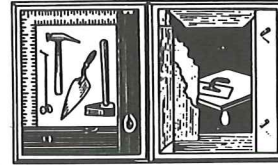


# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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



**I**N MARCH 2003, I was appointed by International BAC President John Flynn to serve on the International Union's national Health Care Task Force. The aim of the Health Care Task Force is to collect information regarding the best practices available nationally for delivery of health care, and to make recommendations based on that information to local unions throughout the United States.

According to John Flynn, there are two levels to the current health care crisis. The first is national in scope. "It's clear that at the national level, changes need to be made to the entire health care system," Flynn said. "We have every intention of working with the AFL-CIO toward



GARY GOBLIRSCH SAYS...

## Honored to be on Health Care panel

that end." The second level is the immediate impact that skyrocketing health care costs are having on our members and funds. "Our health and welfare funds are fac-

*Please turn to GOBLIRSCH on next page*

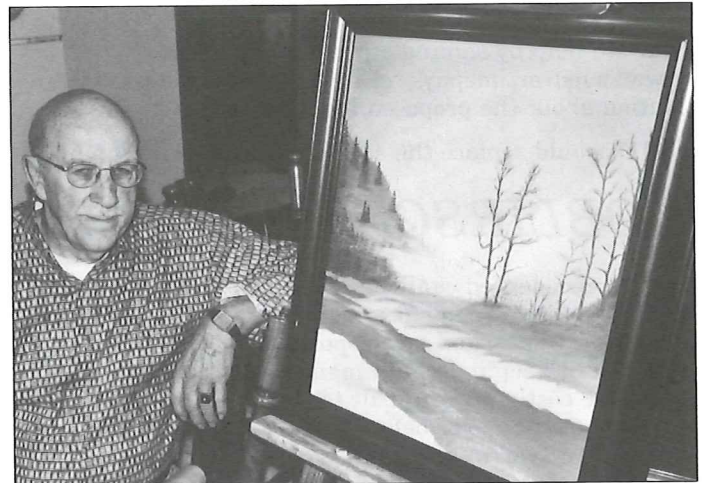
## Painter Schmitz believes bricklayers are artists

**A** HEART ATTACK IN 1982 put an end to Larry Schmitz's career as a bricklayer, but began his new career as an artist.

They're not that different, Schmitz says. "I've always said that bricklayers are artists."

"Bricklaying is not always just laying one brick on top of another in a straight line," he said. "Sometimes you make patterns or whatever the architect wants. I remember one time we had to put them in something like a grapevine. We had to cut the brick, and we used glazed brick. The wall was cream-colored, the vine was green, and we had purple grapes and green leaves."

Work like that, he said, "is not hard. It's fun."



Schmitz and canvas.

*Please turn to PAINTER on Page 10*

### 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

**COMMENTARY:** OT rule could affect contract talks – Lundquist/2  
**PEOPLE:** Lost Mankato area children memorialized/3  
**PEOPLE:** Brick eagle honors firefighters/4  
**BRIEFS:** We want to hear from Iraq veterans/5  
**KEEPING UP:** Children's Christmas Party coming Dec. 13/11

COMMENTARY

# Bush-backed overtime rule change could affect contract talks



By James Lundquist  
Executive Vice  
President

**T**HE BUSH WHITE HOUSE and corporate lobbying groups are pushing Congress to pass H.R. 1119 and S. 317, bills that would cut the pay of the millions of workers who depend on overtime pay. I urge you to ask our legislators to oppose it.

While BAC Local #1 workers currently are protected by their contract against this change, if it does pass I think our contractors may expect something like this in the new contract language. No overtime would make Saturdays just a make-up day, instead of the time-and-a-half we currently have.

Labor organizations, including the AFL-CIO, have swung into action to spread the word about this dangerous legislation and to keep the bills from coming to a vote.

You can help by signing a petition posted at [www.saveovertimepay.org](http://www.saveovertimepay.org). The Web site also has information about the proposed legislation.

S. 317 would replace the 40-hour workweek with an 80-

hour, two-week work period.

