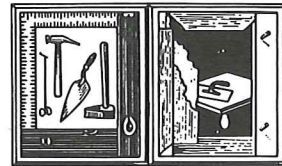


QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Bricklayers
- Stone Masons
- Tilelayers
- Marble Masons



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

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 5

MARCH 1995



Bricklayer John Johnson (third from left) joined fellow tradesmen in front of a Belle River, MN, church for this 1916 photo. Story on Page 3.

Program recovers 750,000 work hours for union workers

The Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Market Recovery Program – launched in May of 1994 to take back work from non-union contractors – has recovered more than 750,000 work hours for union men and women and has gone over the \$100 million mark in total construction dollars.

The program's goal is to secure building trades project agreements on construction jobs, and by last December it had targeted 47 jobs in the jurisdiction of Minneapolis

Please see RECOVER on Page 5

Quarterly Update has a new look

We hope you've noticed *Quarterly Update's* new look and that you approve of the changes we've made in both appearance and content.

The changes are designed not only to make our newsletter easier to read, but also to provide additional articles that will help keep you better informed about our local's progress, problems and activities.

While topics will vary, *Quarterly Update* will include

Please see LOOK on Page 8

Contract talks get under way

Contract negotiations got under way in December 1994 and last February for bricklayers in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud areas, and meetings are being scheduled in Mankato.

A preliminary meeting has also been held with the Minnesota Ceramic Tile Contractors Association.

A conflict over language dealing with subcontracting slowed down talks at two bargaining secessions with the AGC and MCA for Twin Cities bricklayers, but further meetings are expected in April.

President Gary Goblirsch met with independent contractors in the Chapter 4 St. Cloud area in February and again in March, and Chapter 11 in Mankato should begin talks soon with independent contractors.

Members will be kept posted as negotiations progress, and you'll be notified by mail as soon as there are settlements. ■

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

GARY GOBLIRSCH: Benefit funds achieve new highs/3
APPRENTICES: Completion Banquet will be April 27/4
RETIREES: Next meeting will be March 23 at Jax/5
PEOPLE: Members honored for long service/6
KEEPING UP: Meetings, dinners, golf tournaments planned/8

C O M M E N T A R Y

The Twin City Bricklayers Health and Welfare Fund and the Pension Fund are both continuing to achieve new highs in their levels of service for members and retirees. While our self-insured health plan is providing solid benefits and cost-effective coverage for our members, the Pension Fund is making payments to a record number of retirees and their beneficiaries.

The Bricklayers Health and Welfare Fund operates as an insurance company with one important difference — no middle man. All contributions to the Fund provide benefits, defray administrative costs or provide reserves. No profits are paid; no advertising dollars are spent. Only bricklayer families benefit.

In 1993, the cost of coverage for each active participant was \$331.97 a month. Although audited figures are not yet available for 1994, the Plan performed beyond expectations and we added to our reserves. This has allowed us to drop “reinsurance” or insuring against extremely high claims by a large percent of participants. This will result in even greater cost efficiencies in the future.

As we all know, the cost of health care coverage has spiraled over the last decade. In 1985, the insurance cost for each participant was \$186.97 a month; the contribution rate was \$1.41 an hour.

WHILE IT COSTS THE PLAN nearly twice as much today as it did in 1985 to provide benefits for bricklayer families, we still have been able to balance the ledgers, provide solid benefits and lay the foundation for future benefit improvements.

The Health and Welfare Plan Trustees look to you for input on the types of benefit improvements that would be meaningful to your family. By balancing the books (costs, contributions, benefits) and carefully exploring

new options, the Trustees hope to provide great health care benefits for union members not only now but in the future.

WHILE OUR FINANCIALLY SOUND Health and Welfare Plan was providing security for our members, the Pension Fund was helping provide economic security to more retirees and their beneficiaries than ever before. As of Jan. 1, 1994, the Plan was paying \$256,238 a month to 535 retirees and \$14,457 to 68 beneficiaries.

