Union Members Set Minnesota Milestone with Arriscraft®
By Patricia Johnson

In September 2010 a ground breaking ceremony was held for the new Mayo Clinic Radiation Oncology Treatment Facility in Northfield, Minn.

In February of this year the facility began taking shape thanks in part to BAC Local 1 MN/ND Union members. The facility will be the first of its kind in the state of Minnesota to feature an exterior made of primarily Arriscraft® Building Stone, nearly 6,000 sq. feet of it.

Continued on Page 2

LaborCare Health Fair
April 9, 2011 • 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Minneapolis Convention Center

The largest health fair in the country will have a new look this year! Bigger and better with an even greater focus on family events and education. This year the enhanced children’s area will feature a climbing wall. And for adults there will be lung function and vascular testing among other events. Bring an item to drop off for the food shelf and no pre-registration is required this year. Just come and register at the door for a chance to win prizes totaling $50,000. Will you be taking home a hotel stay or Minnesota Twins package or perhaps a 50” television or a 4-wheeler?

You should have received informational mailings in January and February. Look for another mailing in March. For additional information, log onto http://www.lchalfair.com/. You’ll find Facebook and Twitter links here, too.

Come and make this the best BAC Local 1 MN-ND Health Fund turnout ever!

The April Semiannual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the LaborCare Health Fair on April 9, 2011. The location is the lower level, Hall J, adjacent to the main Health Fair room at 9 a.m.

The Tile Informational Meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. immediately following the semiannual meeting. All members and spouses are welcome to attend the meeting. Parking is free with a voucher.
Chapter Nominations

There will be Special Order of Business meetings for nominations of all Chapter Officers during the month of September for all Chapters. These positions include Chairman, Recording Secretary, Sergeant-At-Arms and the Negotiating Committee. Two members for each craft can be elected to the Negotiating Committee in each area where there are negotiations. Here is your chance to get involved and be part of the Negotiating Team. The Chapter meetings are scheduled as follows:

Chapter #1 – Metro Area: Monday, September 12, 2011, United Labor Center, 312 Central Avenue, 2nd floor, Minneapolis, MN, 4:30 p.m.

Chapter #3 – Northeast Minnesota: Wednesday, September 14, 2011, Duluth Labor Center, 2002 London Road, Basement Hall, Duluth, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #4 – Central Minnesota: Wednesday, September 7, 2011, St. Cloud Labor home, 1903 4th Street, St. Cloud, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #8 – Southeast Minnesota: Monday, September 12, 2011, Rochester Labor Temple Building, 11 4th Street SE, Rochester, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #11 – Southwest Minnesota: Thursday, September 1, 2011, Eagle’s Club #269, 708 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato, MN, 7 p.m.

Chapter #15 – Northwest Minnesota and North Dakota: Thursday, September 15, 2011, Bemidji Elks Club, 116 4th Street NW, Bemidji, MN, 7 p.m.

Local Union Nominations

There will be a Special Order of Business meeting for nominations of all Local Union Officers in conjunction with the semiannual meeting on October 1, 2011, United Labor Center, 312 Central Avenue, 2nd floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 9:00 a.m. The positions include: President / Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice president and three Vice Presidents.

A list of qualifications for both Chapter and Local positions will be printed in the June and September issues of Quarterly Update.

Bemidji Regional Events Center

In our December 2010 issue of Quarterly Update, we overlooked a subcontractor who also worked on the Bemidji Regional Events Center. We apologize for this error.

Exterior Building Services, Inc., located in Bloomington, MN, worked on site early in the project (summer 2009) spraying on approximately 900 gallons of Grace Perm-A-Barrier® Liquid Air and Vapor Barrier. Union members Dave Williams and Todd Smiley completed the work within two trips. “It’s a beautiful facility,” Williams says. “We really liked working with Cons Masonry.”

