills and then some."



Don Golchuk has been apprenticeship safety coordinator for 20 years.



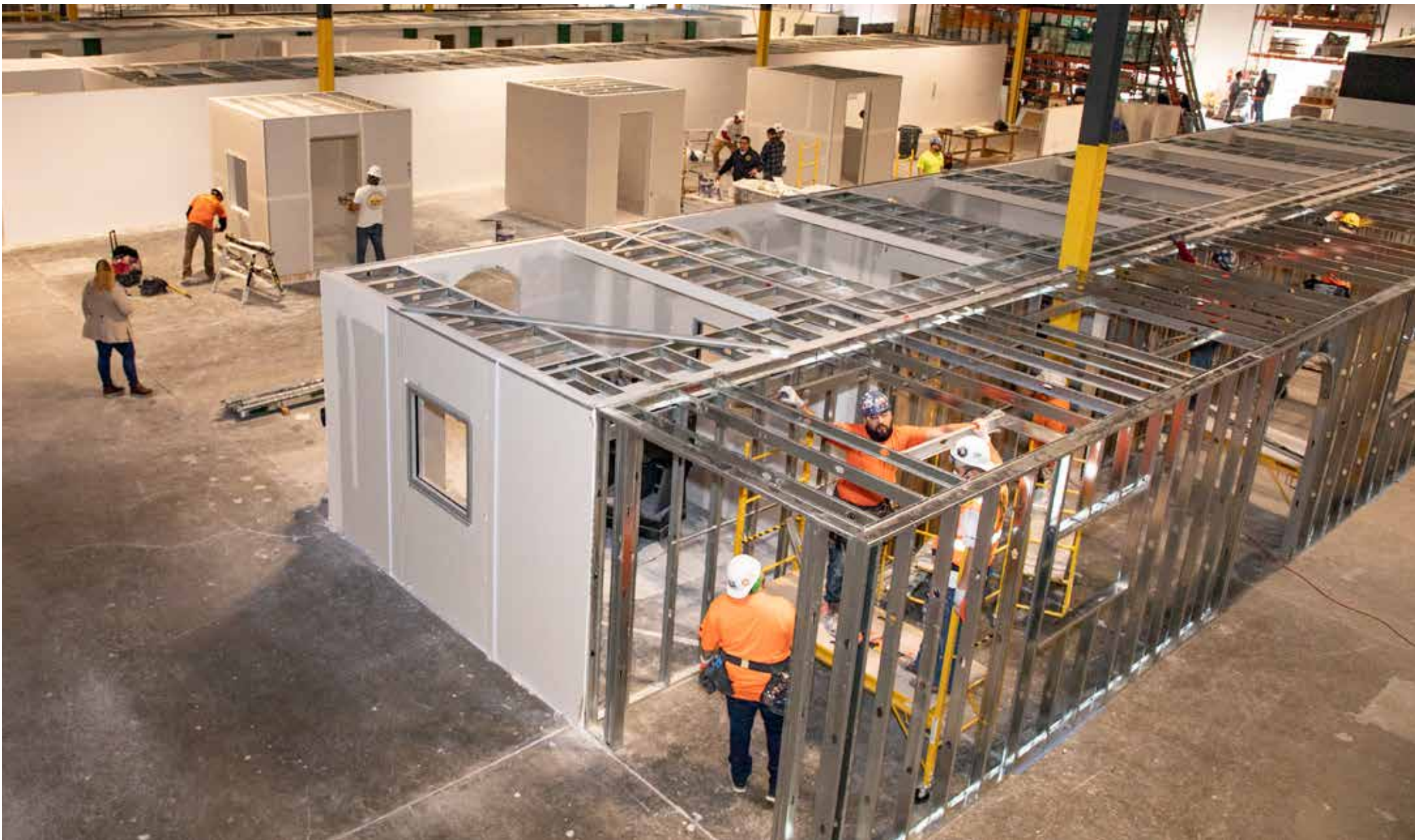
Assistant Commercial Painting coordinator Alfonso Carrillo.



"As long as there is rust, there's money to be made," says Industrial Painting coordinator Kenneth Contreras.



Kyle Robbins has been a Drywall Finisher for 13 years.



The apprenticeship center is a hive of activity, with apprentices in four Trades in daytime and evening classes.



"I was an RN, but I started from the bottom up just like this," says Local 1247 Floor Covering apprentice Antoinette Hooker-Jefferson, who is starting a second career.



