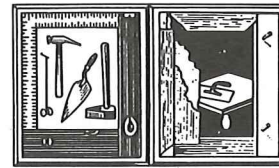


QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Bricklayers
- Stone Masons
- Tile Layers
- Marble Masons
- Terrazzo



- Blocklayers
- Finishers
- Shopmen
- Cement Masons
- Pointers - Cleaners - Caulkers • Concrete Products Specialists

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2002

GARY GOBLIRSCH SAYS...

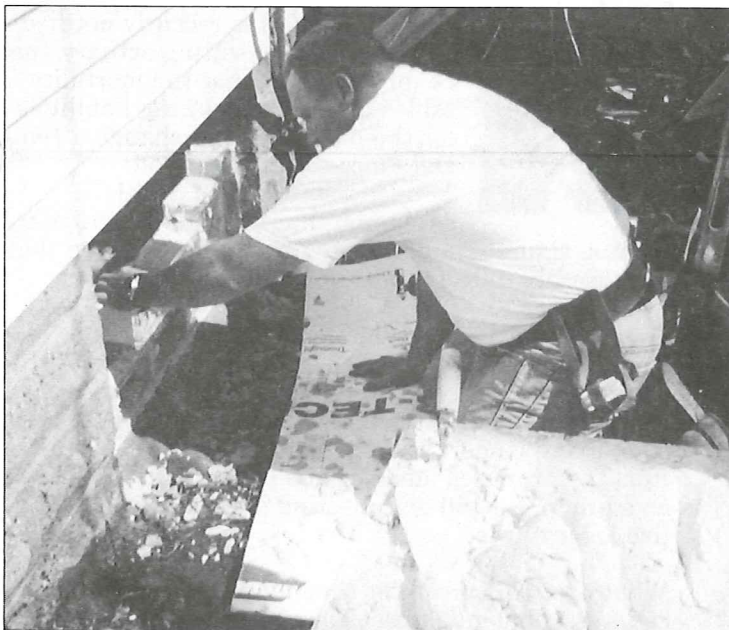
Health care premiums will increase in 2003



ALL OF US ARE AWARE, from the near-daily media bombardment, that health care costs are steeply on the rise. It is natural for us to ask what is driving health care costs to escalate so rapidly in such a short period of time.

The Board of Trustees of the Twin City Bricklayers Health and Welfare Fund anticipate

Please turn to GARY on next page



APPRENTICES VOLUNTEER

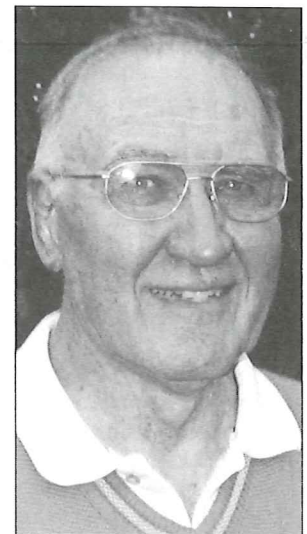
Read about how Joe Kessle of St. Paul and other volunteer apprentices helped a women's shelter on Page 6.

TOM RYKHUS

A dedicated union advocate

TOM Rykhus' introduction to unions was a bloody nose.

After his first union meeting, held on a Saturday night, a brawl broke out between two members who had begun to drink. As one drew back to throw a fist, Rykhus caught an elbow in the face. He went to the bathroom, washed off the blood, and returned to the meeting. He never told the man who'd hit



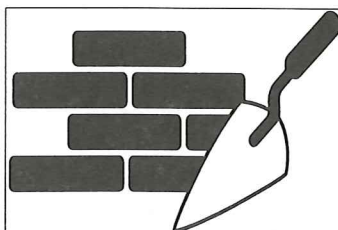
Tom Rykhus

Please turn to RYKHUS on Page 4

KEEP IN TOUCH

LOCAL TELEPHONES
612-379-2966 AND 612-379-4230
OUTSTATE TELEPHONE
1-800-257-8636
FAX
612-379-8754

INSIDE QUARTERLY UPDATE



RECREATION: The Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 7/5

APPRENTICES: This volunteer project will stand/6

CALENDAR: Remember these dates/12

GARY GOBLIRSCH SAYS

GARY: No one factor responsible for surge in health care costs

Continued from Page 1

needing at least a 50-cent per hour increase in the contribution rate for active members. There will be an increase of at least 10% in the premium charged for retirees covered under the plan.

