

# DISTRICT COUNCIL 4 Update

January 2024

Painters, Tapers, Glaziers, Glassworkers, Billboard Posters, Wallcoverers, Printing Presswork and Pre-natal-Perinatal Workers

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Dear Sisters & Brothers:

In this past year we began to see tangible positive effects from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the CHIPS and Science Act within District Council 4. Both of these federal bills will infuse billions of dollars into our upstate infrastructure and directly impact the men and women in our construction markets. They will be directly responsible for hundreds of thousands of hours of work for our members.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law in 2021. It infuses \$1.2 trillion dollars into Americans' traditional "hard" infrastructure, such as roads and bridges.

The legislation provided \$550 billion in new federal investments for American roads, bridges, mass transit, rail, airports, ports and waterways. The package also included \$65 billion for improving broadband infrastructure and billions for improving the electric grid and water systems.

The CHIPS and Science Act (CHIPS) was signed into law in 2022 and makes a \$53 billion investment in U.S. semiconductor manufacturing, research and development, and workforce.

The law is helping to put America at the forefront of innovation and technological development, making American supply chains more resilient, and supporting our national security and access to key technologies. The MICRON Corporation has already broken ground outside Syracuse, NY, on what will be the largest chip manufacturing facility in all of North America. In what is anticipated to be a ten-year construction project, we expect to see hundreds of thousands of construction hours off of this project alone.

New York State will be seeing a large infusion of all this federal money for construction. Whether it is new/repairing bridges or new/upgrades to our airports, water plants, and all other forms of infrastructure. The best part of these infrastructure bills is that they have language included that attaches prevailing wage requirements to the projects. Along with that are incentives to promote the utilization of apprenticeship programs, local hire and community participation efforts. The laws don't specifically state that in order to get funding you had to have Project Labor Agreements (PLA's) on these jobs. But they do put in place very strong incentives that encourage developers to use either PLA's or at least to incorporate components of those agreements into the project requirements.

Simply put, if the developers want better tax breaks and grants they need to pay the area union wages and benefits and utilize apprenticeships and hire local people. I can't overstate how incredible it is to see federal bills with this pro-union/pro-worker language in them. This will have an effect on many projects in our jurisdiction and directly impact our men and women in construction. And of course all the ripple effects to the local economies with projects of this size and scope.

In the past few months we are seeing more PLA's in DC4 than in any prior years. And it isn't even close. We typically had PLA's on a handful of projects in the WNY area each year. We hadn't seen these agreements in other cities for years and in some areas we had never seen them. That has all changed. We have these agreements all over the District Council now with more being negotiated every month. These all ensure that our members will be the ones building and rebuilding the projects in our neighborhoods.

Moving into 2024 we don't see any slowing down on developers desire to incorporate these Project Labor Agreements, or worker friendly language associated with them, into their project specifications. As more of these projects break ground we are expecting some busy years ahead with many large projects in regions across DC4.

To make sure we are prepared for this workload, keep your membership current and make sure to keep your certifications up to date (OSHA/Lead/Respirator/CAS/AGMT, etc.) and get ahead of the curve and get certifications you are lacking. These all make you more employable and will help ensure your ability to work more moving forward.

As always work safe and work smart. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

In solidarity,

Michael Hogan  
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
IUPAT District Council 4



IUPAT DC 4 of WNY & CNY



## DAN LAFRANCE

*Director Of Political Action*

I want to wish a Happy New Year to all our members, their families, and our contractors and hope that everyone had a safe & happy holiday season.

I also want to thank all members and their families that got out to vote either early, by absentee ballot or on Election Day. I am very happy to say that the candidates that we endorsed did very well throughout the DC 4 geographical jurisdiction that we represent. I also have to say that over the next few years that we have more PLA's already signed throughout the Council than we have ever had which is due to the bipartisan infrastructure bill that was passed. This bill has many requirements which has been very instrumental in steering these projects into utilizing PLA's and will in turn increase our membership and will help influence open shop contractors into becoming signatory contractors.

We need to remember this as we move into a Presidential Election year because everything we have worked for to get in place can be taken away with the stroke of a pen if an unfriendly labor candidate gets elected. This year we will also be working on getting AGMT/NACC certifications in the counties where we have labor friendly elected officials that understand why these certifications are good for the public and people they represent. We will also be working on trying to add to the NYS CAS certification to have it include cities, towns, villages, municipalities etc. As we have said in the past, we do not care what party a candidate is from as long as they stand for what is right. This year we were able to get Congressman from both sides of the isle to cosponsor the Bridge Corrosion Prevention & Repair Act except one and that was Congressman Brandon Williams. I am happy to say that NYS Senator John Mannion has decided to run against him in the upcoming election and he is a champion for labor and we will do everything we can to help him get elected. This is why work with elected officials to inform and educate them of the importance of certifications and when one of them will not stand with us then we will do what we can to replace them!



