

Union Worker Facts - America Wants a Union

While public polling has shown historic levels of polarization in our politics, it has revealed one area of emerging bi-partisan agreement: approval of labor unions.

As frontline essential and face-to-face workers braved unimaginable hazards to keep communities and our economy going through a deadly pandemic, record levels of Americans now support the idea of workers banding together to bargain for livable wages and safe working conditions.

It's not just that supporting labor unions is good politics. It's also a good policy. American workers are quitting their jobs because they want family sustaining wages, secure benefits, safe worksites and less inequality. Employers are concerned about labor shortages, want predictable costs and a stable supply of skilled workers. The data shows that labor unions are delivering.

A recent report from the Midwest Economic Policy Institute (MEPI) highlighted these points when it compared the unionized and non-unionized segments of Minnesota's construction industry. It found that unionized workers earn higher wages, are far more likely to have private health insurance or a retirement plan, face 40 percent fewer health and safety violations at the jobsite, endure substantially less wage inequality, and were far LESS likely to rely on government welfare programs than non-union construction workers.

Indeed, Minnesota's construction unions are not just delivering for this generation of workers—but also the next. Joint apprenticeship programs—funded through collective bargaining agreements and administered with employers—train 93 percent of the state's skilled construction apprentices. Program participants get paid to learn a trade skill for in-demand careers, and graduate debt free. And not only does union training provide a substantially more robust curriculum than most colleges, it leaves graduates earning average wages on par with other types of workers with bachelor's degrees.

The non-union construction world has no consistent financing mechanism for its apprenticeship system. It's all up to the discretion of employers, leading many to forego investments

in training in an effort to lower project bids. This leads to less workforce stability, lower skilled workers on the jobsite, costly employee workmanship and retention issues, and yes, labor shortages.

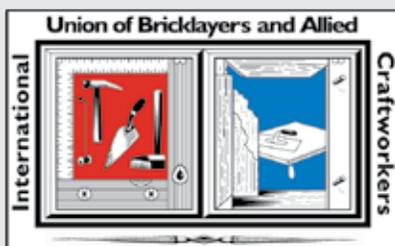
Today, employers across many industries are learning that sustaining a stable, valued and skilled workforce is not cost prohibitive. If anything, it is a way to control costs without compromising on the far more important imperative of delivering a quality product.

Consider that when MEPI analyzed more than 600 different school construction projects in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, it found no cost difference between projects completed by union and non-union firms. There are several reasons why. First, labor represents less than a quarter of the total cost of a construction project. Second, because union training tends to produce workers with higher levels of skill, their worksites feature higher levels of productivity, and more efficient use of materials, equipment, fuels and manpower that can offset additional investments in training, safety, or wages.

For years, well-funded lobbyists have tried to convince us that if we could just get rid of unions, everything would be cheaper, and those savings would magically trickle down and eliminate the very real economic and health anxieties that have led millions of workers to leave their jobs or stand on picket lines.

But our real-world experience and the data tells a very different story. Unions have long proven themselves to be one of our most effective weapons in the fight to pull more working families out of poverty. In Minnesota's construction industry, unions are also attracting thousands to in-demand careers building the schools, roads and vital infrastructure on which our economy depends. They are doing it at the same cost as the non-union alternative, with better health and safety outcomes, less inequality, and higher wages that rival other workers with college degrees.

No matter what our politics, that's a model we should all be able to unite behind.



BAC LOCAL 1: 612-379-2966 **Fax** 612-379-8754

BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION: 1-888-880-8222

GENERAL INFORMATION: BAC1MN-ND.org

APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING: BACtraining.org or phone 763-404-8345

BENEFITS: Check the Zenith American Solutions website: zenith-american.com
Call 651-256-1801 or 1-800-879-4412

BAC Local 1 Supports Members in Many Ways



Doug Schroeder,
President/
Secretary-Treasurer

We will be entering into negotiations this year for a vast majority of the Local. Negotiating committees have been elected and appointed according to the constitution and bylaws. Some of the members had stated their opinions at chapter meetings and others have sent communications to area reps and the president. Please keep this information coming forward so that the committees can bring your concerns to the negotiating table.

