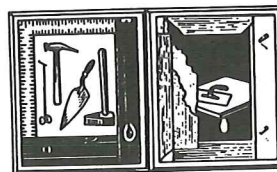


QUARTERLY UPDATE

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



- Blocklayers
- Finishers
- Shopmen
- Cement Masons

- Pointers - Cleaners - Caulkers • Concrete Products Specialists



John Berg talks with retired BAC Local #1 Field Representative Dave Grandaw.

John Berg, 91, a union bricklayer for 75 years

MINNESOTA'S MOST experienced bricklayer, 91-year-old John Berg, was honored in Duluth May 11 with presentation of a plaque commemorating his 75 years of union membership.

"What a milestone you have reached," retired Field Representative Dave Grandaw told Berg. "If you look at the numbers going back, it's overwhelming. It's one hell of an accomplishment. When I was born, you had 12 years under your belt. When I started my apprenticeship, you had 40 years under your belt."

Twelve of Berg's fellow retirees attended a union-sponsored luncheon held in his honor at Mr. D's Bar and Grill. Looking around the table, Berg said that he had trained many of the retirees himself, years ago. When people were learning the trade, Berg said, "they'd usually send them to me and I'd give them what help I could."

Please turn to BERG on Page 10

IT HAS COME TO OUR attention that some contractors are requiring a physical exam or stress test before employment. Physicals or stress tests of any kind are a direct violation of our collective bargaining agreement and, in our opinion, of federal labor law.

According to current contract language on testing, "An employer may require drug and alcohol testing of employees and applicants for employment, including random testing." Those are the only tests that employers can require. If you're asked to take a physical exam or stress test, we urge you not to comply and to contact a



JIM LUNDQUIST

STRESS TESTS, PHYSICALS VIOLATE PACT

union representative as soon as possible.

What kinds of tests are being used? We heard that one company will put a worker into a machine and have them bend back and forth and up and down to see how strong he or she is. Also, some contractors have been sending workers to clinics where we think other kinds of

Please turn to LUNDQUIST on Page 2

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**

MIKE COOK: North Dakota, Brainerd-Bemidji contracts are settled/2
ELECTION 2006: Pay attention to your legislators' records/12



COMMENTARY

MIKE COOK: North Dakota, Brainerd-Bemidji Pacts Settled

AFTER MANY MEETINGS with contractors in western North Dakota, a new three-year contract was settled April 21.

One of the biggest achievements with the new agreement was to create one contract from two expiring contracts in former Local #2 Minot and former Local #4 Bismarck. A wage raise of \$.75 in Bismarck and \$.60 in Minot will be effective on June 1, 2005. The new contract will cover approximately two-thirds of the state and will be called the Western North Dakota Agreement. The total wage package will be the same, \$30.45, under the western North Dakota Agreement. Wage increases of \$1.25 on May 1, 2006 and \$1.40 on May 1, 2007 were bargained for under the new Agreement. The contract will expire on April 30, 2008. The two areas will continue to have separate wage addendums.

The Bismarck area joined the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) on January 1, 2005. The Minot area does not yet participate in this Fund. The Minot area continues to participate in the International Union Retirement Savings Plan.

The Fargo, N.D., contract was settled April 22. The total wage package increased \$1.50 to \$33.70 on May 1, 2005. Increases of \$1.70 on May 1, 2006 and \$1.80 May 1, 2007 are scheduled. The Grand Forks, N.D., contract was settled April 26. The total wage package increased \$1.50 to \$33.65 on May 1, 2005. Increases of \$1.75 on May 1, 2006 and \$1.80 on May 1, 2007 are scheduled. Both contracts will expire on April 30, 2008. The total wage package for the two areas in Eastern North Dakota, Fargo and Grand Forks will be the same on May 1, 2006.

Fargo area bricklayers voted to join the Minnesota and North Dakota BAC Pension plan and are continuing to join the plan in stages while the Grand Forks area is at the full contribution rate. The Grand Forks area joined the Health Reimbursement Arrangement

(HRA) on May 1, 2005. The Fargo area joined the Minnesota / North Dakota Health Plan after the merger of the locals last year. The Fargo area previously had participated in the International Union Health Plan.

The Brainerd-Bemidji, Minn., contract was settled April 13. The total wage package for the bricklayers will increase \$1.25 to \$39.70. The total wage package for the cement masons will increase \$1.25 to \$38.25. Increases of \$1.25 each are scheduled on May 1, 2006 and May 1, 2007. The contract will expire on April 30, 2008.