There is no one factor that is responsible for the surge in health care costs. According to experts, many factors play a role. A few of the "culprits" driving this inflation are:

1. **New Technology:** new and improved technologies have exploded over the last several decades, improving patients' quality of life, but at a cost.
2. **Provider demands:** A growing sophistication of medical service providers are demanding and receiving large increases by threatening to leave group networks.
3. **Demographic shifts:** There is an increased demand for services by an aging population – for example, colon cancer testing for people over age 50. These, along with other types of screening tests are driving costs up rapidly.
4. **Prescription drugs:** Prescription drug costs are growing at 17 percent per year. Drug companies are renewing patent protection through changing pill design and color, changing packaging and producing slight variations in the chemistry of the medicine.

No "silver bullet" exists to hold down the costs of health care.

Different approaches are being tried across the country to help stem the rapid rise in costs. Participants in the Twin City Bricklayers Health and Welfare Fund have a direct stake in the cost of care, in that their hard-earned wages are the source of payment for health care costs. As such, each and every member, and their families, should take an opportunity to become familiar with methods that can be used to help reduce costs to the plan:

- Make the most of your doctor visits. Write out lists of questions as well as your symptoms. Ask questions about alternative treatments. If you are uncertain, ask your doctor for further explanations.
- Get educational materials relating to your health. Doctors sometimes don't have the time to relate all the information that could be useful to you and your family. Find out all you can about an illness and find

out ways to manage and live with an illness.

- Understand your medicine; know when to take medications and whether or not you should take them with or without food. Tell your health care providers about other medications you take, including over-the-counter medication.
- Make sure your primary care doctor knows about any specialists that you are seeing; make sure that they communicate with each other regarding your care.
- Use the health care system in appropriate ways. Try not to use emergency or urgent care facilities for routine matters.
- Think about a healthy life style. Encourage healthy eating and good personal habits.

We're living longer, so we need to hike pension contribution



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Twin City Bricklayers Pension Fund was recently notified by the plan's consulting actuary, the Segal Company, that the mortality tables used in calculating liabilities for the plan had been changed. Tom Del Fiacco, who heads the Minneapolis Office of Segal, explained that the tables are updated from time to time so as to use the information that most closely reflects the pension plan's experience.

The good news is that the membership is living longer; our life expectancy continues to grow with the medical technology advances that provide new methods to treat medical problems. The "bad news" comes from living longer: it takes more money to continue to fund the promises made by the pension fund because, as a group, we will be collecting more money as we live longer lives.

What does this mean for the membership? For retirees, it has no impact. Your benefits are those that you were promised during your working careers. For the active membership, it means that more money is needed to support the promises that we make through the pension fund. This shift in the mortality tables results in a "cost" to the plan of roughly \$.27 per hour of employment. However, because of the past history of positive earnings by the pension plan, the "negative margin" or shortfall in funding was only \$.13 per hour at the time of the last study. In May, when you are asked to allocate the increases that we have negotiated into our collective bargaining agreements, you will be asked to consider allocating \$.13 per hour into the

More of Gary's column on next page

GARY GOBLIRSCH SAYS

pension fund, in addition to any contributions that the membership wants to make to increase benefits.

Despite the downturn in the stock market, the Twin City Bricklayers Pension Plan continues to be one of the strongest construction-based pension plans in the nation. When compared to the funding levels of other plans, particularly single-employer plans that have been aggressively invested, our plan's funding is clearly safer and superior to most available in the retirement world. We need to take steps to continue to ensure that our retirement system remains strong, well structured and adequately funded.

Election results certified

THE AMERICAN Arbitration Association has certified the results of the October Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers election of officers, finalizing a stable slate of officers to carry out the union's work for the next three years.

As most members know, I had run unopposed for election to another term as Local 1 president/secretary-treasurer. I appreciate your vote of confidence, and appreciate it as well on behalf of the staff and Executive Vice President Jim Lundquist, who also ran unopposed. The three remaining positions on the executive committee will be filled by Michael Cook, Roger Buirge and Michael Hawthorne, who received the highest numbers of votes for vice president.

Election results were certified Nov. 1 by Romack Franklin, and were notarized by Steven P. Ulrich.

Officers elected to lead chapters are as follows:

CHAPTER NO. 1 – ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS
Chairman – Richard Kentzelman
Recording Secretary – Douglas Schroeder
Sergeant-at-Arms – Robert Steinbring
Negotiating Committee – Terry Wong and James Lundquist

CHAPTER NO. 3 – DULUTH AND IRON RANGE
Chairman – James A. Stebe
Recording Secretary – Stan Paczynski
Sergeant-at-Arms – Jerry Lund
Negotiating Committee – Robert Murphy, Richard Olson and Stan Paczynski.