Audits were conducted in the months of January and February for the General, Mutual and Apprenticeship funds. These audits will be presented to the executive committee prior to the April semi-annual meeting.

Our semi-annual meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on April 2, 2022, at 312 Central Ave SE, second floor meeting rooms, Minneapolis, MN, 55414. The semi-annual meetings take place twice a year. At this meeting, a presentation of the finalized audits will be held, and questions will be answered as it relates to these finalized audits. Chapter meeting business is conducted at the chapter meetings around the local. No chapter meeting business will be discussed at the semi-annual meeting.

Chapter 1 Holiday Meeting

We had a good turnout at the Metro Chapter Holiday meeting held at the Marriot Delta in Minneapolis on Dec. 13, 2021. New members were sworn in, and we held a raffle for a 40" TV. The proceeds from the raffle were donated to a member in need based on submissions from members.



Nickolas Wongdock was excited to win the Vizio 40" TV.



Back Row (left to right): Brian Winslade, Christopher Elliot, Hector Leanos-Sanchez, James Powell, George Hackley

Middle Row (left to right): Tong Yang, Billy Rose, Khalid Salah, Robert Honerbrink, Luke Nakamura, David Miller

Front Row (left to right): Alexis Kroska, Madeline McFarland, Jennifer Ibarra

ICRI Scholarship

The International Concrete Repair Institute of Minnesota puts on a mega demo every year highlighting new techniques in the concrete and masonry restoration industry. On Jan. 14, 2022, BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD

apprentice Kristian Weeks was awarded a \$500 gift card to Esch.

The 2022 U.S. Bates Scholarship will be Available Online in February

BAC annually awards three scholarships to students whose parents or stepparents are U.S. BAC members. The stipends are \$5,000 per year for up to four years – up to \$20,000 in total. The link to the scholarship can be found at <https://bacweb.org/bac-journal/us-bates-scholarship>

Free Membership for U.S. and Canadian BAC Local 1 Members

Do you share a passion for the outdoors and want to conserve land to hunt and fish, both now and for future generations? As a longtime supporter of USA's mission to expand and improve access to wildlife habitats, BAC became a USA Charter Union in August 2012, entitling BAC members to join USA absolutely free. With free USA membership, you'll enjoy the following benefits:



- 4 digital issues per year of The Union Sportsmen's Journal
- 1-Year MyTopo.com online mapping subscription
- E-newsletter with tips and special offers
- Money-saving discounts on outdoor gear and services

Continued on page 9

BAC Highlights 2021-2022

The hub of training for BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD, the Metro Training Center, continues to expand its role for training the apprentices for brick, PCC, tile and terrazzo throughout the states. In addition, we continue to increase the opportunities for journeyman upgrades. We had a highly successful turnout of 14 tile members who attended our two-day clinic on ACT certifications including TCNA/ANSI orientation and hands-on gauged porcelain wall and floor panel training. This clinic was put on by Western Regional Training Director Lupe Ortiz. Lupe is heavily sought after by the tile industry for his knowledge and skills. He is a major contributor to the TCNA/ANSI books and was instrumental in setting up the nine ACT evaluations nationwide.



Community involvement is a cornerstone of unions. Our 2nd year brick apprentices participated in a volunteer project with the Blaine Veterans memorial project in November. The class incorporated the donated engraved bricks in a memorial wall. The apprentices completed the project with the help and guidance of instructors Matt Hopkins, Sr., and Mitch Reins.

This is a snapshot of other topics covered by the apprentices

including arches, piers, leads, basic blueprints, membranes, mud work, walls and floors, caulking, joint removal, pointing, and scaffold. All trades and their perspective years have taken mentorship and CPR/ first aid.

The training center has expanded its role to include the hands-on training for all outstate apprentice programs as well. We increased from one-week last year to two weeks this year. The outstate tile apprentice just completed their first week by designing, estimating, and installing a new entry wall. All the tile was from donations. Come to the center and check it out!



