

DISTRICT COUNCIL 4 Update

April 2025

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

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Union Brothers and Sisters,

The following is Part 2 of the Cornell School of Industrial & Labor Relations (ILR) study on prevailing wage, The Rationale for Prevailing Wage Laws. Part 2: Costs & Benefits of Prevailing Wage Laws.

"One might logically assume that a higher construction wage translates to a higher project cost. However, the calculation is more complicated. The prevailing wage requirement has little or no impact on a project's total costs. The key to this analysis is the relatively low percentage of labor costs to total project costs along with efficiencies employed by higher paying contractors. Studies conducted over the last 15 years overwhelmingly found that construction costs are not affected by prevailing wages.

First, labor costs comprise a low and historically declining share of total costs in the construction industry. Second, research indicates that, when wages increase in the construction industry, skilled workers replace less-skilled workers and more capital equipment is utilized. These changes increase productivity and tend to offset the cost effect of higher wages.

The efficiencies of higher-paying contractors can result in projects being built with fewer errors and fewer expensive change orders. Low-wage employers, on the other hand, hire lower skilled workers. This often results in expensive change orders to correct poor quality with little cost savings, and potential inconvenience to owners and clients, when jobs do not get completed on time.

The prevailing wage law protects local construction contractors from low-paying and out-of-state competition. By removing labor costs from the bidding equation, out-of-state contractors who might undercut in-state contractors on labor costs lose the competitive advantage they would otherwise gain from paying substandard wages. Local contractors, as a result, are not then pressured to slash wages and benefits to win bids.

Construction is a fiercely competitive contract industry, characterized by slim profit margins and high injury and workers' compensation rates. All the elements are present for competition that destabilizes the industry and incentivizes a "race to the bottom" approach that disadvantages law-abiding contractors. The industry is comprised largely of numerous small to medium-sized companies that often operate beyond the view of state regulators. It is labor-intensive, its jobs are temporary, and its workforce is mobile. It is a lucrative industry for unscrupulous contractors who exploit workers. The prevailing wage law is one deterrent to protect against these various circumstances because it requires all project bidders to "play on a level playing field" with respect to labor costs.

Economic development policy seeks to improve both the quantity and the quality of jobs, thus the pay going to workers. After all, higher-paid workers purchase more goods and services from workers in other sectors and pay higher taxes. The prevailing wage law was intended to reserve publicly funded work for locally based labor. Every dollar spent on prevailing wage jobs generates \$1.50 for local economies. The total family income for construction workers is estimated to be 12.5% higher in prevailing wage states than in non-prevailing wage states."

If we learn from our history, we can expand on our successes and not repeat our failures.

In solidarity,

Michael Hogan BM/ST DC4





MARC BRAUNSTEIN

Director of Training

As the weather in Western and Central New Yorks starts to break, and the busy Construction season begins, our Apprentice School is starting to wind down. I want to thank all of our Apprentices, Instructors, and FTI Staff for a great year. Our Apprentices have been attending classroom related instruction since December 2024 at our Buffalo Training Center and at our Cortland Training Center as well.

As our Apprentice schools comes to a close, so does our STAR (Safety Training Awards Recognition) training year. Our STAR year runs from May 1-April 30 every year. You need 800 working hours and at least 16 hours of Training within the time frame. Please make sure you get all of the training you need to qualify by the end of April 2025, so we can see all of you at our STAR raffle. You can access the Training Calendar on dc4.org or you can call our Office at 716-565-0112. We are looking at dates in October and we will notify you as soon as we confirm the date and the venue for the 2025 STAR raffle.

It is with a heavy heart that I report on the passing of long-time Local 43 members and FTI of W&CNY Instructor, Matt Cancilla. Matt was a great Commercial Painter, a great Instructor, and an even better human. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to all of Matt's family and friends. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

Below is the new IUPAT Mission and Values Statement. We need to implement these values into our very day lives to make us a stronger Union.... #One Union, One Family, One Fight

Mission-To better the lives of each and every member by being the strongest, most powerful voice in the industries we represent

One Union-Our strength is forged through unity by every member within our union working together, regardless of our individual trades, throughout North America. We stand united as one, transcending individual differences and creating collective power.