That was more than \$3.2 million a year in benefits.



GARY GOBLIRSCH SAYS

Health and Pension funds continue to achieve new highs

This is quite an increase from 1983, when the Plan disbursed \$35,996 a month, or just over \$430,000 a year, to retirees.

I have served as a trustee of the Pension Plan since 1986, and I am convinced that one reason for the Plan's success is the close working relationship the labor trustees have with management's trustees. Both sides have only one goal in mind: Improving pension benefits for retirees and their beneficiaries.

The Plan awarded 39 new pensions in 1993. Eighteen were regular pensions, 16 were early pensions and 5 were disability pensions.

In future issues of *Quarterly Update* we'll take a closer look at the different types of benefits the Fund provides. ■

As of Jan. 1, 1994, the Plan was paying \$256,238 a month to 535 retirees and \$14,457 to 68 beneficiaries.

PEOPLE

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1



Profile: The trade has been good to Vernon Johnson and his father, who came from Sweden for better life

John Albert Johnson was a traveling man. His destination was the elusive Depression-era jobs that might be starting in Chicago, Galveston or Ohio, and his cross-country companions were his wife, Hilda, his sons, Vernon and Lloyd, and his camera.

"My dad was a bricklayer who went where the work was, and we went with him," said Vernon Johnson, who retired from Local 1 in 1990. "We traveled in a 1926 Buick, and we stayed in little cabins along the road. In the morning, my mother would buy a big loaf of bread and lunch meat, and that carried us through the day. I went to 13 schools. I was always the new kid on the block."



"My dad (left) loved his family, his union and the Democratic Party," says son, Vernon (right), who believes the trade has been good to him, too.



John Johnson's traveling ways actually started in 1913, when he left Sweden with his twin brother, Pete, for a better job and a brighter future in the new world. Johnson's first stop was a lumber camp in Canada. But in 1916 he came to Minneapolis, joined old Local 2, married and started raising a family. But when the Depression struck, jobs were few and far between, and John Johnson was back on the road.

"Minnesota bricklayers had a little easier time finding work than most," Vernon said, "because they had a reputation for a good work ethic and quality work".

OCCASIONALLY THERE WERE JOBS in Minneapolis, but all too often, Vernon said, the family had to move when the rent came due.

"There was no welfare, but from time to time we were on relief — bricklayers put their trowels away when the first frost hit. I can remember walking to a place to get a pair of shoes. And my dad and I went with a sled to get groceries and clothes. We didn't have a car."

By the mid 1930s, President Franklin Roosevelt had instituted the W.P.A. and N.R.A., and men like John Johnson, Coast-to-Coast Johnson, Lake Street Johnson and Hungry Carlson began building Minneapolis and the history of Local 1, brick by brick. "The Armory was

the best job around, and my dad started there in 1936," Vernon said. "Bricklayers worked two, six-hour shifts so more men could be put to work. My brother and I used to go to the Armory and wave at dad. But he didn't straighten up for very long.

"The three foremen on the job — Leonard (Spider) Johnson, Dave Norman and Waldemar Peterson — really put the fear of God into their men. And there was always a group of guys sitting on the curb across the street waiting to take your place."

Jobs were scare again during World War II, Vernon said, but his dad stayed in the union and always tried to pay his dues.

"My dad loved his family, his union and the

Democratic Party," Vernon said. "He was only 5 foot 8, but he was 5 feet 8 inches of dynamite. When he talked, my brother and I listened, and he was just as tough as a union man. When dad died in 1976, he was a 60-year union member."

ALTHOUGH MUCH OF JOHN JOHNSON'S LIFE revolved around work and his union, Sunday was a day for fun, and John Johnson's well-worn photo album shows a handsome and dapper young man taking his sons to the park and to parties.

Construction picked up again when World War II finally ended. Vernon, discharged from the Army Air Force in 1946, joined the Laborers Union and then became a Local 2 apprentice in 1948. His salary was \$1.12-1/2 an hour.

