

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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Brothers and Sisters,

I want to share a hard-earned win with you—a victory not just for our apprentices, but for every member who knows that training, respect, integrity, and a fair wage are non-negotiable.

Just about a year ago, after we wrapped up collective bargaining and ratified our agreement, the Wall & Ceiling Association came after our apprentice wages and benefits, taking us to arbitration to roll back the increase we fought hard to secure.

They waited until the ink was dry and then called for arbitration, trying to force a change to how apprentice wages would increase. Despite our long-standing relationship with the Wall & Ceiling Association, we saw things very differently on this issue.

But let's be clear: they signed the deal. Our leadership negotiated a fair, all-in dollar-based increase for apprentices over five years. They tried to flip it after the fact, arguing for a percentage-based structure we never discussed in negotiations.

Union leadership stepped up and made a clear, powerful case of why our apprentices deserve every dollar and benefit they earn. We didn't back down. We didn't give in. And this week, the arbitrator ruled in favor of the union. That means apprentice wages and benefits are protected through 2029 and so is the strength of this union. That means stability, dignity, and a clear path forward for every apprentice coming up in this trade. It's a major victory not just for our apprentices, but for every member who knows that training, respect, and a fair wage are non-negotiable.

This wasn't just about a wage contract. This was about defending what we fought for at the negotiation table. We're happy to have this resolved and look forward to working hand in hand with the Wall & Ceiling Association to continue building this great city. And never forget, brothers and sisters, when we fight together, we win together.

In solidarity,

Paul Capurso

Executive Secretary-Treasurer