CHAPTER NO. 4 – ST. CLOUD
Chairman – Michael Ganz
Recording Secretary – Loren Tvrdik
Sergeant-at-Arms – Vern Haehn
Negotiating Committee – Steve Posh

CHAPTER NO. 6 – SPRINGFIELD-NEW ULM
Chairman – Brian Strate
Recording Secretary – Michael Magee
Sergeant-at-Arms – Lorin Templin
Negotiating Committee – Ben DeRousse and Brian

Strate

CHAPTER NO. 8 – ROCHESTER-FARIBAULT
Chairman – Mark Caron
Recording Secretary – Robert Gustafson
Sergeant-at-Arms – Gary Zick
Negotiating Committee – Mark Caron and Robert Gustafson

CHAPTER NO. 11 – MANKATO
Chairman – Wayne Emmers
Recording Secretary – David Fields
Sergeant-at-Arms – Dale Yoliel
Negotiating Committee – Wayne Emmers and David Fields

CHAPTER NO. 15 – BRAINERD-BEMIDJI
Chairman – Rodney Sletten
Recording Secretary – Richard Stall
Sergeant-at-Arms – Jay Carroll

CHAPTER NO. 18 – TILE
Chairman – James Osiecki
Recording Secretary – Kjell Schafer
Sergeant-at-Arms – Rodrick Schmidt
Negotiating Committee, Tile – Christopher Whiteside and Ronald R. Niernhausen.
Negotiating Committee, Shop – Steve Zanmiller

Check benefits records on Web

AS OF JAN. 1, members of BAC Local No. 1 will be able to see their benefits information at a new Zenith Administrators Web site. Members will be able to view their own records such as "work history," "health eligibility," "claims status," and "pension information."

After Jan. 1, you can get to the information by going to Internet address www.zenithtpa.com. The first screen will be a "welcome" page; click on "participant login" icon at the top right and it will take you to the participant information screen. This is where you will log in each time you enter the Web site. The first time you enter, you will use your last name as the user name and your Social Security number (without dashes) as your password. You will be required to change your username and password the first time you enter.



The first page you see will be the "participant personal information" page. This page lists information about you and your dependents, such as names, birth-dates and addresses. If there is information you wish to change on this page you can do so by e-mailing Zenith on a form that will be provided. Buttons on the side of the page will allow you to access your own benefits information.

Explore the site, come January. You will find it very useful.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

RYKHUS: *Built reputation for honesty, integrity*

Continued from Page 1

him, but eventually persuaded fellow members to switch meeting nights from hard-drinking Saturdays to sober Tuesdays.

The incident illustrates one of Rykhus's bedrock beliefs: get involved; make the future you want. "I went back," he said, "until I got some of the things straightened out.

"Being an officer, every once in awhile you get complaints. 'Why do you do it that way? Why can't we do it this way?' What you want to do, see, is tell these young guys, 'if you want to change something, you can do it. Come to the meetings. Be informed. And if you don't like something, you can change it.

"See, that's their privilege, but you have to have the gumption to stand up and be heard. Sometimes if you don't have order at the meeting, it's a little difficult to get anybody to even listen to you, and that's one of the problems I had at the outset."

Rykhus, who stepped down at the end of November as recording secretary of Chapter 11, had been in union work since 1951, when he was 18. Except for two years in Korea and Okinawa, he figures he didn't miss more than 10 union meetings in 51 years.

He built a reputation for honesty and integrity far beyond his own Mankato Local #11, said Gary Goblirsch, president of Local #1. The group was merged into Local #1 in 1992.

"Tom was a dedicated union advocate for the working people and union activists in that area for the Bricklayers," Goblirsch said. "He served with little pay for a lot of years as a pension trustee for Mankato. He's probably the one person in that area who kept a lot of that area union going when times got tough. Tom is well liked by members throughout the state."

Even to the U.S. Army, Rykhus looked like a person to be given a position of trust. When he enlisted in 1955, his superiors ignored his experience in construction – "I thought they'd put me in the engineers," he said – and made him a medic. Stationed first in Okinawa

and then in Korea, Rykhus watched over the medical needs of the soldiers of the 19th Regiment, 24th Division. His experience wasn't like "M.A.S.H.," but that of a soldier working among soldiers.

"I was the guy they saw when they went on sick call," he said. "I was the guy who had to go pull their file." In Okinawa, it was mostly about penicillin shots, "because of the VD situation over there," but in

Korea, "I just took care of a lot of sore feet and cuts and bruises. I was there first and usually just looked them over and sent them over on sick call. But they had to have my permission to go on sick call."

After Rykhus returned to his home in North Mankato, he went back to work and to the union hall and the bloody nose. He married in 1961, when he was 28, and attended classes at Mankato State University – working in the summer and fall, and going to school in the winter and spring – until he obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration and economics in 1963.