One Family-We stand together as one. We support, care for, and respect each other in our union halls, on and off the job sites, each and every day. We leave no members behind.

One Fight-We fight together for stronger contracts — that means safer job sites, industry- leading pay, and democracy at work. When we win stronger collective bargaining agreements for IUPAT members, we win higher standards of living for every worker in our crafts.



BRIAN LIPCZYNSKI

Director of Service Representative

I am pleased to say that we have finally had growth in our membership numbers for the first time in many months, after a less than ideal year. With all of the projects set to start/continue into next year, it is only up from here. It seems we are signing a new Project Labor Agreement almost once a week. These are great, because it assures the job will be done with Union building trade members. We must keep fighting for Project labor Agreements and other Pro-Union Pro-Worker Legislation.

Optimism and positivity are sometimes hard to maintain but, we must strive for this. Pessimism and negativity spread much faster. Let us all remember to try and be as kind, tolerant, and uplifting as you can be. Obviously, sometimes things are less than ideal but, we must try to remain in a good place for our own and our peer's sanity. Everyone goes to work to simply make money to provide for themselves or their family. It shouldn't be someplace you dread going to. Be the person you want others to be.

You never know what someone is going through. Just remember if you are feeling down and out you are not alone, and there is someone out there who loves and cares about you. The days of bottling things up and suppressing feelings are in the past. We have programs and people to talk to. Along with our own Employee Assistance Program, the Buffalo Building Trades now has a few mental health professionals, that us as members can take advantage of. Mental Health is no joke. Please take care of yourself and others you are around. If you see someone struggling help them out and refer them to one of these programs. Reach out to a staff member to help get them the necessary help they need. That is what a Union is, not only helping your brothers' sisters and siblings on the job about also in life. We need the comradery of the past.

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 and loved ones healthy



DAN LAFRANCE

Director of Political Action

I hope all members and their families are doing well and are starting their year with many work opportunities. I am going to start off with some good and some bad changes from our new presidential administration that has been enacted prior to this article being written. One good thing that seems to still be in the works is the new chip plant going to be built in Clay NY (Syracuse Region), there have been concerns but as of our Syracuse Building Trades meeting on 2/19/25 where we had a meeting with heads of Micron. They have assured us that they will be moving forward with this project for at least the first two clean rooms and two administration buildings which is half of what we have a signed PLA for, but the full project (\$100 Billion over 20 years/ 4 Clean rooms & 4 Administration Buildings) can be reduced but hopefully not. On the other end of the spectrum, the bad news for our geographical jurisdiction is that our North Country Building Trades has received news that the Massena Hydrogen Plant being built by Air Products (\$500 Million PLA) is shutting the project down due to changing regulations on Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit. This project would have employed 13-15 painters for approximately 1.5 years according to

pre-job meetings with the contractors.

Other changes that is concerning for all unions, their members and their contractors is the NLRB, (National Labor Relations Board). This Board is in place to enforce the National Labor Relations Act by investigating allegations of wrong-doings, conducting elections and deciding/resolving cases. The Trump Administration has terminated General Counsel, Jennifer Abruzzo, which was expected but they have also removed Board member Gwynne Wilcox which now leaves the Board without a quorum. This means that they are unable to issue decisions in cases until a new General Counsel is appointed and nominations for a new Board member is confirmed. The Trump Administration is expected to appoint an employer-friendly General Counsel and nominate a new Board member(s) but I'm sure they not be worker friendly.

