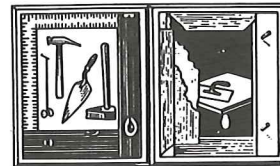


QUARTERLY UPDATE

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



VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2000

WHEN Ron Alberg began working with ceramic tile in 1958, there were so many people looking for work that you had to know somebody to find a job. Even then, the work wasn't steady, and Alberg sometimes found himself back home on the farm in Princeton.

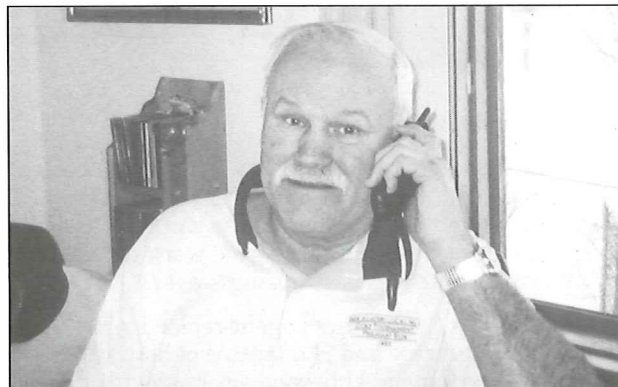
By the time he had retired Feb. 1, union tilesetters and helpers had all the work they could handle. "A month ago, we were looking for people-couldn't find them," Alberg said in January. "Contractors are telling me this spring it's going to be just as busy as it was last year. We're in a boom. It's been a boom for three or four years now, and they're telling me the next couple of years, it's going to be really strong."

LIKE A SMART INVESTOR, Alberg bought low and sold high in his lifetime career in union work. Just short of his 60th birthday, he retired Feb. 1 as field representative for ceramic tile for Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1. He and his wife will split their time between Arizona and a lakeside home near Brainerd.

Alberg, who spent 10 years as a tilesetter's helper before apprenticing under teacher Matt Etten, began working for the union almost by accident. It was 1981, the tilesetter's union was on strike, and the union's business agent died. "Originally, they appointed Matt

RON ALMBERG RETIRES

Golfing, fishing will be pastimes



RON ALMBERG
Building boom will continue

Etten to take his place," Alberg said. "Matt decided he didn't want to be the business agent, and he asked me if I wanted to do it. I said, 'I'm not working right now, so I might as well.'"

Alberg handled the job for the next 11 years, working as the union's only employee and handling the job out of his home. When the tilesetters and bricklayers merged in 1992, Alberg moved into the office in Minneapolis as a field representative.

OVER HIS 18-plus years of work for the union, Alberg has seen feast and famine, strikes and reconciliation. He arrived in the job at about the time that President Ronald Reagan fired the nation's air traffic controllers, and he participated in the demonstrations and turmoil that resulted.

During his first year on the job, 1981, workers all over America-and all over the Twin Cities-were going out on strike and runaway inflation was threatening construction work. A recession began in 1982, and construction workers were hard-hit. They accepted a wage freeze in 1984 and 1985, Alberg said, and "I think for three years we didn't take any (increased) wages."

During the same period, though, a new spirit of cooper-

ated in the demonstrations and turmoil that resulted.

Please turn to ALMBERG on Page 7

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

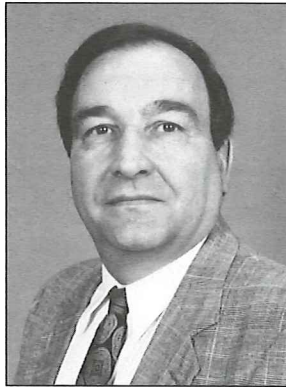
GARY GOBLIRSCH SAYS: Retirements lead to staff changes/2
SPOTLIGHT: Attend your precinct caucus/3
BRIEFS: Scholarships available for members, children/6
KEEPING UP: Clip calendar for important dates/8

COMMENTARY

OUR LOCAL UNION is going through a major transformation. The retirement of some of the union's longstanding and dedicated business agents has led to significant personnel changes in the office staff.