Why didn't he go into business? "I did!" Rykhus said. "The union business."

Rykhus and his wife, Betty, had five children, two girls and three boys. Two of his sons followed him – as he had followed his father and older brother – into construction work and union membership. He now has six grandchildren. His oldest grandson, Dan Willaert, now lives in a dormitory Rykhus helped build on the campus of St. Johns University in Colleeville.

Even before he was married, though, Rykhus had become a union officer. He was 25 when he was first elected a trustee, and he later was Mankato's first delegate to be sent to a Bricklayers International convention, held that year in Atlantic City. After he was elected delegate, Rykhus explained to a surprised membership that they had to pay his way. He'd read the International bylaws, and they hadn't.

Rykhus was trustee chairman for a couple of years,

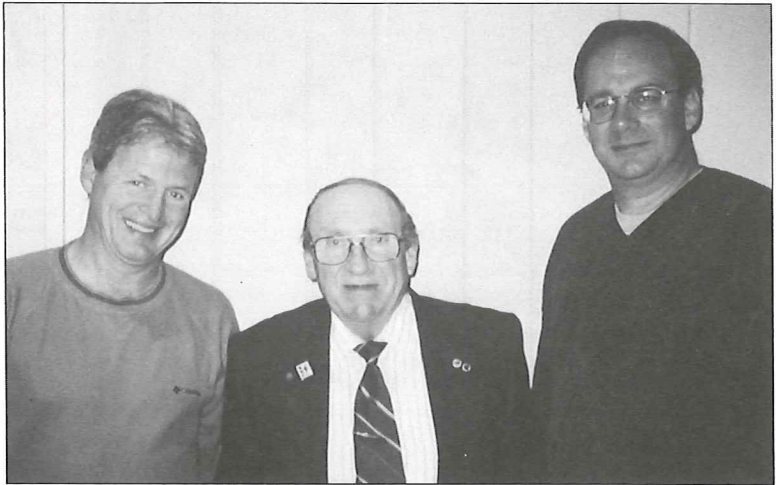
Please turn to MORE RYKHUS on next page

"(Rykhus) served with little pay for a lot of years as a pension trustee for Mankato. He's probably the one person in that area who kept a lot of that area union going when times got tough. Tom is well liked by members throughout the state." – Goblirsch

PEOPLE

Gold Card awarded

Lee Miller (center) receives his Gold Card for 50-year membership in the BAC at an awards dinner in Miesville on Oct. 12. He's flanked by Business Representative Mark Caron (left) and Vice President Michael Cook.



MORE RYKHUS:

Look ahead to be a good leader

Continued from previous page

and then in 1960 he was elected president. In 1976, he became the business agent/secretary-treasurer – “They rolled everything all into one,” he said – and remained in that position of leadership until the merger in 1992. He also served for 20 years as a volunteer firefighter, and managed to fit in time as a kids’ athletics volunteer coach.

At one point in his life, Rykhus said, he was balancing five checkbooks every month – his own family’s, his mother’s, the union’s and separate accounts for the union’s relief association and pension plan.

Looking back on his years in the union, Rykhus

attributed the gradual decline in membership to union members’ not having actively promoted the union to younger workers.

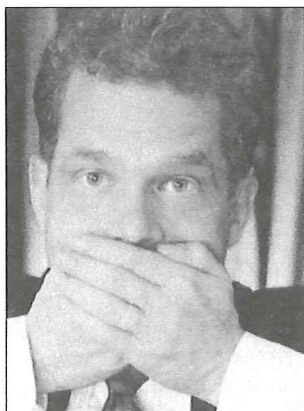
“We never turned anyone down, but we never tried to create any interest either,” he said. Work with apprentices is improving that situation, he said.

Rykhus said he encourages young workers to play a role in running the union. “Get to these meetings and be informed, that’s what I want to tell the young guys. You never want to be satisfied, and you don’t ever want to stay in one place too long.

“You have to be able to look ahead. That’s probably the most important mark of a good leader, to be able to foresee the future. You have to be kind of a visionary. But you can’t do that if you don’t understand what’s going on now, can you?”

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY SET FOR DEC. 7

Entertainment – and a visit by Santa, too!



Ventriloquist James Wedgwood will entertain at this year’s Children’s Christmas Party, 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at 312 Central Ave., Minneapolis.