Workers who put in 50 hours one week and 30 hours the next week, for example, no longer would be paid overtime.

Backers say these so-called comp time bills would give parents more time with their families. This is false. They are overtime elimination bills that undermine the 40-hour workweek and make overtime cheaper for employers, resulting in more mandatory overtime and less control over your work hours.

Contractors have been asking for years to have Saturdays made a make-up day, instead of paid as overtime.

When the federal law changes, we can expect a trickle-down effect even if we do have a collective bargaining agreement. Our current contract runs to May 30, 2004; negotiations on contract language may start as early as December or January, with money issues likely to begin in March.

The only reason we have overtime is because unions fought for it, years ago.

It's our duty to preserve it now.

## *GOBLIRSCH: Local 1 program showcased at meeting*

ing unprecedented challenges," he said. "Costs are rising at a faster rate than wages, and new reporting and record-keeping requirements are more costly and difficult to implement than ever before. Across the country, we're seeing funds struggling to negotiate the increases they need just to maintain benefits, much less improve them."

The task force is drawing on the experience and expertise of plan professionals throughout the United States. Information has been presented from other building trades' international programs, as well as from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

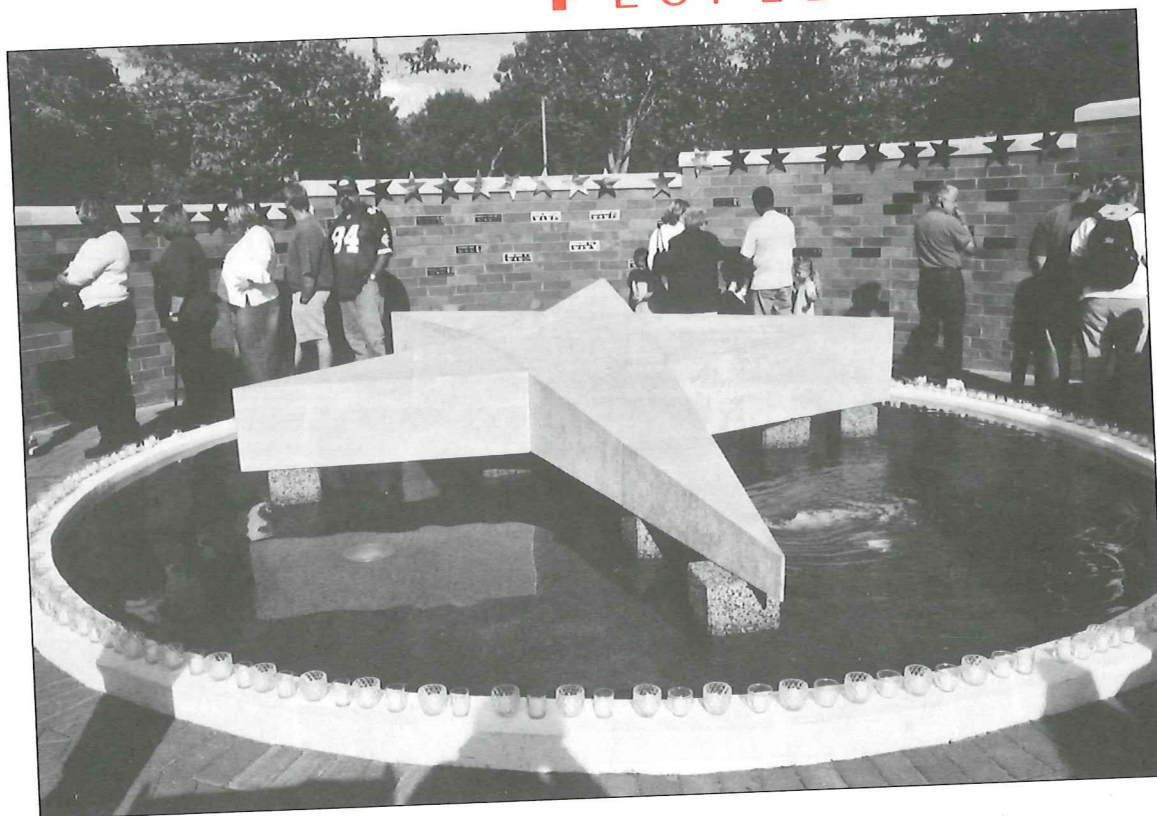
The pre-funding program for retiree coverage that was implemented in 1998 by Local 1 of Minnesota was showcased at the task force July 2003 meeting. The pre-funding of retiree coverage has become a critical issue for health plans throughout the BAC, as locals seek to provide a stable and affordable health care delivery system for those who have been BAC members for much of their lives.

