

JUNE 2006

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

## INSIDE

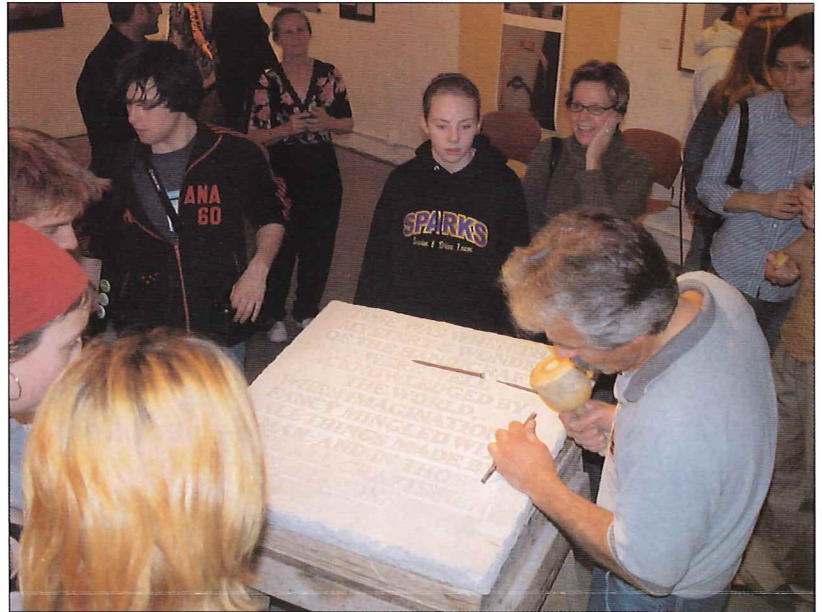
**COMMENTARY:** Mike Cook: T.E.A.M., Inc., to return as an employee assistance program/2



**RECREATION:** Golf Tourney is July 29/9

Mark Wickstrom, BAC Local 1 MN/ND apprenticeship coordinator, demonstrates stone-carving techniques for children and parents attending a Public Art Saint Paul event.  
- Photo courtesy of Public Art Saint Paul.

## Carvers create permanent displays of public art



**M**ASTER stone-carvers from around the world have come to St. Paul to create sculptures that will remain as permanent additions to the area's public arts.

The International Stone Carving Symposium opened May 20 and will run through June 30. Sculptors are working in public view on the lawn of St. Paul College, 235 Marshall St. The event is free and open to the public from noon to 8 p.m. daily.

BAC Local 1 MN/ND is one sponsor of the event. Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Wickstrom, himself a stone-carver trained in Europe, is one of the organizers. The Symposium was planned by Public Arts Saint Paul and drew support from a broad range of organizations, corporations and contractors.

Among the carvers selected to participate are artists from Japan, Germany, Mexico, China, Zimbabwe, Finland and Egypt, as well as six from Minnesota. Each artist will work with a block of stone weighing five to seven tons.



**JIM LUNDQUIST**  
PRESIDENT/  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**FOLLOW-UP**  
*Some using test for pre-hiring screening*

**I**N THE JUNE 2005 *Quarterly Update*, I pointed out that some employers were using a type of a stress test to screen people for employment. We now know more about this testing process which, unfortunately, more and more contractors are using.

The test that we are aware of involves the use of a machine which was apparently designed and manufactured by an organization known as Cost Reduction Technologies (CRT). The

## KEEP IN TOUCH

**LOCAL TELEPHONE**  
612-379-2966

**OUTSTATE & N. DAK.**  
1-800-257-8636

**BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION**  
1-888-880-8222

**FAX**  
612-379-8754

## BENEFITS

Check the Zenith Administrators Web site,  
www.zenithtpa.com  
or phone either  
651-256-1801 or  
1-800-879-4412

Please turn to CARVERS on Page 6

Please turn to LUNDQUIST on Page 3

**T**HE TRUSTEES of the Minnesota and North Dakota Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Health Fund have entered into a new contract with T.E.A.M., Inc., to provide Employee Assistance Plan benefits for participants of the Fund.

**MIKE COOK**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

**T.E.A.M., Inc.,  
to return  
as employee  
assistance  
program**

T.E.A.M. (Total Employee Assistance Management) provides a variety of services from mental health and substance abuse counseling to childcare resources, and can help you and your family through whatever life issues you are experiencing.