"I am learning little by little," says Taper apprentice Javier Perez. "I want to journey out and keep it going with the union."



Glazier apprentice Fernando Medina installs pressure bar screws on a curtain wall system.



"It has been a blessing economically," says apprentice David Sierra. "The benefits are amazing."



Taper apprentice Sergio Garcia.



Business Manager Luis Robles leads IUPAT DC 36 in a time of growth.



Ernesto Toscano, IUPAT DC 36 Director of Service.



Local 1036 business representative Don McClain.



Janet Pineda is coordinator for Local 1136 Drywall Tapers.

The vinyl tiles lock to an adhesive on the ground that gives a few minutes of dry time. After the glue dries, the tiles are virtually impossible to remove without tearing the floor.

Pete Escalera, another Local 1247 instructor, is showing his students how to use a heat welder to seal the flooring used in hospitals. The seal on the flooring must be airtight to prevent bacteria and other contaminants from seeping through.

"Most of all, we're trying to teach them that this is more than a job," Padilla says.

"It's a career."

Janet Pineda oversees instruction for the Drywall Tapers as a Local 1136 coordinator. She says late fall and winter tend to be slower for their work. At the end of November, Local 1136 had about 30 apprentices out of 300 who were not working. The training facility provides instruction and training for the apprentices to improve their skills and get back to earning.

The apprentices learn blueprint reading, framing and many other skills associated with drywall. Pineda says all attendees,



# APPRENTICESHIP FOCUS: IUPAT DC 36



“Power Points lets them visualize the program in the classroom, and steps away in the warehouse they can apply the knowledge,” says David Lopez, who oversees 700 apprentices in Commercial Painting. Here, apprentice Tyra Good paints a door.



Remberto Velasquez is a Commercial Painting 8th-stage apprentice.



Adan Lopez is a journeyman Commercial Painter and part-time instructor.



“Being in this facility is like starting off fresh,” says David Lopez, above. “Our older facility was half the size of this building. It was really compressed. Now, we have the ability and room to instruct all of us. We don’t have to cram students into the classroom. With the pandemic we can abide by CDC guidelines. We’re using every inch of the facility.”

regardless of their journeyman status, may receive OSHA 30 training in the facility’s classrooms.

Damien Castillo, 1136 apprentice, is learning how to apply a joint compound, the “mud” that smooths the texture of the drywall and helps connect the panels. He says the mud gives the structure a two-

hour fire rating, slowing the burn rate if a building catches fire.

Next to Castillo, Luis Cisneros, 35, uses a bazooka to shoot out the mud in an orderly way. He runs the gun over the seam. After Cisneros finishes, Castillo gives the mud a clean finish with his four-inch knife.

**SEE IUPAT DC 36 PAGE 17**



Instructor Luis Viramontes explains the proper layout of VCT (vinyl composite tile) flooring.



## THIS IS SHEET METAL



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## APPRENTICESHIP FOCUS: IUPAT DC 36

### IUPAT DC 36

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

"It's a good job," Cisneros says. "It pays the bills and then some."

Cisneros says he is fortunate to have a well-paid job, since he has seven children to support. He commutes to LA from Palmdale most days.

David Sierra, 36, is a 5th-period apprentice. He lives with his family in Huntington Park. "It has been a blessing economically," Sierra said. "The benefits are amazing." He worked in non-union construction before he joined Local 1136.

#### Demand for Skills

On the far side of the building, Glaziers learn to weld, cut frames and fit panels of glass, from many feet to a few inches in size. Mike Galstaun has been teaching welding and glazing for 16 years with Local 636.

These skills are greatly in demand, he said. "More buildings are using this curtain-glass construction style." Today's solar-efficient, high-performance glass requires Glaziers with specialized techniques. "It's great for the students to see it from beginning to end and say, 'I did that by myself,'" Galstaun says.

The Commerce facility is almost running 24/7. In the evening, groups of the 800 Painter apprentices enter the facility.

Commercial Painters apply paint in settings like hotels, schools and offices.

The other group are industrial Painters:



Reynaldo Abarca is a level 5 apprentice. "He is progressing very quickly through the program and we selected him to represent the Floor Covering Apprenticeship at this year's International Surfaces Event in Las Vegas," says training coordinator Sean Padilla. "He will be showcasing his talents by installing various types of flooring in custom built mock-ups in front of the public. He is going to be an excellent journey-worker."

They take care of the special paints on infrastructure like bridges, and energy and wastewater treatment plants.

