



SEPTEMBER 2011

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 3

QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Bricklayers • Stone Masons • Tile Layers
- Marble Masons
- Terrazzo • Blocklayers
- Finishers • Shopmen
- Cement Masons
- Pointers - Cleaners - Caulkers • Concrete Products Specialists

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LOCAL TELEPHONE

612-379-2966

OUTSTATE AND ND

1-800-257-8636

BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION

1-888-880-8222

FAX

612-379-8754

INTERNET RESOURCES

General Information:

BAC1MN-ND.org

Apprenticeship and
Training:BACtraining.org
or phone

651-487-5500

BENEFITS

Check the Zenith
Administrators Web site,
www.zenithadmin.com

Call 651-256-1801 or
1-800-879-4412

Wadena Community Picks Up Pieces in Big Way Following Devastating Tornado

New Wadena-Deer Creek School Aiming for LEED Certification

By Patricia Johnson

Photo courtesy of Perkins+Will.



“We are very excited that progress is being made through the bricklayers and other Union members,” Superintendent Dr. Virginia Dahlstrom says. “We are thrilled with the accomplishments so far.”

In June 2010, Wadena’s middle/high school along with many of the area’s homes was severely damaged in an EF-4 tornado. The North Central Minnesota city of about 4,000 was now

left to care for the 20 injured, find alternate housing for those who were now without, and strategize how they would begin a new school year, less than three months away, without the school that had stood since 1965. In May of

Continued on Page 2

Reminder: Local Union and Chapter Nominations and Elections Are Coming

See page 3 for complete details.

Volunteer Efforts Make a Difference

Photo courtesy of Labor World Newspaper



The Hermantown Amateur Hockey Association (HAHA) is getting a new addition to a warming house thanks in part to the volunteer efforts of BAC Local 1, Chapter 3 apprenticeship program. Hermantown, a suburb of Duluth, Minn., has a population of approximately 9,500, within an area of 35 square miles.

Stan Paczynski, business representative for Northeast Minnesota, along with John Talarico, apprentice instructor, and Apprentice Adam Myers, started building the 30 foot by 40 foot structure shortly after July 4.

“Our association continues to grow each year in members of boys and girls hockey players ages 4 through 15 years old,” says Joe Biondi, president of HAHA. In 2010 the association had 325 members and currently has 23 teams. All members will have access to the new addition. The public will also have access to the warming house and outdoor rinks during weekends and open times during the week. The addition will be completed by the end of September.

Wadena

Continued from Page 1

this year a ground breaking ceremony was held at the same location as the former school; another step in the healing process and toward normalcy.

“We’re going forward now and we’re happy to be going in that direction,” says Tyler Church, principal. “It’s going to be one heck of a facility.”

According to valleynewsline.com, the 174,000 square foot structure will be considered a “high performance school.” Designed by the architectural firm Perkins+Will, the school is being built to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.

“There will be many sustainable features throughout the building such as a geothermal heating system consisting of 200 wells each 300 feet deep,” says Chad Rettke, senior project manager for Kraus-Anderson. There will also be a rain water management system among many other LEED specifications that will promote environmental resourcefulness and a healthful educational environment.

The two-story building’s layout has been reconfigured and will be more functional than the previous. The gymnasium will have three full courts with an elevated running track. It will also hold grades 5 through 12 and the school district’s administrative offices.

Johnson-Nelson Masonry expects to have about 10 bricklayers on site until spring 2012. “It’s a fast track project and it’s local, so the guys won’t have to be on the road,” says Corey Johnson, owner.

Completion is targeted for fall 2012. Just in time for the new school year to begin.

Amsoil Arena Built By Local Union Labor

By Patricia Johnson

Photo courtesy of Duluth Entertainment Convention Center



The Amsoil Arena in Duluth, Minn., held its grand opening in December 2010. Construction began in April 2009. The arena, including a parking facility and skywalk, was an \$80 million expansion project of the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), a multi-purpose facility overlooking Lake Superior and the city’s popular aerial lift bridge. The arena is the home of University of Minnesota Duluth men’s and women’s hockey teams.

“It was a dream project for us in Northern Minnesota,” says Dan Russell, DECC executive director.