UPGRADES

There are several more upgrade training courses being offered this year including:

- Flashing Certification
- ACT Evaluation
- OSHA 10 and 30, in person
- Foreman SCP
- Basic Blueprint
- Aerial Lift Certification
- Swing Certification



Please check out our website calendar for the current schedule and to register: bactraining.org

RECRUITMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We continue to attend events and workshops with building trades, high schools, and community job fairs throughout the state. In addition to these events, we continue our partnership through ACAM with Construct Tomorrow events:

- Hinkley Grand Casino February 24
- Duluth May 11 - 12

If you are interested in volunteering please contact metro coordinator John Slama, 651-272-9910 or email jslama@bactraining.org.

Full list of events can be found here: <https://www.constructtomorrow.org>

COMPETITION

The IMI and IMTEF are hosting regional and international contests in 2022. We are excited to have the opportunity for our apprentices to represent our local on the regional and national stage. The local contest will be held in April.

Continued on page 5

“Outstate” Tile Apprentices Leave Their Mark at the BAC Training Center in New Hope

By David Malone, Greater MN/ND Coordinator

Outstate tile apprentices completed week one of the annual two weeks of scheduled training at the Metro Training Center in New Hope, MN, in January. They returned the second week of training in February. This training along with day classes offered in their geographical regions are part of completing the required related training within registered apprenticeship.

The Greater Minnesota, “Outstate” tile apprentices along with BAC Tile Instructor Michael Churilla spent a portion of the training week tiling one of the west entrance walls at the training center. The apprentices enjoyed and were challenged by the detail in placing the BAC logo within the wall section. Learning to work together to accomplish a common goal is a large part of being successful as a tradesperson.

Greater Minnesota and North Dakota brick, tile, and all PCC apprentices presently attend training during the winter months which is referred to as “block” training. Apprentices attend training for a week or more at a time versus attending day classes, weekly or bi-weekly. “Block” training has proven to be a very effective framework for training throughout the trades as it allows the apprentices to set aside other work responsibilities to concentrate on training for the week.

This is the second year of implementing the new training structure using “block” training along with day/evening



classes to accomplish the 144 hours of related training per our Apprenticeship Standard requirements. The BAC staff continues to be pleased with the implementation of the new “highbred” structure and impressed with the amount of learning that takes place weekly. Apprentices have also given great reviews and feedback concerning their training experience.

Be sure to check out the apprentices work next time you visit the BAC Training Center.

BAC Highlights

Continued from page 4

The regionals in June and the national in September. All dates will be posted on the website in February.

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP

In a continued effort to grow our membership base, we have a 6-week pre-apprentice training scheduled for April. This program is designed for someone with little or no knowledge of our trades but has a desire to learn the skills needed to join. Space will be limited. Check the website for information: bactraining.org. Or contact Metro Coordinator John Slama 651-272-9910 or at jslama@bactraining.org.

BAC Has a New Dedicated Texting Number!

The new number is **50607**.

Having a dedicated texting number, as opposed to one we share with other organizations chosen by the texting company, will enhance our ability to communicate with members. This new number allows texts to go out faster. We are now able to measure their success more with regular testing and we can increase digital action and organizing.

Current members on our texting list are NOT affected by this change. They will still receive our texts, but from the new number, 50607, instead of 877877.

Members who want to join our texting program need to text 50607. From there, enter your 6-digit IU# to verify your membership.

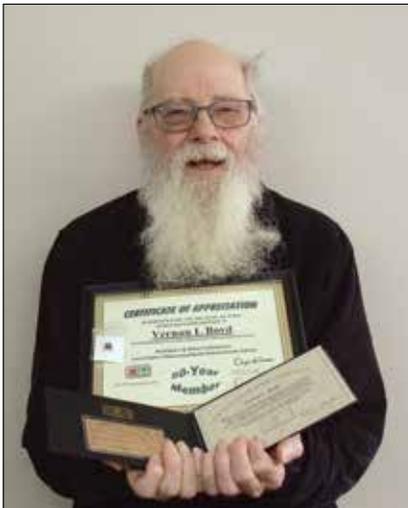
Many of you are promoting BAC’s texting program through your print and digital platforms, including newsletters, flyers, and websites. Please replace the old number with 50607 on all material moving forward.

If you have any questions regarding this change, contact Emily Harris (eharris@bacweb.org) or Yin Yin (yyin@bacweb.org) at IU Communications.