The union would like to thank members for their input during negotiations. We would also like to thank the members who participated at the negotiation meetings – in western North Dakota, Cary Reindel, Matt Gefroh, Randy Carlson and Joseph Wieland, and in Brainerd-Bemidji, Tim Lukkason. Business Representative Rodney Sletten and Vice President Mike Ganz were instrumental in the successful negotiation of these contracts.

Addendum booklets describing the new contracts have been printed and will be mailed soon.

LUNDQUIST/Test violate contract

Continued from Page 1

physical tests may have been slipped in along with pre-employment drug tests.

Contractors requiring these physical tests say that their right to test workers is provided under Article 11, paragraph 2, of our working agreement: "Employers have the right to determine employment qualifications of employees."

We don't agree with this interpretation. We tell our members time and again: don't take these tests. It's not a condition of employment that you have to take them, and it's a violation of federal labor law to reject somebody for not taking a physical. When we send people out, they're qualified to do the work. They don't have to prove anything to anybody; they've already proved themselves.

We would like to hear from any members who have taken any stress tests or physicals and have not been employed by that contractor because of results.

It is our obligation as officers of

BAC Local 1/MN&ND to keep our members as informed as possible. Our members must live up to the contents of the contract as our contractors must also do. If there is any confusion in the contents of the contract, members and contractors alike need to call for clarification.

Another repeat violation is mandated safety training. Contractors may offer any safety training they wish but when they mandate a safety class after work hours, they must pay the member for his or her time. When the class comes after an eight-hour day, union members must be paid at the overtime rate of time-and-a-half.

Contractors may, of course, hold voluntary safety meetings which wouldn't require payment but which members also would have the option of not attending. Remember: mandatory means that you get paid; voluntary means you don't have to attend but you don't get paid.

Please let your local officers know when you think there may have been a violation of the collective bargaining agreement.

KEEP IN TOUCH

LOCAL TELEPHONES

612-379-2966

AND

612-379-4230

BENEFITS

Check the Zenith Administrators Web site,

www.zenithtpa.com

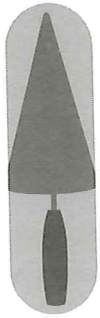
or phone 952-835-7035

OUTSTATE TELEPHONE

1-800-257-8636

FAX

612-379-8754



Professors get hands-on training

NEARLY 70 university professors and masonry industry representatives from across the country gathered in Minneapolis/St. Paul in March for the Annual University

Professors' Masonry Workshop (UPMW).

The workshop is a three-day event designed to help architecture and engineering professors either improve their existing masonry curriculum or develop new courses on the subject. It provides extensive classroom and hands-on activities to familiarize them with the materials, and supplies volumes of resource material along with industry and personal contacts they can use as they develop their classes. The program is sponsored by IMI along with other national masonry-related organizations.

New construction management sessions presented.

This year's UPMW carried a new element, a track for those who teach construction management. Classes were taught by David Sovinski, IMI's national director of market development and technical services, and by Larry Darling, director of education for IMI.

The new segments were enthusiastically welcomed, as an increasing number of projects are delivered using the CM method, and more universities are developing coursework in it every year.

Training program featured.

In addition, because the sites selected for activities in the Twin Cities were the University of Minnesota for the classroom sessions and the BAC Local #1/MN&ND Training Center for some presentations and the hands-on portion, IMI marketing staff

To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit us at www.imiweb.org on the Internet.

and BAC Local #1 training staff were deeply involved. The strong working relationship between local IMI staff and university architecture and engineering faculty is well-known and certainly was helpful in bringing to Minnesota this highly successful national program along with all its related future benefits. Additionally, there were many opportunities to discuss and explain IMI's other national programs and how they play out at the local level.

One of the immediate benefits was showcasing BAC Local #1's training program and facility for a national audience of college professors, many of whom are also in private practice.

Special thanks goes to Mark Wickstrom and Dan Quinlan from the training staff, and to Brian Hines, Hines & Sons, and to Dick Kentzelman, BAC Local #1/MN&ND field representative, for helping with the activities.