## BRIAN LIPCZYNSKI

*Director Of Service Representatives*

First, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy holidays. I truly hope this last year was prosperous and healthy for you and your family. There is a lot of work on the horizon in all of our areas, for all crafts. This newsletter I would like to discuss the labor movement as a whole and a conference I attended recently.

I had the privilege of attending the 2023 Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference, an event that left an indelible mark on my perspective and redefined my understanding of solidarity within the labor movement. I went with an up-and-coming foreman, and delegate from Local 150 Jaimee Bechard.

The conference, held on December 2nd and 3rd, was a powerhouse of inspiration, knowledge-sharing, and empowerment. From the moment I stepped into the hotel and furthermore the venue, the air was charged with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated industries. The sessions were rich with insights from accomplished women who have paved the way for future generations, providing a roadmap for success and

encouraging attendees to embrace their unique strengths.

What stood out most was the incredible sense of solidarity among the tradeswomen present. Regardless of their specific field—be it painting, glazing, plumbing, electricians, or any other trade—there was a shared understanding that their collective strength could drive meaningful change. The camaraderie was palpable, fostering an environment where attendees felt not only supported but truly understood.

This is what I feel the labor movement as a whole has been missing. Everyone likes the benefits and when everything is going well. Typically, most of our 1800 members sit quietly until there is an issue. I understand everyone has lives and stuff going on but, without the solidarity shown at this women's conference, change is going to be hard to come by. We need ALL of our members fighting for the same goals and issues that is going to make a difference. The end goal is obviously market share and more hours for our members. There is a lot more than meets the eye when it comes to these things however. Get involved, join the Volunteer Organizing Committee, ask your Business Representative or someone on staff how you can help.

The conference illuminated the fact that the labor movement has been lacking the diverse voices and perspectives of tradeswomen. It's not just about breaking glass ceilings; it's about shattering stereotypes and dismantling systemic barriers that have hindered the progress of women in the workforce. The conference served as a rallying point for a renewed commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and equality within the labor movement.

In The United States Women are about 51% of the population. In the trades (as well as District Council 4) they make up about 10%. This has to change. Construction is not a white male job. It is for women and minorities alike. There is a worker shortage throughout the country and with the upcoming work every building trade will be scrambling for any knowledgeable reliable person regardless of gender and race. We have to be supportive and help ALL new members and try to retain as many as we can!

As I reflect on the empowering experiences at the Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference, it is clear that the future of the labor movement is being reshaped. The conference has sparked a flame that will burn brightly, inspiring positive change and fostering an environment where every tradeswoman's voice is not only heard but celebrated.

I would like to thank Jaimee Bechard for spending the weekend and unforgettable experience with me. Next year I hope more people throughout all of the trades across the country will attend. These eye-opening events maybe will move the stagnant labor movement in the right direction. We need change and we can be that change.

As always reach out to me (716-429-7489) with any questions or concerns. Treat everyone as an equal and be kind. Life is too short for hostility in the workplace. Work safely and get home to your families unharmed.



## MARC BRAUNSTEIN

### *Director of Training*

As 2023 comes to an end, I hope all of my DC 4 brothers and sisters get to spend time with their families and friends during the Holidays. These special times with family and friends make the long hours and hard work that we put in throughout the year worth it. With all of the work coming out in DC 4's jurisdiction, I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe, and prosperous 2024!!

With Apprentice school starting in December 2023, the FTI of W&CNY brought our Instructors back to work in November to get some upgrading training and to get the training centers prepped and ready. With a new school year upon us, we have a couple of new additions to the FTI of W&CNY. Local 43 Painter Seth Spangler will be the new Commercial Paint Instructor at the WNY Training Center and Local 31 Painter Juan Vazquez will be Commercial Paint Instructor at our Cortland Training Center. Seth and Juan will be a great addition to the FTI of W&CNY and we look forward to working with them! For those members that do not know, the NYSDOL requires the registered apprentices to complete 144 hours of

classroom related instruction for each year of their apprenticeship, along with the on-the-job training hours. In these 144 hours, the apprentices will receive the mandatory trade-based curriculum, mandatory health and safety classes, and trade related hands-on training.