SOUTH DAKOTA PIN PARTIES

Chapter 1 50-Year Members



Vernon Boyd



Ronald Kearner and Business Representative Doug Severson



Mike Luke and Business Representative Doug Severson

Chapter 1 25-Year Members



Phil Gayken



Mark Reischl



Scott Crely



Darwin Haan



Dave Rypkma

Chapter 1



40-year member Larry Budhal



Ethan Schumacher graduated apprentice turned journeyman



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SOUTH DAKOTA PIN PARTIES

Chapter 4 Members



L to R: 25-year members Dean Moen, Tracy Grabow, Gary Wasson, Glenn Becker and Anton Block



40-year member John Jansen



50-year member Manard Grabow



50-year member Wayne Block

3 Generations



Erik Grabow Journeyman (Grandson), Manard Grabow 50-year (Grandpa), and Tracy Grabow 25-year (Son)

Chapter 2



L to R: Business Representative Doug Severson, 25-year members Blane Boyd, Nic Bahmuller, Brian Smith, Donald Mackey and Jon Royals

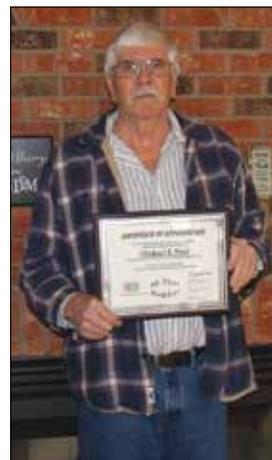


25-year member Dave Gentrup

Chapter 5



L to R: Tanner Foley graduated apprentice turned journeyman, 50-year member Norman Jacobson and 40-year member Tom Foley



Mike Neal



Scott Narragon



IMI Masonry Minute

Key IMI Activity Highlights

IMI Director Mark Swanson works on your behalf to create more job opportunities for members of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD by providing masonry education and consulting expertise to the design and construction community and promoting masonry and skilled union craftworkers.

Summary totals of 2021:

- Swanson hosted more than 52 events/programs/seminars
- 13,860 total registrations - architects, engineers, contractors for events

STRUCTURAL MASONRY COALITION

IMI National Structural Coalition Webinar Series – Swanson organized and hosted this webinar series in 2021 with more than 6,000 engineers, architects and contractors registering for this monthly structural series. Contributions from BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD and IMI made this successful webinar program possible.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

MN/ND/SD Structural Masonry Coalition – Swanson and IMI consulting engineer, Sam Rubenzer and his company Forse, are providing project guidance to a general and signatory contractors to flip an undisclosed 20,000 square foot project from precast walls to structural concrete masonry walls in Minnesota. More to follow as this exciting development unfolds.

South Dakota Project Support – Swanson and a signatory contractor held a virtual meeting with an architect on an upcoming restoration project in South Dakota. The discussion

highlighted the importance of a well-qualified mason workforce with training in historic preservation along with the project review services of IMI.

IMI EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

IMI Masonry Wednesday Webinar Series - Swanson hosted Nick Lang, PE, Vice President of membership and education programs, for the NCMA. More than 68 attended virtually as Lang covered code changes that are favorable to our industry. He covered the three compliance paths available to comply with the energy code. Lang highlighted strategies to comply with the International Energy Conservation Code or (IECC) for single wythe concrete masonry wall systems in Minnesota’s climate zone 6.

UPDATES FROM IMI NATIONAL

2022 IMI STRUCTURAL MASONRY WEBINAR SERIES 12PM EST	
January 12th	Software Review for Structural Masonry
February 9th	Movement Joints - Structural Edition
March 9th	Lintels for Masonry Walls
April 13th	Connections to Masonry Walls
May 11th	New Program from Forse (Masonry and embodied carbon SE 2050)
June 15th	Structural Clay Masonry Design (3rd Wednesday)
July 13th	New Program from Forse (Prefabrication - panel solutions)
August 10th	Storm Shelter Design with Masonry
September 14th	Masonry Notes, Details, and Prototypes
October 12th	Masonry Analysis and Design with Finite Element Software
November 9th	New Program from Forse (Single Wythe construction)
December 14th	Masonry Shear Wall Design

2022 TMT Seminar Series to Reach Key Markets in New Year

IMI recently kicked off its 2022 National Tile Marble & Terrazzo Seminar Series with the Tile Contractors’ Association of America (TCAA). Swanson is coordinating with IMI and the local CSI community to bring this program to the Twin Cities next fall. Visit <https://info.imiweb.org/2022-tmt-series> for more information.

