



# Trowel Talk

The Official Newsletter of  
Plasterers' Local No. 200

Editor: Federico Lopez, Jr.

SERVING ALL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Summer 2020

## 2020 Wage Allocation

On Thursday, June 18 Local 200 had a special called meeting to discuss and vote for the following allocation of the \$2.20 for 2020. After discussing different options Local 200's members voted that \$1.00 will be applied to the Vacation, \$1.00 to Pension, \$.02 to International Dues Check Off, and \$.18 to Apprenticeship Training. Future Wage Allocation is \$2.20 for 2021. Our new agreement and wage sheets can also be viewed online at [www.pl200.org](http://www.pl200.org) Rates took effect on Wednesday, August 5, 2020.



**PLASTERERS' LOCAL 200 SENDS THEIR  
CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING  
OF THE FOLLOWING PLASTERERS:**



**NEIL EART  
ROBERT GORDON  
DAVID HECK  
JOSE ISTVAN  
PHILIP OVIEDO  
GORDON SMITH**

# Years of Service Recognition for 2020

**25** YEARS

**Alex A. Azevedo  
David Casey  
Antonio Ruiz**

**30** YEARS

**Dagoberto Aguirre  
Eric Fischer  
Jesus D. Flores  
Carlos Ponce  
Ronnie Soria  
Jose C. Zaragoza**

**40** YEARS

**Ronald G. Coulombe  
Jose I. Pena  
Raymundo G. Pena  
Juan F. Valencia  
Pedro Vargas**

**60** YEARS

**Paul Clayton  
Rodolfo Reyes  
Martin D. Rocha  
Santos Santacruz  
John J. Tickey**

**70** YEARS

ORGANIZED

**Thomas L. Flaugher  
John W. George  
Elias C. Guzman  
Gilberto McGuire  
Patrick M. Nicholson**

**Local 200**



# 70 Years of Service Plaque Recipients



Leslie A. Jenness – 70 years of Service on May 6, 2019.



Francis E. Welsh – 70 years of Service on March 21, 2019.

## Jobless claims fall below 1 million for first time since start of coronavirus pandemic



*continued on next page*

**The numbers:** Initial jobless claims fell below 1 million in August for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic began almost five months ago, signaling a steady if slow revival in a battered U.S. labor market.

New applications for unemployment benefits, a rough gauge of layoffs, declined to 963,000 from a revised 1.19 million at the end of July, [the Labor Department said Thursday](#). It was the second straight large decline.

Economists polled by MarketWatch had forecast 1.08 million new claims in the seven days ended Aug. 8. These seasonally adjusted figures reflect applications filed the traditional way through state unemployment offices.

New claims have tumbled by almost 500,000 in the past two weeks.

The number of people receiving traditional jobless benefits through the states, meanwhile, dropped by a seasonally adjusted 604,000 to a new post-pandemic low of 15.49 million. These so-called continuing claims are reported with a one-week lag.

**What happened:** The sharp decline in claims over the past two weeks has surprised economists. Some wonder if the expiration of a temporary \$600 federal stipend on July 31 led some people to believe they were no longer eligible to apply.

A big drop in the number of people seeking benefits through the federal government's so-called Pandemic Unemployment Compensation fund suggests that might be the case. The program made self-employed eligible for the very first time.

Applications through the PUA slid to 488,622 last week from 655,999 and 908,800 in the prior two weeks.

While these workers can still apply for benefits, they and other Americans can no longer get \$600 extra a week the federal government was offering. President Trump has since ordered reduced payments of \$300 after a divided Congress failed to extend the benefit.

"it's not clear if this is driven by a genuine improvement in the labor market or the expiration of Pandemic Unemployment Compensation," economists at Jefferies LLC wrote to clients.

Another possibility is that state governments have mostly worked through a backlog of claims that they struggled to process earlier in the pandemic.

If new state and federal jobless claims are combined, they totaled an unadjusted 1.32 million last week, down from 1.64 million in the prior week.

Altogether, 28.26 million people were still receiving benefits through eight state and federal assistance programs as of July 25, the latest data available. That's down from unadjusted 31.3 million in the prior week.

**MarketWatch** is reporting select jobless claims data using actual or unadjusted figures to give a clearer picture of unemployment. The seasonally adjusted estimates typically expected by Wall Street have become less accurate during the pandemic.

**Big picture:** The economy's rapid recovery from pandemic-related shutdowns tapered off by midsummer after another surge in coronavirus cases. What comes next is unclear.

While recent evidence suggests growth might be speeding up again, the economy probably faces a tougher slog in the months ahead. Most states still have restrictions in place and many organizations from sports to schools don't plan to fully reopen anytime soon.

**Market reaction:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average ([DJIA](#)) and S&P 500 ([SPX](#)) were set to open slightly lower in Thursday trades.



# Plasterers' ROCK!











# Local 200





**PLASTERERS' LOCAL NO. 200**  
*Operative Plasterers', Cement Masons' and Shop Hands'*  
*International Association, AFL-CIO*  
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 Pomona, CA 91768



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**Esequiel Mendez**  
*Vice President/Business Agent*

**Thomas Castleman**  
*Business Manager/Financial Sec.*

**David Casey**  
*Business Agent*

**Carlos Ponce**  
*Business Agent*

**Christian Betancourt**  
*Business Agent*

**Carlos Barraza**  
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**Richard Cueto**  
*Executive Board*

**Jim Lee**  
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**Santos Macias**  
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[www.pl200.org](http://www.pl200.org)