

UNION DEMOCRACY

Sickles succeeds McKinnis as business manager of Plasterers Local 82

Kent Sickles has been elected business manager of Plasterers Local 82. He succeeds Calvin McKinnis, who did not seek re-election after serving in the post for 15 years.

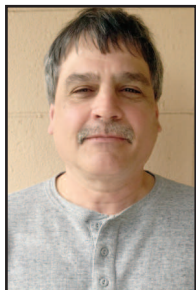
Sickles defeated Cameron Jordan in an election held April 5. All other races for officers and Executive Board seats were uncontested.

Sickles, 56, started as a hod carrier and member of the Laborers Union. He entered the Plasterers apprenticeship program in 1993 and has been active in the union since. A restoration/ornamental plasterer, Sickles has served as president of the 145-member local for the last 15 years. Prior to that he sat on the Executive Board. He has worked for signatory union contractor Fred Shearer & Sons since 1981.

"I just want to keep our members busy working, and keep everybody happy," he said.

McKinnis, 52, has been with the union since 1987. He served on the Executive Board for one term, and as president for three terms (nine years). In that capacity he planned the local's 100th anniversary celebration in 2001.

McKinnis was elected business manager in April 2002, succeeding Don McKinnon, who held the post for 18 years. McKinnis also was apprenticeship coordinator for the plasterers.



Kent Sickles



Calvin McKinnis

A native of Sandy, Oregon, McKinnis joined the union as an apprentice in 1987. He, too, worked for Fred Shearer & Sons as a restoration/ornamental plasterer.

He says he may go back into the field, as there aren't many restoration/ornamental plasterers left. Until he decides, McKinnis will focus more time on his 50-head cattle ranch.

The Plasterers apprenticeship program will be taken over by Craig Smith, the apprenticeship coordinator for the Cement

Masons.

The Plasterers and Cement Masons are under the same international union, the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association. Local 82 and Cement Masons Local 555 share an office building and training center in Northeast Portland with Bricklayers Local 1.

In other election results at Local 82, Kevin Carle was elected president; Chris Leedham was elected vice president; recording secretary is Richard Almadovar; and Cory Depoppe was elected sergeant at arms. Elected to the Executive Board were Ed Evans, Darrell Weatheral, and Rance Danielson. Executive Trustees are Andrew Griffith and Chris Henry.

Sheet Metal Local 16 apprentices shine at regional contest in Pasco, Washington

The International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Northwest Region 12 held an apprenticeship contest March 30-31 in Pasco, Washington.

Thirty-five apprentices from 11 locals in the U.S. and Canada took part in the competition, which had been on hiatus since 2012.

Four apprentices from Portland-based Local 16 competed and placed in the top three in each of four disciplines. Local 16 selected the contestants to send to the competition based on a review of their academics, said Kevin Roth, training coordinator at the Sheet Metal Institute. The four represented the local well.

Leading the way was Brandon York, a 10th term (90 percent) apprentice who finished first in architectural sheet metal. Stephen Serniotti, a 7th-term (80 percent) apprentice, placed second in HVAC; Chad Acheson, a 10th-term apprentice, was second in HVAC service technician, and Jared Bonney, an 8th-term (80 percent) apprentice, finished third in industrial/welding.

Each apprentice was tested in shop fabrication, plans and specs, drafting/sketching, plus a written test consisting of 150 questions. Each was timed and judged for quality. Judges were volunteer business managers,



ABOVE: Local 16 apprentices show off their awards from SMART Northwest Region 12 contest. From left to right are Jared Bonney, Chad Acheson, Training Coordinator Kevin Roth, Stephen Serniotti, and Brandon York.

business agents, coordinators and instructors.

The Sheet Metal Institute in Northeast Portland currently is training 220 apprentices. The program is accepting applications for those who want to get into the trade, Roth said. Sheet Metal apprentices are required to have 8,000 hours of on the job training and 920 school hours in order to reach journeyman status. The program typically takes five years to become a journeyman. Apprentices are paid as they learn, and receive college credit for classes taken in their apprenticeship through Mt. Hood Community College to-

wards an associates degree.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED. For more information, call 503-257-1022 or visit their website at: sheetmetalinstitute.org.

Locals competing in the SMART Northwest Region 12 Sheet Metal Apprenticeship Contest:
Local 8, Alberta, Canada; Local 9, Colorado; Local 16, Oregon; Local 23, Alaska; Local 55, Pasco, Washington; Local 66, Western WA; Local 103, Montana; Local 276, Vancouver Island, British Columbia; Local 280, Burnaby, B.C.; Local 296, Saskatchewan, B.C.; and Local 511, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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longstanding practices of falsifying records of reported injuries. OSHA has very few inspectors, and they're not in workplaces regularly. But when they do show up, the first thing they do is look at the records over a couple year period, because the records give a picture of what has happened in the workplace. And they sometimes find that employers have not recorded large numbers of injuries. They falsify their records. They've misrepresented safety conditions in the workplace. Those are the cases where OSHA has issued big fines and penalties against those employers with these widespread practices. But if OSHA can only look back six months,

six months from the time of the injury, not the time of the inspection, they won't be able to hold employers accountable for these egregious practices of falsifying records and not reporting injuries.

Suppose you were put in charge of OSHA. What would you focus on? I would move forward on a couple of major rules that have been outstanding for a long time, one of them being a rule on combustible dust, which is a major hazard and present in thousands of workplaces across the country. Also, I'd move forward on better regulation on chemicals. Our experience is it's these broad major rules that significantly change practice at the workplace.

—Don McIntosh

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