



# CHRIS SNYDER

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER AND DC21 DELEGATE

## SPOTLIGHT

### On Chris Snyder:

**Title** Journeyperson Glazier with Graboyes Commercial Window and Glass Solutions (Philadelphia, Pa.)

**Hometown** Philadelphia

**Family** Son Michael (14) and girlfriend Tara

**Favorite Hockey Teams** Flyers, Glaziers, or Michael's teams



### ABOUT CHRIS

Like many of his fellow glaziers, Chris followed high school with a brief stint in college. He graduated from Father Judge High School in 2003 and spent a year at Penn State exploring the field of criminal justice before deciding it wasn't the right fit. As a 19-year-old working in a pizza shop, Chris didn't know what his future held. But a coworker wanted to ensure it didn't involve pizza delivery long term. He encouraged Chris to consider glazing, a job in which his two sons had built solid careers. Fortunately, Chris listened to the advice and made what he considers one of the best decisions of his life.



Chris admitted he had no idea what a glazier was or did, but once he went through the application process, he built a new appreciation. "I fell in love with it immediately," he remembered. "It amazed me how all the different types of glass could turn an empty room into something amazing." He began work as a glazier in June 2005.

### AS GREEN AS THEY COME

Chris admits to being "as green as they come" when he started his apprenticeship. He had zero prior experience with construction or tools and never dreamed of becoming a construction worker. His first day on a job site was his first day on the job. But Chris promised himself from the beginning that he would always work hard and perform his duties in a safe and efficient manner. Today, he's proud to have evolved into a competent mechanic. His on-the-job training shaped him into the kind of glazier who can comfortably fit in with any crew and do any task from installing curtainwall and storefront to setting glass or caulking.

### FROM GREEN TO GOLD

Over the last 15 years, Chris has gone from green to golden. He recently took and passed the prestigious Architectural Glass and Metal Technician (AGMT) certification exam, becoming one of only 261 glaziers in North America with the credential. The Philadelphia region has the largest concentration of certified glaziers in the nation, a fact Chris holds in very high regard. "I'm proud of our local, proud to tell people I'm a 252 glazier. We're the gold standard for the entire country."



Left to right: Chris and Michael on the ice; Chris singing with The Bouncing Souls and crowd surfing at one of their shows (photos © Josh Casuccio); Chris and Tara



## UNION LEADERSHIP

Chris serves as an executive board member of LU252 and as a delegate for DC 21. He sees his roles as opportunities to give back and help fellow members in any way he can. He considers the union like family and feels LU252, in particular, excels at making every member feel valued. "Every business agent, the president, vice president, I know them by name, and they know us," Chris explains. "Because we know each other, and because we're tight knit, we all want the best for each other. It's something I'm really proud to be part of."

## RECENT PROJECT

Recently, Chris was on the team replacing framing and glass at the Limerick Power Plant. It was an interesting experience, requiring security clearances and supervision by armed power plant guards while working - carefully - within the occupied building.

## HOCKEY FAMILY

Chris' 14-year-old son Michael likes to say they are a hockey family. Michael plays for the Philadelphia Revolution (Bantam AA) and Father Judge Middle School ice hockey teams, and he and Chris regularly drive throughout the region to attend hockey tournaments. When Chris isn't watching Michael play, he's playing glaziers hockey, a team he co-founded six years ago. While he has stepped back from his captain role, he still helps organize the team's charity events. In September 2019, the team competed against and raised funds for the Philadelphia Warriors all-veteran team. The team has also played against Flyers Alumni and won two championships.

## PUNK ROCK LIFE

A huge fan of punk rock music, Chris regularly goes to live shows. In fact, he met his girlfriend Tara at a concert and the two enjoy "date nights" that often involve Chris crowd surfing. "I'm the idiot who jumps off stages," he joked. Chris and his family spend a lot of their down time at the shore in Asbury. His home-away-from-home is also home to his favorite band, The Bouncing Souls.

## THRILL SEEKER

Just as he's not afraid to dive into a crowd at a concert, Chris harbors no fears of heights. The self-proclaimed thrill-seeker enjoys working from boom lifts, hanging off the edge of a building - the higher the better - or doing swing work.

He gets some of those thrills seeing projects completed. "I like the satisfaction of working on something from start to finish, working hard every day, and watching things come together," he explained. The Roberts Center for Pediatric Research at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia stands as one of his favorite projects. Chris considers the glass-clad, 21-story tower one of the nicest buildings in the city, and enjoys pointing out that he worked on it.

## FULFILLING CAREER

Chris counts lifelong friends among the benefits of glazing and knows the pizza shop advice was solid. What would he tell a similar 19-year-old without career direction? First, take the job seriously and not squander the opportunity. "If they are looking for a satisfying career with great pay, great benefits, and a family atmosphere, then glaziers are the cream of the crop."