The company, owned by Williams along with his brother Rod, Tamelyn Holter and Jim LeDuc, will team up with Grace Products at the BAC Apprenticeship Training Center to demonstrate proper installation of the product. “We did training earlier in the year and it was quite packed,” Williams says similar training was done earlier in the year with outstanding attendance. Visit the Web site for future training dates.
From the President
Mike Cook, President/Secretary-Treasurer

“Right to Work” is a Rip-Off

You might have heard the media hype about the so-called “right to work” law that the Minnesota Legislature is currently considering. It is important to set the record straight. This is particularly true for Union members since much of what we have worked so hard to build over all these years is at risk.

So what does “right to work” mean for you? What it really means is the right for anti-union employees to freeload at our expense. Anti-union employees could work under our union contracts and take advantage of our higher wages and benefits without paying a dime in return. The costs for the union to represent and refer out these anti-union employees would have to be picked up by you and your fellow union members. They get the referrals and representation, they get the work for nothing, and you pick up the tab. This is why “right to work” is a rip-off.

Why are the anti-union forces pushing for this legislation? They see it as a way to divide and conquer the unionized workforce. If they can encourage people to freeload, they can pit brother against brother and they can undermine our finances and our bargaining power. We need to make our voices heard to stop this attack on our traditions and our strength. Please make your voices heard to your political leaders, to your friends and family, to your fellow union members, and to the public.

Because you care about your job and the future of your Union, contact your Minnesota Senators and Representatives, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, and make your voices heard that “right to work” is a rip-off.

For a complete list of representatives in your area, log onto www.leg.mn. Scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your address under “Who Represents Me?” then click Search.

Local Union Vacation Fund

Dues will be taken out of the Local Union Vacation Fund for February 2011 through January 2012 for those members signed up on this program. Please send in your IU membership cards to be stamped up-to-date after you receive your receipt. Those bricklayer members living or working in the Duluth area can have their dues taken out of the Hermantown Credit Union on a quarterly basis. If you did not work during 2010 you must send in a check to keep your dues current.

Negotiations Update

There is some unfinished business left from 2010 regarding negotiations. The Ceramic Tile contract was combined so that one contract covers the states of Minnesota and North Dakota. This includes both Tile Layers and Tile Finishers. However, the wages have not been finalized for western Minnesota, North Dakota and the Duluth area. We have continued to work in these areas under the terms of the old contract. We also continue to meet and hope to finalize the wages for these areas soon.

We are now in Federal Mediation trying to settle the Terrazzo contract. We are continuing to work under the terms of the old contract just like we have with the Ceramic Tile. We hope to finalize this contract soon.

The Marble Shop Workers and the Material Handlers also continue to work under their old contracts. We have discussed this contract with the employer and should complete the contract soon.

What’s Up in 2011

The CMU Insulation Contractors signed a one year agreement in 2010 which covers both Minnesota and North Dakota. This contract will be open in 2011 and we hope to get a multiyear contract that will get us back on the same contract cycle as the Masonry contractors in Minnesota.

The Masonry contracts for the entire state of North Dakota will expire in 2011. The Eastern contract covers the main cities of Fargo and Grand Forks. The Western area contract covers the main cities of Bismarck and Minot. Contract talks will start soon in these areas.

The Masonry contract in Northwest Minnesota also expires this spring. We will be sitting down with the contractors in this area to begin negotiations soon.

We will post results on our Web site at bac1mn-nd.org as negotiations proceed and as contracts are completed with all of these areas and crafts.
2011 Journeyman Upgrade Schedules

Upgrade Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/14/11</td>
<td>Glass Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/4/11</td>
<td>Stone Patch</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/18/11</td>
<td>Marble Wire</td>
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All classes are held at the Apprenticeship Training Center in St. Paul. Training runs from 7:30 - 3:30 p.m.

OSHA 30 Day Classes will be held every Monday for 8 weeks at the Apprenticeship Training Center in St. Paul.

5/3/11 - 5/7/11 7:30-3:30 p.m.

Effective March 1st

On March 1st, there is a suspension of stipends for the workers readiness program except for MSHA training in the Duluth and Iron Range workers. Reimbursements for other outside training has also been suspended.

Save the Date

March 29
7:30 a.m.