Offered in key markets across the country, the program is held in conjunction with local chapter meetings of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), American Institute of Architects (AIA), and International Interior Design Association (IIDA). IMI Director Scott Conwell, FAIA, FCSI, CDT, LEED AP, will present a choice of two programs, “Design with Tile” and “Materiality of Tile,” for which attendees can earn both AIA and Trowel of Excellence Credit.

Continued on page 9

Masonry walls

Reinforced walls can be designed to have a height:thickness (h/t) ratio up to 30:1 (common) or 50:1 (higher strength and heavily reinforced)

- 4" walls - 10 ft to 15 ft tall
- 6" walls - 15 ft to 25 ft tall
- 8" walls - 20 ft to 33 ft tall
- 10" walls - 25 ft to 42 ft tall
- 12" walls - 30 ft to 50 ft tall
- 16" walls - 40 ft to 67 ft tall

16" thick
12" thick
10" thick or brick
8" thick or brick
4" thick

FORSE

IMI Masonry Minute *Continued from page 8*

In addition to IMI and TCAA, industry sponsors for the series include TCNA, Ardex, Crossville, Daltile, Laticrete, Mapei, NAC, and Schluter Systems. At each of the sessions, these companies will have tabletops with samples and product literature to support the educational program.

Code Compliance Options

Paths the IECC offers:

- Prescriptive
 - R-Value (which DOES require CI)
 - U-Factor (which DOES NOT require CI)
- Total Building Design (AKA: Trade-Off)
- Whole Building Energy Cost Budgeting

Different projects benefit from different compliance paths.

Diagram labels: Prescriptive R-Value Table, Prescriptive U-Factor Table, Trade-off Compliance, Whole Building Analysis, EnergyPlus, Sefera, etc.

Team IMI

Mark Swanson can be reached at mswanson@imiweb.org, cell 612-840-8695. To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit www.imiweb.org and www.imtef.org for training opportunities. Members are welcome to register for IMI webinars at IMIWEB.org.

Free Membership *Continued from page 3*

- Chances to win fantastic prizes and trips all year
- Personalized USA membership card (electronic)
- Access to “Members-Only” section of the USA website
- Opportunity to participate in USA’s Boots on the Ground conservation projects

Sign up for your free membership by logging on to Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (unionsweepstake.com).

A link can also be found on the Home page at <https://www.bac1mn-nd.org>.

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Retired Members

BAC LOCAL 1 members who have retired in 2021. We are grateful for your dedication to work and we wish you a great future!

#1 MN - St. Paul

Thomas Afdahl
Tony Arcand
Kenneth Becklin
Thomas Borich
Jay Copp
Steven Doyle
John Foley
Thomas Gallati
James Gonzalez
Keith Graber
Betuel Ibarra
Susan Jenni
Noe Koehler
Lance Kostka
James Leininger
Robert Linn
David Mauren
John McAllister
Mark McKenzie
Jeffrey McTague
Douglas Meyers
Miroslav Mikulic
Mark Smith
Thomas Vanek
Robert Young

#2 MN - Minneapolis

Richard Beattie
Mark Bergstrom
Rick Beyer

David Casey
Iulian Damyan
John Evenson
Lyle Fleagle
Shannon Foote
Allen Fuhrmann
John Herman
Keith Kantor
Gregg Lyman
Michael Neuville
Robert Nuorala
Mark Olson
Arthur Rupp
Raymond Schmidt
Kenneth Schmitz
Paul Sickmann
Gordon Skillings
Alan Snowaert
Ronald Sparks
James Super
Jeffrey Swenson
Glenn VanHeel
Robert Weckworth
Terry Wong