We can only hope that with this administration appointing existing members of Congress is that in the upcoming special elections to replace those members that we can elect worker friendly members of Congress. We need to have some kind of backstop before more projects throughout the country get shut down which will harm our members and their families by reducing their work opportunities.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dan LaFrance



FRANK STENTO

Director of Business Development

Brothers and Sisters of District Council #4,

The Organizing department makeup currently consists of Joe Guza, Donald Meyers, Guy Falsetti and myself. With Wes Schlossin taking on the role of WNY Business Representative we are down 1 in our department with a large territory to cover. With every challenge comes an opportunity and with an active & engaged membership each one of us can be an organizer and grow this Council in strength. What exactly does that mean? Growing our marketshare, membership and contractor base is at the core of every decision we make. Return on investment in the actions we take daily is always considered. Our membership is the single strongest asset that we have to bring in new contractors and hours so we must continue to strive for ownership of the most qualified, safe and efficient workforce in our covered industries. This helps drive up wages, and secure better benefits for future contracts. Through increased training and willingness to learn other facets of our primary crafts we can expand work opportunities.

One such example was the floor coatings course at the Cortland Training Center in February and the engagement w/ contractors and members to go after this market. If all of us kept this bigger picture in mind each day we would be an unstoppable force driving the markets and creating better working-class conditions. I want to thank our members that embody the union values, that generations have fought for in the past to get us where we are today, but remind everyone that we have much work to do. Instead of being content w/ the status quo in our industry we should demand more which will take effort and us working together. The country is divided in many ways, but we must be united on how we go about growing DC#4 of the IUPAT.

Members have been stepping up in our Volunteer Organizing roles, CORE committee roles, Stewards classes, providing ideas for recruitment efforts and career fairs, providing leads on non-union contractors, & ideas for member engagement. For all the negative talk that happens on job sites I'm encouraged of those members that are invested in Our Union and show up to make positive changes. The work outlook is favorable and the narrative from our community partners, tech schools, high school counselors, & local government leaders is all trending towards advocacy for these upper middle-class union building trades careers. I am witness to a dedicated organizing team that continues our efforts in growing this District Council, taking on the fights to protect our union values, and representing each member regardless of differences. Every one of us has the ability to organize and we should do so as if our future depends on it, not lukewarm. Will you join us brothers and sisters?

District Council #4 hosts our Coatings & Corrosion Expo upcoming on 3/14/25 and nearing 300 registrants. We have exhibitors from across the USA & Canada joining us along w/ infrastructure decision makers, engineers, and operators. Our coatings applicators and contractors will be in attendance as well as private contractors looking to see why a partnership w/ DC4 could be an effective business model. The Organizing Department may lead this event, but it takes all DC4 staff to make it a success and we look forward to holding annually. One recent accomplishment in relation, is the signing of Riggs Distler & Company and the work that has created at the Ljungström facility in Wellsville, NY. The best part of this organizing success story is the role our membership played. The 5 initial members dispatched vastly outperformed the previous personnel on site resulting in us bringing on 8 more members to provide preparation and protective coatings for the offshore wind market.

We have our Community Day of Action planned for 4/26/25 in Buffalo and Ithaca regions and will be getting social media and text blasts out with more details plus looking for membership participation. Local 150 member William Cody has a solid connection for a Rochester Community Day of Action that we are looking into for late Spring early Summer. These CDA's allow us to showcase our talents and give back in our communities through various service projects.

Our organizing staff continues meeting w/ sub-contractors, policing our work, coordinating and attending career fairs and working recruitment avenues. If there are ideas or questions all DC4 contacts can be located @ www/dc4.org/staff. Have a blessed Spring and wishing our DC4 families a safe and prosperous season ahead.

In Solidarity,

Frank A. Stento

607-727-5208



The second-year drywall finisher apprentices went to Potters Rd. Erie One BOCES to finish the modular house they build every year. Some years it is donated to Habitat and other years like this year it is being auctioned off. In one week, these apprentices finished this house from start to finish. Off-site work like this is crucial in teaching our apprentices. They did an amazing job!