“It was a good project,” says Robert Pasek, owner and president of Contract Tile and Carpet located in Duluth. “The work was quite detailed. The guys also enjoyed working on a local project.” His crew of about five installed roughly 27,000 square feet of ceramic tile during a six month period.

Harbor City Masonry, located in Duluth, Minn., laid about 146,000 concrete masonry and burnished masonry units. The 30-person crew logged in a total of 20,750 man hours between November 2009 and December 2010. “We are proud to have been a part of the construction of such a spectacular arena,” says Roger Anderson, owner.

Carciofini Caulking Company in Burnsville, Minn., completed a fair amount of work during a six month period: firestopping of gypsum walls, finish caulking, caulking of precast walls and architectural sheet metal caulking. Project Manager Jake Viebahn says it was a diverse project for the two-person crew working with many different trades.

Hanson Structural Precast of Maple Grove, Minn., had a four-person crew onsite during a four month period. They installed about 425 pieces of risers, 40 pieces of entrance/exit walls, and transported nearly 95 loads of product from Maple Grove to Duluth.

Grazzini Brothers & Company, located in Eagan, Minn., installed about 8,000 square feet of terrazzo flooring consisting of 22 colors with exotic aggregates. “It’s a beautiful space for a championship hockey team,” says Greg Grazzini, president. The 10-person team completed the project during a three-month period. Grazzini Brothers & Company has been in business for 87 years.

Russell says the entire labor group did a great job. “Every contractor either came from Superior, Wis., or Minnesota. The neat thing about being in a small town is that you know the men and women working on the job,” he says. “It was great seeing so many local people.”



From the President

Mike Cook, President/Secretary-Treasurer

Communication and Benefit Payments Go Electronic

Technology is moving faster than we can imagine. Twenty years ago, if someone told us that we would give up our home computers in

order to carry one around in our pockets, we would have told them that they were crazy. But that is today's world and we have to make changes to adapt to the new age. We not only have to make changes in order to keep pace with the speed of business today, but we have to make changes to get the job done faster and to save money.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

One area of change is in the way the union and the benefit plans communicate with members and their families. We are entering the initial stages of a process to collect email addresses from all of our members. Sending out information by email is timelier and more efficient. It can result in significant savings for the union and our fringe benefit funds. In the near future, you will receive a form where you can provide your email address to the union and to the benefit plans in order to receive communications electronically.

DIRECT DEPOSITS

Another area for change is the use of direct deposit for benefit payments. Use of direct deposit provides safe and timely distribution of benefit payments. For a number of years, our local pension fund has required that all new pension applicants use direct deposit for their monthly payments. Many organizations like the International Union, Social Security, and Unemployment Compensation have similar requirements. Initially, we are moving in the direction of using direct deposit for payment of Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and Vacation Fund benefits. Keep an eye out for notices regarding where and how you can provide your banking information in order to use direct deposit.

For years, the interest earned on the Vacation Fund assets paid administrative costs, attorney fees, and the fund auditor expenses. But as many of you know, the economy has not been kind. In many of the past years, there was enough of a surplus to provide interest checks to participants. This is no longer the case. Interest rates are so low that the income generated from the Vacation Fund's investments does not cover the fund's operating costs.

Making these changes result in two important benefits to you. First, receiving communications and benefit payments electronically will save you time, money, and effort. Second, it saves time and money for the benefit plans, which will ultimately have an impact on future increases to the contribution rates paid into the Fringe Benefit Funds.

Election News

Local Union

There will be a Special Order of Business meeting for nominations of all Local Union Officers in conjunction with the semiannual meeting on October 1, 2011, United Labor Center, 312 Central Avenue, 2nd floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 9 a.m. The positions include: president / secretary-treasurer, executive vice president and three vice presidents.

Chapter Nominations

There will be Special Order of Business meetings for nominations of all chapter officers during the month of September, for all chapters. These positions include chairman, recording secretary, sergeant-at-arms and the negotiating committee. Two members for each craft can be elected to the negotiating committee in each area where there are negotiations. Here is your chance to get involved and be part of the negotiating team. The chapter meetings are scheduled as follows:

Chapter #1 – Metro Area: Monday, September 12, 2011, United Labor Center, 312 Central Avenue, 2nd floor, Minneapolis, MN, 4:30 p.m.