After a presentation in which the Local 1 program was displayed for the task force, one task force member said this: "I really have to congratulate Gary Goblirsch and his Minnesota members. They have

designed a program that can really improve the lives of our retirees and help stem the rising cost of providing health care to our members. It is a model that all BAC locals should be aware of in their search for quality, affordable health care coverage."

I am honored to have been selected to serve on this important task force. The quality and affordability of health care coverage has traditionally set us apart from the non-unionized. By working hard to continue our tradition of protecting the membership and their families, we will continue to show why trade unionism adds value to the lives of those we serve.

PEOPLE



The One Bright Star figure measures 10-by-10 feet, and is made of dolomitic limestone donated by Del's Construction, of Mankato.

*'Bright Star' memorializes lost Mankato area children*

**A** MEMORIAL TO CHILDREN who have died was dedicated Sept. 14 in Mankato. The project called "One Bright Star" had drawn contributions of time and labor from Mankato-area bricklayers.

Formed as a brick wall encircling a limestone star, the construction in Erlandson Park was the work of BAC members Alan Barbknecht, Mark Caron, John Frank, Jerry Gappa, John Karels, Joel Majeski, Tom Rykhus, Donald Theissen, Carl Urban and contractor Del Rischmiller.

The construction is meant to honor the memory of children lost to accidents and illness, said project coordinator Mark Daby, of Mankato. Four mothers who had lost children came together to form a support group, he said, and the idea of a memorial grew out of that. Daby, a retired buildings and grounds supervisor for the local school district, became involved; he too had lost a child, to leukemia.

Mark Caron, business agent for BAC Local #1 covering chapters 8 and 11, said Barbknecht had taken the lead and Caron had helped him recruit bricklayers to work on the project. Many are retired.

"The amazing part was to have all those people in the trades," Daby said, following the dedication ceremony. "The minute they knew what was going on, they became

attached to it. It became a labor of love." Daby described how Rykhus, Gappa and Barbknecht had set and reset the first limestone capstone atop the circling wall, working to get it perfect.

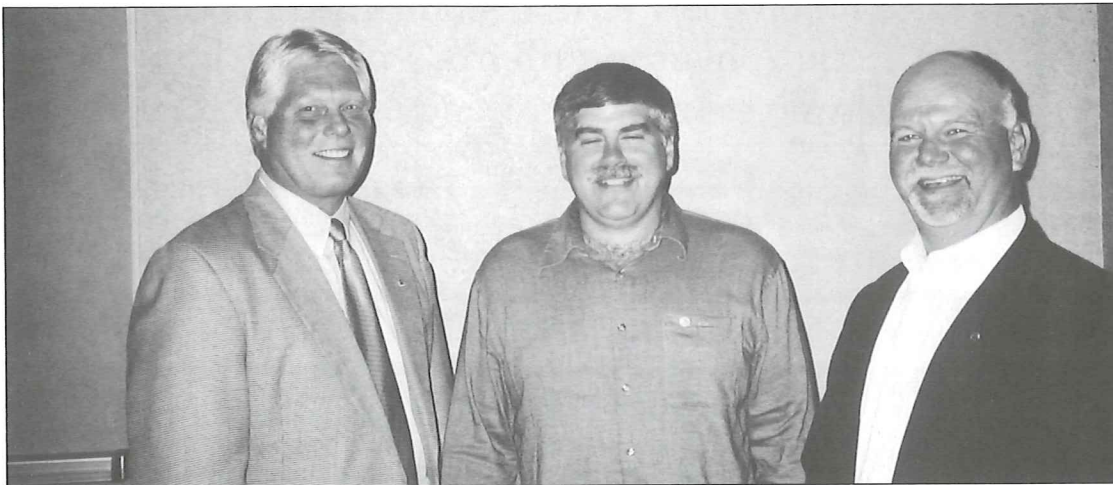
Jeff Kagermeier, Mankato mayor and architect for the project, said the building trades – also laborers, carpenters, teamsters, finishers, operators, electricians and plumbers – had contributed so much free labor that the memorial ended up costing only about \$10,000, out of \$200,000 originally projected.