It was great to see all of our DC 4 members at the 2023 STAR event. It was another great event with a lot of lucky winners taking home a lot of great prizes. Thank you to the FTI of W&CNY and DC 4 Staff for helping out with this event. There is a lot of work that goes into this event all year long to make it great. Just a reminder... The STAR year runs from May 1 through April 30 each year. You only need 800 hours worked and 16 hours of training within the STAR year to qualify. The more training you take, the more chances you get to win. Don't forget to sign up for training classes at DC4.org or call the FTI Office at 716-565-0112, so you can qualify for the 2024 STAR raffle!

Please, do not hesitate to contact the FTI Office with any of your Apprenticeship or Training needs. We are here to help and service our membership in any way that we can.

On behalf of the FTI of W&CNY Staff, I would like to wish all of our DC 4 brothers and sisters a Merry Christmas and a happy, safe, and prosperous New Year!



## FRANK STENTO

### *Director Of Organizing*

Brothers and Sisters of District Council #4,

I've now had the pleasure of serving as the Director of Organizing for 2 and ½ years. Time flies when you're having fun and as I reflect on some shared successes during this time, I'm especially grateful for the organizing team that we've assembled with Wes Schlossin, Guy Falsetti, Donald Meyers, and Joseph Guza. The ideas, effort and passion from this group have been motivational and has renewed collective DC#4 efforts in facing the many challenges in our industry. We are a diverse group in our backgrounds, crafts, and expertise but the common theme that unifies us is our care for the labor movement and impact this has on our brothers and sisters. Their determination paves the way in lifting everyone up and finding wins that are hard fought. The phrase "Iron sharpens iron" suggests people can improve each other through challenges, constructive criticism, and healthy competition. This is true for this group as I've witnessed the growth and impact professionally and personally. I'm excited to see this team evolve and the

lasting impact it will leave on the Finishing Trades Industry within our jurisdiction and beyond. Over the past year our Organizers successes have been many. Together we have continued to build up our Forums with the most attendees since inception, creating lasting relationships with experts among the Industrial Coatings/Glazing markets. We've had more contractor meetings, research/case studies, campaigns, and workforce connections this past year than any other point in my 5 years within the Organizing department. Our diversified recruitment efforts have been extensive, and our union has been able to bring in a multitude of new membership.

What encourages me is seeing our rank-and-file members stepping up. A few examples of this include brother Juan Vazquez settling into his new role as our first bilingual instructor for DC#4. Our first Women's Build Trades attendee Jaimee Bechard was able to experience the strength and impact women bring to our Union. Brother Paul Leone selflessly stepping into the Council Vice President role when there was a void. The STAR event attendees that put the time in to improve their skills through apprenticeship as well as journey person upgrades. The growing list of Volunteer Organizers that have joined the ranks as we are currently at 105 strong. The community projects, career fairs and meetings attended by these new VOC members taking a renewed interest in their Union is uplifting. Our members that continually call us from the field when there is an organizing opportunity or to report non-union contractors on site. New delegates and local executive board members stepping up.

To all that take pride in their work and pride in knowing their contract. We are the best of the best and will continue building on that reputation. My role as the Director of Organizing is no more important than our newest apprentice. Both roles take commitment, open communication, a willingness to learn. We are stronger together and will continue advocating for those seeking a meaningful career within the IUPAT.

As we set our goals for 2024, we realize that there is much work to do to ensure that future generations will have the ability to enjoy those benefits we sometimes take for granted. We must find ways to organize like never before. New members, new contractors, added compliance and job actions, increased training, mentorship, and member activism. In solidarity there is nothing that we cannot achieve. During this Christmas season I hope that we all can find gratitude and joy in giving back. Enjoy the time you will share with your loved ones & the spirit of the holidays. God Bless.

In Solidarity,

Frank A. Stento



## 2023 TRADESWOMEN BUILD NATIONS CONFERENCE

District Council 4 Volunteer Organizing Committee

As we move into the new year, DC4 is mobilizing to organize more union members and we need the help of our brothers and sisters. IUPAT members are the best organizers because they know the difference that union membership has made in their lives and the communities where they live and work. Our members are best equipped to communicate this difference to non-union workers and the public. The Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC) is an opportunity for all rank-and-file members to do just that. Volunteer Organizers can have a profound impact on ALL WORKERS, including current members. If we control a higher percentage of market share in the industries we represent, we possess more collective bargaining power when it comes to negotiating better wages and working conditions. We MUST all be part of this effort, together, as one!