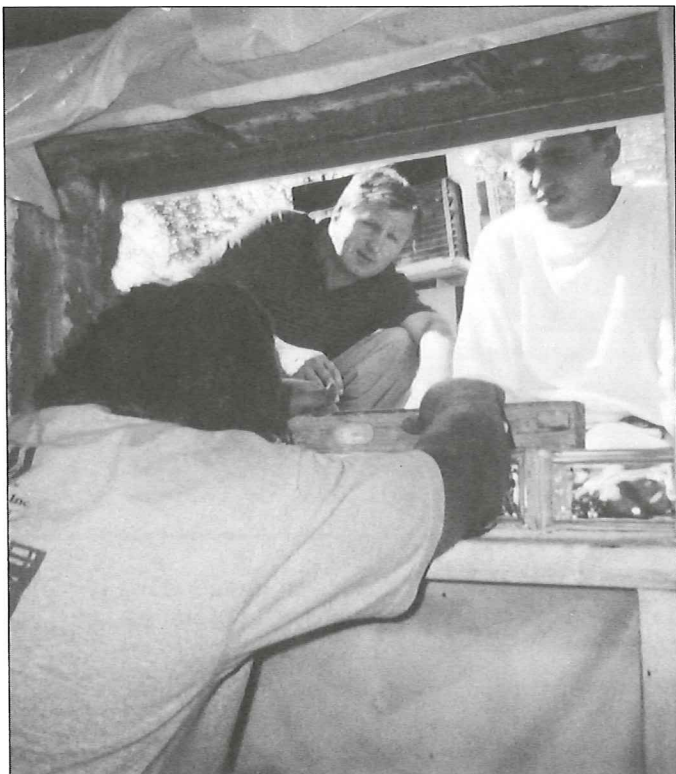
Members of all chapters are invited to bring their children and grandchildren for a magical show presented by this experienced entertainer and his mannequin “friends.”

A visit from Santa is expected, too.



A P P R E N T I C E S

This volunteer work will stand



Apprentice Shawn Grohshens of North Branch uses a level to check a row of laid glass block while other apprentices watch.

BRICKLAYER APPRENTICES ARE always building things, then tearing them down to build again the next day. In mid-September, second-year apprentices built something that will last.

Led by instructors Dan Quinlan and Dave Mensing, some 60 apprentices participated in a project laying glass block in 11 basement windows of a St. Paul women's shelter. The shelter is new – it was deeded by St. Stephanus Lutheran Church to a nonprofit called The Dwelling Place – but the two adjacent buildings that house it aren't. Each is about a century old.

Cathy Carlos, development director of The Dwelling Place, said money for the remodeling came from many sources: the City of St. Paul and the National Electrical Contractors Association among them. The labor has come, she said, from volunteers and unions.

Rotating teams of Bricklayer apprentices spent three days laying glass block. The material was chosen, Quinlan said, because it provides light without compromising security. Since the building will house battered women and their children, security is important. Plus, he said, the project gave the apprentices



Peter Damyán of Minnetonka turns mortar with a trowel.

practice in laying glass block.

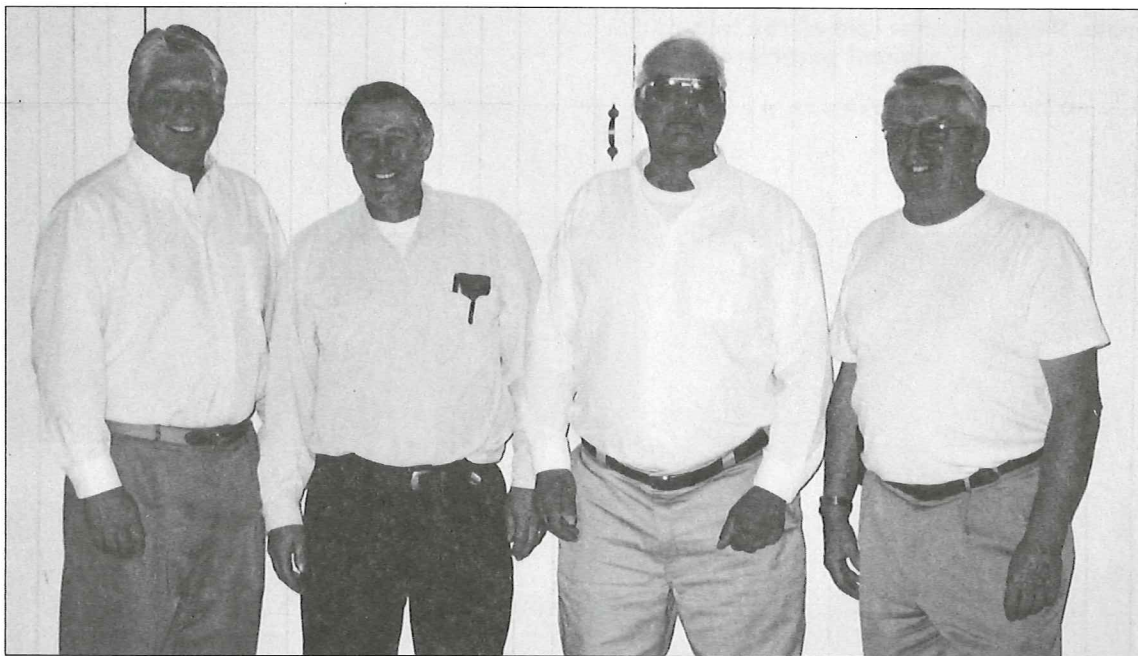
When the job was finished, Quinlan said, apprentices would go back to their routine of building and disassembling arches, walls and fireplaces. But in two houses in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood, the apprentices' work will stand.