Kagermeier said his design, a brick wall circling a fountain, with the star at the center of the fountain, has proven to have an unexpected acoustic feature. Within the brick wall meant to suggest encircling arms, Kagermeier said, "what you hear is the sound of children playing in the park. It seems to magnify and concentrate the sound of children's voices."

Kagermeier said that while the project was started in Mankato, it is meant to memorialize lost children from throughout South Central Minnesota; 750 children die every year in Minnesota, he said.

The dedication ceremony, conducted on a Sunday afternoon, indicated how many families had been affected by the death of a child, Kagermeier said. About 200 people attended, far more than had been expected.

**C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S**



Cited at Duluth dinner was 25-year pin honoree Randy Willeck (center). Executive Vice President James Lundquist is at left and Field Representative Jim Stebe is at right.



Honored at Hibbing dinner were Jesse Lind, a graduating apprentice, and Leo Kivela, who received a 50-year pin. At right is Field Representative Jim Stebe

## VISIT WORKDAY MINNESOTA ON THE WEB

**F**OR 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 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.



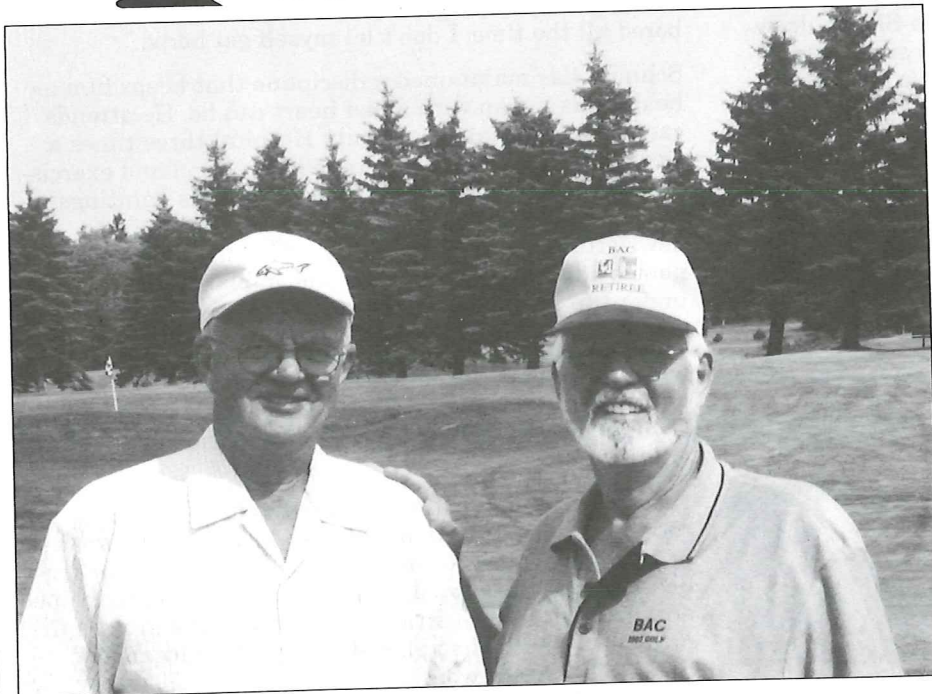
[www.workdayminnesota.org](http://www.workdayminnesota.org)

The news service also is interactive through a bulletin board on which readers can share information and viewpoints.