General sessions included presentations by the chief engineer for Target, Inc., and a panel discussion by four Minnesota contractors: Barry Blazevic, ADB Construction Co., Inc.; Mike McGowan, Adolfson & Peterson Construction; Mike Frantz, D.R. Frantz Concrete Construction, and Dick Dentinger, B&D Associates, Inc. Their discussion topic, "Masonry Design and Detailing: the Contractors' Perspective," addressed what they felt architecture and engineering students should learn in school with the goal of preventing job-site problems. The discussion was lively and informative, resulting in some specific recommendations for curriculum including:

- Learn to communicate fully.
- Learn to prepare complete plans and specs.
- Learn teamwork.
- Use contractors, IMI, and other members of the industry as resources. — **Olene Bigelow**, Minnesota IMI Area Director



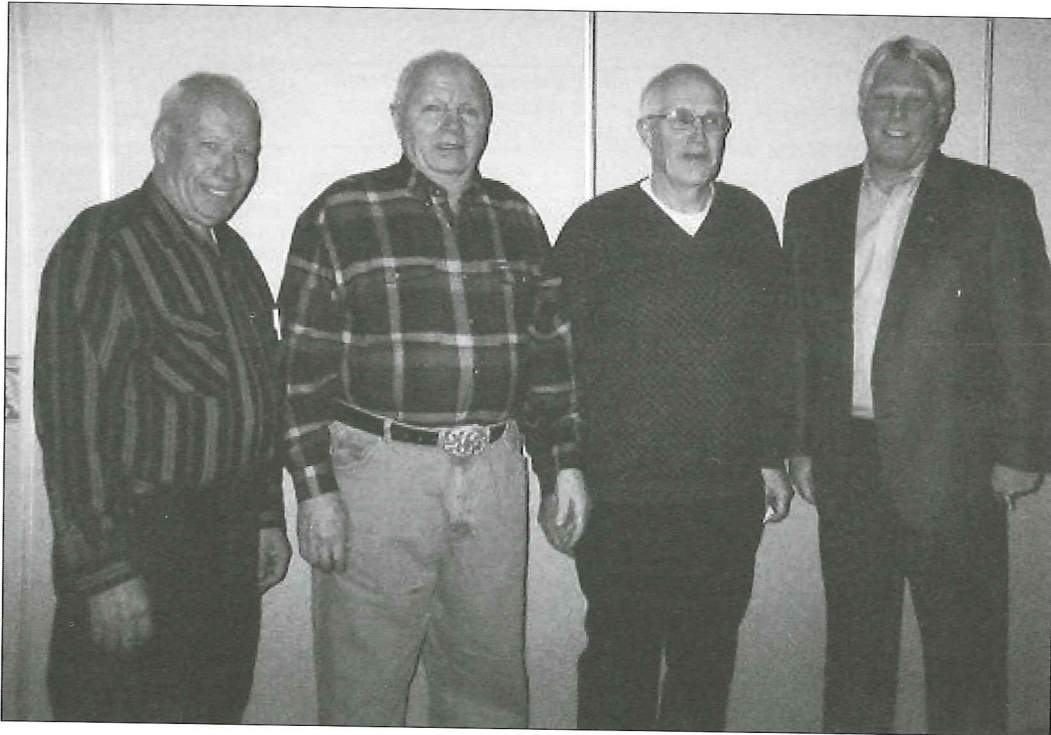
How much weight can be borne by an arch? IMI Wisconsin Area Director of Market Development Pat Conway adds to a stack of bricks as workshop participants watch for collapse. The arch, on which the mortar was still green, supported 14 bricks, or about 160 pounds, before it gave way.



