

# LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



## High Paying Career Paths in Residential Construction



**Welcome to Our  
Newest OMB Lewis  
County Member!**

B.A. Seal Coat, LLC

Moon Welding &  
Powder Coating, Inc.

B & L Excavation  
(dba: Gen 5 Logging)

*For OMB membership  
information, please  
contact Jenn Wasson at  
membership@omb.org*

Residential construction careers are professionally and financially rewarding. A career in the skilled trades, such as carpentry or plumbing, doesn't require a four-year degree. Additionally, individuals who enroll in an apprenticeship program can earn income while they learn their trade. Upon completion of their training, skilled trades professionals have strong earning potential.

According to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and a National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) analysis, half of the payroll workers

in construction earn more than \$58,500 and the top 25% make at least \$79,450. The BLS publishes wages for more than 400 occupations in construction. Here is a closer look at the median salaries among the highest-paid wages in construction based on the most recent data available (2023).

### Brickmasons

Bricklaying is a cornerstone of the construction industry. Masonry construction encompasses many materials, including brick, stone, marble, granite, travertine, limestone, concrete block, glass block,

stucco, and tile. The median annual wage for brickmasons is \$59,890.

### Electricians

Consistently sought after in the job market are skilled electricians. The median wage for electricians in 2023 was \$60,720. Electricians use their analytical skills to diagnose electrical problems and utilize a wide range of tools and technologies to complete their tasks.

### Carpenters

Carpenters are in high demand across all construction

sectors, consistently finding employment throughout various project phases. This translates to exceptional job security within the industry. Top carpenters are known for their critical thinking and meticulous attention to detail. Skilled carpenters enjoy a competitive annual salary of \$57,300.

### First-Line Supervisors

Once you have enough experience, you will have the opportunity to be a project manager. First-line supervisors are vital in ensuring completed projects are on time and within budget. The median

wage for an employee in this role is \$76,960.

### Plumbers

In 2023, the median wage for plumbers was \$61,380. They are responsible for the installation, repair, and maintenance of piping systems in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. Beyond technical expertise, plumbers excel in communication and problem-solving, ensuring customer satisfaction. As complex water systems are integral to modern structures, the demand for skilled plumbers remains steady.

## Interested in the Trades, But Not Sure Where To Start?

*The OMB Education Foundation  
is Here to Help!*

The Olympia Master Builders Education Foundation, formed in late 2016, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to educate, foster and stimulate interest in the construction industry.

Since its induction, the Foundation has awarded \$87,000 in scholarships to students for the study of construction trades at accredited colleges, institutions and universities or for professional instruction.

Through the Foundation, OMB members and staff have also participated in local trade-related activities such as Skills

USA and New Market's "Try-A-Trade" and the Thurston County Chamber's "Find Your Future." These types of events are focused on the education of our youth and families.

The Foundation also funded a Construction Curriculum at Tumwater High School and is continually focused on finding more opportunities to duplicate this effort in other schools. To learn more about the Education Foundation or ways to get involved or donate, please contact Angela White at [angela@omb.org](mailto:angela@omb.org)



## Lewis County Industry Advocacy

### Thank You for Serving Your Community Well

Olympia Master Builders would like to extend our gratitude to Lee Napier, now the former Lewis County Community Development Director, for always being a great partner in shaping the future of Lewis County. It is because of the tone she set in her department, her willingness to help guide even the most difficult projects to fruition, and her constant involvement with community stakeholders of all stripes

that Lewis County remains a destination for growth and economic vitality today. Our members have always appreciated Lee's willingness to work through even the most difficult issues and find a way to get to "yes" on everything from land use to housing, and

economic growth. Lee will be missed, but we are confident that she left a lasting legacy on the Lewis County community. We wish you well in your next chapter and wherever that may take you.

### Comprehensive Plans are In Progress

Several jurisdictions across the state of Washington are in the process of updating their Comprehensive Plan. This document will shape the future of our communities for the next decade and impacts community direction around housing, land use, impacts from climate change, economic growth, and more. Now is your opportunity to weigh in on these important factors that will shape what your community looks like for the foreseeable future.

### WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU:

Comprehensive Planning at jurisdictions will impact your ability to do business and build housing for the next 20 years. They include policies around economy, land use, zoning, housing and more. The overarching goal of the comprehensive plan is to place local control over local priorities. Make time to be part of the "locals" that are giving input!

These plans are only available to update and edit every 10 years, and now is your time to determine what you want your community to look like shifting toward 2045, and to ensure that affordable housing for all economic segments of society is a priority!

So go to your

jurisdiction's website and find the information on when and where to comment on chapters of the Comprehensive Plan as they are released.

For more information, please contact Olympia Master Builders' Government Affairs Director, Jessie Simmons, at [ga@omb.org](mailto:ga@omb.org) or (360)754-0912 ext. 102.

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