"Bricklaying was a tough trade in those days — a lot of bull work," Vernon said. "It was too tough for my brother. He's a business representative now for the Industrial Chemical Workers in Southern California. But I have no regrets."

The trade was good to him, Vernon said. It helped him raise a family, he never filed for unemployment insurance and he never borrowed a nickel from his dad. And he built a brick house with two brick fireplaces. □

PEOPLE



CHRISTMAS PARTY



It was a tossup whether Santa's promise of gifts or ventriloquist Ian Varella's antics attracted the most attention when several hundred children and their parents and grandparents celebrated Christmas early Dec. 3 at Local

1's Children's Christmas Party in the United Labor Centre. While Varella and his "talking" friends, top photo, delighted party-goers, other children acquainted Santa with the dreamed-of items on their Christmas wish lists.

Apprentices to be honored on April 27

The long hours of school and training will soon be only a memory for graduating apprentices who will be honored at an Apprenticeship Completion Banquet April 27 in the Normandy Inn, Minneapolis. New apprentices sworn in at the December meeting are pictured top photo, left to right, front row, Jeremy Dahlback, Derek Johnson and Chris Netland; back row, Shakib Nadem, Robert Frahm, Karen Hiebert and Shawn Hoffmann. Posing for the camera in the bottom photo, are left to right, front row, John Rathke, Dustin Voight and Steve Montanes; back row, Jon Nunn, Derek Fetzer, Dan Charbonneau and Mark Demoe.



PEOPLE

Next Retirees Club meeting will be March 23 at Jax Cafe

Retirees meet at 9 a.m. the fourth Thursday of every third month at Jax Cafe in Minneapolis. The next meeting is set for March 23. Sharing

holiday plans at the December breakfast were retirees (right photo, left to right): Ed Hofmeister, Kenneth Palmer, Ed Oen, Harold Stener, John Turnbull and Don Hofmeister. A speaker is usually featured at each gathering.



Chapter 18 Keystone Representative

Norm Nelson, a member of OFG Financial Services, Inc., is the Keystone retirement account representative for Chapter 18 tilayers, finishers and shop men. For details, contact Nelson at (612) 373-9477.

Are you thinking about retiring?

If you're considering retiring, contact Gary Goblirsch at the Union Office three months in advance to fill out the necessary papers. □

RECOVER: Program reclaims 750,000 hours

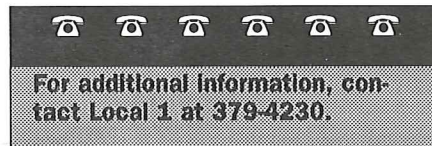
Continued from Page 1

and St. Paul building trade unions.

Project agreements have been reached on 24 of these targeted jobs, and all have signed all union agreements. Four other projects have been re-bid.

Targets were pulled on two jobs, two jobs went union without using the target, one project bid is on hold, and 14 projects were lost.

At the end of 1994, 24 building trades unions – including Local 1 –



were contributing \$5 per member per month to fund the effort, which committed \$720,000 up to Dec. 31 with the 24 targeted jobs. Chapters 4 and 11 will join the targeting program on May 1.

Presentations have been made to the remaining unions, and a Market Recovery representative said they appear positive about

joining the program.

While individual unions in Minnesota and elsewhere have operated job-targeting programs in the past, never before has a comprehensive market recovery program been attempted on such a broad, multi-union scale.

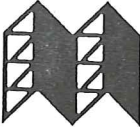
The program uses job-targeting, bid supplements and other strategies to encourage project owners to agree that all contractors and subcontractors will employ union labor and abide by the terms of union contracts. □

Scholarships offered

Minnesota AFL-CIO scholarship application forms are available to members who plan to attend college or a vocational-technical school this year or have children who are graduating high school seniors.


The state federation offers eight, \$1,000 scholarships for graduating seniors and four, \$500 Martin Duffy Adult Learner Scholarship Awards for union members.