#2 SD - Yankton

Jon Williams

#3 MN - Duluth

Michael Moss
Jeffrey Mundell

#3 MN - Duluth

Gust Johnson
LeRoy Pietila
Francis "Frank" Schaaf

#3 ND - Aberdeen

John "Jack" Dencker
Dale Hearn

#4 MN - St. Cloud

Louis "Pete" Johnson

#4 SD - Rapid City

Raymund Havermann

Joseph Vaida
Daniel Weimer

#3 SD - Aberdeen

Robert Bina

#4 MN - St. Cloud

Kevin Drange
Philip Forcier
Kenneth Janson
Randall Lemke
Daniel Niehoff
Floyd Pfannenstien
Joseph Tschida

#4 ND - Minot

Gordon Jangula
Donald Jewell

#4 SD - Watertown/ Alexandria

Glenn Becker
John Jansen

#6 MN - Springfield/ New Ulm

Bradley Hempel

#8 MN - Rochester

Bruce Janike
Steve Roy

Michael Russell

#11 MN - Mankato

Mark Juberian
Alan Wayman

#15 MN - Brainerd

Douglas Eiklenborg
Michael W. Hendrickson
Warren Hendrickson
Terrance Johnson
Creig Mertens
Richard Steinle

#16 MN - Hibbing/ Virginia

John E. Smith

#18 MN - Tile

Michael Hawthorne
Fuad Husidic
James Kenyon
Daniel Loar
John Penner
Douglas Sandstrom
Edward Smolinski
Renato Susak
Douglas Szczech
James Wagner

Deceased Members

#1 MN - St. Paul

John W. Emerson
Richard Newman
Robert Palmer
Marc Reese
Roger Schwartz

#2 MN - Mpls

Leslie Armstrong
Milton "Mickey" Boser
Francis Chouinard
John Crowell
Rand Thorp
Dean Wichman
Monte Young

#3 MN - Duluth

Gust Johnson
LeRoy Pietila
Francis "Frank" Schaaf

#3 ND - Aberdeen

John "Jack" Dencker
Dale Hearn

#4 MN - St. Cloud

Louis "Pete" Johnson

#4 SD - Rapid City

Raymund Havermann

#8 MN - Rochester

John Beth

#16 MN - Hibbing/ Virginia

Barry Buria
Eldon Etter

#18 MN - Tile

Ronald Almberg
David Hochstedler
Steve McNamee
Douglas Szczech

New Members

Paul Aherns
Robert Allen
Miguel Huerta Amores
Jack Barclay
Hunter Beck
Ethan Duvall
Austin Holland
Alexis Kroska
Randy Larson
Travis Olson
Geisha Castro Parrilla
Adam Smith
Matthew Wuorenma

2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls - Room #217: 4:30 p.m. May 9, June 13, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Nowv. 14
Holiday Party, Delta Hotels-Mpls. NE, 1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis: All Metro members 7 p.m. Dec. 12

Chapter 1-Fargo, ND

Dilworth Hi Ho Tavern: 5:30 p.m. June 28, Sept. 27, Dec. 6
Speedway Bar & Grill: 6 p.m. Mar. 18

Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD

101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor Temple: 6 p.m. Apr. 11, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13

Chapter 2-Minot, ND

Minot VFW: 7 p.m. May 11, Aug. 10, Nov. 9

Chapter 2-Yankton, SD

Yanktown VFW: 7 p.m. May 13, July 8, Sept. 9, Nov. 11
Alexandria RJ's Sports Bar: 7 p.m. Apr. 8, June 10, Aug. 12, Oct. 14, Dec. 9

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN

Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m. May 10, June 8, Sept. 14, Dec. 14
Chisholm Valentini's: 6 p.m. Aug. 10, Nov. 9

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND

E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m. June 27, Sept. 26, Dec. 5
Speedway Restaurant: 6 p.m. Mar. 17

Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD

Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m. May 16, July 18, Sept. 19, Nov. 21

Chapter 4-Bismarck, ND

Bismarck, AmVets: 7 p.m. May 12, Nov. 8

Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD

Rapid City Labor Temple: 6 p.m. May 6, June 2, Aug. 5, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd, MN

St. Cloud Labor Home : 7 p.m. May 4, Aug. 3
Brainerd American Legion: 7 p.m. Sept. 1, Dec. 1
Perkins, Miller Hill Mall: 7 p.m. Nov. 2

