



GLAZIER, SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE & COMPETENT PERSON

DION FRASCA

SPOTLIGHT

On Dion Frasca:

Title Journeyman Glazier, Safety Representative, and Competent Person for National Glass & Metal Co., Inc. (Horsham, Pa.)

Hometown Upper Moreland, Pa.

Family Wife Jennifer; daughters Sarah (16) and Emma (14)

Favorite Team Any Philly team: Eagles, Flyers, Phillies, Sixers

Favorite Movie Miracle (about the 1980 U.S. men's hockey team)



ABOUT DION

A graduate of Jules E. Mastbaum Vocational/Technical School in Philadelphia, Dion Frasca thought his future would be in the automotive field. The car buff studied in the school's auto mechanic program hoping to parlay fixing cars from a hobby to a career. After high school, he spent eight years working in an automotive remanufacturing factory, rising to department manager, before ultimately deciding he wanted a career with a brighter future. A friend suggested glazing and Dion admits it was a great piece of advice.

Dion began his apprenticeship in 2000, and is today a journeyman glazier with National Glass & Metal Co., Inc. of Horsham, Pa. He has spent his entire glazing career with National Glass, building a livelihood and a lifestyle that makes him feel proud. "The type of work I'm doing, it's building America," Dion explains. "You see a job start and then you see the outcome. As the years have gone by, I can say, 'I worked on that' for some really important projects. It's a great experience."

From Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Penn Medicine Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine in West Philadelphia to Citizens Bank Park in South Philadelphia to the new Camden Tower in Camden, N.J., Dion has an impressive collection of projects under his belt. His commitment to the union, his fellow glaziers, and his family help him keep everything in perspective.



Left: Dion at Camden Tower, at home with his well-maintained yard, and with his wife Jennifer



Dion on the job; Jennifer, Emma, Sarah, and Dion before Emma's 8th Grade Graduation Dance; Dion and family at the Eagles Super Bowl parade

SAFE AND SOUND

Dion serves as both the designated OSHA Competent Person and the Safety Representative for National Glass. In both roles, he maintains a safe jobsite, takes care of safety equipment, and ensures everyone on the job stays safe at all times. "I preach safety as the number-one thing on each job," Dion says. "We need to be able to go home to our families at the end of every day. That's what it's all about."

Dion is OSHA 30 certified, a credential that he renews every five years, even though the certification never expires. "Many GCs want to see recent certifications," he explains. "I learn something new each time I take the test. It's a win-win there."

CURRENT PROJECT

Dion's current project – the 18-story Camden Tower office building – will become the tallest building on the Camden waterfront when it is finished in 2019. His NCCCO certifications for crane operations, signaling, and rigging are put to good use on the project, where the National Glass team is installing unitized curtain wall and strip window systems.

STAY INVOLVED

Dion's leadership and involvement have been part of his glazing career since the beginning. As an apprentice, Dion served as first president of the student union and was recognized at graduation with the Harry Schurr Leadership Award. He became a trustee and then joined the executive board soon after finishing his apprenticeship and was recently elected to serve as financial secretary for Glaziers Local 252. "The union is only as strong as the members make it." Dion says he learned on sports teams as a kid and it holds true on the job: "When everybody contributes, we get stronger."

DINNER TIME

At the end of each day, Dion's mission of safety ensures he comes home to dinner with his family: wife of 18 years, Jennifer, and daughters Sarah (16) and Emma (14). He speaks with pride of Sarah's involvement with dance and ambassador position with the Girl Scouts and of Emma's athletic skills on the soccer field and basketball court. The family enjoys watching Philly sports together and even attended this year's Eagles Super Bowl Parade. "But family dinners are one of the things I enjoy most," says Dion, who says the tradition began in his own childhood. "No matter how chaotic it is every day, I think it's important to sit down together as a family."

HOBBIES

While Dion admits some people tell him he's too serious, he's also got a relaxed side. He enjoys working in his yard, maintaining a beautiful lawn and landscape. He and his family love visiting amusement parks, such as Disney, Universal Studios, and Cedar Point (the roller-coaster capital of the world). And Dion hasn't lost the automotive pursuits of his younger years; he's currently saving for a hot rod to restore. Dion also likes adding to his extensive collection of auto memorabilia, including vintage signs and die-cast metal cars, especially Pontiac GTOs.

LEARN EVERY DAY

Dion appreciates working with other people and learning from them. He believes learning should be a constant in life and tells young apprentices to take advantages of opportunities, pay attention, learn, and ask questions. "Every day, no matter how long you've been in the union, you learn something from someone." He adds that, "The people make every job better."