For information, call the AFL-CIO office, 227-7647. □



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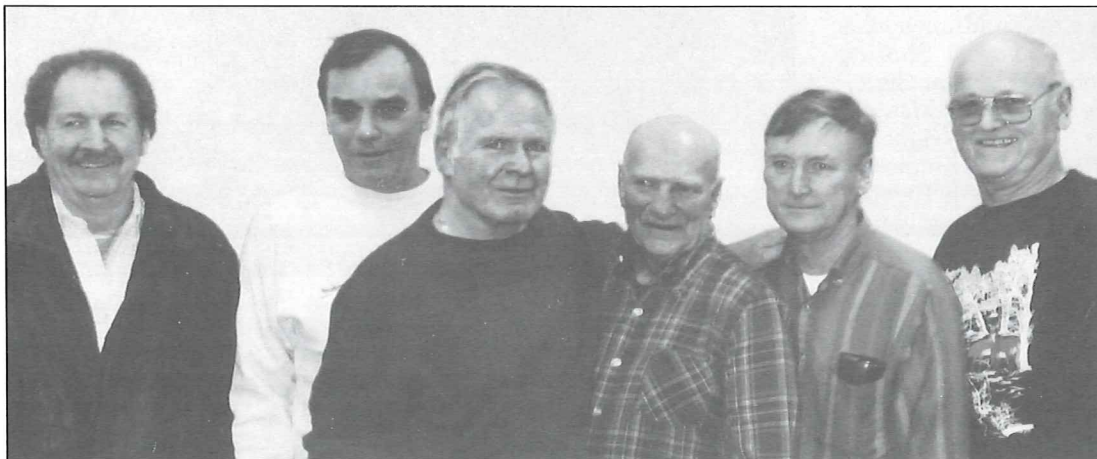
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• U. S. Government Agency

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PEOPLE



HONORED FOR SERVICE



Congratulations were in order at Chapter 18's December meeting when six tilelayers (left to right) Leroy Olson, Jim Iskierka, Sam Glirbas, William Senescall, Lloyd Swanson and Ken Schumacher received pins. Senescall received a 40-year pin; the other five members, 25-year pins.

Congratulations to our new 25, 40- and 50-year members.

25-Year Members

- Patrick Boettcher
- Ronald D. Christensen
- Randall Fedder
- Lowell Halvorson
- Edward Juberian
- Roger Majeski
- Richard Wozney
- John Zahler
- James Zemke

40-Year Members

- F. Abrahamson
- Thomas Andersen
- Lester Arndt
- Robert Barker
- Leonard Barrieau
- Raynold Bolstad
- Robert Bratrud
- Fred Braun
- Robert Broberg
- Maurice Burch

- Marvin Cook
- John Cramsie
- Virgil Dahl
- Arnold Deutsch
- Frank Dukowitz
- Fred Edenloff
- Albert Ellingsberg
- Eugene Emerson
- Arthur Fischer
- Ernest Frederick
- Albert Georges
- Raymond Gunderson
- Harold Halverson
- Albrecht Hamann
- Floyd Hanson
- William Heller
- James Herberg
- Robert Hogge
- Herman Jedneak
- Dennis Johnson
- Douglas R. Johnson
- Frederick Kehren
- Reno Kehren
- Roger Koland
- Ronald Landborg
- Fred Lautizi

- Vernon Leek
- Robert Lindmeier
- Alcuin Linn
- Robert Lofgren
- Roy Lommel
- Leslie Lorentson
- Louis Lucas
- Edward Lutz Jr.
- Gerald Macki
- Roland Nerison
- Arnold Olson
- Wayne Paschke
- Zenas Patterson
- George Paulsen
- Ronald Pavlak
- Emil Pearson

- Floyd Person
- Herbert Pichelman
- Gerald Rakotz
- Richard Rasmuson
- Norbert Rau
- Frederick Reins
- Andrew Remer
- John Ricker
- George Ruter
- Dave Sarvela
- Devon Sautter
- Richard Schmidt
- Arnold Schroeder
- Eilt Schroeder
- Harold Schwartzbauer
- Arnold Soma