Chapter 5-Watertown, SD

808 S. Broadway, Watertown VFW: 6 p.m. Apr. 22, Nov 17

Chapter 6-New Ulm, MN

New Ulm Amer Legion: 7 p.m. Apr. 7

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN

Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. June 3, Sept. 12, Dec. 5
Faribault Eagles: 7 p.m. Nov. 7

Chapter 11-Mankato, MN

Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club: 7 p.m. May 2, Sept. 1, Dec. 1

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND

Bemidji, Elks Club: 5 p.m. May 12, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Nov. 3, Dec. 8

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.

Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

Delta Hotels-Mpls. NE, 1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis: 11 a.m. July 7

Chapter 1-Fargo, ND

West Fargo Speedway Bar & Grill: 6:00 p.m. Mar. 18

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN

Duluth area: Holiday Inn, 6 p.m. Oct. 7
Iron Range: Valentini's, 6 p.m. Oct. 8

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND

Speedway Restaurant: 6 p.m. Mar. 17

Chapter 4-St. Cloud, MN

St. Cloud Eagles Club: 6 p.m. Apr. 9

Chapter 11-Mankato, MN

Mankato Eagles Club: 6 p.m. Apr. 22

Chapter 15-NW MN

Bemidji Eagles Club: 6 p.m. May 6

OTHER EVENTS

Retirees' Club Breakfast meetings

Jax Cafe: Mar. 24, June 22, Sept. 22, Dec. 1

Duluth area Retirees' coffee

meetings Miller Hill Mall Perkins: Duluth 9:30 a.m., First Wednesday of each month

Iron Range Retirees'coffee meetings

Sportsman's Cafe: 9 a.m., Hibbing Third Monday of each month

St. Cloud Retirees' coffee meetings

Brigitte's Café: 9:30 a.m., Third Tuesday of each month

Executive Committee meeting

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: 9 a.m. Apr. 1, Sept. 30

Semiannual Meeting-All of MN/ND/SD

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: 9 a.m. Apr. 2, Oct. 1



BAC Golf Tournament

Pheasant Acres: 7 a.m. July 30

Chapter 3 Golf Tournament

Grandview Golf Links: Duluth 8 a.m. Sept. 10

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
Local 1 Minnesota/North Dakota/South Dakota
312 Central Avenue, Suite 328
Minneapolis, MN 55414

7 Corners Printing
to add current
mailing indicia
and Permit #

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

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

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COVER STORY, continued

in Texas and Missouri. However, Ellsworth was selected by the Air Force to house the bomber's training program and first squadron, Thune said.

The announcement represents an economic boon for the western part of South Dakota, with the bomber expected to potentially double the size of the base's personnel by bringing 3,000 more service members, Thune said. Construction projects for bomber hangars and other facilities are also expected. It currently hosts two squadrons that operate B-1 bombers, which are expected to eventually be phased out of military use.

"It's a once in a generation, historic opportunity for South Dakota," Thune said, adding that it will ensure Ellsworth remains a vital part of the nation's military.

The base, located near Rapid City, is already one of the largest employers in the state. According to a 2017 estimate, it had an annual economic impact of over \$350 million.

Ellsworth faced the possibility of closure in 2005 when it was briefly put on the Pentagon's list of military bases that should be closed or relocated. But since then, South Dakota politicians have worked to keep it on the shortlist

of sites for the B-21 bomber. The Air Force had announced in March 2019 that it was leaning towards the base as the location to develop its B-21 Raider program.

Rounds credited West River communities for rallying to make sure the base stayed open. He added the development would create a ripple effect of construction for schools, infrastructure, and housing.

The Republican senators emphasized that it will be an important piece of the United State's military rivalry with both Russia and China. The bomber is expected to have a range long enough to attack targets on other continents.

"It will let (China) know that we can reach out and touch them should they misbehave," Rounds said.

However, the bomber is not expected to be flying over the Black Hills until 2027, and many of the details of the aircraft, currently being developed by Virginia-based Northrop Grumman, remain unknown or classified.

Rounds was briefed several weeks ago on the project and said that so far it was "on time and on budget."

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