T.E.A.M. has worked as Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for the Fund before. Trustees, several years ago, decided to try to save costs by using the International Union's phone-based EAP. While those services were worthwhile, the trustees felt that the hands-on approach of T.E.A.M., together with the face-to-face counseling available as part of the contract, provided extra value to members and will help reduce overall health care costs for the fund.

All participants and covered family members are eligible for services, including:

- Any active member, including apprentices.
- Dependent family members/spouses. (Adult family members may make confidential appointments without the knowledge of the member.)

Services through T.E.A.M. Inc. are free of charge to members and covered family members. These services are provided as a benefit through the Health Fund.

The most obvious thing you should expect from your EAP is service. T.E.A.M., Inc. stresses flexibility, knowledge, responsiveness, and ease of access. They are devoted to seeing members and their families in face-to-face counseling. They will have a presence at your job sites. Contact T.E.A.M. if you have concerns about:



- Depression
- Anxiety
- Stress
- Anger management
- Couples counseling
- Family counseling
- Individual counseling
- Addictions: alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex, Internet, etc.
- Job issues
- Vocational assessment
- Referrals for legal issues
- Referrals for financial issues
- Eldercare issues
- Childcare issues
- Any other life issues

T.E.A.M. Inc. has a network of providers across the country. Simply call T.E.A.M.'s main office number at 800-634-7710 or use the contact information below to schedule an appointment.

**Website:** [www.team-mn.com](http://www.team-mn.com)

**Phone:** 651-642-0182

**Toll Free:** 1-800-634-7710

**For the Hearing Impaired:** 800-627-3529

**E-mail:** [teaminc@team-mn.com](mailto:teaminc@team-mn.com)

*Continued from front page*

machine is named "CRT Isokinetic Functional Capacity Evaluation Device." It appears to us that the primary purpose of this device is to aid employers in determining whether or not people who have sustained work-related injuries are able to return to work. The secondary purpose of the machine is to spot persons with musculoskeletal weaknesses which would make them more prone to jobsite injury. A third use is to determine if persons with work-related disabilities are malingering.

Unfortunately, some employers are using the machine for pre-employment screening and are refusing to hire members who do not score high enough on this test to satisfy the employers. As far as we are aware, there is no relationship between the numerical score calculated by this machine and the actual work that needs to be performed by members. Additionally, there is no process in place to enable the member to demonstrate that he or she can satisfactorily perform the available work. Further, the employers do not make any accommodations for persons who do not meet the employer's arbitrary numerical score on the test.

We have filed a grievance on behalf of a member rejected by one employer. Portions of that grievance have been resolved, but other portions remain and we continue to engage in a dialogue with the employer over the manner, means and method of the testing.

Employers do have the right to reject applicants for employment. If the pre-employment process used by the employer is improper, an applicant must, nevertheless, go through the pre-employment process, unless the pre-employment process would cause him or her injury.

We do not believe that this test is either appropriate or legal. Nevertheless, under the laws developed by the courts and arbitrators, employees must obey all lawful orders and then

## LUNDQUIST

### *Test used for screening*

grieve under the collective bargaining agreement. It is not up to the employees to decide whether or not an employer's actions are correct or incorrect.

Under the circumstances we urge that, if asked, you submit to the testing. If you are told by any of the employers that this so-called functional capacity exam or test has disqualified you from employment, you should immediately notify the Union so that we can file a grievance on your behalf.

We will pursue this matter to ensure that the rights of our members are protected.

## Traveling members must guard benefits

Union contracts are written to cover specific geographic areas. When workers take job assignments outside those areas, even when they're working for the same contractor as usual, their benefits can be put at risk.

In the past several months, we have had problems accepting benefits from contractors who had sent employees out of their contract area to perform work. In some cases, we have accepted benefits and found out later that those hours had not been worked in the jurisdiction governed by our contract. We had no choice but to return the benefits to the contractor, and that meant that for purposes of benefits accrual, the member had lost those hours.

The International Union has been working closely with all local unions across the country to make sure your benefits get returned to your home local. You work hard for your benefits; don't take any chances. If you are considering working in another area or if you have any questions about this, call Local 1 MN/ND at 1-800-257-8636.

Remember, Western Wisconsin is not our jurisdiction.

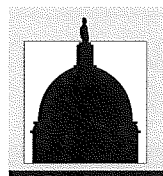
# Health care issues cause most labor disputes

Health care—or the lack of it—is in the news. Fewer and fewer Americans are enjoying employer-paid health coverage and more Americans are going without health care. The number of uninsured Minnesotans has jumped by more than 100,000 since this governor took office in 2002.