Pictured Left to right

Caleb Sayvone, Damion Deaton,
Billy Dickson, Orlando Pared,
Robert Blasdel, Richard Muldoon,
Bob Brueckman

CTC FLOOR COATINGS CLASS

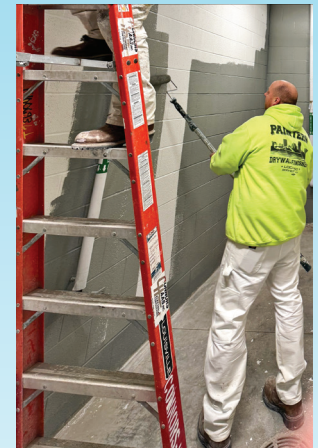
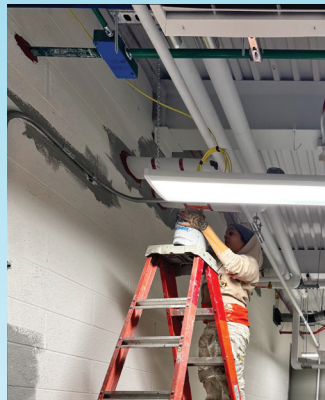
DC4 Local 178 Painter Apprentices and Journeypersons were involved in our Epoxy floor coatings prep and application class at our Cortland training center! Everyone that was involved did a fantastic job! It's all about teaching our workforce, new to the trade or seasoned professionals. You are never too old to learn and pass on to our union members!

A big shout out to long time Local 178 member/Instructor David Peterson. When Dave isn't in the field, he's here instructing for the FTI and passing on his knowledge to our future workforce! Thank you for all the years of service, and for continuing to educate our members!

Thank you to PPG for donating the materials used.



MEMBERS AT WORK



Donald Meyers & Frank Stento w DC4 Organizing Department attended the SPARK Career Fair at Broome Community College 1/22/25 introducing local high schools to careers w the IUPAT. Great connections were made w counselors and teachers as well. Over 800 students attended this annual event.



On 3/14/25 DC4 hosted its annual Coatings & Corrosion Expo. Nearly 300 registered guests participated in a full day of continuing education, demonstrations & networking. Engineers, Water/Wastewater Operators, Contractors, DC4 applicators, local elected officials & community partners come together to advance our industry at our Buffalo Training Facility. This was our 10 year Anniversary and it was a great opportunity to showcase the hard work our membership does on these infrastructure projects.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



On 3/1/25 DC4 Locals 178 & 677 & family members joined to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day in Binghamton, NY. We took advantage of the opportunity to promote the Building & Construction Trades in our community & had some fun along the way.



DC4 is proud to announce that we are in the midst of forming our Women's CORE Committee! While DC4 Organizer Joe Guza is helping to get the group up and running, the DC4 Women's CORE Committee will be led and run by women members for women members. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to Joe Guza (716) 458-5844; jguza@dc4.org or Heather Lewandowski (716) 565-0303 ext. 26; hlewandowski@dc4.org.



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

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Seneca, Steuben,
St. Lawrence, Tioga,
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Wyoming and Yates*



D.C. #4 LOCAL MEETING NIGHTS

	MEETING HALL LOCATIONS	MEETING NIGHT	CITY/TOWN
#11	701 West State St.	2 nd Wednesday, 5:30pm	Ithaca
#17	585 Aero Drive	Meets Quarterly	Cheektowaga
#31	615 West Genesee St.	1 st Monday, 6:00pm	Syracuse
#38	216 Cayuga St.	4 th Tuesday, 7:00pm	Fulton
#43	585 Aero Drive	2 nd Thursday, 6:00pm	Cheektowaga
#112	585 Aero Drive	2 nd Monday, 6:00pm	Cheektowaga
#150	244 Paul Rd.	2 nd Wednesday, 4:30pm	Rochester
#178	701 West State St.	1 st Tuesday, 5:00pm	Ithaca
#660	585 Aero Drive	2 nd Friday, 6:30pm	Cheektowaga
#677	6605 Pittsford Palmyra Rd.	1 st 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
blipczynski@dc4.org

Ithaca/Elmira/Binghamton
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