

International Staffer Diana Pappas Retires After 34 Years

Diana Pappas is and will always remain a roofer. Although she never worked at the trade, she was a committed and dedicated employee at the International Union for 34 years. She understood how hard roofers worked and always treated the local unions and members with respect.

Diana recently retired and will be sorely missed. She wanted everyone to know what a pleasure and honor it was to work for the International and always felt she was a part of something important.

Diana expressed her thoughts about what it meant to her to work at the International Union. So, here's Diana "In her own words:"

"Thirty-four years ago I started work here at the International union. I was 27 years old and I was very happy to get this job because my husband was active in the Labor Movement and now I was going to be part of the Labor Movement too. I was also proud of being a member of OPEIU, Local 2. Coming to work at the International Union turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made and I never once regretted it for the next 34 years.

I have always loved being a Roofer and I really loved my job. Sure – sometimes there was pressure and sometimes things got intense but it has always been a great place to work. I hated the traffic but I liked working in downtown Washington D.C. with the restaurants and the shopping and the excitement of a city.

I was fortunate that I always worked for good people who cared about me and treated me with respect. I have worked under four Presidents and three Financial Secretary-Treasurers. I loved each of them. They were always kind to me and when I was sick they were the best men in the world.

I worked with many people here at the Roofers and you all became my family. We fought and we loved. We worked and we played. We laughed and we cried.



Diana is flanked by International President Kinsey Robinson and International Secretary-Treasurer Robert Danley to display dessert at her retirement party. Earlier International President Kinsey Robinson presented Diana with a Silver Bangle Bracelet in recognition of her years of faithful service to the International.

Things were very different at the International Union in 1973. We didn't have computers, so everything was done by hand. We used typewriters instead of word processors. We had no email. But the one thing that never changed was that we took care of the Locals and the Roofer members who depended on us. I always felt like I was part of something important. I have always understood how hard roofers work and I know what the money they pay in dues means to them.

Working at the International Union also provided me with a good life. I made good wages and I bought a home with my husband. I took vacations and was always home with my family on holidays. I believe that our medical benefits saved my life and gave me many more years. And I am now going to retire on a great retirement plan. My life and my career have been a success.

I want everyone to know how much every one of you has meant to me and I will miss seeing you everyday and I will miss talking to my friends at the Locals. I hope that everyone has as good a life as I've had and that each of you will one day have the opportunity to retire and live a new life. I'm very excited about the future and plan to do a lot of the things I've always wanted to do. My husband will also be retiring soon and we're planning to have new adventures together. I wish everyone the best and you will always be in my heart."

On behalf of all of us who have worked with Diana and have come to know and respect her, we sincerely hope that she and her husband Jim have an enjoyable, healthy, and adventurous retirement.



Not to be left out, the guys surround Diana for a picture, including (l to r) International President Kinsey Robinson, Safety and Health Rep John Barnhard, Assistant to the International President Bob Krul and International Secretary-Treasurer Robert Danley.



The entire office staff helped Diana celebrate her retirement. Here it's just the women that ham it up for a photo op, including left to right: Jamie Farris, Kristina DeCosse, Diana Pappas, Marilyn Dambach, Barbara Newell, Erin McDermott, and Amanda Wolfe.