Arriscraft International, Inc. will be presenting on their Thin-Clad Stone and Ashlar products. The seminar will outline the different ways the Thin-Clad materials can be used in exterior and interior veneer environments to building cladding systems. Seminar will be held at the Apprenticeship Training Center in St. Paul.

7:30 - 8:00 a.m  Welcome
8:00 - 9:30 a.m  Arriscraft Lecture
9:30 - 11:00 a.m Hands-on Demo, Mock-up, Discussion, Closing Remarks

Open Training Center

The Apprenticeship Training Center is now offering all members the opportunity to use the center's mockups to practice tasks that they may not perform on a regular basis while on the job. Please call 651-487-5500 to schedule. Let us know what you would like to work on and we will have it set up and ready to go.

Scholarships and Grants Now Available!

Act fast. Deadlines are soon.
Many scholarships are available to Union members and their families. Log onto the links below.

National AFL - CIO: www.unionplus.org. Click on “Legal & Education”.

The Minnesota AFL - CIO: www.mnaflcio.org Click on About Us>2011 Scholarships.

The North Dakota AFL - CIO: www.ndaflcio.org Click on “Scholarship Information.”

International BAC: www.bacweb.org Click on “Training, Education, & Safety”.

The Building Trades Credit Union: www.mbtfcu.com Click on Forms & Information>Forms>2011 Scholarship Application.

January 5, 2011

Dear Trustees:

As you may be aware, Zenith is experiencing longer than usual hold times. The increase in call volume is attributable to multiple issues such as health care reform, claims backlog, and routine year-end claims questions. Although typical for this time of year, our recent claims system upgrade, the level of public uncertainty about health care reform, and the numerous related mailings have magnified the problem.

We are using every resource available to manage these issues:
1. We are hiring temporary employees to help manage the claims volume.
2. We are offering overtime to any employee who is interested.
3. We are establishing new call queues that will allow more of our staff to take dental specific calls.
4. We are notifying the providers and members who are on hold that they can access benefit information, such as forms, eligibility, and claims details at www.zenithadmin.com.
5. We are also notifying the providers and members who are on hold that they can email inquiries to Zenith at zenithmn@zenithadmin.com.

We understand the inconvenience this creates for you and your staff, but I appreciate your continued support as we work the problem to a successful conclusion.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darrin Drosky
Branch Manager
Minneapolis, MN
Apprentices Swearing In on January 10

January 10, 2011 during the Chapter #1 meeting in Minneapolis, Chairman Kentzelman swore in six apprentices: Tim Lepage, Andre Carpenter, Kenny Rodriguez, Rudolfo Adams, Jason Dibbern and Spenser Dowd.

Oakdale, MN
Gold Card Dinner on December 13 at the Prom Center

Chapter #1 members received their 25-year pins at the Prom Center at the annual holiday meeting on December 13, 2010. Pictured are: Executive Vice President Mike Hawthorne, 25-year members Bruce Wohlfeld, Joseph Larson, Joel Larkin, Troy Savage and President Mike Cook.

Northfield
Building Installation

Mike Schermerhorn and Rob Williams begin installing the stone unto the channels.
Arriscraft Thin-Stone Solutions

By Craig Swirzon, Arriscraft Product Manager

Arriscraft International has been around since the late 1940's and has been known during that entire time as a 4" full-bed stone masonry veneer manufacturer. As the company grew and evolved we realized that there were other systems and methods for installing stone on walls and we started looking at new ways to help increase the wall share of our stone masonry products. This led to the development of our ARRIS®-tile and ARRIS®-clip Thin-Clad Renaissance® Units. The intent of this article is specifically to focus on the benefits of the ARRIS®-clip product line.

ARRIS®-clip originated from some lessons learned working with materials such as metal panel, terracotta rainscreen, glass and metal curtain wall. ARRIS®-clip is a 1-3/8" thick Calcium Silicate Stone Unit that is hung or suspended from a suitable substrate on a family of extruded aluminum channels.