As we honor those who have served the membership so well, we also have a chance to welcome new faces. These are people who will add to the list of those working to make the bricklaying trade a dynamic force in trade unionism.

Les Cave, business agent for the St. Cloud area, and Ron Almberg, our link with the ceramic tile industry, have each announced their retirement. We will miss both of these dedicated business agents, and wish them well in their future endeavors.



GARY GOBLIRSCH SAYS

RETIREMENTS LEAD TO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE OFFICE STAFF

Dick Kentzelman has taken office as a business agent, effective Feb. 7. Dick has been our instructor at the apprenticeship school that is run in conjunction with the St. Paul Area Technical and Vocational Institute. Dick's years with the apprenticeship school program will serve him well as a background to working as a business agent for the union. Dick has gotten to know most of our apprentices quite well, and has a good working relationship with the membership. We look forward to the skills that Dick will bring to the union as business agent.

MIKE HAWTHORNE CAME ON BOARD as the business agent replacing Ron Almberg as of Jan. 17. Mike has had extensive experience in the ceramic tile industry and is a trustee of both the Ceramic Tile Trades Retirement and Health and Welfare trusts. Mike's duties will be expanded beyond working with the ceramic tile industry. Ron Almberg has agreed to stay on as a union trustee representing the membership on the ceramic tile industry trust funds until April 30, 2000.

Currently, we are working on plans to redefine the territories where each of the agents will have primary responsibility. All agents will be checking to see that work of any character that falls within the Constitution of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers is properly being performed by union Craftworkers.

Dan Quinlan has moved from the Donald R. Frantz Company to the apprenticeship program as the new instructor. Dan brings many years of excellence in the bricklaying trade to his position as instructor. We look forward to working with Dan and to continued improvements in the recruiting, training and retention of well-qualified union bricklayers. All operations of the apprenticeship school will be moving to the school site at 417 Broadway Street, St. Paul, as of March 1.

Please turn to GARY on Page 7

NO DUES, NO MEMBERSHIP!

Members of Local 1 who are delinquent in paying their dues risk losing their membership.

The IU Constitution states that if dues are three months in arrears, the member will automatically be dropped from membership. All members behind in their dues receive delinquency notices. President Gary Goblirsch said:

"Local 1 members will be given the benefit of the

doubt and carried for four months."

After four months, members will automatically be dropped, and they will have to pay all of their back dues and an \$80 reinstatement fee to rejoin the local.

Members who are reinstated more than one time shall, for all purposes of their death benefit, forfeit all years of service accrued prior to the date of their most recent previous reinstatement. ■

SPOTLIGHT

ATTEND YOUR PRECINCT CAUCUS

Reform Party

March 7, Tuesday
7 p.m.
612-939-6601
www.reform-mn.org/caucus

Republican Party

March 7, Tuesday
7 p.m.
651-222-0022
www.gop-mn.org

Democratic Farmer-Labor

March 11 or 12
Saturday or Sunday
9 a.m. (in most cases)*
651-293-1200
www.dfl.org

For caucus location and time in your area, contact the party or your county auditor.

* Your DFL caucus will be followed immediately by your district convention. You can attend just the caucus, or stay for the convention.

What is a precinct caucus?

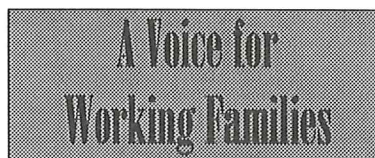
Caucuses are neighborhood meetings held by political parties to discuss community, state and national issues. They are the first step in choosing candidates for public office and developing party agendas.

Who can participate?

Anyone who lives in the precinct, will be eligible to vote on Nov. 7, 2000, and supports or is likely to support the party's candidates.

What will happen at my precinct caucus?

- Vote in a presidential preference ballot.



- Elect delegates to party conventions where candidates are endorsed.

- Discuss and vote on resolutions about current issues.