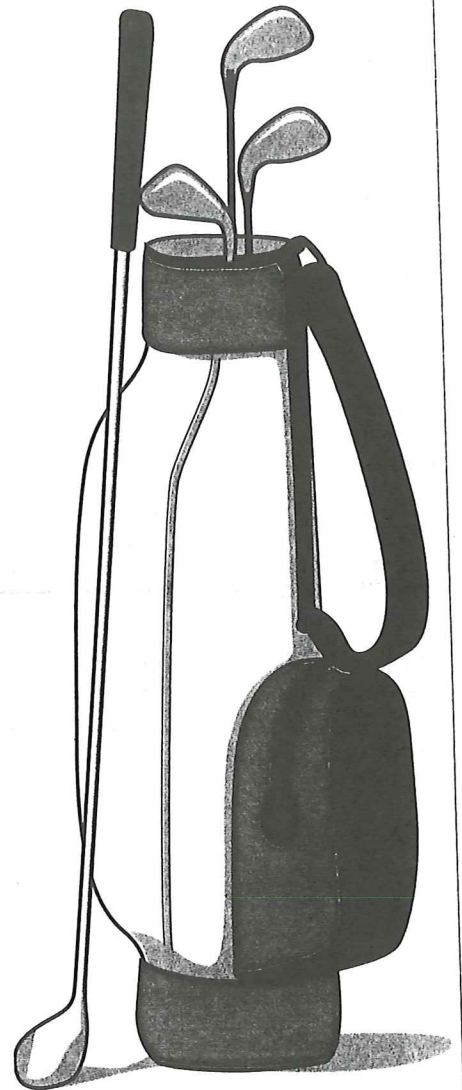
RECREATION



Winners of the Chapter 15 Golf Tournament were Kurt Lommell, left, and Chuck Ruhoff, right. The tournament was held Aug. 16 at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Motley.



The Duluth Golf Tournament, held Sept. 6 at Grandview Golf Links, was won by Guy Olsen, left, and Donald Seabury, right.



FROM THE FRONT PAGE

# PAINTER: *Bricklayers are artists*

*Continued from front page*

Schmitz, who put in 35 years as a bricklayer and member of the pre-merger BAC Local 2, recently had some of his oil paintings included in an exhibit at Galleria, in Edina. He has also exhibited at Unity Hospital, in Fridley – displays that use the beauty of his work to convey a message about hope after a heart attack.

Now 82, Schmitz was only 61 when he began experiencing chest pain on the 17th green at a golf course. Already under treatment for angina, he knew what the symptoms could mean. He drove himself to the hospital, was admitted for a week, and his life changed. “The doctor said I couldn’t go back to work.” He retired on disability.

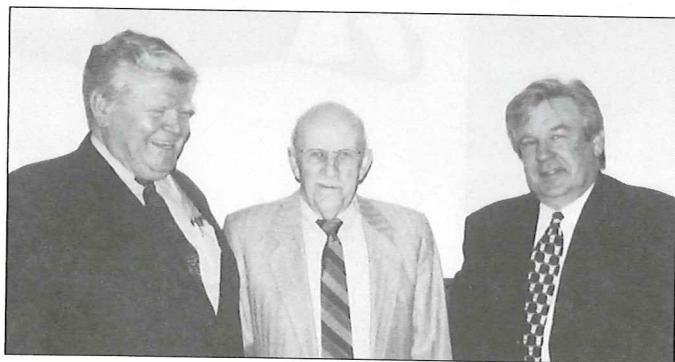
Schmitz’s work was more than just bricklaying. He had served for 10 years as a Local 2 trustee. He also was a single parent to six children; his wife had died in 1970, when the youngest was 3.

Suddenly idled, he knew he needed to find some activity. While he was in the hospital, he’d watched a Bill Alexander painting show on TV, and it reminded him of the drawings he’d created all his life, some in an unusual medium.