"We use different pumps," explains Local 1036 business representative Don McClain. "Our pumps are a lot bigger than the small commercial pumps. We push materials that have high solids, so it would jam

up the commercial pumps." They operate at 100 psi, higher than the commercial average of 30 psi.

Industrial Painting coordinator Kenny Contreras says his members are finding lots of work during the pandemic.

"As long as there is rust, there's money to be made," he says.



Glazier apprentices join other IUPAT Trades under one roof.



Glazier tools for cutting glass.



Floor Covering apprentices learn pattern scribing on a cove flooring installation.



Glazier apprentice Brandon Tober works on his technique as instructor Jose Garcia, right, watches.



L-r, Floor Covering instructors Luis Viramontes and Peter Escalera, with training coordinator Sean Padilla.



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## HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



LA City Measure HHH, passed in 2016, is one model for the new initiative. Under HHH, 8,000 homes will be built, most under a Project Labor Agreement. The Rosa de Castilla Apartments in Huntington Drive South in El Sereno broke ground in 2019 and will open later this year. The development will include 85 units of affordable housing: 49 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans, 14 units of general permanent supportive housing and 20 units for low-income families, with 2 units for on-site management.

dollars and create about 4,400 new construction jobs each year.

A coalition of community groups and unions, including the Building Trades, is spearheading the measure, called United to House LA.

The measure launched with a December press conference, where Council Executive Secretary Chris Hannan said, “The housing crisis is one of the most urgent matters facing the city of LA. Our members want to play a part in solving this problem.”

The initiative will impose a “luxury tax” on sales of property valued at more than \$5 million. It affects very few prop-

erties—only about 3 percent of what sells each year—but because of the high dollar values, it will generate \$800 million annually.

### Pay a Fair Share

“This is really about millionaires and billionaires paying their fair share to have a transformative approach to solving our housing crisis,” said Laura Raymond, director of the Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles, a member of the ballot measure coalition.

Of that money, 60 to 70 percent will go to construction and rehabilitation. The measure will create at least 26,000 new

homes over 10 years.

Almost all the work will be under the Council’s Project Labor Agreement with the city’s Department of Public Works. Non-covered work will be paid at prevailing wage, and can become part of a PLA in the future. The labor-standards language is written into the measure, assuring that it will become law if the measure passes.

The Building Trades have already seen success with a similar measure, 2016’s Prop. HHH. That proposition allocated \$1.2 billion and will result in 8,000 new supportive housing units, most of them being built under a PLA.

“Our local unions are signing up more

signatory contractors as a result of these housing measures,” Hannan said. “This construction is good for the people of LA and good for the Building Trades.”

With so much at stake for the Building Trades, the Building Trades Council will mobilize all local affiliated unions to support United to House LA.

### Good Local Jobs

“Our members are going to be relied upon to help deliver this housing, and we want to make sure that we’re delivering the housing with good local jobs and local careers for the community,” Hannan said.

**SEE HOUSING PAGE 21**



## A connected approach to care

Integrated medical, behavioral, pharmacy and specialty benefits from UnitedHealthcare are built to work together to remove barriers and deliver more custom support for union members—whether their health needs are simple or more complex.

### Learn more

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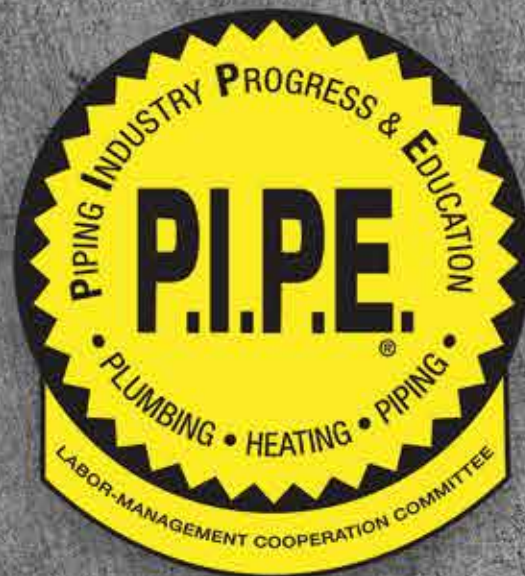


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## HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

The first goal is to get the measure on the ballot. Signature gathering will likely start by mid-February. Organizers need about 65,000 valid signatures to get on the November 2022 ballot.

Building Trades members will be able to volunteer for signature gathering shifts.