- Choose local party officers.

What if I have to work?

State law says your employer must give you time off to attend a caucus, if you give at least 10 days' written notice.

If you're unable to go to your caucus for any reason, you can send a letter with a friend requesting to

be elected a convention delegate.

LET CANDIDATES KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU.... *Propose these working family resolutions at your caucus:*

EDUCATION – Resolved that our party supports 1. State funding of the basic education formula for kindergarten through high school, sufficient at least to keep pace with inflation; and 2. full state funding for all programs that public schools are mandated to implement.

MINIMUM WAGE – Resolved that our party supports increasing both the federal and the state minimum wage to raise minimum wage workers above the poverty line.

HEALTH CARE – Resolved that our party supports expanding eligibility for MinnesotaCare (our sliding-fee health coverage program for low-income working people) to all individuals and families who do not have employer-based coverage, are not old enough for Medicare and cannot afford health insurance at market rates.

QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES – Resolved that our party supports requiring private firms or organizations that receive contracts for public work to pay wages and benefits comparable to those earned by public employees of the contracting jurisdiction who perform similar work.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT – Resolved that our party supports critically needed funding for Minnesota's roads, bridges and public transit systems and a fair method of raising the revenue.

OUR BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE – Resolved that our party supports the constitutional two-chamber structure of Minnesota's Legislature and urges appropriate changes in rules and procedures to ensure a legislative process that is transparent and accessible to ordinary citizens.

For background on these resolutions, call the Minnesota AFL-CIO, 1-800-652-9004.

PEOPLE

New members...We welcome the 101 new members who have joined Local 1 since September 1999.

Fermin Alcantara Sr.
 Michael Barclay
 Earl Barthe Jr.
 Dennis Bassett
 Patrick Baxter
 Gary Beitel
 Mark Brown
 Dawn Buchal
 Chad Burmeister
 Robert Claffey
 Jay Copp
 Gary Davis
 Nathan DeBlois
 Juan Diaz
 Joshua Dochniak
 Travis Dollerson
 Shawn Doyle
 Aleksandr Dubovoy
 Paul Dunbar
 Alphonso Dunkley
 Pedro Esquedz
 Gerald Franzen
 Marc Frederickson
 Shad Fredman
 Keith Gallmeier
 Mark Garrett
 Brian Green
 Andrew Hanson
 John Harrington
 Thomas Harrington
 Enes Hegic
 Erik Hendrickson
 Marshawn Hester
 Jason Hickerson
 Adam Hufstedler
 Steven Ives
 Hamza Jasencevic
 Douglas Joyce
 Keith Kantor
 William Kemp
 Leonard Kester
 Andrew Kooiman
 Paul Kowal

MILESTONES NOTED

New Delegates named to Minneapolis Building, Construction Trades Council

New delegates were appointed Dec. 8 to the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council. Named to represent Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers No. 1 on the Council from Nov. 1, 1999, to Nov. 1, 2002, were:

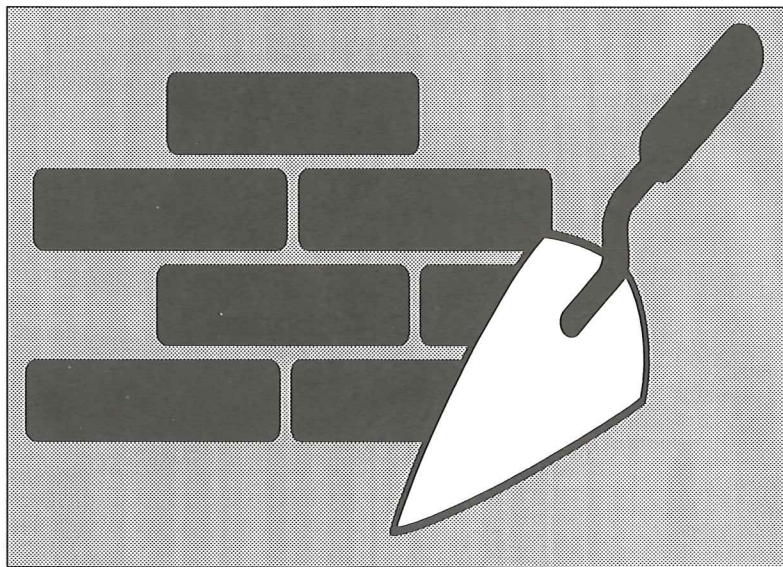
Roger Buirge
 Michael Cook
 Gary Goblirsch

