GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

JIM STEINER, JR.

STEWARD, UNION TREASURER, AND 20+ YEAR GLAZIER

SPOTLIGHT

On Jim Steiner:

Title Steward for Metalan Erectors & Glass, Inc. (Chalfont, Pa.)
Hometown Far Northeast Philadelphia, Pa.
Family Wife Desiree, daughter Annaliese (age 12), and dog Rocky
Favorite Teams Philadelphia Phillies & Philadelphia Eagles
Favorite Movie Jaws

ABOUT JIM

Jim Steiner, Jr., has been a steward with Metalan Erectors & Glazing, Inc. (MEG), for the last three years. He has served as Treasurer of Glaziers Local Union 252 since 2011 and as a trustee before that. He spends most days in the field, installing glass on projects large and small. In addition, the veteran glazier serves as middle man between employers and glaziers, negotiating solutions for issues ranging from paycheck problems to site safety. He knows the union contract inside and out, and has been fortunate to work on significant projects. But Jim says the best part of his job is the lifelong friendships he has made.

NO CONNECTIONS

After graduating from Father Judge High School, Jim attended community college while working in a restaurant and doing some catering. He wasn't quite sure where his future might lead. Then one evening, he heard a coworker mention the glaziers were hiring. "I didn't even know what glazing was," Jim admits, "But I went and filled out an application." That was 1996. Twenty-two years later and Jim acknowledges that despite having no connections in the local union, his follow up had a decidedly good result.

FAILURE & SUCCESS

"I struggled and failed my final glazing test," Jim discloses. He had to go in front of the union board and work over the summer to complete his journeyman's welding certificate, but he persevered. "I didn't give up, and I guess they saw something in me," he explains. Jim's commitment earned him a second chance to pass the test and become a glazier. The lesson is one he passes on to apprentices and those considering glazing. Even if you struggle in school, if you work hard, you can still become successful.

Left: Jim on the job and coaching his daughter Annaliese in softball

Top to bottom: Jim and Annaliese, celebrating the Glaziers Hockey championship win (Jim won the jersey in the event raffle), and with last summer's championship Glaziers softball team.

"I wasn't strong mechanically, but I always showed up," Jim explains, adding that the Finishing Trades Institute training program and colleagues are there to help you learn. In 22 years, he's only missed two union meetings. From his apprenticeship, he has attended every political action event, and became involved in softball and other activities. He even helped start Glazier's Day - the July weekend shore getaway for union members and their families. His presence eventually earned him roles in union leadership. "Get involved and show your face," Jim recommends. "Always show up on time and don't be late. The work will take care of itself."

CERTIFICATIONS

Jim's commitment can be seen in his many certifications for NCCCO rigging, vertical and overhead welding, CPR, OSHA 30, and LEED Green Advantage. "As a steward, I have to be on top of things," he says, adding that he hosts regular Friday safety meetings and toolbox talks to encourage others to gain ongoing training.

SOFTBALL CHAMPION

Jim's colleagues found out he was a good softball player and recruited him early for the LU252 team. In 21 years, he has played on five championship teams. He also played in the Labor of Love tournament at Camden Yards and won the 1st Annual Luke Strong Tournament last summer. Jim says playing softball has been a highlight of being a glazier.

DAD & COACH

Jim extends his softball skills to a coaching role for Calvary AA where he coaches his 12-year-old daughter Annaliese. He has also coached the Nazareth grade schooler in basketball and soccer. He's immensely proud of his daughter's equal skill on the field and on the stage where she has danced ballet since age three.

FAVORITE THINGS

Jim's fondest project memory stands out not because of dramatic architecture - although Allentown's PPL Center with its glass bridge floor is pretty impressive - but because the travel each day from Philadelphia to the Lehigh Valley required long car rides with a group of guys. "Even though it was far, it was such a fun job because of the different personalities," he explains.

Like many glaziers, Jim enjoys the variety of new projects and sites every day. But "one of the coolest things is waking up early and being on top of a building to see the sun rise." Jim admits this is a sight not many get to see.