PEOPLE



Duluth members honored

Twenty-five year members were honored at an Oct. 12 Gold Card dinner in Duluth. Pictured (left to right) are Roger Buirge, Stan Bednarek, BAC Local #1 President Gary Goblirsch, Dale Calverley, Kurt Mehtala, Jim Stebe and David Grandaw.



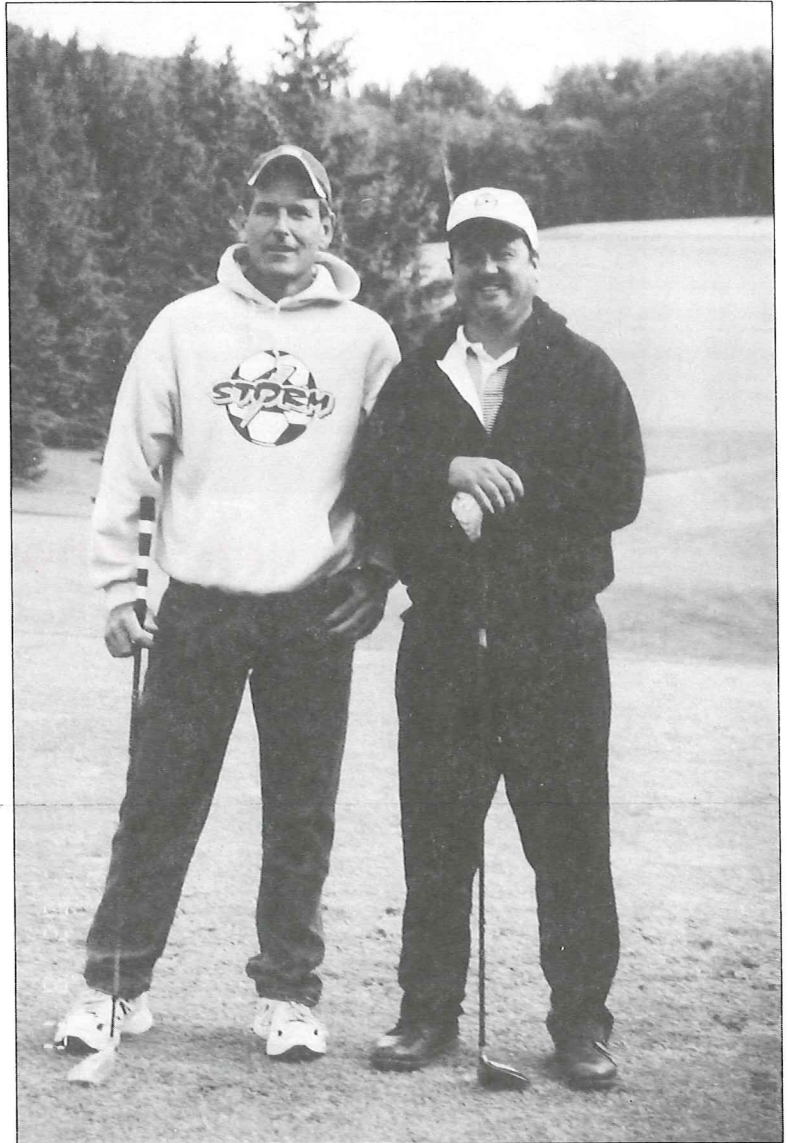
Hibbing honorees

Forty-year members were honored at a Chapter # 3 Gold Card dinner on Oct. 11 in Hibbing. Pictured (left to right) are BAC Local #1 Vice President Jim Lundquist, Wally Tiedman, Eldon Etter and David Grandaw.

PEOPLE

**BRAINERD
GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

Winners at the golf tournament held by Chapter #15-Brainerd were Curt Lommel (left) and Steve Posch. Their team placed first in two-man best ball scramble. Pictured below are all the tournament participants.