You may tend to dismiss health care coverage as a problem only for the poor. Don't. Health care coverage and health care costs have caused most Minnesota labor disputes during the past six years.

Nurses, transit workers and machinists are among groups struggling to maintain health care for members and their families. Your own union has seen costs for health care rise by 63 percent over the past six years.

Minnesota's unions have been working to focus public attention on this issue.



## ELECTION 2006 — Our Issues

The Minnesota AFL-CIO and the Coalition for Affordable Health Care are advocating the Right to Health Care for all Minnesotans. If the Legislature puts the Right to Health Care Amendment on the ballot, you'll be able to vote for it in November.

Nationally, unions are working to make sure that health care is available to all. We're also getting the word out about a couple of health care 'fixes' that do more harm than good.

Health savings accounts do save money—for employers. They're not

much of a bargain for workers. Workers who fall ill or whose family members become seriously ill may find themselves bankrupted by their Health "Savings" Account.

The Massachusetts Health plan also sounds good, but does nothing to fix our busted health care system. It does not hold insurers accountable for their soaring costs—and astronomical profits. Instead it requires all Massachusetts residents to purchase health insurance, making them pay for our nation's failure to ensure affordable health care.

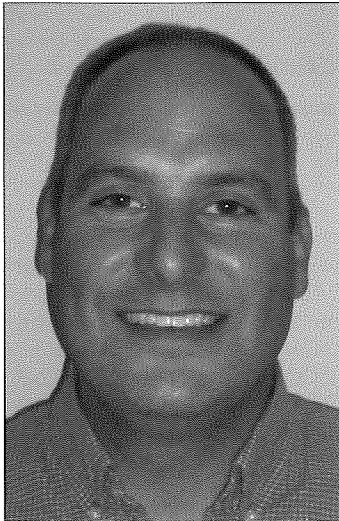
While the Massachusetts legislation offers little hope for working people, Minnesota's plan to establish the right to health care is winning nationwide respect. For more information go to [www.mnafcio.org](http://www.mnafcio.org).



# Local 1 welcomes new field reps

**T**HREE NEW FIELD REPRESENTATIVES are going to work for you, thanks partly to a dues increase approved by members last January.

Two of the positions are new and will help handle work in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area. The third will replace retiring Field Representative Rodney Sletten.



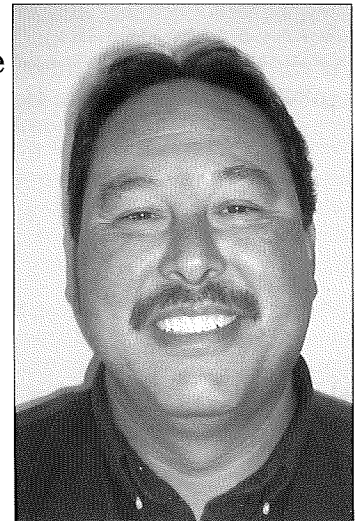
**Douglas Schroeder**

**Douglas Schroeder** started work in the metro area on May 1.

Doug has been a loyal member and active in the union for many years.

He currently serves as recording secretary for the metro area's Chapter 1, and is a trustee on the Minnesota and North Dakota Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Pension Fund.

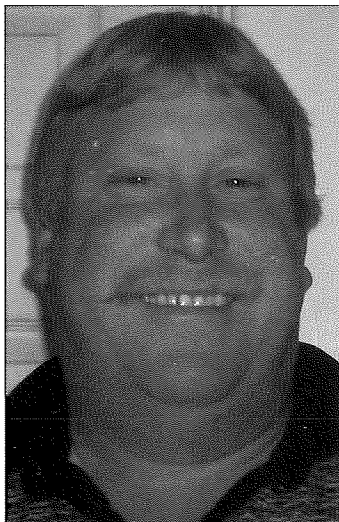
**Terry Wong** begins work June 1, also in the metro area.



**Terry Wong**

Another longtime member, Terry has served on the Negotiating Committee through several contracts.

He also is a trustee on the Minnesota and North Dakota Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Vacation Fund.