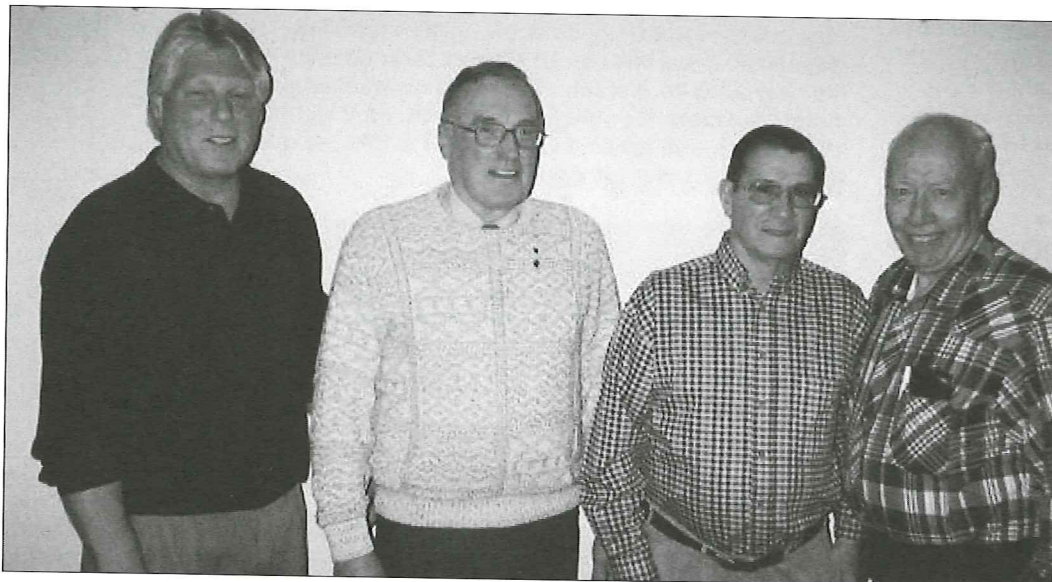
BAC Local #1/MN&ND Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Wickstrom demonstrates trowel technique for university professors.

P E O P L E

BRICKLAYERS HONORED FOR LENGTH OF SERVICE



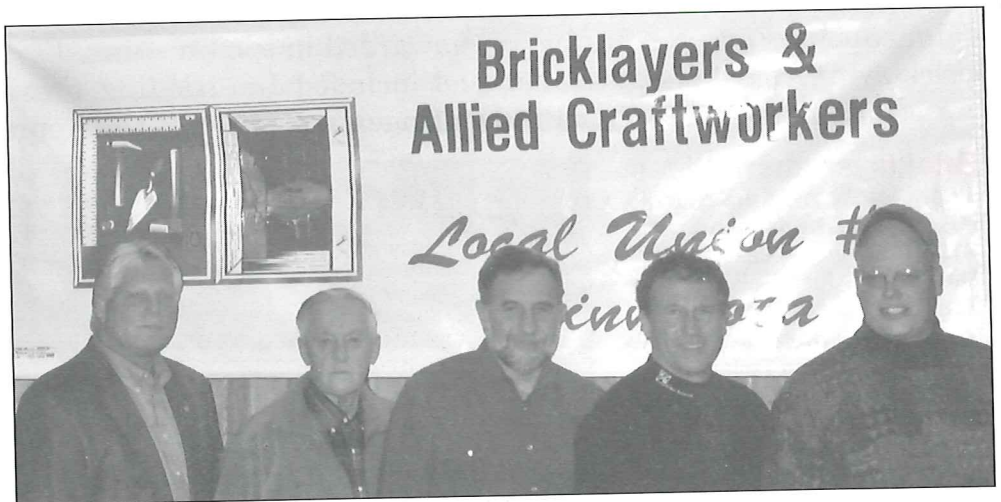
An award was presented in Crookston, Minn., to Roger Rhen, second from right, for 50 years of union membership. Participating in the March 12 ceremony at Northland Inn were, left to right, Field Representative Rodney Sletten; Merlyn Rhen, a 54-year member formerly of old Local #3-Crookston, and (far right) BAC Local #1 President Jim Lundquist.



Two 50-year members of the former Local #2-Minot, N.D. were honored March 11 at the Minot VFW. Participating, left to right, were BAC Local #1 President Jim Lundquist, 50-year members Allen Westereng and Dennis Nelson, and Field Representative Rodney Sletten.

PEOPLE MORE BRICKLAYER HONOREES

Longtime members of Chapter #4-St. Cloud were honored in a ceremony held March 19 at the Eagles Club, St. Cloud. Participating, left to right, were BAC Local #1 President Jim Lundquist, 50-year member Fred Edenloff, 40-year member Ralph Sauer, 25-year member Steve Dilallo, and Mike Ganz, field representative for Western Minnesota.



Members from the Mankato-New Ulm area were honored at a Gold Card Dinner held April 29 at Best Western in Mankato. Participants, shown left to right, were BAC Local #1 Executive Vice President Michael Cook, 25-year member Jim Kenne, 54-year member Jerry Gappa, 25-year member Scott Gappa, 25-year member Jeff Kenne, and Field Representative Mark Caron.

