



# Trowel Talk

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

Editor: Federico Lopez, Jr.

SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

3rd Quarter 2018

## CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIP CONTEST 2018

On the week of August 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the annual California State Conference of Plasterers' and Cement Masons' was held in conjunction with the Statewide Apprenticeship Contest. The Contest and Conference took place at The Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Hotel in San Diego, California. The best & brightest apprentices from California's Locals 66, 200, & 300 all came together to compete and show their talents. Local 200 had the honor to be represented by Apprentice Raymundo

Martinez-Prudencio. Robert Berger and Local 200 Agents coordinated and instructed the apprentice for the competition. Local 200's Raymundo Martinez-Prudencio came victorious taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Plastering portion of the competition. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place was taken by Saul Rodriguez with Local 300. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was taken by Teddy Decanay with Local 66. Local 200 would like to congratulate and thank Mr. Martinez-Prudencio for representing the Local in the competition.





## Plasterers' Local 200 New Website!!!

Local 200 is excited to launch its new and improved website. The new website address is: **[www.PL200.org](http://www.PL200.org)**. The website offers information to both our Signatory Contractors and Union Members. The information varies from Job Registrations, Signatory Contractors Lists, Union Benefits, our latest newsletters and more. Make sure you give our website a surf and while you're at it you can click the Facebook link to Like Local 200's Facebook page.

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## 2018 Wage Allocation



This year Plasterers Local 200 successfully negotiated a new labor agreement with the Western Walls and Ceilings Contractor Association. The agreement includes a wage package of \$8.50 divided over 4 years, increase in subsistence from \$60 to \$75 a day and an additional \$1.00 per hour to Foreman pay (now \$3.00/hr). If Christmas or New Year's Day falls on a Saturday, The Friday before is now recognized as the Holiday. At the July 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 special called meeting that 30 plus members attended voted for the following

allocation of the \$2.05 allocated for 2018. \$1.25 will be applied to the Base Wage, \$.25 to Health and Welfare, \$.25 to Pension, \$.18 to Local Dues Check Off, \$.02 to International Dues Check Off, \$.05 to Apprenticeship and \$.05 to Work Preservation. Future Wage Allocations are: 2019 - \$2.05, 2020 - \$2.20, 2021 - \$2.20. Our new agreement and wage sheets can also be viewed online at PL200.org.



## New Asbestos Rules

Article by: The Affiliated Construction Trades Report

Conflicting news reports about new EPA rules to review asbestos in manufactured products in raising much concern among construction workers and families. In June, the Environmental Protection Agency announced it would review applications for new uses of asbestos. Many had thought the product banned after it was linked to cancer in the 1970's but it was not. According to the EPA the rule makes it clear they can review products like floor tiles, reinforced plastics

and roofing felt for companies who want to use asbestos. Without the June rule, any company could start importing or processing asbestos for these products because it is not banned. What has added to the concern is the review process by EPA has apparently changed and is weaker than expected. Congress and the EPA tried to completely ban asbestos in 1980's but the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the ban in 1991. In 2016 the Toxic Substance Control Act was strengthened by Congress and a new attempt to ban asbestos was anticipated. Under the new law the EPA said in early 2017 the would re-evaluate 10 toxic substances including asbestos. However EPA has changed the way reviews are done and limited investigation of indirect exposure to chemicals. For example asbestos that ends up in landfills would no longer be included in the agency's risk assessments, nor would material known to be in older buildings be considered. The prospect of allowing the manufacture or import of products that contain asbestos is alarming to those who suffer from exposure in the workplace or have friends or family members with asbestosis and mesothelioma. "Asbestos clearly leads to disease and death and is a horrible way to go," said Jim Cassidy, Business Manager of Insulators Local 2 in Pittsburgh. "We would be strongly opposed to any weakening of standards about asbestos use or exposure."

## Local 200's Own Linton Bozant Rocking San Diego Job Corps!



41-year member  
**Linton Bozant** is shaping  
up the Pre-Apprenticeship  
Plastering program at  
the San Diego based  
JOBCORP.



Business Agent Carlos Ponce [Front Row-Left] met with Linton at Local 200's San Diego office to look at possible ways to spice up the exterior of the building. Local 200 wishes Mr. Bozant the best of luck in training some of Local 200's future apprentices.

