



JOE F. WOJTKIELEWICZ

JOURNEYPERSON; PART OF FIRST FTI GRAD CLASS

SPOTLIGHT

On Joe Wojtkielewicz:

Title Journeyperson Glazier and Shop Steward with Bucks County Glass Co. (Doylestown, Pa.)

Hometown Feasterville, Pa.

Family Wife Allison

Favorite Musician Tyler Childers

Congratulations to Joe who earned his AGMT certification in December!



ABOUT JOE

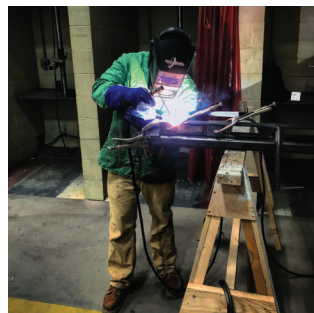
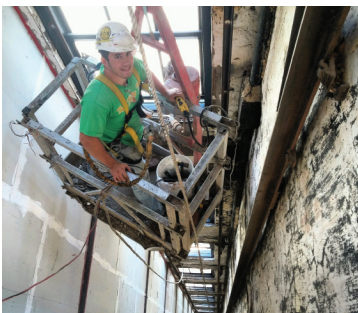
Joe Wojtkielewicz (“Woj” for anyone fearful of mispronouncing that last name) always knew he wanted to work in construction. A talented artist who spent his childhood helping in his father’s contracting business, Joe attended Philadelphia Academy Charter School and mastered carpentry classes. Admittedly never too focused on academics, Joe was anxious to get out of school. After witnessing his father’s business slow down and force the parent of seven to seek other employment, Joe became aware that stability was just as important to him as hands-on work. He helped out in his uncle’s countertop shop for two years post-graduation before applying to the union.

“I liked what I was doing,” Joe explained. “But I didn’t see it going anywhere. I knew I could only get so far, whereas in our local, you always have a chance to move up or go a different direction if you have the aspiration to do so.”

ASPIRATION & PRIDE

Joe’s own aspiration has taken him in the last six years from apprentice to journeyperson glazier – all with Bucks County Glass Co. of Doylestown – and into leadership roles including shop steward. He recently finished a large glazing project for a Subaru dealership in Limerick, Pa. Joe helped lead a crew of 4-7 glaziers installing storefront glass and doors, interior glass systems, and handrails. Joe hopes to manage more projects as his career unfolds and credits his supportive boss at Bucks County Glass with encouraging his leadership potential.

“It gives you a sense of pride to know you were part of something you can see, something that holds value,” Joe said. “Driving around and pointing out what you’ve done – I like it. It’s fulfillment when you do something with your own two hands.”



OPTIONS & ACHIEVEMENT

Joe believes his role as a LU252 glazier has given him options he never could have fathomed a few years ago. This spring, he was part of the first class to earn an Associate Degree in Specialized Technology in Glazing from the Finishing Trades Institute when he graduated from his apprenticeship.

"I'm always trying to better myself," Joe expressed. "If something is offered to enhance my level of skill, I want to get there." He recently took – and passed - the Architectural Glass and Metal Technician (AGMT) certification test. The AGMT Program is a personnel certification process featuring a third-party, independent assessment of an experienced glazier's knowledge of, and ability to properly perform, fundamental glazing procedures. In addition to a knowledge-based written test, Joe underwent a rigorous three-part performance-based evaluation of his craftsmanship in curtainwall, storefront/entrance glass, and sealing. Joe is one of only 211 AGMT certified glaziers in North America.

GIVING BACK

Joe appreciates the glaziers who have taught him on the job and in the classroom. He hopes to one day be a glazing instructor himself. In the meantime, he has taught glazing techniques to AGI Boot Camp participants. In 2017, he was one of six glaziers on the design-build **MERGE** team with Jefferson University students. A third-year apprentice at the time, Joe really enjoyed the collaborative experience. "I recognize the importance of bringing the two viewpoints [design and construction] together to problem-solve and overcome any issues."

Joe advises apprentices to take their work seriously and pay attention to the people willing to teach you. "The ones who are toughest on you care the most," Joe explained. "They see the potential in you."

ADVENTURE & AMBITION

Joe and his wife Allison were married November 2, 2019. The two honeymooned in South Africa where their shared sense of adventure took them on safari, hiking Table Mountain, and to the beaches of Cape Town. The two recently rescued a hound dog mix named Mia.

When he's not working or adventuring, Joe enjoys art and music. He's poised on the cusp of a bright future in life and career. Just as he strives for continuous achievements in glazing, Joe sets ambitious personal goals. Next up: learning to play the guitar.

Top to bottom: Joe with Allison and his parents Regina and Joseph; Joe and Allison on their wedding day in November; hiking in South Africa