Chapter #3 – Northeast Minnesota: Wednesday, September 14, 2011, Duluth Labor Center, 2002 London Road, Basement Hall, Duluth, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #4 – Central Minnesota: Wednesday, September 7, 2011, St. Cloud Labor home, 1903 4th Street, St. Cloud, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #8 – Southeast Minnesota: Monday, September 12, 2011, Rochester Labor Temple Building, 11 4th Street SE, Rochester, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #11 – Southwest Minnesota: Thursday, September 1, 2011, Eagle's Club #269, 708 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #15 – Northwest Minnesota and North Dakota: Thursday, September 15, 2011, Bemidji Elks Club, 116 4th Street NW, Bemidji, MN, 7 p.m.

2011 Journeyman Upgrade Classes

All Journeyman are welcome to attend any upgrade with RSVP

Call 651-487-5500 or visit us online at www.bactraining.org

Date	Time	Branch Of Trade	Class
9/15-11/03/11	4 - 8:30 p.m.	All Trades	OSHA 30
30 Hour safety training course. Classes held every Thursday.			
9/16/11	7:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Brick, Stone Mason, Marble Mason, PCC	Marble Plaster & Wire
Basic knowledge and skill in plaster and wire methods of marble installation			
9/21/11	4 - 8:00 p.m.	Tile	Mapei Products
Hands on presentation of new and existing thin-set mortars, grouts(cement and epoxy)and crack isolation products			
9/28/11	4 - 8:00 p.m.	Tile	Ardex Products
Hands on presentation of new and existing thin-set mortars, grouts(cement and epoxy)and crack isolation products			
10/6/11	12 - 4:00 p.m.	All Trades	Aerial Lift Training
JLG and Scissors Lift training and certification			
10/6/11	4 - 8:00 p.m.	All Trades	Aerial Lift Training
JLG and Scissors Lift training and certification			
10/26/11	4 - 8:00 p.m.	Tile	Laticrete Products
Hands on presentation of new and existing thin-set mortars, grouts(cement and epoxy)and crack isolation products			
11/11/11	7:30 - 3:30 p.m.	All Trades	1st Aid/CPR/AED
If an individual is certified in First Aid/CPR in 2010-11 they would only need to take CPR/AED training this training year.			
11/18/11	7:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Brick, Stone Mason	Mechanical Set Granite
Fundamental knowledge and skills in the methods of mechanically set stone			
11/30/11	4 - 8:00 p.m.	Tile	ECB/Blanke
Hands on presentation of new and existing crack isolation and backer board products			
12/9/11	7:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Brick, Stone Mason, Marble Mason, PCC	Marble Plaster & Wire
Basic knowledge and skill in plaster and wire methods of marble installation			
12/14/11	4 - 8:00 p.m.	Tile	TEC Products
Hands on presentation of new and existing thin-set mortars, grouts(cement and epoxy)and crack isolation products			
12/15 & 12/16/11	7:30 - 3:30 p.m.	All Trades	Suspended Scaffold Training
16 hour suspended scaffold certification			
12/16/11	7:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Brick, Stone Mason, Marble Mason, PCC	Stone Patch
Fundamental knowledge and hands on training with cementations limestone and sandstone patching materials as well as epoxy based marble and granite patching/repair			
12/23/11	7:30 - 3:30 p.m.	All Trades	1st Aid/CPR/AED
If an individual is certified in First Aid/CPR in 2010-11 they would only need to take CPR/AED training this training year.			

Attention:

According to the National Safety Education Center, OSHA 10 & 30 cards that are older than five years will not be replaced. Individuals will need to retake the course to receive a new card. It is extremely important that you do not lose your cards. Replacement cards less than 5 years old can be ordered for \$15. Call the training center for replacement form.

Value Based Health Care Design

Take Better Care of Yourself to Reduce Health Care Costs

Mike Cook, President/Secretary-Treasurer

As Chairman of our BAC Health Fund, I remain deeply concerned about the cost of health care. Health care costs are seriously eroding our standard of living and, along with the effects of the recession on employment, have put many families into serious jeopardy. As such, I have assembled a task force made up of some of our health fund trustees and service providers, to accelerate our strategic planning process and health care plan changes and suppress the cost of health care while improving health.

The task force is charged with the analysis and implementation of new thinking in health care delivery, becoming known as “Value Based Health Care Design” (VBD). VBD starts with the premise that we can measure our costs and our health care outcomes, and use that data to improve the value of the health care services received by the membership.