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, with a meet and greet session starting at 4:30pm for those able to attend in person (the in-person location will change month to month). Food and beverages are provided for those who attend in person. Meetings usually run from 45 minutes to an hour, and STAR Credit is granted for attendance. Our first meeting of the new year will be January 18th, 2024.

To sign up, please visit

[dc4.org/voc-application](http://dc4.org/voc-application) <http://www.dc4.org/voc-application>



## LIFE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

I've been seeing a lot of Life Membership Applications come across my desk lately of members who have retired 2-3 years ago and just realizing they can apply for reduced dues after 20 cumulative years of service and permanently retired from the trade.

I wanted to point out that the IUPAT only credits back 4 months of the regular dues amount so when you retire, please call me right away and I can have you fill out the application so they can process it and you can start paying the reduced life member rate at the point you actually retired. Thank you!

Shannon Albano

District Council #4

Administrator of Dues Collection

(716) 565-0303 ext. 21





# GLAZIERS LOCAL 677 NEW MEMBER

President Paul Leone swears in new member Joe Crandall

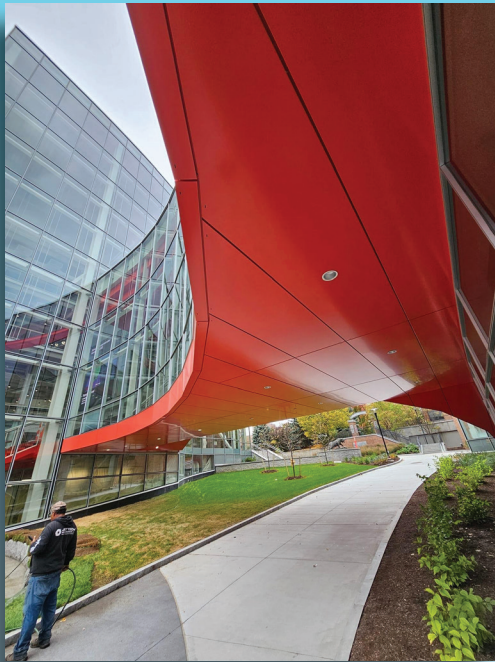


DC4 Business Representatives and Organizers supporting the Rochester Building and Construction Trades Council rally at the Coca-Cola Fairlife Project in Webster, NY. Coca-Cola Fairlife has refused to guarantee area standard wages and benefits or apprenticeship opportunities on the \$650+ million construction project.





# MEMBERS AT WORK











International Union of Painters  
and Allied Trades of America and Canada, AFL-CIO  
585 Aero Drive  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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Tompkins, Wayne,  
Wyoming and Yates*



## D.C. #4 LOCAL MEETING NIGHTS

	MEETING HALL LOCATIONS	MEETING NIGHT	CITY/TOWN
#11	701 West State St.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 5:30pm	Ithaca
#17	585 Aero Drive	Meets Quarterly	Cheektowaga
#31	615 West Genesee St.	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday, 6:00pm	Syracuse
#38	216 Cayuga St.	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7:00pm	Fulton
#43	585 Aero Drive	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:00pm	Cheektowaga
#112	585 Aero Drive	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:00pm	Cheektowaga
#150	244 Paul Rd.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 4:30pm	Rochester
#178	701 West State St.	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 5:00pm	Ithaca
#660	585 Aero Drive	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, 6:30pm	Cheektowaga
#677	6605 Pittsford Palmyra Rd.	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday, 5:00pm	Fairport
#1203	625 Delaware	Meets Quarterly	Buffalo

## LOOKING FOR WORK?

### Call the Regional Business Representative:

#### Buffalo/Niagara Falls/Jamestown/Olean

Dominic Zirilli (716) 393-7915  
dzirilli@dc4.org

Brian Lipczynski (716) 429-7489  
b lipczynski@dc4.org

#### Ithaca/Elmira/Binghamton

Dan Jackson (315) 744-5280  
djackson@dc4.org

#### Oswego/Watertown/Syracuse

Dan LaFrance (315) 396-3301  
dlafrance@dc4.org

#### Rochester

David Chaffee (585) 413-8699  
dchaffee@dc4.org

#### Rochester/Syracuse/Binghamton

Joe Comfort (585) 727-6228  
jcomfort@dc4.org