Michael Hawthorne
 Richard Kentzelman
 James Lundquist

Dale Lamb
 Brett Larson
 Jeffrey Larson
 Robert Lawler
 James Lecy
 Michael Lentz
 Paul Lommel
 Paul Long

Richard Maw
 Joseph Miettinen
 John Miller
 Robert Moore
 Michael Muehlstedt
 Ilijaz Mujdzic
 Joshua Munkeby
 Christopher Nelson

David Ninas
 Joseph Novack
 Wayne Ott
 Keith Oxborough
 Jeffrey Pelletier
 Sergey Petrashov
 William Pettis
 Douglas Pfeffer Jr.
 Randy Piha
 Anthony Pouliot
 Adam Reichow
 Richard Robideau
 Christian Roulez
 Claudett Roulez
 Robert Ruedy
 Brian Sandberg
 Charles Schuler
 Charles Schultz
 Jeffrey Schuster
 Marvin Siegel
 Daniel Smith
 Shane Snesrud
 Donald Stearns
 James Stenquist
 Steven Style
 William Sullivan
 Thomas Tassinari Jr.
 Julian Taylor
 Tony Thill
 Brian Thompson
 Edgar Triana
 Kevin Turck
 Shawn Turcotte
 Cameron Vasser
 Jay Voegele
 Joseph Warren
 Jonathan Weber
 Scott Welch
 Thomas Westman
 Thomas Wiltse
 Irvin Woodson
 Gary Yokiel



We are sorry to report these deaths and extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

Donald Berryhill
 Frank Brummer
 Virgil Busch

Robert Callahan
 Delwin Cohrs
 Jerome Gresser

Alfred Hanson
 Philip Haugen
 Walter Jaseniuk

John Newburgh
 Egils Ozols
 Gerald Rakotz

James Seifert
 Walter Slatoski
 Glen Smith

Merle Sweezo
 Dale Wagner
 Bjarne Westberg

PEOPLE

Longtime members honored

Tile Layers Chapter 18 honored longtime members at a December Gold Card dinner. Honorees (left to right) were Larry Cook, 25 years; Bill Gallagher, 40 years; Steve Funk, 25 years; David Hochstedler, 25 years, and Jim Wallner, 25 years. At extreme right is Mike Hawthorne, Chapter 18 Chairman.



Officers sworn in

Tile Layers Chapter 18 swore in new officers in December. Pictured (left to right) are Matt Etten, retired chairman; Mike Hawthorne, chairman; Kevin Waldon, sergeant-at-arms, and Jim Osiecki, recording secretary.

New officers

New officers for Bricklayers' Chapter 1, St. Paul, are (L-R) Robert Steinbring, sergeant-at-arms; Dan Quinlan, recording secretary, and Richard Burt, chairman.



B R I E F S

Scholarships available

It's scholarship time again for Local 1 members and their sons and daughters. The Minnesota AFL-CIO is offering eight \$1,000 scholarships – some for vocational-technical education, others for college-and four Martin Duffy Adult Learner Scholarships for use at any post-secondary educational institution.

Winners (who must plan to enroll at a Minnesota school) will be chosen by lot from among academically-qualified applicants who are union members or their dependents. Postmark deadlines are April 20 for Minnesota AFL-CIO scholarship applications and April 30 for Martin Duffy Scholarship applications. Contact the state AFL-CIO, 651-227-7647, for information and application forms.