While full-bed masonry remains the corner stone (pun intended) of Arriscraft Internationals product offering there are many times where an alternative solution to full-bed masonry makes more sense and a lighter curtain wall solution is more effective. ARRIS®-clip still remains in the masonry section since the stone is still part of the system and it takes a mason to truly make the stone "sing" in the wall; the only difference is how the stone is installed.

Some examples to prove our point would be the University of Akron in Wayne. This project included a 20' cantilever off the end of the building where to suspend full-bed masonry would have been a significant engineering feat. Using a lighter system that could be suspended from the substrate had significant advantages and instead of having to use metal panel to try to save weight this allowed the architects to use stone cost effectively.

Another example is the University of Toledo's Snyder Hall in Columbus, OH, which was slated for demolition. Since a re-use application would require the re-use of the existing structure a light weight stone solution was required so it would tie into the existing buildings and re-use the existing structure. Many options were considered and in the end it looked like tearing the building down and constructing a new one was the only option that would work. That was until ARRIS®-clip was suggested as an alternative. The project team saw the possibilities in the system and decided to move forward with re-cladding the building in a tight eight month design and construction schedule.

The Virtua Healthcare Facility in Washington Township, NJ, was always going to be a curtain wall type of installation and ideally stone. One of the design ideas was to create the appearance of stone "floating" over glass. Natural stone hung off the wall was going to be too expensive and full-bed added significant structure which presented its own challenges. ARRIS®-clip was the perfect solution since it created the lighter walls. The system being used to create the soffit installation created the appearance of stone "floating" over glass.

Other interesting concepts for ARRIS®-clip material include barrel vaults, high rise ARRIS®-clip installations like the 32-story Mirabella Assisted Living Condos in Portland, OR, and open rainscreen installations like the Virtua Hospital in Voorhees, NJ, and soldier course stack bond applications.

Masons installed all of the highlighted projects and as noted above the material is specified in Division 4 due to the stone component. In the end ARRIS®-clip opens up the possibilities for using stone in the wall for designers and this creates opportunities for not only us as a company but also the masons across the country.
During 2011, many BAC Local #1 members will be celebrating significant anniversaries of having joined the union. Marking milestones will be these valued longtime members, who are listed under their original locals:

Larry Roepke  
Michael Sellnow  
Douglas Sigfrid  
Thomas Simon  
Michael Tripp  

#10 MN-Faribault  
25 Years  
Robert Greene  

50 Years  
Howard Finley  
Lester Voss  

#21 MN-Albert Lea  
50 Years  
Harold Furland  

#23 MN-Tilelayers-Duluth  
50 Years  
Floyd Mann, Sr.  

#107T MN-Terrazzo Workers  
25 Years  
Larry Deelstra  

50 Years  
Raymond Kimmes  

#16 MN-Hibbing/Virginia  
25 Years  
Joseph DeBaere  

#18 MN-Tilelayers-Metro  
25 Years  
Gary Burns  
Stanley Cluba  
Brian Cole  
Ricardo Dengel  
Kevin Duggan  
Steve Holthaus  
Tim Mohrbacher  
Daniel Muller  
Randy Redding  
Douglas Sandstrom  
David Sandstrom  
Patrick Schmitt  

40 Years  
Gordon Shelquist  

#3 MN-Duluth  
25 Years  
Philip Fish  
Dale Jones  
Steve Karich  
Lyle Larson  
Richard Stronach  
Kyle Warren  

50 Years  
David Biros  
Norman Bunting  
Edwin Eckert  
Floyd Haeg  
Victor Hennig  
LeVern Ketcher  
Earl Lavoy  

#4 MN-St. Cloud  
25 Years  
Kurt Lommel  
Jim Oster  
Jon Packard  

#3 ND- Grand Forks  
25 Years  
Thomas Anderson  
Larry Jallo  
David Reuther  

40 Years  
Larry Schornack  

#2 MN-Minneapolis  
25 Years  
Paul Ackerman  
Jon Bell  
Clayton Berg  
Mark Bergstrom  
Philip Brink  
Loren Davis  
David Ficek  
Allen Fuhrmann  
Grant Johnson  
Dale Kes  
Brion Klande  
Michael Kraemer  
Ronald Lewis  
Darin Luoma  
Harold Martens  
Ricky Morris  
Daniel Peterson  
Peter Reid  

#6 MN-Springfield/  
New Ulm  
40 Years  
Kenneth Paa  
Charles Tastel  

#1 ND-Fargo  
50 Years  
David Haug  
Richard Keil  

#8 MN-Rochester  
25 Years  
Dennis Jostock  
David Petersen  

50 Years  
Richard Wyborny  

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“Hanging on to the old while embracing the new.”