**Randy Carlson**

**Randy Carlson** starts June 19 as field representative for North Dakota and Western Minnesota.

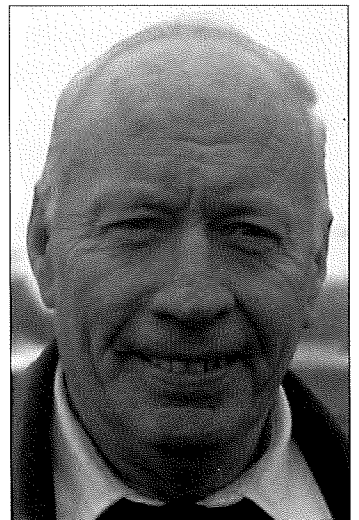
He will be responsible for the large area formerly supervised

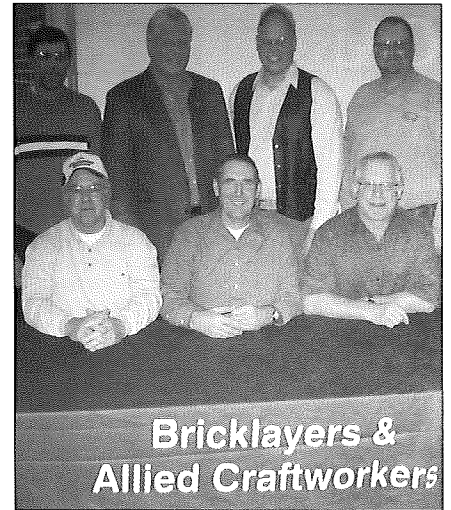
by Rodney Sletten.

A bricklayer and resident of Minot, N.D., Randy was vice president of the pre-merger Local #2-Minot.

## SLETTEN TO BE HONORED

**Local 1 wishes a long and healthy retirement to Rodney Sletten field representative for North Dakota and western Minnesota. Join us in congratulating him at the Bemidji Gold Card Dinner, 6 p.m. June 24 at the Northern Inn.**





**St. Cloud Gold Cards**  
**L**ONGTIME BAC Local 1 members in the St. Cloud area were honored April 1 at a Gold Card Dinner held at the Eagles Club.

Left to right, front, are 25-year-members Steve Posch, Chairman Dennis Ebensteiner and Phil Forcier. Standing are Sergeant-at-arms Vernon Haehn, President Jim Lundquist, Vice President Mike Ganz, and Recording Secretary Loren Tvrdik.

Sitting are 40-year members Gerald Paggen, Al Eynck and Recording Secretary Loren Tvrdik. Standing are Haehn, Lundquist, Ganz and Ebensteiner.

MILESTONES

Ryan Anderson  
 Chad Andrist  
 James Armstrong  
 Shane Bakke  
 James Bartel  
 Gregory Beck  
 Victor Bostan  
 Bobby Bowen  
 Donald Calhoun  
 Saul Castro  
 Adam Christian  
 Dean Day  
 Maria Duran  
 Gregory Erickson  
 Terrance Flood  
 Jerald Geyen

**NEW MEMBERS**  
 We welcome these new members...

Rick Gillispie	Michael Klatt
Jason Grady	Michael Kragness
Gregory Graham	Thomas Kreuser
Brian Granzow	Alan Kuhlman
Dane Grover	Julio Landi
Christopher Haggerty	Lance Lee
Casey Halvorson	Brice Liberto
Jeffrey Hockstein	Michael Lillie
Dennis Jensen	Elmer Livesay
Daniel Jensen	Michael Mansfeldt
Raymond Junge	Harvey McClure
Nicholas Kephart	Jason Monty
David Kimmons	Joshewa Mueller

Jacob Nelson  
 Jeremy Olson  
 Luke Prescott  
 Justin Quade  
 Kevin Relopez  
 Jeremy Roemer  
 Kevin Ryan  
 Yeugeniy Sauchenko  
 Erwin Schieffelbein  
 Patrick Stenberg  
 Adam Stenstrom  
 Joshua Vogt  
 Ronnie Wright



**DECEASED MEMBERS**

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

**MINNESOTA**

**January**  
 Sheldon L. Burns  
 James R. Evenson  
 Michael J. Herbert  
 Larry L. Lauer  
 James A. Sipprell  
 Raymond H. Vik  
 John R. Wagner  
**March**  
 Richard G. Boyd  
 Larry D. Schroeder  
**May**  
 Hal F. Droher  
 Jose A. Huerta  
 Anthony Kotla  
 Lowell D. Newgard

**2005 RETIREES**

We apologize to the members whose names, listed below, were left out of a listing of 2005 retirees printed in the March 2006 Quarterly Update.