A reminder

With the start of the new year, it's important that we update our member records. Please notify Local 1 in writing if you have had a change in address or phone number. Also, if you have been recently married or divorced, welcomed a new child or had a death in the family, we must be notified so that your designated beneficiaries can be changed.

New Wage Allocations

On Saturday, Jan. 8, 2000, 107 members of the St. Paul and Minneapolis chapters of the union met to make the allocation to wages and the various fringe benefit funds for the wage increase to take effect May 1, 2000. The membership discussed various options, and settled on the following allocations:

International Union Pension Fund	\$.25
Local Union Pension Fund	\$.25
Local Union Vacation Fund	\$.47
Local Union Health and Welfare Fund	\$.02
International Masonry Institute (Promotion)	\$.02
Local Dues	\$.09
International Dues	\$.02
<u>Wages</u>	<u>\$.23</u>
Total:	\$1.35

The \$1.35 increase in pay that was allocated was the third increase under the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the union and contractors, and is in effect from May 1, 2000 to April 30, 2001, for the metropolitan area. Included with this newsletter is information regarding the effect the increased contributions will have on pension benefits. The additional contribution to the Vacation Fund brings that total to \$2.00 per hour of work. The modest increase in the Health and Welfare trust fund contribution comes as a result of positive experience in our health care costs along with good investment performance. Though the national trends show health care costs experiencing inflation at a much higher rate than inflation for any other sector of the economy, the Twin City Bricklayers Health and Welfare Fund has been fortunate to control costs without sacrificing benefits. ■



Vacation Plan trustees Richard Gilbert (left) and Robert Julkowski (right).

Vacation plan interest payments total \$130,000

Trustees of the Twin City Bricklayers Vacation Plan are pleased to announce a \$130,000 interest payment to the membership. All members who meet the minimum participation standards of the plan are to receive an interest payment, with checks to be mailed March 15.

The vacation fund is paid in two installments each year, in addition to any declared interest payment. Seventy percent is paid in May of each year, representing a vacation benefit, and the remaining 30 percent is paid in November as a holiday benefit.

Interest payments are declared in January of each year and are paid in March, when earnings have been sufficient. Participants who do not receive their checks by April 1 should call Lisa Adolphson at Zenith Administrators, 612-835-7035.

Vacation fund earnings pay first for administration, with the balance going as an interest dividend to the membership. Trustees strive to keep administrative costs low, so as to maximize the interest payments. ■



Internal Revenue Bulletin (IRB) (Notice 88-120, 1988-2 C.B. 454) Sec. 170 - Charitable Deduction

Union dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deductible as a necessary business expense. Please check with your tax preparer for the proper treatment on your individual tax return. ■

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

ALMBERG: *Times are prosperous*

Continued From Page 1

ation grew up that AlMBERG partly credits for today's improved labor environment. Twin Cities corporations joined together with contractors and union leaders to work out differences before reaching the impasse of a strike. "They got together and said, 'we've got to stop these strikes, they're killing us,'" AlMBERG said. "They were killing the unions too.

"THEY STARTED WORKING for peaceful coexistence, and it's really worked good. It's really changed the construction industry in the Twin Cities."

Improvements in technology helped too. The invention of new ceramic tile adhesives tripled tilesetters' productivity, and turned around a growing tendency to view

ceramic tile as an unaffordable luxury.

UIONS THEMSELVES MADE innovations that have paid off, AlMBERG said. The market recovery program has been a big success, he said. And so have no-strike/no-lockout agreements, in which unions promise not to strike a job if contractors, in return, promise to use only union workers. It works, AlMBERG said, largely because unions are such a reliable source of skilled labor.

AlMBERG said he is looking forward to his retirement, to golfing and fishing. He believes Minnesota's construction workers are in a time of prosperity, and that unions nationally are growing in strength. ■

FROM PAGE 2

GARY: *Retirements lead to changes*

Continued From Page 1

Our present apprenticeship coordinator, Mike Cook, will be leaving the apprenticeship program and coming into the office to work with me on special projects.