“I had six kids, so we always had an Etch-a-Sketch around. I played with them,” he said. Over the years he had produced a series of complex Etch-a-Sketch drawings that were good enough to record in snapshots.

“My daughter thought that if I could make those pictures, I ought to be able to paint. She bought me a paint kit for Christmas in 1970, and I put it in a closet. It sat there for 12 years until I had a heart attack.”

That was approximately 120 paintings ago. Schmitz’s oil paintings now line the halls of his St. Anthony home,



Larry Schmitz received his 50-year pin from BAC International Union President John Flynn, left, and Secretary-Treasurer James Boland, right.

and many more have been given away. Reminiscent of Currier and Ives prints, Schmitz’s paintings depict the woods and wildlife of a Wisconsin boyhood. Many are full of snow and birches.

Schmitz paints from photographs and memory and imagination. Some of his paintings are dreamscapes of a town he first imagined as a child. Some are renderings of photographs that people have brought to him, requesting a painting.

**“I don’t let myself get bored.” – Larry Schmitz**

A relative asked him once to paint from memory. “As a kid, I grew up on a farm and there were some old farm buildings that had gotten torn down. My nephew wanted me to paint him a picture of those barns. I had to do it from memory. I thought I had it pretty close to right. I took it and showed it to my older brother and oldest sister. My oldest sister doesn’t talk much anymore – she’s 88. I showed it to her and said, ‘What’s this remind you of?’ ‘Well, that’s the old barn!’ So I got it pretty close.

Schmitz says he paints simply for the pleasure of it. “I’m a self-taught artist. I had no schooling. I don’t even know the artist’s rhetoric. I see people who critique pictures, and I wonder what they’re talking about. They’re seeing things that I don’t see in them.”

To him, painting has been the ideal pastime for retirement. “So many people my age and younger, they’re bored all the time. I don’t let myself get bored.”

Schmitz has maintained a discipline that keeps him as healthy as a man with a bad heart can be. He attends cardiac rehabilitation at Unity Hospital three times a week, each time walking a mile beforehand and exercising for an hour afterward. Schmitz and his paintings were the subject of a cover story in a Winter 2003 newsletter published by Mercy and Unity Hospitals. He now is adjusting to a defibrillator implanted last July under the skin of his chest.

Throughout his retirement, Schmitz has stayed involved with the Bricklayers union, in the early years by helping to man the Local No. 1 office when President Gary Goblirsch and others were gone on vacation or to conferences.

He also has remained involved with other union retirees, attending the four-times-a-year retiree breakfasts at Jax Café in Minneapolis. (See the calendar for dates of upcoming breakfast gatherings.) Schmitz helped organize the retiree gatherings, and was the group’s first president. And he has played every golf tournament, though he’s never won.

“The Bricklayers are really good to the retirees,” Schmitz said.

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 25, June 24, Sept. 23, Dec. 2

**Chapter #1 and #18 – Minneapolis-St. Paul**

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8, May 10, June 14, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Nov. 8, Prom Center, Oakdale, 7 p.m. Dec. 13

**Chapter #3 – Duluth-Hibbing**

Duluth: 7 p.m., Duluth Labor Center  
Jan. 14, March 10, June 9, Sept. 8, Dec. 8  
Hibbing: 7 p.m., Electricians Hall  
Feb. 11, May 12, Aug. 11, Nov. 10

**Chapter #4 – St. Cloud**

7 p.m., St. Cloud Labor Home  
1903 4th St. N.  
Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, May 5, June 2, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Nov. 3, Dec. 1

**Chapter #6 – Springfield-New Ulm**

New Ulm: 8 p.m., American Legion  
Feb. 5, Aug. 5,  
Springfield: 8 p.m., American Legion  
May 6, Nov. 4

**Chapter #8 – Rochester-Faribault**

Rochester: 7 p.m., Rochester Labor Hall  
Jan. 5, March 1, June 7, Sept. 13, Dec. 6  
Faribault: 7 p.m., VFW  
Feb. 2, May 3, Aug. 2, Nov. 1