John D. Savage	Stanley M. Roemhildt
William R. Thiede	<b>August</b>
<b>June</b>	Eugene Brunette
Lawrence M. Brown	Dale D. Jones
Jr.	Leonard C. Seliga
<b>July</b>	<b>September</b>
James B. Allen	John C. Berg
Wilfried L. Groeger	Phillip O. Gnerer

Oscar Lindberg Jr.  
 Ralph Sauer  
**November**  
 William E. Streu

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**April**  
 Dean A. Carlson  
**May**  
 Raymond N. Ressler  
**July**  
 Donald R. Dronen  
 Larry G. Geiger

**#1MN** – St. Paul  
 Edward J. Knowlan  
**#2MN** – Minneapolis  
 Dennis J. Brennan  
 Thomas E. Davis  
 Oliver A. Foss  
 Donald E. Kukacka  
 Melvin A. Lovaasen  
 Rudolph R. Ness  
 Carl W. Pearson  
 James O. Sweeney  
**#6MN** – New Ulm/Springfield  
 Walter Freitag  
**#18MN** – Metro Tile Layers  
 Robert Blanchard  
 Thomas Hammer  
**#1ND** – Fargo  
 Norman H. Broten  
 Donald Stiller



# CARVERS: Permanent displays of public art are created for 28 sites

*Continued from Page 1*

According to information posted on the Symposium Web site ([www.minnesotarocks.org](http://www.minnesotarocks.org)) the artists have been asked not to design their sculptures until they've seen both the material they're working with and the location where it will be permanently placed. Forty locations were volunteered by participating cities and neighborhoods, and 28 sites scattered across St. Paul, Vadnais Heights and St. Anthony were selected.

"We have asked the artists not to come with pre-conceived ideas about what they will carve," Public Art Saint Paul board member Craig Amundsen wrote on the Web site. "Fundamental to the Symposium idea is human 'conversation' with stone. Artists confront this 'obdurate' material and must come to terms with it – to let it speak to them of what is locked inside. That idea is compromised if artists come with a preconceived idea of what the stone will have to say in this 'conversation'."

"Until they meet together on the first day of the Symposium, the artists will not even know which stone they will work in – limestone, granite and stromatolite are all available and they will sort that out among themselves. They will tour the city to see the sites proposed and by the end of the first week, we expect their decisions to be made."

Wickstrom said the event had been 18 months in the planning, and now "the excitement level is pretty high. This is a major event." Now that it's under way, Wickstrom said, "it seems odd that in a city this size, we haven't had something like this before."

Wickstrom said BAC Local 1 apprentices will be getting an even closer look as work proceeds. He is scheduling teams of third-year apprentices to help out, providing a steady stream of volunteers. "They'll get a chance to see this firsthand," he said.

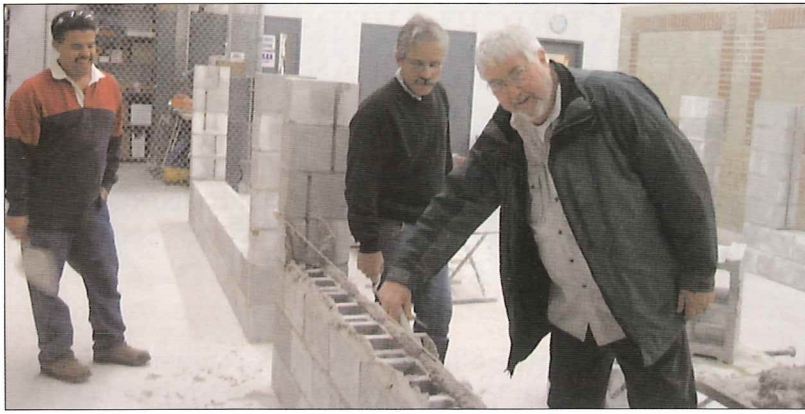


**Finnish sculptor Sakara Peltola, a Symposium participant, provided this photo of his piece, "Mother Stone." The sculpture that Peltola creates will be placed in the Village of St. Anthony, which has a sister-city relationship with Salo, Finland.**