Mike's skills have been critical in leading our apprenticeship program into a new era in which day school has replaced night school, training has become more intensive, and opportunities for lifetime improvement in the trades have been developed. Although the apprenticeship program will surely miss Mike and his many skills, he will be a welcome addition to the staff.

MARK WICKSTROM WILL REPLACE Mike as the apprenticeship coordinator, effective March 1. Mark has had extensive experience in the bricklaying trade, and is known for the excellence of his stonework. He had regularly worked with the International Masonry Institute, demonstrating techniques in working with complex stonework and other masonry projects.

Mark will continue to have responsibility for some IMI project work, as well as leading our apprenticeship program into the future.

Mike Cook and Dick Kentzelman will continue to be resources for Mark Wickstrom and Dan Quinlan as they master their new roles for the apprenticeship program. With this caliber of leadership, the apprenticeship program will mark solid gains for the bricklaying

craft well into the future.

Along with these changes in the office staff will come changes in the trustee positions for various funds.

I have resigned as a trustee of the Twin City Bricklayer Health and Welfare Trust and have appointed Mike Cook to that position. I will continue in an informal role as an advisor to the union trustees, particularly with respect to the contracts that are coming up for renewal with all of the various service providers to the fringe benefit trust funds.

I will continue to work as a trustee for the Twin City Bricklayer Pension Fund, and in the immediate future will be serving on the Vacation Trust Fund.

MIKE COOK also will be taking my trustee position with the Apprenticeship Trust Fund.

Mike's experience with the apprenticeship program puts him in a perfect position to act as a union trustee overseeing the management of the trust fund.

The future is bright and exciting for the membership of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Local No. 1.

Employment remains strong, our fringe benefits continue to expand their coverage and new members are being actively recruited to keep our numbers strong.

We, as a union, are well positioned to lead our members into a secure and profitable new millennium. ■

'We...are well positioned to lead our members into a secure and profitable new millennium.' – Goblirsch

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 23, June 22, Sept. 28,
Dec. 7.

Chapter 11-Mankato

7 p.m., Teamsters Hall
March 7, May 2, June 6, July cancelled,
Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Nov. 7,
Dec. 5.

Chapter 4-St. Cloud

7 p.m., St. Cloud Labor Home,
1903 4th St. N., in the basement,
March 1, May 3, June 7, July cancelled,
Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Nov. 1,
Dec. 6.

Chapter 6-Springfield

8 p.m., American Legion Hall
March 2, June 1, Aug. 3, Nov. 2.

Chapter 6-New Ulm

8 p.m., American Legion Club,
13 South Minnesota
May 4, July cancelled, Sept. 7,
Dec. 7.

Bricklayers and Allied

Craftworkers Golf Tournament

NOTE

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



Saturday, July 29

Executive Committee Meetings

March 30,
October 5-10 a.m.

Chapter 1&2-Minneapolis

7 p.m., Second Floor,
312 Central Ave. SE.
June 12, Aug. 14, Dec. 11.

Chapter 1&2-St. Paul

7 p.m., Labor Centre, 411 Main St.
March 9, May 11, July cancelled,
Sept. 14, Nov. 9.

Chapter 18-Tilelayers

7 p.m., Second Floor,
312 Central Ave. SE
March 14, May 9, June 13, July

cancelled, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Nov. 14, Dec. 12.

Other Events

Semi-Annual meetings for Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 18

10 a.m., Second Floor
312 Central Ave. SE
April 1, October 7

Gold Card Dinners

(cards will be mailed)
Chapters 1 & 2 Only-June 16
Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington MN

Chapter 6 Only-April 29
Springfield Legion, Springfield MN

Chapter 11, Mankato-April 28

Chapter 18 Only-December 12
312 Central Ave (2nd floor),
Minneapolis MN

Children's Christmas Party

9:45 a.m., December 2
312 Central Ave., Second Floor

Apprenticeship Banquet

Thursday, April 27



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PAGE 1: RON ALMBERG RETIRES