Most of our current health care plan designs are based on old “one size fits all” models that evolved in the 1960’s and 1970’s. These designs did not differentiate services that were particularly effective in reducing the incidence or progression of disease from those that are not particularly effective. These designs have been perpetuated without much thought being given to how design drives both use and quality. As such, health care spending does not get directed toward care that has been proven to improve the quality of life of plan participants and decreases demand for services.

The practice of medicine has evolved rapidly. There are emerging insights into how we can intervene, in cost effective ways, to slow the growth of disease within our covered population, with the use of “high value”

services. These “high value” services help reduce both current demand for services and the erosion of health. For instance, it is well known that the use of medication to control blood pressure and cholesterol prevents a wide range of diseases that are costly to treat. Despite that, we do little to try to help plan participants achieve successful compliance with simple medication plans, even though it is in their best interests and can dramatically decrease the future demand for services. We still do poorly in screening for diabetes affecting our plan participants, even though it is now estimated that one in ten adults worldwide are diabetic. Simple measures to control blood glucose in diabetics can provide huge returns, both in terms of quality of life, and in terms of demand for expensive services. The plan design needs to focus on decreasing both the current cost of care and the future demands for service.

Almost half of all health care spending is driven by our own behavior. A poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking, and excessive use of alcohol, along with a lack of basic preventative measures fuels our health costs and takes money directly out of our checks. Those individuals who don’t take care of themselves cost the entire body in contributions to the health fund that could be otherwise avoided. As such, we are hoping to convince the membership that one of the best ways to keep money in your own pockets is to take better care of yourselves.

Watch closely for initiatives being launched by the Health Fund aimed at cost savings through better health.

See page 8 to learn how a BAC Local 1 MN/ND member is taking better care of himself.

Winner of the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance

BAC Local 1 MN/ND member Todd Harrington was the grand prize winner of a U.S. made Mossberg 500 turkey thug shotgun in the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA) second annual turkey contest. Harrington was randomly picked from USA members’ entries throughout 17 states.

“I was very excited,” says Harrington. “Right after I heard I won, I blew an upper radiator hose. I was stuck on the side of the 35W bridge, but at least I had won a gun. If I hadn’t won the gun, I probably would have been a little upset.”

Harrington, a Shoreview, Minn., resident, started turkey hunting when he was about 21 and has since shot 25 birds. He’s been a BAC member since 2001 and works as a tile finisher for Grazzini Brothers. He is currently working on a project at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.





Oakdale, MN: 25-Year Member

Gold Card Luncheon on July 14 at the Prom Center

Left to right, front row: Rick Morris, Tim Mohrbacher, Herbert Bracht, Stanley Ciuba, Dan Peterson, and Michael Tripp. Back row: President Mike Cook, Vice President Mike Ganz, North Central Regional Director Steve Bailey, Executive Vice President Mike Hawthorne, and Vice President Terry Wong.



Oakdale, MN: 50-Year Gold Card Members and 40-Year Member

Gold Card Luncheon on July 14 at the Prom Center

Left to right, front row: Gene Guthmueller, Laverne Ketcher, Norman Bunting, Richard Jarosiewicz, and Nick Miklya. Back row: President Mike Cook, Vice President Mike Ganz, North Central Regional Director Steve Bailey, Howard Finley, Cleitus Bracht, Raymond Kimmons (40-year member), Executive Vice President Mike Hawthorne, and Vice President Terry Wong.



**Rochester, MN: 25-Year Member
Gold Card Dinner on June 3 at Eagles Club**

Left to right, Business Representative Mark Caron, 25-year member Dennis Jostock, and Executive Vice President Mike Hawthorne.



**Rochester, MN: 50-Year Member
Gold Card Dinner on June 3 at Eagles Club**

Left to right: 50-year member Harold Furland, Business Representative Mark Caron, 50-year member Richard Wyborny, and Executive Vice President Mike Hawthorne.

Golf Winners

**Pheasant Acres
July 30, 2011**

Winners of the 2011 BAC Golf Tournament at Pheasant Acres and returning champions: Steve Carter, Jim Westrum, Al Zutz and former President Jim Lundquist.



Martagon Takes Nontraditional Approach to Put Back Pain Behind Him

“It was something I should have done as my first option. It’s phenomenal.”