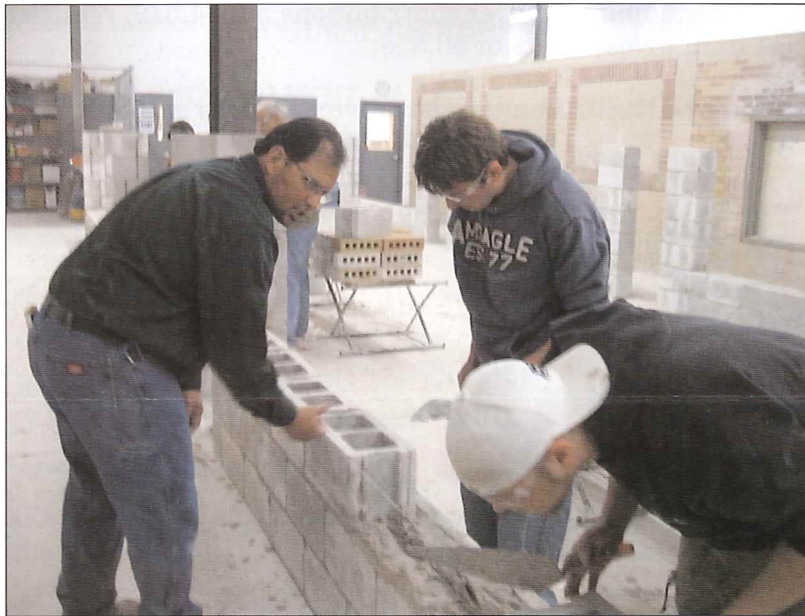


**St. Paul sculptor Craig David created the Czech Immigrant Memorial that now can be seen at the foot of the High Bridge, in St. Paul. David provided this photo.**





Dunwoody instructor Charlie Radloff learns trowel technique from Apprentice Coordinator Mark Wickstrom.



BAC instructor Dave Mensing shows the finer points of mortar placement to Dunwoody students.



BAC instructor Dan Quinlan lets students experiment on cutting brick with a hammer.

# IMI, Local 1 team up to teach Dunwoody Students

**A** VISIT by Dunwoody Institute students has become part of the spring training ritual at the BAC Local 1 MN/ND Training Center in St. Paul.

At the Training Center, students in construction management, project management and architectural drafting have a chance to learn about the International Masonry Institute, how the BAC Local 1 training program works, who the instructors are, and how they can apply what they learn in their own future careers as managers, estimators and drafters in the construction industry.

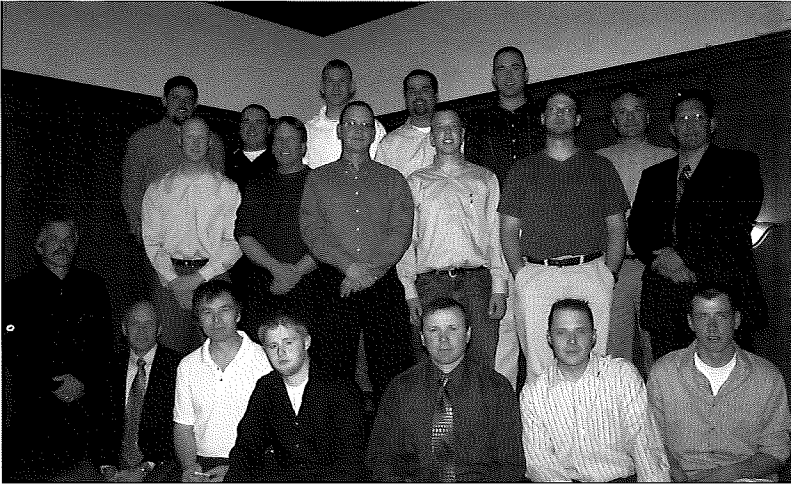
As for all who enter the industry, it is critical for students to have a deeper understanding of materials used in construction and of how important high-quality training is to the success of any project.

Under the watchful eye of Local 1 instructors, Dunwoody students learn to distinguish good workmanship from bad, and the result of good training versus little or none.