P E O P L E

**Chapter 15 members
are honored at
Breezy Point**

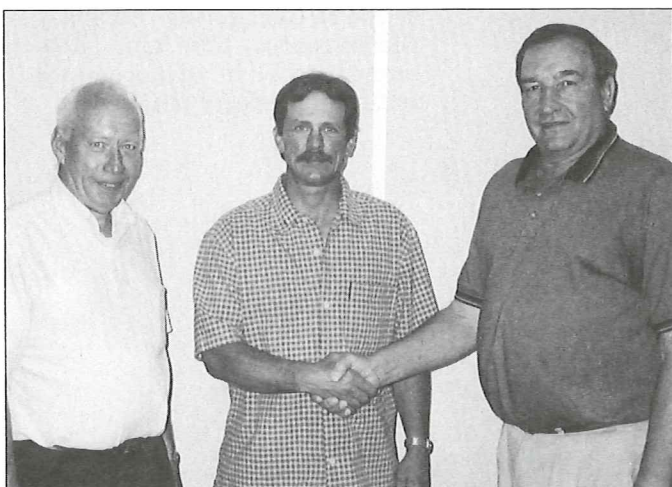
Chapter #15 President Rodney Sletten (left) and BAC Local #1 President Gary Goblirsch (right) honored these members at the Brainerd-Bemidji chapter's June 22 Gold Card Dinner at Breezy Point Resort, Brainerd.....



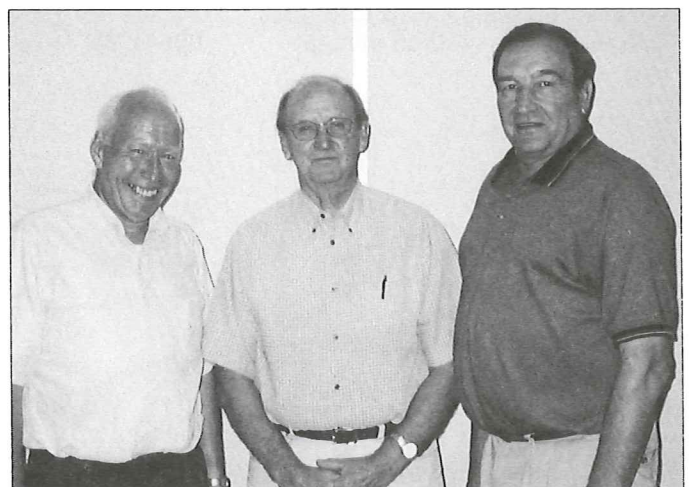
...apprentices Erwin W. Baumann and Roy G. Bjorge.



...Charles R. Nelson and John P. Ferguson, 40-year members.



...Michael Hendrickson, a 25-year member.



...Melvin O. Bjornson, a 50-year member.

PEOPLE



Duluth Golf Tournament

Winners of the Duluth Golf Tournament (left to right) were Bret Finifrock, Lyle Halverson, Troy Westendorph, and Steve Kahman.

BRIEFS

Slips to be mailed

Verification slips for July, August and September will be mailed Dec. 15.

Out of work?

Please call the office (612-379-2966). We have calls!

Retiring?

If you're considering retiring, please contact the Union office three months in advance to fill out the necessary papers.



KEEPING UP



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.

Retirees Club Meetings

9 a.m., Jax Café, Minneapolis
 March 27, June 26, Sept. 25, Dec. 4

Chapter #1 – Minneapolis-St. Paul

7 p.m., main floor, 411 Main St., St. Paul.

Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, May 12, June 9, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Nov. 10, Dec. 8

Chapter #3 – Duluth-Hibbing

Duluth: 7 p.m., Duluth Labor Center

Jan. 8, March 12, June 11, Sept. 10, Dec. 10

Hibbing: 7 p.m., Electricians Hall

Feb. 12, May 14, Aug. 13, Nov. 12

Chapter #4 – St. Cloud

7 p.m., St. Cloud Labor Home, 1903 4th St. N.

January cancelled, Feb. 5, March 5, May 7, June 4, July cancelled, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Nov. 5, Dec. 3.

Chapter #6 – Springfield-New Ulm

Springfield: 8 p.m., American Legion

May 1, Nov. 6

New Ulm: 8 p.m., American Legion
 Feb. 6, Aug. 7

Chapter #8 – Rochester-Faribault

Rochester: 7 p.m., Rochester Labor Hall

Jan. 6, March 3, June 2, Sept. 8, Dec. 1

Faribault: 7 p.m., VFW

Feb. 3, May 5, July cancelled, Aug. 4, Nov. 3

Chapter #11 – Mankato

7 p.m., Teamsters Hall

Jan. 7, March 4, June 3, July cancelled, Sept. 2, Dec. 2

Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji

All meetings at 7 p.m.