Then, the campaign for the measure officially begins. It needs a simple major-

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Signature Gathering:  
Mid-February through  
April 27

Election:  
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Jenise Dixon, a member of the Right to Counsel coalition, supports the measure because it will give tenants legal assistance to prevent eviction.

ity—50 percent plus one—to pass.

United to House LA also includes funds to give tenants protection from eviction, such as rent assistance and legal aid.

“This is the most comprehensive set of housing policies in the history of the city of LA,” said Alexandra Suh, Executive Director of coalition member KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance). “This is proposing real solutions at scale, informed by the lessons learned during this pandemic, the terrible crisis of losing their homes.”

#### Prevent Homelessness

Jenise Dixon, a member of the Right to Counsel coalition, said that United to House LA “will prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place.” Dixon, who rents her mid-city home, was able

to enlist legal aid to fight being evicted.

The measure would provide this aid to tens of thousands of renters.

“I’ve been in my home 20 years,” Dixon said. “I don’t want to move—LA is one of the most expensive places in the country. It’s not easy to move.”

The measure will be “a reliable source of emergency funding and legal help. One-time state and federal funding is not enough. This measure will fund

for the long haul.”

In the same way, the housing funds are a long-term program to improve the LA economy. Hannan said the measure will help increase incomes in Los Angeles by bringing more residents into good Building Trades union careers.

“This measure has specific language to open our doors to residents of the city of LA, residents who want a lifelong union career with great wages and benefits, to build our city.

“On behalf of our 140,000 members, we wholeheartedly endorse this measure.”



Advocates of United to House LA include Antonio Sanchez, political director of IBEW Local 11, and Laura Raymond, director of the Alliance for Community Transit, LA.

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From UA Local 582, business representatives Henry Hillebrecht, left, and Robert James, right, join Katie Porter and Ernesto Medrano.

## PORTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Biden and the Democratic Congress are delivering for the American people, and we are making sure that they are seeing these things in their lives today," she said.

The 2022 midterm elections will be tough for Democrats, Porter warned.

"California is going to have a lot of tight Congressional elections the way redistricting is going. So we are really going to be a battleground," she said.

The key, said Doug Mangione, political director for IBEW Local 441, is to emphasize what the new law does for working men and women, and take the attention

away from the infighting among different factions of Democrats. "Our people looked at that with dismay," Mangione said.

Responding to Porter's request for tough questions, Andrew Gonzales, political representative for SMART Local 105, asked, "What is in the bills that assures that green tech investments go to good jobs that pay our wage and benefit levels?"

### Require Prevailing Wage

Porter said drafters of the legislation saw to it that the vast majority of infrastructure projects will be covered by Davis Bacon prevailing wage requirements. The pro-union aspect of the legislation demonstrates that "the American people for the first time in a long time understand and are really celebrating what unions have to of-

fer," she said.

But a successful transition from fossil fuels to cleaner energy sources will not happen overnight and will require union involvement and thoughtful consideration of workers who are displaced, Porter observed. She said the infrastructure legislation provides money to improve natural gas lines because "natural gas is going to be part of the energy mix for the foreseeable future." And apprenticeship funding is earmarked for workers who lose their jobs in the transition and must be retrained.

The move to a green economy must be slow and deliberate, Porter said. "If we go fast, we not only risk having energy supply problems, we also risk leaving behind American families."

Porter said the labor movement also



Andrew Gonzales, political representative for SMART Local 105, asks, "What assures that green tech investments go to good jobs that pay our wage and benefit levels?"



Andy Gerber, Secretary/Treasurer of Bricklayers & Tile Layers Local 4.

has a responsibility to protect workers in the new green industries. "Some of this is on government and some of this is on us, to keep organizing new workplaces and make sure never to let industry change be an excuse to squeeze on union and organizing rights," she said.



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### Take a break

Whether you're working from home or at your workplace, busy with kids or everyday housework, we can all use a break. Take a moment to stretch or focus on your breath. Even just 10 minutes of mindful movement can make a big difference.

### Sleep well

Lack of sleep can affect the way you feel mentally and physically. If you're having trouble sleeping due to extra stress during the pandemic, try limiting your screen time before bed. Make changes that might help you let go of any extra stress from the day.

### Stay connected

Staying connected with friends and family — either by phone, online, or in person — can do wonders for your physical and emotional wellness. Regular video chats are a great way to keep in touch. You can also plan visits with precautions to help protect one another from COVID-19.

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