Union members were honored Feb. 11 at AmVets in Bismarck, N.D. Awards were presented by Field Representative Rodney Sletten, center, to 25-year member Stephen Schneider, left, and 50-year member Irwin Weiger, right.



PEOPLE

MEET THE CLASS OF 2005. Graduating apprentices of 2005 were honored April 28 at the BAC Local #1 Apprentice Completion Banquet held at Jax Café, in Minneapolis. Five certificates were awarded in tile finishing, 17 in tile setting and 34 in bricklaying. Speakers at the banquet included Jim Hidding, president of the Tile Contractors Association, and contractor Bill Dentinger, a member of the Apprenticeship Committee.

Bricklayer apprentices,

shown left to right are (kneeling, front row) Shannon Scott, Ryan Theisen, Lance Letourneau, Josh Reisgies and Ken Peterson; (second row) instructor David Mensing, Kelly Schaufel, Stefano Follega, Vasilij Megaga (behind), Petr Damyan, Walter Brandenburg (behind), Waleed Radwan, Mike LeFlay (behind), Eric Flatten (behind), Roger Sabin, Justin Allen (behind), Gary Wilson, Randy Diamond (behind), Chris Casarez, and Jonah Sauter (behind); (third row) Tim Stromgren, Patrick Sieben, Paul Kleis, Frank Fundingsland, Tom Noye Sr., Harold Blechinger (behind), Paul Peterson, Mike



Dorn, Robert Westlund (behind), Nathan Groen, Larry Pederson (behind), instructor Dan Quinlan, and Adam Peterson. Not pictured are Darby Block, Steve Boder and Steve McIntosh. (NOTE: Steve McIntosh left early when it appeared that his wife, Jerra, might be going into labor. It was a false alarm, Mrs. McIntosh said, but not by much; their son, Rhett, was born two days later.

Tile apprentices, shown

left to right in the front row, are Nafid Karic (tile setter), Mevludin Jusufovic (tile setter), Daniel Lamah (tile setter), Mevludin Dedic (tile setter), Teresa Vogel (tile setter), tile setter instructor Rick Martagon, Mustafa Bostan (tile setter), Isaac Hunt (tile finisher, behind), and Nicholas Reuter (tile setter). In the back row, left to right, are Jon Medgaarden (tile finisher), Nezir Subasic (tile finisher), tile finisher instructor Rod Schmidt, Daniel Miller (tile setter, behind), Cory Byrne (tile setter), Scott Robertson (tile setter), Chad Grazzini (tile setter), and Cory Theilen (tile finisher). Not pictured are Hariz Bostan (tile setter), Enes Hegic (tile setter), Joshua Knight (tile setter), Patricia Peterson (tile setter), Ken Sullivan (tile setter) and Paul Wolfram (tile setter).



PEOPLE

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members...

Paul Antinozzi
 Brian Arcand
 Sarah Arkeh
 Rodney Baldwin Jr.
 Jose Becerra
 Joshua Biese-meier
 Peter Brabson
 David Bridges
 Jason Brouellette
 Emanuel Burnham
 Jason Cannon
 Marty Davis
 Donyell Diamond
 Michael Doenz
 Ryan Dukatz
 Jaylan Eid
 Matthew Eisenschenk
 Peter Eliason
 Christopher Franks

Gerard George
 Michael Gillis
 Jeffrey Goranson
 Michael Guerrero
 Angurio Guzman
 David Hamilton
 Nicholas Hayek
 Danny Johnson
 Dimitri Kamas
 Matthew Kelley
 Chad Kelly
 Ryan Knueppel
 Jeremiah Koecher
 Kyle Kohler
 Darrel Landers
 Joseph Lawrence
 Jeremy Linder
 Luis Luna
 Daniel Manke
 David Martinson
 Dean Meyer
 Nick Mies
 Gordon Mitchell
 Brian Mohr
 Ernest Mrachek Jr.
 Steven Novak
 Mike Ott
 Joseph Paggen
 Jake Palmstein
 Kelly Pechtel
 Yevgeniy Perzhu
 Joshua Peterson
 Justin Peterson
 Safet Ramulic

OMISSION CORRECTED

Dennis G. Speedling, #17MN – Red Wing, will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a union member in August 2005. We failed to include his name in the last Quarterly Update among those who will be marking significant anniversaries this year. We regret the error.