– *Olene Bigelow, Minnesota IMI Area Director*

## Apprentices end training

**C**OMPLETING APPRENTICES were honored April 27 at an apprenticeship banquet held at Jax Café.



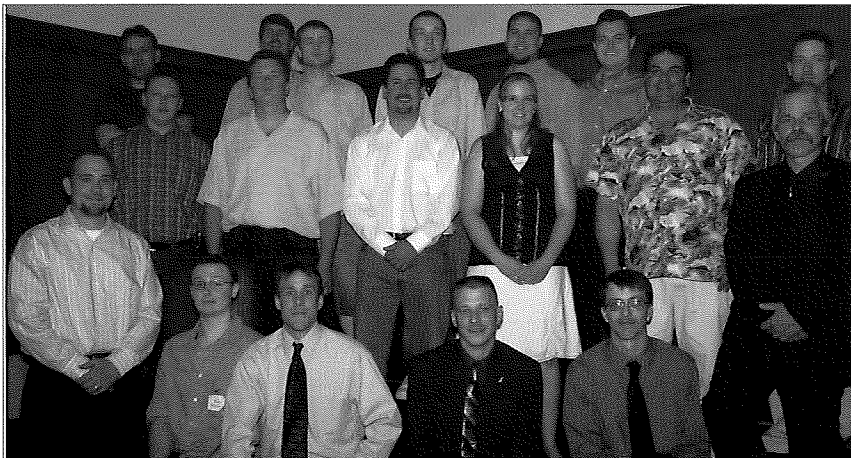
### BRICKLAYERS

Left to right in the top row are Ryan Munsch, Christopher Harrison, Garret Duske, Joseph Fisk, Ryan Mohr and Paul Braun. In the middle row are Mark Utecht, Gregory Jacobs, Ronald Hren, Patrick Hmielewski, Jason Strawn, and instructor David Mensing. In the bottom row are Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Wickstrom, instructor Daniel Quinlan, Mikhail Usachev, Christopher Bell, Grigoriy Pankov, Ian Patterson and Jesse Ferdelman.

### TILE LAYERS

Left to right in the top row are Damir Muratovic, Lance Leslie, Joshua Knight and James Sharpless.

In the middle row are Muhamed Tricic, Renato Susak, Derek Penner, Kenneth Sullivan and Vladimir Partyka. In the bottom row are instructors Rick Martagon, Sam Greenwood and Rod Schmidt, and Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Wickstrom.



### TILE FINISHERS

Left to right in the top row are Safet Rahic, Aaron Anderson, Piotr Rapanovich, Shawn Quinn Jr., Christopher Randazzo and Kent Holthaus. In the middle row are Elvis Ajdimovski, Dzmityr Rapanovich, instructor Rick Martagon, Angela Szczech, Robert Smith and Matt Gade. In the bottom row are instructor Sam Greenwood, Bodhi McKinney, Andrew Gunter, instructor Rod Schmidt, David Martinson, and Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Wickstrom.





## 2006 – 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 4:30 p.m.  
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: June 12, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Nov. 13  
Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale: All metro chapters, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

### Chapter #3 – Duluth-Hibbing

All meetings 7 p.m.  
Duluth, Duluth Labor Center: June 14, Sept. 13, Dec. 13  
Hibbing, Electricians Hall: Aug. 9, Nov. 8

### Chapter #4 – St. Cloud

All meetings 7 p.m.  
St. Cloud Labor Home, 1903 4th St. N.: June 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

### Chapter #11– Mankato-New Ulm

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

### Chapter #8 – Rochester-Faribault

All meetings 7 p.m.  
Rochester, Rochester Labor Hall: Sept. 11, Dec. 4  
Faribault, VFW: Aug. 7, Nov. 6 (Faribault Bean Feed)

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

All meetings at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted  
Bemidji, Elks Club: June 8, Sept. 17, Nov. 9  
Bismarck, AmVets: Aug. 11 (meeting and Gold Card Dinner)  
Brainerd, American Legion: Aug. 3, Dec. 7  
Dickinson, St. Anthony Club, 8 p.m.: Nov. 16  
Fargo, Moorhead Travel Lodge: Aug. 10, Nov. 15  
Grand Forks, N.D., E. Grand Forks American Legion: June 23, Dec. 13  
Minot, VFW: June 9 (meeting and Gold Card Dinner); 8 p.m. Sept. 14; 8 p.m. Dec. 14  
Thief River Falls, VFW: Sept. 13

### BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS LOCAL 1 MINNESOTA/NORTH DAKOTA

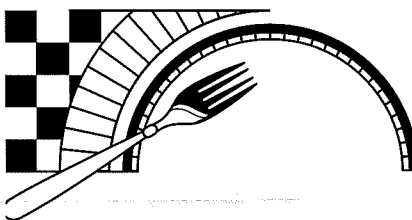
#### NOTES

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

### GOLD CARD DINNERS

Cards will be mailed

#### Metro Area Gold Card Luncheon



Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale  
11 a.m., July 13

#### Chapter #3 – Duluth-Iron Range

Duluth area: Downtown Radisson, 6 p.m., Oct. 13  
Iron Range area: Hibbing Knights of Columbus, Hibbing, 6 p.m., Oct. 14

#### Chapter #8 – Rochester

Rochester Marriott Hotel  
6 p.m., June 2

#### Chapter #15

Bemidji: Northern Inn, 6 p.m., June 24

## NOTICE

**Metro Chapter #1 meetings will switch to 4:30 p.m. from May through November. If a late afternoon meeting works better for you, let us know.**

## Share your stories, pictures

BAC Local 1MN/ND has started a news Sports Page in your *Quarterly Report* newsletter. We invited you to share your stories and pictures with other members – the big ones that didn't get away, the bucks you bagged. Drop them by the office or e-mail us at [local1mn@aol.com](mailto:local1mn@aol.com).

