



# NEIL AMADIO

THIRD-GENERATION GLAZIER, STEWARD & TEACHER

## SPOTLIGHT

### On Neil Amadio:

**Title** Foreman & Steward for Reilly Glass & Glazing (Norristown, PA)

**Hometown** Jenkintown, PA

**Family** Wife Andrea, daughter Clare (age 3), and son Anthony (6 mos.)

**Hobbies** Neil is an All-American triathlete, ranked in the top

10 percent of athletes in the 40-44 age group and #6 in Pennsylvania.



### ABOUT NEIL

You could say glazing is in Neil Amadio's blood. The foreman and steward for Reilly Glass & Glazing is a 20-year veteran of the glaziers' union, proudly following in the footsteps of his grandfather, father, and uncle.

"When I was a kid, I thought it was cool to play in my grandfather's garage with his tools," Neil remembers. His grandfather started as a glazier before WWII, picked up each day by a horse and buggy. Neil followed in 1996, albeit with more modern transportation, and continues an appreciation for the tools and technical details of his trade.

Neil believes becoming a glazier was the best decision he ever made. He feels the lifestyle it provides and what he has in his life can be attributed to joining the glaziers' local. One important credential Neil owes to glazing is his bachelor's degree, obtained through a Department of Labor grant and the program at the Finishing Trades Institute.

Neil tells young people interested in becoming glaziers to "take the chance and you won't be disappointed. It's a wonderful opportunity."



## BEST PART OF THE JOB

Although the pressure of the job sometimes gets tough, Neil thrives under pressure. "I really enjoy going to work and enjoy what I do," he says. Neil especially likes interior partitions and the meticulous nature of the layout, cuts, and miters. As a detail-oriented guy, Neil admits he likes everything to be perfect. For a long time, he preferred to be the one cutting every miter. With age comes wisdom, and some loosening of the reins. As a foreman, Neil now does more coaching of others how to get it right.

Neil's calm under pressure benefits his second role as shop steward for Reilly. In this intermediary position, Neil serves as a go-between for employers, workers, and the union. He must be accountable to the interests of the workers who elected him and the needs of management. It's sometimes a challenge to balance everyone's perspective and make decisions. "I'm not always the most liked person," Neil says, "But I'm always fair."

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

For more than a decade, Neil has volunteered at the Saint Francis soup kitchen in Kensington. A former coworker encouraged him to get involved and he began going regularly, helping as a dishwasher and orchestrating the efforts of Local 252 to buy presents for families around the holidays. The rewards of service were made richer when Neil met another volunteer named Andrea, whom he married in 2010. The Amadio family remains involved as much as they can.

## FATHER FIGURE

An American Welding Society certified welding instructor, Neil teaches welding and courses in shower doors, revolving doors, and acrylic panels at FTI. Of all the program instructors, Neil is one the apprentices tend to consider a father figure. He genuinely enjoys teaching, not only about glazing, but about life.

"I'm not showing them how to be a glazier, I'm showing them how to be a man," Neil says.

Many of the glaziers are 19 or 20 years old, without much experience in money management or even living on their own. Neil encourages them to be responsible, save money, and think about the future. He also stresses the importance of building strong friendships with each other and with him.

"I want them to know, if they have any problems, they can come to me," he says.

*"Teaching is about building friendships, too. I consider all the guys I've taught my friends."*

*- Neil Amadio*



*From top: Neil on a job site; Neil competing in the 2013 Ironman Coeur D'Alene in Idaho; Neil's daughter Clare and son Anthony*