DECEASED MEMBERS

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

#1MN – St. Paul
 Dee Lee Kriesel

#2MN – Minneapolis
 Alan J. Busch
 Edward F. Carpenter
 Clarence W. Farniok

#3MN – Duluth
 Roger O. Eidum
 Dean B. Tyllia

#4MN – St. Cloud
 Charles Shaw

#6MN – New Ulm-Springfield
 Sylvester G. Arndt

#11MN – Mankato
 Renwick Young



#15MN – Brainerd
 Robert Collins
 Warren G. Moen
 Bob W. Pollock

#18MN – Metro Tile Layers, Finishers & Shopmen
 Cleo Montalvo

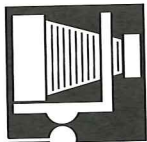
Jose Sanchez-Romero
 Nathan Schmidt
 Steven Schmidt
 Sean Schowalter
 Norman Schwieters
 Ronald Seibel Jr.
 Bethany Slaughter De Sanchez
 Andrew Springer

Richard Stearns
 Tyson Stewart
 Jordan Thompson
 Richard Vogt
 Rudy Weaver
 Steven Zanmiller
 Travis Zumwalt

BRIEFS

OSHA TRAINING

OSHA 10 classes will not be offered during the summer. The two-day training sessions, providing newly-required federal worker safety training certification, will resume in the fall. Some weekend sessions will be offered. September's Quarterly Update will include a new schedule.



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

Hunters and fishermen – Share your photos with other members. When you catch a trophy fish or bag a big buck, we invite you to send a photo and brief description for use in future issues of Quarterly Update. News and photos can be e-mailed to local1mn@aol.com.

HARDHAT STICKER DESIGN NEEDED

Local #1 needs its own hardhat sticker. We hand out hardhat stickers provided by BAC International, but we'd like to have another designed just for us – Local #1/MN&ND. If you have an idea for a design, drop it by the office or e-mail it to local1mn@aol.com. First place will receive a prize.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

BERG/A born bricklayer, says field rep

Continued from Page 1

How many did he teach? He isn't sure. "Quite a few, I think. I couldn't say offhand. I used to sit and be talking to somebody about bricklaying, I'd turn around and there was somebody listening over my shoulder, so he didn't miss a word."

For Berg, the big plaque provided by BAC International was just the latest in a string of honors. He has two other plaques at home, he said, awarded for his 60th and 70th anniversaries. And in 1999, when the former Duluth Local #3 was celebrating the centennial of its 1899 charter, members voted to name Berg "Mr. Bricklayer of the Century," Grandaw said.

"You know how in sports, they'll say somebody is a 'natural'?" Grandaw said. "That's what he is. I think he was born to be a bricklayer."

Jim Stebe, Grandaw's successor as Duluth-Iron Range field representative and the planner of Berg's 75th anniversary party, said Berg's long career – he started work at 16 in 1930 and retired at 67 in 1981 – was all the more remarkable because he had managed to keep working right through the Depression. The 1930s were tough years for the trade, Stebe said; many bricklayers were out of work and the union itself was hard-pressed to survive.

Berg weathered the Depression by doing something he'd learned from his dad, bricklayer (and onetime president of the former Local #2 Minneapolis) John A. Berg. In 1922, his parents had put five kids into an open-topped Studebaker to drive from Kimberly, Minn., Berg's hometown, to a job in California.

Roads in 1922, he said, varied from gravel to none. "You can go out in your backyard and find just as good."

Berg said that through the tough years he found work the way his dad had. He and his wife, Joanne, traveled with their kids all through the Depression, working and living in California, Texas, Arkansas, Utah and Minnesota. "I'd go anywhere," he said. As a result, "I had it good. I didn't see any Depression."

In 1943, the family settled in Duluth, Joanne Berg's hometown. In time, Berg's

son, Mickey Berg, became a bricklayer, making at least the fourth generation in the trade; he is to receive an award for 40 years of union membership in Duluth this fall. Berg's grandfather had been a bricklayer, and so had his dad's brother, Gus Berg. So far, he said, none of his seven grandchildren or four great-grandchildren has entered the trade.