By Mark Wickstrom, Minnesota Director

On January 3 of this year, IMI offered the first training session that specifically dealt with AAC or (Auto claved Aerated Concrete). The session went well and was for the most part accepted by those present. The result at the end of the day was that BAC Local 1 MN/ND registered its first 18 certified AAC installers and three more of our Signatory Contractors were exposed to the qualities and characteristics of AAC.

Mixed audiences can be interesting. I later heard from one of the Contractors in attendance state the following; “AAC is really a fascinating and interesting material, but it seems that it may have trouble gaining a foothold because some of your journeymen don’t seem to like installing the product.” I found the comment very interesting and very disturbing at the same time.

If there are new materials and new systems laid at our feet, we should be picking them up to learn more about them. We should be curious about the new work opportunities, and attempt to learn which steps we will need to take in order to gain the strongest market position. To exercise resistance or indifference to these new materials will not get us too far.

Resistance to a new idea or technique is normal. Our trade has always been challenged with holding on to our traditions all the while facing headlong into the winds of change. Change and innovation are constant and often don’t warn you exactly when the next opportunity is coming. If we are faced with inevitable changes to methods used to build masonry in the future, I will do everything I can to encourage our members to prepare themselves so that they may take the greatest advantage of these new developments.

On Tuesday March 29, 2011, there will be yet another opportunity to attend multiple presentations on new materials and systems. At the time of this publication, arrangements are being made to offer a full day of presentations in coordination with the following distributors:

• Arriscraft thin cladding system – A factory representative will be giving a lecture about the Arriscraft thin cladding products. A factory installer will also be present to exhibit the actual installation process. Arriscraft will also be highlighting other samples from their Ashlar pattern product line.

• Vapor Barrier Sprayed Products – A representative from EBS (Exterior Building Services), will be giving a lecture on substrates and the application of various spray membranes to those substrates. Hopefully, there will also be a hands-on presentation from this vendor as well.

• Grace Industries – A representative from Grace Industries will be speaking about Grace Industry spray on membranes and their line of vapor barrier sheet products.

This will truly be a tremendous opportunity to gain access to information about the emerging technologies that are filtering into our industry. To reserve a spot, please call the BAC Local 1 MN/ND Training Facility at 651-487-6500. Or call me at 612-332-2214. As soon as the official brochure is completed it will be posted on the Apprenticeship Web site at www.bactraining.org.

To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit www.imiweb.org.

Real Estate, Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning/Administration
Rosene, Haugrud & Staab, Chartered
PHONE: 651-227-6621 • FAX: 651-297-6642
EMAIL: Mail@rhschtd.com

Our law firm has been General Counsel for BAC Fringe Benefit Funds in Minnesota since 1985. We are a full service firm, dedicated to providing quality legal services. Our firm has received an A.V. rating from Martindale-Hubbell (highest possible rating on legal ability and ethical standards.) Our practice area includes Real Estate, Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning/Administration. For additional information or an appointment, please contact us.
MEMBERS

#1 MN-St. Paul
Neal Barrette
Bruce Braccini
Douglas Carlson
Kenneth Dahigren
David Dewitt
Steven Fedder
Brian Freeland
Harold Hatch
Stephen Hoffman
Virgil Jabs
Mark Katzenmeyer
Douglas Maros
Robert Marshall
Ronald Nordeen
Merle Richter
Mahlon Schweiker
Richard Sigstad
Richard Stanley
Thomas Tate
Bruce Wohlfel