# PLASTERERS ROCK!





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LOCAL 200

# 5 Dangerous Myths about Social Security



By AIMEE PICCHI [MONEYWATCH]

The Social Security system's costs **will exceed its income this year**, the first time that has happened since 1982.

Plenty of workers may take this development with a grain of salt because of the widespread belief that they'll never see a Social Security check in their lifetime. More than half of working Americans don't think they'll receive a benefit when they retire, **according to a Gallup poll in 2015**.

Yet that common belief -- that Social Security won't be around when today's workers retire -- is far from the truth, and it could very well undermine the political will to fix a system that currently supports 67 million Americans. The report from the program's trustees on Tuesday underscore that lawmakers need to act now to stabilize and expand the program, said Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Texas, at a Thursday hearing to discuss the development.

"We need to act," Johnson said. "Workers and their families need the certainty that we've gotten Social Security on the right track."

Lawmakers have taken steps to shore up Social Security in past decades. In 1983, a

bipartisan effort stabilized the program by gradually raising the full retirement age to 67 and requiring government employees to pay into Social Security, a first.

Lawmakers say new fixes are now needed, especially as a major demographic shift is underway. About 10,000 baby boomers each day are claiming Social Security for the first time, while many millennials are so far opting to sit out on parenthood, leading to **a 30-year low in U.S. births**.

"It's largely about the demographics," said Stephen C. Goss, chief actuary of the Social Security Administration, at the hearing. "It's like the tide is inevitable."

Those demographic shifts may be impossible to change, but Social Security is not. Here are five misperceptions many Americans hold about the program.

## **A trust fund holds my Social Security investments**

The Social Security Administration refers to the program as operating two "trust funds," one for disability and one for the Social Security pension program. Yet they aren't trust funds in

the traditional sense, meaning money socked away in an account that's dedicated to your personal investments.

The term creates "much unintended confusion," according to the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

In fact, the Social Security trust fund operates more like an accounting ledger, **according to the conservative-leaning Heritage Foundation**. The Treasury estimates its tax receipts, then "credits" that amount to the Social Security trust fund. Next, it subtracts the money paid in monthly Social Security benefits from the balance of the trust fund. "No money actually changes hands," it noted. Remaining funds are then invested in special Treasuries.

### **It will be bankrupt by the time I retire**

That's simply untrue. While the program faces a funding shortfall by 2034, it isn't going broke.

One key issue is the Social Security reserves, which the program will dip into this year because its payments will outstrip its income. That \$2.9 trillion surplus is on hand to fund benefits in case of situations like the one facing the program this year. The reason lawmakers are concerned is that the reserves will be depleted by 2034 for the Social Security program and 2032 for disability -- if nothing changes.

That will leave the program unable to pay full Social Security benefits.

### **Today's workers won't receive any benefits**

That's a commonly voiced fear, but it's far from the truth. If nothing is changed and the Social Security reserves run out by 2034, the program will still be able to pay three-quarters of its benefits.

Granted, that's harmful to seniors, especially for the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security as their primary source of income. But Social Security will still be paying out benefits for today's workers at least through 2092, which is as far as the Social Security administration has forecasted its operations.

### **It's impossible to fix Social Security**

Actually, there are **plenty of ideas** for how to fix it.

They include raising the income cap on which workers pay Social Security tax, currently \$128,400, or raising the tax rate that workers currently pay.

The latter could "cost you 50 cents a week," and would help replenish the Social Security reserves, said Rep. John Larson, D-Connecticut, at the hearing. Larson's **proposal** would boost the contribution rate gradually from 6.2 percent to 7.4 percent by 2042. He also proposes boosting the payroll tax to wages higher than \$400,000.

### **The government dips into Social Security to fund other programs**

Not true. Washington doesn't raid the Social Security program to spend on pork-barrel projects or if it's running low.

Instead, **as CBS MoneyWatch columnist Steve Vernon explains**, the reserves are invested in special U.S. Treasuries and become part of the government's overall funding. Other investors are also buying U.S. Treasuries, of course. The government mingles the proceeds from those bonds with other revenue, including the Social Security's special bonds.

Here's another way to think of it: When you buy newly issued stock from a company, the business then invests that money across its operations. The special Treasuries Social Security buys are legally obligated to pay the stated market interest rate and to prepay the principal at maturity.





## PLASTERERS' LOCAL NO. 200

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

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