Bismarck: AmVets, 7 p.m. Aug. 11  
Fargo: Moorhead Travel Lodge, 7 p.m. Aug. 10  
Grand Forks: E. Grand Forks American Legion, 7 p.m. June 23  
Minot: VFW, 7 p.m., June 9

### OTHER EVENTS

**Retirees Club Breakfast Meetings**  
9 a.m., Jax Café, Minneapolis  
Sept. 21, Dec. 7

#### Duluth-area Retirees meetings

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

#### Executive Committee meeting

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis, 9 a.m. Oct. 6

#### Semiannual meetings for all chapters – Minnesota and North Dakota

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis, 10 a.m. Oct. 7

#### Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Golf Tournaments

All members are welcome at all tournaments.  
Twin Cities Metro area: Pheasant Acres Golf Club, Rogers  
7 a.m., July 29  
Chapter #3 area: Grandview Golf Links, Duluth  
8 a.m., Sept. 9

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

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

**President**.....Jim Lundquist  
**Editor**.....Merrily Helgeson  
**Design & Production**.....W. F. Cento

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

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



Presorted  
Fist Class  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #4140  
Mpls, MN

## OBITUARY

# Scott Whipps, 38

*First Local #1 member known to have received silicosis diagnosis*

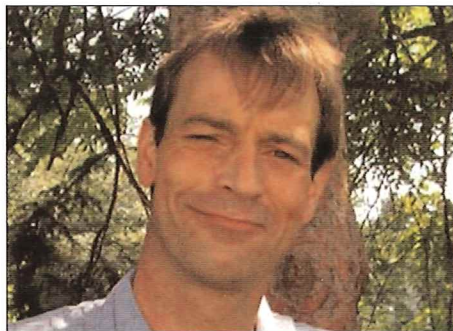
**S**COTT WHIPPS, THE FIRST BAC Local #1 member known to have received a diagnosis of silicosis, died Feb. 5 of a lung infection. He was 38.

Whipps, who had been in declining health for more than five years, had entered Regions Hospital, St. Paul, on Feb. 3 for treatment of aspergillus, a fungus that can grow in damaged lungs. After one lung was removed he never regained consciousness, his father said.

Silicosis is a condition of lung scarring resulting from inhaled silica dust. Bricklayers are at risk, as are all who work around construction dust.

Whipps's father, Harvey Whipps, also is a bricklayer. He said his son had urged him to get a chest x-ray to see whether his lungs showed signs of silicosis, but "I didn't want him to worry about me," so he didn't do it. After Scott's death, though, his father said he did get an x-ray. When he saw the results, he stopped working.

"I have scarring in my lower lungs and, as they say, that's typical of people who



**Scott Whipps**

work in dusty conditions," Harvey Whipps said. "It isn't a critical thing, but I'm a 63-year-old bricklayer and I work with many bricklayers who have probably been subject to as much or more dust as I have.

"Scott, maybe his body didn't tolerate it all that well, but I know that if all the people were to have a chest x-ray, they

would find evidence of this."

Harvey Whipps said he would like to see unions take a stronger stand to protect workers from airborne construction dust, not just bricklayers but electricians, laborers and others who work alongside them.

"You violate a lot of professions by putting dust in their face," he said. "I'm not blaming anybody specifically, but these handheld dry-cutting blades are just about in everybody's face."

Kelly Kopka, Scott Whipps's fiancée, said she suspects that other bricklayers have silicosis but don't know it. "They probably think they've got bad colds," she said. "You can carry this disease for 10 years and not know it.

"I find it very hard to believe that Scott was the only one in Minnesota who had it."

## FYI

New union contracts are tightening restrictions on dry-cutting. Members are urged to use either wet-cutting techniques or saws equipped with high-efficiency dust control systems. Those seeking more information on silicosis can contact the Local Union at 612-379-2966 or 1-800-257-8636.