#1 ND-Fargo
Craig Larson

#2 MN-Minneapolis
Alan Barbeknecht
Michael Blumberg
Randy Clark
Thomas Hackler
Ronald Jones
Mark Lindquist
Richard Livingston
James Lundquist
Herbert Mielke
Vernon Monette
Rodney Muehlbauer
Daniel O’Neill
Bruce Paulson
Daniel Ryan
Milton Schommer
John Sigstad
Douglas Tylee
Kenneth Vondelinde

#3 MN-Duluth
Roland Dorau
Richard Lawrence
James Stebe

#4 MN-St. Cloud
John Butorac
Timothy Hoeschen
Jerry Kuseske
Paul Otto

#6 MN-New Ulm
Richard Schmidt

#7 MN-Winona
Lonnie Rohrer

#8 MN-Rochester
Gary Stoning

#11 MN-Mankato
David Fields
Edward Juberian
Lynn Steffensmeier

#15 MN-President
Dean Dahl
Daniel Nauer
Walter Schabacker, Jr

#18 MN-Tilelayers-Metro
Beverly Brogie
Louis Geislinger
Robert Holstrom Jr
Joel Larkin

#21 MN-Albert Lea
Steve Bottelson

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members...

Leslie Bruckelmeyer
Joel Bruckelmeyer
Ryan Buhr
Luke Dougherty
Spenser Dowd
Jeffrey Dubois
Jason Espeseth
Blake Harms
Cory Hoffman
Gabriel Kloster
Jared Massie
Randy Mundell
Jerry Paine
Joshua Palkki
Jonathon Radtke
Michael Saukko
Josh Smestad
Tristan Sorenson
Cory Tasler

DECEASED MEMBERS

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

#1 MN—Minneapolis
William Palmer
Urban Sander
Chester Teske

#2 MN—Minneapolis
Thomas Powers
Richard Shelley
Richard Zich

#3 MN—Duluth
Wesley Evenson
Guy Olsen

#4 MN—St. Cloud
Arnold Olson
Douglas Tangwall

#6 MN—Springfield/New Ulm
George Plocher

#1 ND—Fargo
John Grenvik

#2 ND—Minot
John Gefroh
Robert Lee

Please notify us if you know of another member that has passed away. It is always our intention to send flowers or a memorial to the funerals of BAC 1 MN/IND members. However, we are not always informed until after the funeral. The Local also has to send out applications for death benefits to the family. Once the Local Union is notified we pass the information to Zenith Administrators and to the International Union. They in turn will process any other pension, health or death benefits that the member might have. Your help is appreciated. Please keep your beneficiary information up-to-date. Incomplete or missing information makes the process harder during an already tough time for the family.
2011

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.

Chapter 1 - Minneapolis-St. Paul
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis:
4:30 p.m. Mar. 14, May 9, June 13, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Nov. 14
Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale: All Metro members
7 p.m. Dec. 12

Chapter 3 - Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range
Duluth, Duluth Labor Center:
7 p.m. Mar. 9, June 8, Sept. 14, Dec. 14
Hibbing, Electricians Hall: 7 p.m. May 11, Aug. 10, Nov. 9

Chapter 4 - St. Cloud-Brainerd
St. Cloud Labor Home,
1903 4th St. N.: 7 p.m. Mar. 2, May 4, June 1, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Nov. 2, Dec. 7

Chapter 8 - Rochester-Faribault
Rochester, Rochester Labor Hall:
7 p.m. Mar. 7, Sept. 12, Dec. 5
Faribault, VFW: 7 p.m. Feb. 2, May 2, Aug. 1, Nov. 7

Chapter 11 - Mankato-New Ulm
Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. Mar. 3, June 2, Sept. 15, Nov. 10, Dec. 8
Bismarck: AmVets: Mar. 25 (meeting and Gold Card Dinner)
Dickinson, St. Anthony Club: 8 p.m. May 19, Dec. 15

Chapter 15 - Bemidji & North Dakota
Bemidji, Elks Club: 7 p.m. Mar. 10, May 12, Apr. 6, June 9, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Nov. 10, Dec. 8
Bismarck: AmVets: Mar. 25 (meeting and Gold Card Dinner)

Rother, Moorhead VFW:
7 p.m. May 24, Nov. 16 (meeting and Gold Card Dinner)
Grand Forks, N.D., E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m. May 25, Aug. 16, Nov. 17 (meeting and Gold Card Dinner)
Minot, VFW: 7 p.m. Mar. 24 (meeting and Gold Card Dinner), May 18, June 23, Sept. 22, Dec. 14

GOLD CARD DINNERS
Letters will be mailed.

