



JOE VALECCE

SHOP STEWARD & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

On Joe Valecce:

Title Shop Steward for Harmon, Inc. (HQ: Bloomington, MN)

Hometown Mayfair section of Northeast Philadelphia

Family Wife Janet and daughters Angela (22) and Nicole (18)

Hobbies Golf, spending time with family and friends

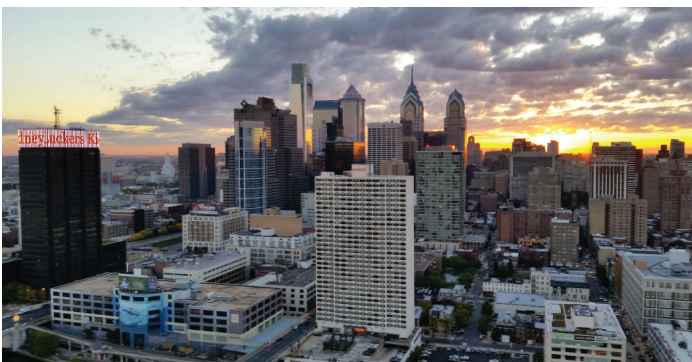
Favorite Teams Phillies, Flyers, Eagles - "I love 'em all!"



ABOUT JOE

After high school, Joe Valecce worked with his brother and a buddy doing general carpentry work. When they landed a project with a big window component, Joe decided both to pursue glazing and join the union. He apprenticed from 1991-1995 and hasn't looked back. "The switch was great," Joe says of his decision to shift from carpentry to glazing. "I thoroughly enjoy it. I like doing something different every day, being outside, and working with the guys side by side."

Below: Joe's view of the Philadelphia skyline from FMC Tower

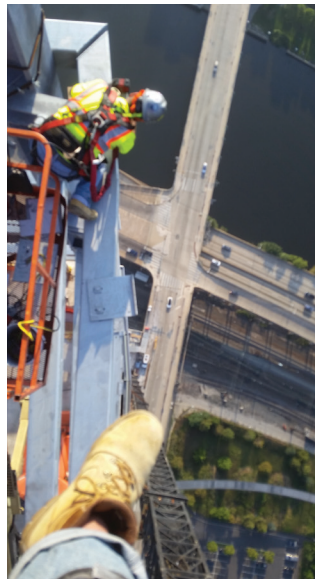


With over 25 years in, Joe has reaped the benefits of glazing, from earning his associate degree to achieving leadership positions in the union. His willingness to step up and do whatever it takes has earned him the respect of his industry and colleagues.

TOWERING RESPONSIBILITY

Joe's reputation earned him an important role. Harmon, Inc., the Minnesota-based national curtainwall company responsible for West Philadelphia's FMC Tower, needed a reliable shop steward to oversee the project's glazing. Joe was the first glazier on the job in June 2015 and he's remained on site ever since. "At 52 stories, it's the biggest project I've ever been on. And it's a really sharp building," Joe says.

He admits it's sometimes a challenge working with an out-of-town outfit, but the experience has taught him a lot. He must work cohesively with a composite crew of Local 252 glaziers, Local 401 ironworkers, plus ironworkers based in Harmon's Baltimore office. As a steward, Joe resolves issues and concerns, and confirms all the glazing labor teams have equal amounts of workers and are



From left: Joe with his family, working on FMC Tower, and supporting the Eagles

adhering to the national trade agreement. He also ensures safety remains everyone’s focus. He attends a weekly safety meeting with the 19 other stewards on the job; the regular meetings and shared responsibility mean they respect and look out for one another.

UNION LEADERSHIP

Joe’s commitment to the union has included serving as a part-time instructor at FTI, serving as a representative for District Council 21, and sitting on the executive board of Local 252 for the last six years.

Former Education Director Mike Shurr invited Joe to teach at FTI in 2005; after shadowing another instructor for a night, Joe was hooked. He primarily teaches fourth-year apprentices, getting them ready for the next stage of their glazing careers. His track includes foreman training, communication skills, transferring benchmarks, and leveling tools. Joe also teaches the OSHA 500 health and safety trainer course to those interested in becoming instructors of the OSHA 10- and 30-hour construction safety classes.

“I try to coach guys using my own experiences,” Joe explains. He advises them to be smart, and to think before they do or say anything. He encourages a calm demeanor and always asking for help when you need it.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Joe extends his commitment to a variety of neighborhood service activities. As president of the 15th District Police Department Advisory Council (PDAC), Joe meets with the police captain and human relations committee, local politicians, city agencies, and constituents to support safe communities through outreach and activities. He has been instrumental in events such as the Frankford

Community Day and Mayfair Day and recently coordinated a basketball marathon for the Heads-Up drug prevention program. Joe might just as easily be found cooking up 1,500 hot dogs for an event as reviewing crime statistics with officers; in either case, it’s about wanting to make the community stronger. “It’s not about me,” Joe explains. “I want to help. If someone needs help, I’ll step up.”

Joe has quite the track record of stepping up. He coached his daughters in softball and soccer for more than a decade. When the girls were at Saint Hubert’s High School, Joe became president of the parents’ association. He recalls with a laugh the night he sat in a quiet auditorium when the call for a new president came out. “I knew if I looked up, the job would be mine,” Joe said. It was a job he held for three years.

FAMILY MAN

Joe and his wife Janet celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on May 9. They have two daughters for which Joe’s pride is obvious. Angela (age 22) recently graduated from Arcadia University. Nicole (18) just completed her first year at Holy Family University.

LASTING IMPACT

Joe considers his glazing friends his extended family, from the local guys he golfs with every weekend to a buddy who now lives in Seattle. He made the trip to the west coast to attend the U.S. Open with him in 2015. “Being a glazier, I’ve met so many people, so many friends,” Joe says. “Your job is as good as you let it be. And I love it.”