Jan. 9 – Crookston, Northland Inn

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS LOCAL UNION #1 MINNESOTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2003

NOTES

√ *There will be no chapter meetings in April, July and October.*

Feb. 13 – Fergus Falls Eagles Club, 120 S. Peck

March 13 – Bemidji, American Legion

May 8 – Crookston, Northland Inn

June 12 – Brainerd, Eagle Club

Aug. 14 – Bemidji, American Legion

Sept. 11 – Crookston, Northland Inn

Nov. 13 – Bemidji, American Legion

Dec. 11 – Brainerd, Eagles Club

Chapter #18 – Tilelayers

7 p.m., second floor

312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, May 13, June 10, July cancelled, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Nov. 11, Dec. 8 (joint meeting with Chapter #1)

OTHER EVENTS

Semiannual Meetings for All Chapters – Statewide

10 a. m. second floor
 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Apr. 5, Oct. 4, 2003

Executive Committee Meetings

10 a. m. Apr. 4, Oct. 3, 2003

Apprenticeship Banquet

Chapters #1, #2 and #18 (Tile)

Thursday, April 24

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 26

Children's Christmas Party

9:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003

411 Main St., St. Paul

Gold Card Dinners (cards will be mailed)

Chapters #1, #2 and #18 (Tile) – Aug. 21

Prom Center, Oakdale

Chapter #3 – Duluth – Oct. 11

Holiday Inn, downtown Duluth

Chapter #3 – Hibbing-Virginia – Oct. 10

Knights of Columbus, Hibbing

Chapter #4 – St. Cloud – March 22

Eagles Club

Chapter #6 – New Ulm-Springfield – April 26

Springfield Legion

Chapter #8 – Rochester – June 6

Holiday Inn

Chapter #11 – Mankato – April 25

Holiday Inn, downtown Mankato

Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji – June 21

Breezy Point Resort, Brainerd



QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

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

President.....Gary Goblirsch
Editor.....Merrily Helgeson
Design & Production.....W. F. Cento

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
 Local #1 of Minnesota
 312 Central Avenue, Suite 328
 Minneapolis, MN 55414



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QUARTERLY UPDATE • DECEMBER 2002

PEOPLE

NEW MEMBERS

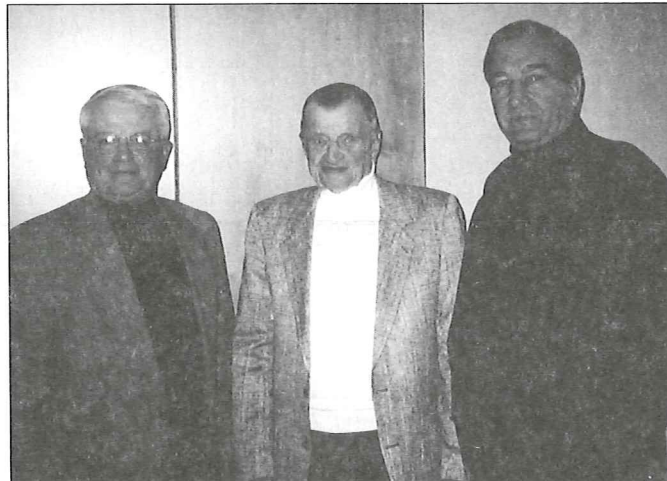
*We welcome
 these new members...*

- Jonathan A. Andrade
- David A. Ballona
- James A. Derby
- Kerlin D. Guzman
- Paul E. Hamilton
- Javier B. Lopes
- Luis F. Rodas
- Gregory G. Sletten
- Christopher R. Warnke
- Robert O. Westlund IV

DECEASED MEMBERS

*We are sorry to report
 these deaths...*

- Roger Affeldt
- Lawrence E. Erickson
- Stanton T. Hokanson
- Joseph J. Mein
- Floyd A. Moshier
- Richard S. Rasmuson
- John D. Westling
- Donald Whetstone



A member since 1930

John Berg (center) likely holds the current record for Minnesota BAC membership. At age 89, he's been a member of Chapter #3-Duluth for 72 years. Congratulating him were Roger Buirge (Left) and Gary Goblirsch.

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LABOR NEWS in Minnesota, visit the Workday Minnesota Web site – a cooperative effort of the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota AFL-CIO.

Updated daily, the labor news service features information about union and



www.wordayminnesota.org

workplace activities; in-depth articles on history, the economy and other topics; materials on

labor for use in classrooms; and links to many other sites. It also is interactive through a bulletin board on which

readers can share information and viewpoints.