By Patricia Johnson



Note: Physicians Neck & Back Clinic’s programs are available to any BAC Local 1 MN/ND member with health benefits.

In 2000, Rick Martagon, apprenticeship coordinator and instructor, hurt his back on the job. A tile layer since 1995, he was diagnosed as having muscle spasms, but he felt it was more than that. During the following years, he went through traditional physical therapy; he’d go through a very painful

week and go back to physical therapy to get back on his feet again. About two years ago his injuries flared up to a greater degree than before. He ended up in the hospital for three days and was diagnosed with a herniated L4, L5 and S1. Physicians wanted to do surgery right away. Martagon was against the idea and opted for a cortisone shot instead. The back pain stayed away for about 10 months. He then had a second shot, but this time the pain subsided for only six weeks. Through discussions with his osteopathic physician at the time, it was decided that nontraditional physical therapy in the form of core strengthening would be his best option moving forward. Core strengthening would alleviate the pain and prevent further injury; a more proactive approach than reactive.

In May of this year, Martagon began his yearlong core strengthening program at Physicians Neck & Back Clinic in Woodbury, Minn. All it costs is his time and commitment.

“I feel fine, healthy now. I’m back doing whatever I want. I’m strong. I’m working out,” he says. “Honestly, it was something I should have done as my first option – core strengthening – versus everything else. It’s phenomenal.”

By mid-August, Martagon hit the low end of his strength target and he’s quite happy about it. He admits to being a bit skeptical early on in his core strengthening program, but he’s a believer now. He has confidence that he can now return to any physical activity he wants to with no restrictions and without the previous apprehension of being reinjured. This winter he plans on resuming his downhill skiing.

“I’m happy. My family’s happy,” he says. “I feel the best now than I have in ten years.”

Martagon stresses the only option is to get strong and stay strong, or go back to the pain you had in the past or even worse.

With several months remaining in his core strengthening program, Martagon is well on his way to a stronger and healthier future. He’s building healthful life style habits that will keep him “in the game”; lifestyle habits that he’ll continue in years to come as he inspires his family, friends and fellow BAC members to do the same.

“I’m active all day long, why would exercise for my back help my problem?”

Reprinted by permission

Although you might keep busy all day, it takes more than just activity to **INCREASE** your spinal fitness and combat back pain. As it turns out, because the muscles of the spine are difficult to isolate and exercise, over time they become extremely weak and de-conditioned. In fact, research has shown that even highly conditioned athletes can have weak back muscles! That’s why Physicians Neck & Back Clinics (PNBC) offers a rehabilitation program in which trained professionals help you use specialized equipment to target specific neck and back muscles that do not get strengthened during everyday activity or through typical exercise programs. By isolating and strengthening these key muscles, you will be able to increase your spinal fitness and decrease your back pain.

Back pain is one of the most common reasons to see a doctor or for an employee to miss work. Most people who experience back pain have tried passive solutions such as heat or cold, chiropractic, massage or light home exercises without **LASTING** improvement. Lasting improvement comes from increases in spinal fitness, a fact supported by many of the world’s foremost authorities on spinal diseases, as well as local spine experts. To quote one local orthopedic spine surgeon who refers patients to PNBC: “In my experience the best method to rapidly return a

patient to previous work capacity is to aggressively pursue a reconditioning program such as Physicians Neck & Back Clinics.”

In 2009, the Labor/Management Health Care Coalition of the Upper Midwest endorsed PNBC as a preferred provider for coalition fund members. As part of the Coalition’s Value Based Purchasing initiative, PNBC is extending to all funds a customized ‘Package of Care’ program that provides exercise rehabilitation and one year of free maintenance for participating members with chronic neck or back pain. Several funds have waived member co-insurance and copays when they attend PNBC.

Remember, when it comes to the muscles of the spine, daily activity does not equal meaningful exercise! If you are ready to say goodbye to back pain, PNBC is ready to help. For more information on PNBC’s program, go to www.pnbconline.com. To schedule an appointment, call (651) 735-BACK (2225).



Physicians Neck & Back Clinics

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To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit www.imiweb.org.