- Maynard Sowden
- Douglas Squires
- Richard Sternberg
- Gordon Toner
- Dale Wagner
- James Wedan

50-Year Members

- Anker Christensen
- Ronald L. Christensen
- Orville Classen
- Richard Lommel
- Jack McKenzie
- Jack Pearson
- Stanley Swensen Jr.
- Leroy Williams

NEW MEMBERS

- Jeffrey Anderson
- Shawn Blackburn
- Michael Churilla
- Dale Heard
- Kenneth Hill
- Leon Kral
- Garrett Lamb
- Gregory Larkin
- Leslie Mattson
- Joseph Miettinen
- Hayes Quickstrom
- Michael Graham
- Romolo Caponi
- Nick Quigley
- Craig Nelson
- Cory Patraw
- Richard Hirsch

DECEASED MEMBERS

We are sorry to report these deaths:

NAME	CHAPTER	DATE
Ernest Gerdt	No. 11	Nov. 1994
Oliver Kuivinen	No. 1	Nov. 1994
Lloyd Jorgenson	No. 4	Nov. 1994
Harry Pangburn	No. 2	Dec. 1994
Ralph Ludden	No. 18	Dec. 1994
Vernon Sylte	No. 2	Dec. 1994
Marvin Sigstad	No. 1	Jan. 1995
Randall Tollefson	No. 1	Jan. 1995
Gustav Greiner	No. 2	Jan. 1995
G.W. Christenson	No. 1	Feb. 1995

Jack Turnbull's wife died in December 1994. We extend our sympathy to Jack and to the families and friends of our members.

NEW RETIREES

- Ronald Baertsch
- Ronald L. Christenson
- Richard Hadd
- Deelee Kriesel
- Arnold Olson
- John Ricker
- David Rose
- Warren Spaeth
- Frederick Fors
- Floyd Hanson
- Roger Janke
- Donald Leonard
- Eugene Simon

GUEST COLUMNIST

Future of our union depends on understanding regionalization

By Dan Llewellyn

Region 7 Director

AN IMPROVED ECONOMY is making the difference in Region 7. Work is excellent in most of our area, membership is up and we've been able to sign up many new contractors.

Regionalization is complete in Iowa. Some locals in other states have been merged. We're making progress on establishing an organizing campaign in Omaha, where we now have a full-time organizer.

Many members have told me and their local and chapter officers that they do not understand what regionalization is all about, or what regional councils and regional directors do.

Let me give you some information about the structure our union is taking. The future of our union depends upon every member understanding regionalization.

There are three areas to discuss: regionalization, Regional Councils and regional directors. I'm going to start with the easiest, the role of the regional director. I'll discuss regionalization and the Regional Council in future columns.

As your regional director, my job as a representative of the International Union (IU) is to coordinate the activities of local unions through our Regional Council, which is the body that puts into practice IU policies in this area. I chair the Council.

It is also my job to protect BAC's jurisdiction in our region. I work closely with the IU staff and local union officers and keep close watch

Meeting rescheduled

The Regional Council meeting has been rescheduled from February to April 20 in St. Louis. ■

on any new products or processes that impact on the crafts in our union, so that they do not become the work of some other union.

Additionally, I provide assistance when necessary to the local unions in our region with organizing, industry development, communications, education and management of union resources. I also help local unions keep abreast of changes in the economic environment and work with them to prepare and conduct collective bargaining.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS also work closely with the International Masonry Institute. We work with other building trades in our area, both to obtain more work for union members and to protect our jurisdiction. More importantly, regional directors are advocates for

individual members. We work closely with local union and chapter leaders to ensure that we have units that members feel are theirs.

Here are the members of your Regional Council:

Jim Kavanaugh, business manager of Local 1, Missouri, and vice president of region 7; Gary Goblirsch, president of Local 1, Minnesota, and vice president of Region 7; Joe Schonlau, financial manager of local 1, Missouri; Ed Holt, business manager of Local 3, Missouri.