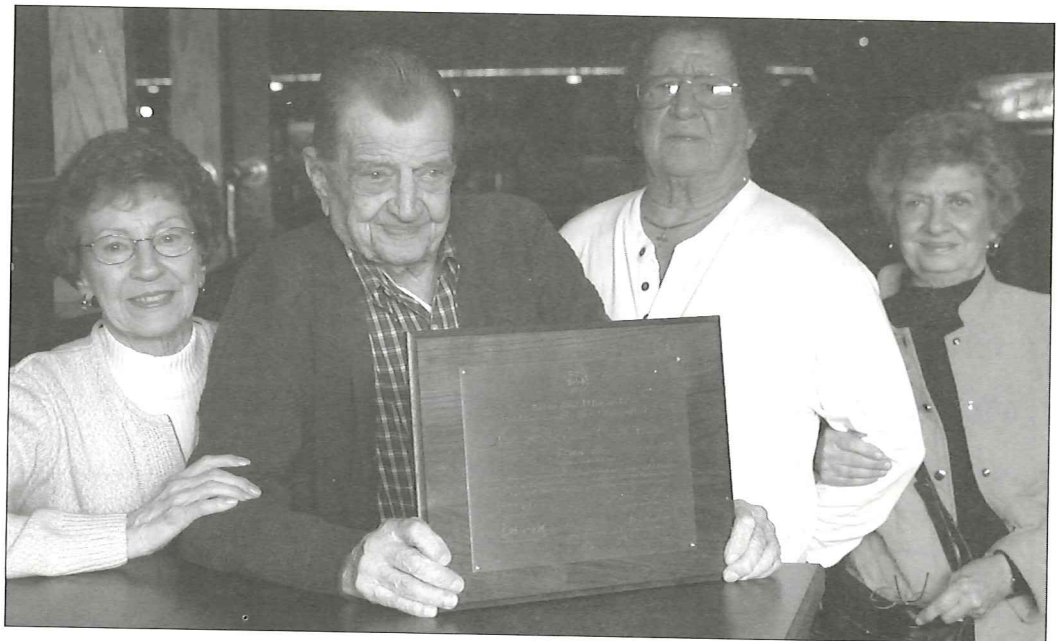
**DULUTH-AREA
retirees meet at 9:30
a.m. on the first
Wednesday of every
month in the food court
at Miller Hill Mall, Duluth.**

Berg's 75th Anniversary party was attended by family and friends. Present, in addition to Grandaw, were retirees Dick Johnson, Don Carlson, Roger Carlson, Wilbert Erickson, Gus Johnson, Dale Jones,

Charlie Lufholm, Don Seabury, Marvin Sullin and Jerry Thomson. Local #1 Vice President Mike Hawthorne traveled from Minneapolis to represent Local #1. Mickey Berg attended, and so did Berg's daughters, Patricia Kolquist and Judy Baker.

Berg is the oldest member of BAC Local #1/Minnesota & North Dakota but 75-year members aren't as rare as you might think. Stebe said he'd checked BAC International and had heard that about 20 such plaques were to be handed out this year.

Grandaw said he thinks Berg might be the second-oldest bricklayer in the country. "You just hang in there," he told Berg, "and we'll have another party when you're 100."



Surrounded by his family, John Berg displays his 75-year plaque. His daughter, Patricia Kolquist, is to his right. To his left are his son, Mickey Berg, and his daughter, Judy Baker.

KEEPING UP



**2005
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.

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

All meetings 7 p.m.
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: June 13, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Nov. 14
Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale: All Metro Chapters, 7 p.m., Dec. 12

Chapter #3 – Duluth-Hibbing

All meetings 7 p.m.
Duluth, Duluth Labor Center: June 8, Sept. 14, Dec. 14
Hibbing, Electricians Hall: Aug. 10, Nov. 9

Chapter #4 – St. Cloud

All meetings 7 p.m.
St. Cloud Labor Home, 1903 4th St. N.: June 1, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Nov. 2, Dec. 7

**Chapters #6 and #11– Mankato-
New Ulm**

All meetings 7 p.m.
Mankato, Teamsters Hall: June 2, Sept. 1, Dec. 1
New Ulm, American Legion: Aug. 4, Nov. 3

Chapter #8 – Rochester-Faribault

All meetings 7 p.m.

**BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED
CRAFTWORKERS LOCAL UNION
#1 MINNESOTA & NORTH DAKOTA**

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTES

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

Rochester, Rochester Labor Hall: June 6, Sept. 12, Dec. 5
Faribault, VFW: Aug. 1, Nov. 7

**Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji &
North Dakota**

All meetings at 7 p.m.
Bemidji, Elks Club: June 8, Sept. 14, Nov. 9
Bismarck, AmVets: Nov. 11
Brainerd, American Legion: Aug. 10, Dec. 8
Crookston, Northland Inn: June 9, Dec. 15
Dickinson, St. Anthony Club: Aug. 12, Dec. 16
 Fargo, FM Labor Temple: Aug. 11, Nov. 10
Grand Forks, N.D., VFW: Sept. 15
Minot, Elks Club: June 10, Sept. 16

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Cards will be mailed

Chapters #1 and #18

Prom Center, Oakdale
11 a.m., July 14

Chapter #3 – Duluth

Iron Range area: Knights of Columbus, Hibbing, 6 p.m., Oct. 15
Duluth area: Downtown Radisson, 6 p.m., Oct. 14

Chapter #8 – Rochester

Rochester Marriott Hotel
6 p.m., June 3

Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji

Bemidji, Northern Inn: 6 p.m., June 18

OTHER EVENTS

Retirees Club Breakfast Meetings

9 a.m., Jax Café, Minneapolis
June 23, Sept. 22, Dec. 1

Executive Committee meeting

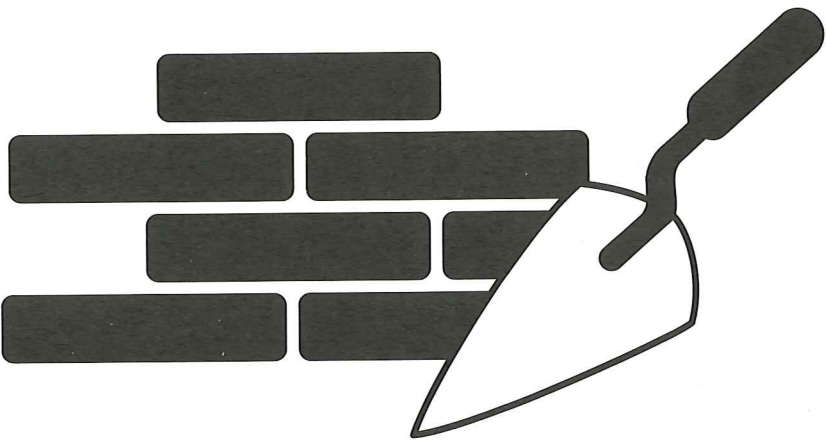
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis,
9 a.m. Sept. 23

Semiannual meetings for all chapters – statewide

Sept. 24, 10 a.m., Prom Center,
484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale

**Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
Golf Tournaments**

All members are welcome at both tournaments.
Twin Cities Metro area: Pheasant Acres Golf Club, Rogers
7 a.m., July 30
Chapter #3 area: Grandview Golf Links, Duluth
8 a.m., Sept. 10



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.

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Editor.....Merrily Helgeson
Design & Production.....W. F. Cento

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
Local #1 Minnesota/North Dakota
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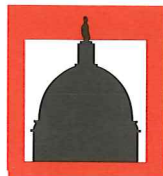
QUARTERLY UPDATE • JUNE 2005

POLITICS

PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR LEGISLATORS' RECORDS

WITH summer upon us and long evenings and weekends to spend out of doors with family and friends, the last thing on anyone's mind is politics. And who can blame us?

But this year, things are different at our state legislature. There have been more and more efforts to weaken prevailing wages and Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) to the point where they'd be as good as a 12-hour day. These are bread and butter issues for construction workers. That's why you are hearing from the union about politics now.



ELECTION 2006 - Our Issues

It's also why some union members are thinking ahead to the 2006 election. Everyone who holds political office has power to affect our jobs and our family incomes, for better or worse.

We've seen the difference it made this year, having 13 more labor-endorsed members (five of them union members) in the state House of Representatives than in 2004. Their presence made it possible to pass an excellent bonding bill for construction and remodeling of state facilities and a good transportation funding bill (subsequently vetoed by

the Governor), among other things.

The legislature will work even harder for working people if we elect more state representatives and senators who understand our concerns.

In the coming months, our union will be working with other unions of the building trades to communicate with members where the union vote can have a big impact on an election.

Issues, not candidates, will be our focus. We won't be asking members to vote for anyone, but simply to pay attention to their legislators' records.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with this important effort, or want more information, call the union office.

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

**workday
Minnesota**
www.wordayminnesota.org

rooms; and links to many other sites. The news service also is interactive through a bulletin board on which readers can share information and viewpoints.