**Chapter #11 – Mankato**

7 p.m., Mankato Teamsters Hall  
Jan. 6, March 2, June 1, Sept. 7, Dec. 7

**Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji**

All meetings at 7 p.m.  
Moorhead, Travelodge – Jan. 14,

**BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS LOCAL UNION #1 MINNESOTA**

**2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**NOTES**

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

May 12, Sept. 8, Dec. 8  
Bemidji, American Legion: Jan. 15, March 11, May 13, Sept. 9, Nov. 11,  
Fergus Falls, Eagles Club: Feb. 11, June 10  
Brainerd, Eagles Club: Feb. 12, Aug. 12, Dec. 9  
Crookston, Northland Inn: March 10, Aug. 11, Nov. 10  
Grand Forks, N.D., VFW, June 9

**GOLD CARD DINNERS**

**Cards will be mailed**

Chapters #1 and #18  
11 a.m., Aug. 19, Prom Center, Oakdale

Chapter #3 – Duluth  
Iron Range area: 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, Knights of Columbus, Hibbing  
Duluth area: 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, Holiday Inn, Duluth

Chapter #4 – St. Cloud  
6 p.m., March 20, Eagles Club

Chapter #6 – Springfield-New Ulm  
6 p.m., May 1, Springfield American Legion

Chapter #8 – Rochester  
6 p.m., June 4, Rochester Marriott Hotel

Chapter #11 – Mankato

6 p.m., April 30, Best Western Hotel, Mankato

Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji  
6 p.m., March 12, Northwest Area, Crookston, Northland Inn  
6 p.m., June 19, Breezy Point Resort, Brainerd

**OTHER EVENTS**

**OSHA 10 Certification**

8 a.m., St. Paul (Technical) College, auditorium  
Feb. 14, first half  
Feb. 21, second half

**Executive Committee meeting**

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

Semiannual meetings for all chapters – statewide  
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis, 10 a.m.  
April 3, Oct. 2

**Chapter #1 and #18 Apprenticeship Banquet**

Jax Café, Minneapolis  
April 29, 6 p.m.

**Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Golf Tournaments**

All members are welcome at all tournaments.  
Twin Cities Metro area: 7 a.m., Saturday, July 31, Pheasant Acres Golf Club, Rogers  
Chapter #15 area: 8 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 14, Pine Ridge Golf Course, Motley  
Chapter #3 area: 8 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, Grandview Golf Links, Duluth

**Children's Christmas Party**

9:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11  
411 Main Street, St. Paul

# 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  
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## QUARTERLY UPDATE • DECEMBER 2003

### KEEPING UP



## CHECK YOUR CALENDAR FOR IMPORTANT DATES

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#### Retirees Club Meeting

9 a.m., Jax Café, Minneapolis  
Dec. 4

#### Chapter #1 – Minneapolis-St. Paul

7 p.m., Prom Center, Oakdale  
Dec. 8

#### Chapter #3 – Duluth-Hibbing

Duluth: 7 p.m., Duluth Labor Center  
Dec. 10

#### Chapter #4 – St. Cloud

7 p.m., St. Cloud Labor Home, 1903  
4th St. N. Dec. 3.

#### BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFT- WORKERS LOCAL UNION #1 MINNESOTA

#### 2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Chapter #8 – Rochester-Faribault

Rochester: 7 p.m., Rochester Labor  
Hall  
Dec. 1

#### Chapter #11 – Mankato

7 p.m., Teamsters Hall  
Dec. 2

#### Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji

7 p.m., Brainerd, Eagles Club  
Dec. 11

#### Chapter #18 – Tilelayers

6 p.m., Prom Center, Oakdale  
Dec. 8 (joint meeting with Chapter #1)

#### OTHER EVENTS

#### Children's Christmas Party

9:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13  
411 Main St., St. Paul

*(Please see below.)*

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SET FOR DEC. 13

*Traditional party to be held in new location*



Back by popular demand at this year's Children's Christmas Party will be last year's hit entertainer, ventriloquist James Wedgwood. The party will be held at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, in a new location – 411 Main Street, St. Paul.

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.