Darwin Morris, business manager of Local 4, Missouri; John Eglich, financial secretary of Local 4, Missouri; Julian Distler, business manager of Local 11, Missouri.

Greg Brengle, business manager of Local 18, Missouri; Bob Bartak, business manager of Local 1, Nebraska; Don Hydeman, business manager of Local 1, Kansas; Chris Aldrich, business manager of Local 2, Kansas; Mike Doggett, President of Local 3, Iowa, and Don Samuelson, business manager of Local 15, Minnesota. ■

Ex-leader Gordon Christenson dies at 86

Gordon W. Christenson, who became business agent for St. Paul bricklayers in 1952 and was instrumental in establishing health, pension and vacation benefits for members, died Feb. 26 of congestive heart failure. He was 86.

Christenson learned the bricklaying trade while working for his father, Christian Christenson, a prominent Twin Cities masonry contractor. He later worked for his brother, Mike, before becoming business agent. While serving Local 1, Christenson also was secretary-treasurer of the

Minnesota State Conference of Bricklayers. His service was not confined to the bricklaying trade. An advocate for education, especially vocational education, Christenson was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the St. Paul Board of Education in 1961 and served until 1971, when he moved to Cottage Grove.

Local 1 President Gary Goblirsch, who visited the Christensons shortly before Gordon died, said memorials can be sent to the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota. ■

KEEPING UP



CHECK YOUR CALENDAR FOR IMPORTANT DATES

April 1

All April chapter meetings will be held at 10 a.m. at 312 Central Ave., Minneapolis (2nd floor). This includes Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 11 and 18.



May 2

Chapter 11 meeting. 7 p.m. Teamsters Hall.

Mankato.

May 3

Chapter 4 meeting. 8 p.m. 1903 4th St. N. St. Cloud.

May 4

Chapter 6 meeting. 8 p.m. 16-1/2 Marshall, above Police Station. Springfield.

May 9

Chapter 18 meeting. 8 p.m. Griggs Midway Bldg., Room 319, 1821

University Ave. St. Paul.

May 11

Chapter 1 & 2 meeting. 7 p.m. Labor Centre. 411 Main St. St. Paul.

June 1

Chapter 6 meeting, New Ulm.

June 6

Chapter 11 meeting. 7 p.m. Teamsters Hall. Mankato.

June 7

Chapter 4 meeting. 8 p.m. 1903 4th St. N. St. Cloud.

June 12

Chapter 1 & 2 meeting. 7 p.m. 312 Central Ave. Minneapolis.

June 13

Chapter 18 meeting. 8 p.m. Griggs Midway Bldg., Room 319, 1821 University Ave. St. Paul.

OTHER EVENTS

March 23

Retirees Club meeting. 9 a.m. Jax Cafe. Minneapolis.



April 27

Apprenticeship Completion Banquet. 6:30

p.m. social hour,

dinner at 7:30 p.m. Normandy Inn. 405 S. 8th St. Minneapolis.

June 5

Bricklayers Retirees' Golf Tournament. Crow River Country Club. Hutchinson.

June 16

Gold Card Dinner. Thunderbird Hotel. Bloomington.

July 29

Bricklayers Golf Tournament. Pheasant Run. Rogers.

LOOK: Quarterly Update changes appearance, content; readers' ideas welcome

Continued from Page 1

articles on contract negotiations, fringe benefits, activities in each of our chapters, upcoming events, our apprenticeship program, members and retirees,

decisions and rulings that impact labor, and state and national legislation that affects all of us. We will continue to publish quarterly. This is YOUR newsletter and we welcome your

ideas for stories and your suggestions. We want to print the kinds of articles that you want to read and that will encourage you to be a more active member of Local 1. □



QUARTERLY UPDATE

Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen Local #1 of Minnesota
312 Central Avenue, Suite 328
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On the Cover: *Contract talks get under way*