



The Painter's Palette

Painters Business Representative's Report

The Shop Steward Program will start training sessions following the month's union meetings.

The Shop Steward checks new hires for Union affiliation, informs other employees of Union actions and may become involved in grievances or safety & health issues.

If you're interested in being a Shop Steward at your company, for your Union, contact Robert Rahkonen at robert@iupatdc5.org

Important Contact Information

IUPAT District Council 5
206-441-5554
www.iupatdc5.org

DC5 Dispatch
206-971-0390
maria@iupatdc5.org

Local Union #300
Robert Rahkonen
206-441-6922
robert@iupatdc5.org

Local Union #1964
Chris Winters
253-307-5594
cwintersiupatdc5@gmail.com

Training
206-762-8332
www.FTINW.org

Pension Fund Administrator
1-800-426-5980
Zenith-American.com

Medical Benefits, Zenith American
1-800-566-4455

One does not have to look around much to see that economic times in the region have changed. Currently, most all of our members are employed. Some members have expressed concerns over our relatively low wages in comparison to other crafts and why we didn't achieve more of an increase during our last negotiations. One reason that other craft workers seem to gain a more favorable position during negotiations is their ability to fund sustained, prolonged negotiations. Members of some of these craft Unions have contributed money from their own wages in-order to prepare for future negotiations. If our members could agree to make a small hourly contribution to an "Internal Organizing Fund", then we would be in a better position ourselves, in the event that negotiations are stalled and we feel the need to apply leverage to achieve a desirable settlement. This opportunity will present itself in 3 1/2 years from now. Simple number crunching reveals that if we were to contribute just \$0.18 per hour into such a fund, with the number of members and hours being worked, we would have close to three quarters of a million dollars in savings 3 years from now. These funds could be used for a myriad of ideas to improve our wages and benefits.



We, as an organization, must come up with real workable solutions as to how we can increase our strength and solidarity. Let us start a conversation as to how we can better our situation as a craft Union. We need to have solution based ideas if we are ever going to change our situation and move forward. Please stay involved with your local union and come to the monthly meeting if you want your voice to be heard. Thank You.

Collective Bargaining Agreement

There has been some confusion about the wage increase in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The raise that became effective on July 1st of this year is not going to show up on your hourly wage rate. Instead, it will show up in your net, take home pay due to the reduction of the tax deferred health and welfare deduction. Compare a paycheck stub before July 1st with one for the same hours worked after July 1st. Everyone, including Apprentices should see a \$1.09 per hour increase. (this may vary depending on your IRS tax rate). Also, there was a reduction of our gross hourly pay rate because of an increase to the Health and Welfare contribution (\$0.16 per hr.) This was necessary to continue with the level of benefits in our plan. Future increases will be allocated from the negotiated annual wage increases.

Training



Painter's Local Union #300
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Seattle, WA. 98108
206-441-6922

www.iupatdc5.org

Local #300 Union Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm

Labor Web Sites

unionplus.org

Financial services

mlkclc.org

ML King County Labor Council

wslc.org

WA State Labor Council

wabuildingtrades.org

WA Building Trades Council

go2ui.com

WA unemployment benefits

snolabor.org

Snohomish Co Labor Council

shopunionmade.org

Under the contract, (Article 8.6.4.1&2), In order to maintain your Journeyman status, you must obtain an OSHA 30 card before December 1st of this year. This requirement replaces previously mandated safety classes. OSHA Safety credentials do not expire and do not need renewal. The class can be completed on-line from home or in a formal classroom setting. Also, OSHA classes will be offered in Spanish. You must register for the on-line class that is offered through our International Union. To register for on-line training, you will be required to make a deposit of \$100.00, which will be refunded upon completion of the course. You must finish the on-line course within six months. The live OSHA classes are free of charge. **A series of OSHA classes will start Oct 20th (Thur. night/Saturdays) or Oct 22nd (Saturdays only).**

There is an urgent need for Industrial Painters to complete the SSPC CAS testing and certification.

CAS certification will start on Oct 24th and Nov. 28th. Other Industrial Certification Classes will be offered this fall. There is no cost to members in good standing with the Union. You must submit documentation of your industrial experience to register for these classes.

For more Information or to register, Call the **Finishing Trades Institute at 206-762-8332**

Class schedules are available on the web-site, www.FTINW.org



Upcoming issues

Local By-Laws

The District Council 5 By-laws have been ratified and now is the time to begin amending our local By-laws. A standing By-laws committee will meet to begin this process. Local By-laws govern how meetings are conducted, the election of delegates and officers, membership requirements, and how trial boards

or grievances are handled. If you would like to be involved in By-laws changes, attend your local meeting and let the President of your local know that you want to serve on the By-laws committee.

Administrative changes

As of November 1st, Zenith-American Solutions will no longer be the administrators of our Health and Welfare bene-

fits or local Pension Plan. The District Council has selected a new provider of these essential services, **Benesys Administrators.** Within the next month, Benesys will be sending out H&W information, cards and contact information. They are working on a new explanations of benefits booklet which you should receive soon.

Presidents Message

The IUPAT text message program is available for both Android and Apple cellular phones. Subscribers must **opt-in by texting IUPAT to 48728.** The program texts you information on upcoming meetings, rallies, phone banking, job actions, organizing campaigns and job alerts. Also, there has never been a more important time to vote in the general election than now. Voting for a candidate that is supportive of the needs of working class citizens and livable wages can have a major impact on your daily life. Please remember to register to vote in this very important election year.

Opeiu#8/af1-cio