11th North American Masonry Conference Encourage an Exchange of Ideas

By Mark Wickstrom, Minnesota Director

As the International Masonry Institute's (IMI) local director of market development and technical services, I presented a paper at the 11th North American Masonry Conference on the success of the joint effort between IMI and BAC Local 1 MN/ND Apprenticeship program to influence designers with a masonry workshop offered at the University of Minnesota School of Architecture from 2007-2009.

The workshop consisted of technical and practical skills lectures. The technical lectures addressed material properties related to several ASTM codes, masonry wall types and understanding masonry tolerances. The practical skills portion covered basic tool familiarization, spreading mortar for brick and block, laying brick and concrete block, arches and a history of bricklayers, stonemasons, master builders, architects and engineers.

Offered in the first half of the fall semester and limited to undergraduate level students, most lectures were completed by the sixth or seventh session, at which point the students would take a written exam. Students also presented their portfolio assignment, a PowerPoint presentation consisting of at least 15 different depictions of various masonry bonds, materials, or arches. One full session was devoted to gathering materials and doing a preliminary arch layout. Prior to build, students would give a presentation on their submitted design.

The inspiration for the masonry workshop was IMI's masonry camp – designed to bridge the gap - bringing architects, engineers and craftworkers together to work on a design build challenge. Like masonry camp, the masonry workshop grouped students with BAC apprentices in

design/build teams to encourage an exchange of ideas and build a foundation for mutual respect. Design challenges during the three year run included:

2007: An element from a children's library

2008: Transit stops on the central corridor of the Light Rail Transit System

2009: An element from a religious institution. (Buddhist temple, Hindu temple, synagogue, and mosque)

The architectural students typically worked in teams of five to six members, and when possible, they worked with apprentices that were on site on the scheduled class days. During the final session of the workshop each group of students gave a presentation to a critique panel made up of local people from:

- University of Minnesota Professors of Architecture
- Practicing architects from local firms
- BAC Local 1 MN/ND signatory contractors
- BAC Local 1 MN/ND business representatives
- Retired BAC Local 1 MN/ND members

The construction industry is made up of those that build and those that design, yet each group takes pride and ownership in their work. The most important thing each student took away from the workshop was the ability to recognize that they have an invested counterpart in the masonry industry, the craftworker and contractor, who like the designer, is committed to delivering a project with skill and pride.

MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members...

Terry Bemboom
David Brauer
James Brazil
William Dentinger IV
Kenneth Donohue
Timothy Donohue
Luke Dougherty
Susan Elmer
Daryl Johnson
David Kerkow

Darrin Knight
Tyler Leibfried
Jason Mortensen
Jason Murphy
Ronald Novak
Kristina Reiter
Bradley Schroeder
Thomas Thorsheim
Brett Wallace



DECEASED MEMBERS

We are sorry to report the deaths of these members who are listed under their pre-merger locals.

#1 MN—St. Paul
Weymuth Kerkow
Richard Mohlin
Jerome Perron

#2 MN—Minneapolis
Ronald Baertsch
Clarence Bove
Daniel Lee

#3 MN—Duluth
Richard Johnson

#4 MN—St. Cloud
Fred Edenloff
Clarence Mechavich
Paul Otto

#6 MN—Springfield/New Ulm
Gordon Prokes

Please notify us if you know of another member that has passed away. It is always our intention to send flowers or a memorial to the funerals of BAC Local 1 MN/ND members. Please keep your beneficiary information up-to-date. Incomplete or missing information makes the process harder during an already tough time for the family.

Lakewood Cemetary Mausoleum Gets New Addition

Log on to www.lakewoodcemetery.com for the most current information on its grand opening.





2011 CHECK YOUR CALENDAR FOR IMPORTANT DATES

Please clip the calendar and post it in a convenient spot so it's handy when you want to check meetings and events.

Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul
312 Central Ave., Mpls: 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 12, Nov. 14
Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave.,
Oakdale: All Metro members
7 p.m. Dec. 12

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range
Duluth, Duluth Labor Center:
7 p.m. Sept. 14, Dec. 14
Hibbing, Electricians Hall:
7 p.m. Nov. 9

Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd
St. Cloud Labor Home,
1903 4th St. N.: 7 p.m. Sept. 7,
Nov. 2, Dec. 7

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault
Rochester, Rochester Labor Hall:
7 p.m. Sept. 12, Dec. 5
Faribault, VFW: 7 p.m. Nov. 7

Chapter 11-Mankato-New Ulm
Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. Sept. 1, Dec. 1
New Ulm, American Legion:
7 p.m. Nov. 3

Chapter 15-Bemidji & ND
Bemidji, Elks Club:
7 p.m. Sept. 15, Nov. 10, Dec. 8
Dickinson, St. Anthony Club:
8 p.m. Dec. 15
 Fargo, Moorhead VFW:
7 p.m. Nov. 16 (meeting and Gold
Card Dinner)



Grand Forks, N.D., E. Grand Forks
American Legion: 7 p.m. Nov. 17
(meeting and Gold Card Dinner)
Minot, VFW: 7 p.m. Sept. 22,
Dec. 14

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing- Iron Range
Duluth area: Downtown Holiday Inn,
6 p.m. Oct. 7
Iron Range: Valentini's Supper Club,
6 p.m. Oct. 8

Chapter 15-Bemidji & ND
 Fargo, Moorhead F.M. Labor Home:
7 p.m. Nov. 16
Grand Forks, American Legion:
7 p.m. Nov. 17

RETIREES BREAKFAST MEETINGS

Come join other retirees for breakfast or coffee. No RSVP required.

Metro Area Retirees Club
Breakfast meetings
Jax Cafe, Minneapolis
9 a.m. Sept. 22, Dec. 1

Duluth Area Retirees Breakfast meetings
9:30 a.m., Miller Hill Mall Perkins family restaurant, Duluth
First Wednesday of each month

Iron Range Retirees Breakfast meetings
9 a.m. Iron Kettle
Third Monday of each month

St. Cloud Retirees Breakfast meetings
9:30 a.m., Brigittes Café
Third Thursday of each month

OTHER EVENTS

Executive Committee meeting
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
12 p.m. Sept. 30

Semiannual Meeting-All of Minnesota & ND
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m. Oct. 1

Chapter 3 area: Proctor Golf Club,

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QUARTERLY UPDATE

Quarterly Update is published four times a year by Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 1 Minnesota/North Dakota to communicate with its members.

Postmaster: Send address corrections to Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 1 Minnesota/North Dakota, 312 Central Avenue, Suite 328, Minneapolis, MN. 55414.

President Mike Cook

Editor Patricia Johnson

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QUARTERLY UPDATE

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POLITICS – Our Issues

Rapid Response Strategy to Engage Union Members

By Shar Knutson,
President of the
Minnesota AFL-CIO

When the 2011 session of the Minnesota Legislature convened, it was clear the state capitol was a very different place. For the first time in more than a generation, Republicans controlled both the House and Senate. Fortunately, Minnesotans also elected Mark Dayton, the first AFL-CIO endorsed governor in a generation.

Expecting an onslaught of attacks from a more conservative than ever GOP majority, the Minnesota AFL-CIO developed a rapid response strategy in lobbying, organizing, and communications. We additionally worked to provide similar capacities in supporting Governor Dayton's budget and jobs proposals.

Working with affiliates, we were successful in stopping the worst of the worst anti-labor provisions during

the 2011 session. We stopped "Right to Work," attacks on prevailing wage, and attacks on our collective bargaining rights. We gathered in solidarity to protect our rights for the largest capitol rotunda rally in decades and proved We Are One as we marched together on an April afternoon.

This session saw the longest state government shutdown in history. Thousands of workers found themselves temporarily out of jobs because Republicans were insistent on protecting the richest 2 percent.

While it was a tough time, the labor movement shined. Between the end of the regular session in May and the mid-July special session, everyone turned up the heat. Union members held community meetings with key legislators, knocked on doors, distributed flyers throughout neighborhoods and worksites, and made phone calls.

In the end, it wasn't the agreement we would have wanted. There is new revenue in the state's budget to stave off devastating cuts. However, that new revenue comes from borrowing against the state's tobacco lawsuit settlement and delays money to



classrooms.

The Governor ensures that a 500 million dollar jobs creation bill was part of the budget deal. This will hopefully put 15,000 people back to work in the building trades.

While the final result was not entirely good, we were able to engage, organize, and galvanize Minnesota's union members during a non-election year. We have a lot of momentum going forward into next year's session and the 2012 elections.

Shar Knutson is President of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, a labor federation representing more than 1,000 affiliated unions of more than 300,000 working men and women.