Metro Area Gold Card Luncheon
Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave., Oakdale: 11 a.m. July 14

Chapter 3 - Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range
Duluth area: Downtown Holiday Inn,
7 p.m. Oct. 7

Chapter 4 - St. Cloud-Brainerd
Eagle's Club: 6 p.m. April 9

Chapter 8 - Rochester-Faribault
Rochester Eagle's Club:
6 p.m. June 3

Chapter 11 - Mankato-New Ulm
Mankato: Mankato's Eagle's Club,
6 p.m. April 9

Chapter 15- Bemidji & North Dakota
Bemidji, Elks Club: 8:30 p.m. May 7
Bismarck, AmVets: 7 p.m. Mar. 25
Fargo, Moorhead F.M. Labor Home:
7 p.m. Nov. 16
Grand Forks, American Legion:
7 p.m. Nov. 17
Moorhead VFW: 7 p.m. Sept. 8

RETIREES BREAKFAST MEETINGS
Come join other retirees for breakfast or coffee. No RSVP required. Just show up and join in the conversation.

Metro Area Retirees Club
Breakfast meetings
Jax Cafe, Minneapolis
9 a.m. Mar. 24, Sept. 22, Dec. 1

Duluth area Retirees Breakfast meetings
9:30 a.m., Miller Hill Mall Perkins family restaurant, Duluth
First Wednesday of each month

Iron Range Retirees Breakfast meetings
9:00 a.m., Iron Kettle
Third Monday of each month

St. Cloud Retirees Breakfast meetings
9:30 a.m., Brigittes Cafe
Third Thursday of each month

OTHER EVENTS

BAC Health Fair
Minneapolis Convention Center
7 a.m. April 9

Executive Committee meeting
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m. April 7, Sept. 30

Semiannual Meeting - All of Minnesota & North Dakota
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m. April 9, Oct. 1

Chapter 1 Apprenticeship Banquet
Mancini's, St. Paul
6 p.m. May 4

BAC Golf Tournament: Pheasant Acres, 7 a.m. July 30

Chapter 3 area: Grandview Golf Links, Duluth, 8 a.m. Sept. 10
PROPOSAL TO REDUCE BUDGET

By Shar Knutson,
President of the
Minnesota AFL-CIO

Three Steps to a Better Minnesota

Another legislative session is upon us, but the players and playbook have changed. With Mark Dayton in office, Minnesota has a labor-friendly Governor for the first time in more than two decades. At the same time, Republicans are in control of both legislative chambers for the first time in 30 years.

While the playing field has changed, Minnesota’s problems haven’t. More than 200,000 Minnesotans are still out of work. These are people who want and need a job to provide for their families. At the same time, the state is also facing a multi-billion dollar budget shortfall. All the budgeting gimmicks, IOUs, and shifts to local property taxes have been exhausted. Eight years of relying on cuts alone has not solved the problem.

However, while we face these challenges, there is also an opportunity to build a better Minnesota for everyone. That’s why the Minnesota AFL-CIO recently proposed our “Three Steps to a Better Minnesota” legislative agenda.

Step 1: Create Family Sustaining Jobs Now

While Minnesota is better off overall than many areas of the country in our overall unemployment rate, our construction sector is lagging behind with nearly 20 percent of workers in the building trades unable to find work. State Economist Tom Stinson said construction workers have taken the hardest hit out of everybody in this recession.

A billion dollar jobs and infrastructure bill targeting shovel-ready projects, for example, would quickly put 28,000 Minnesotans back to work in private sector jobs.

Step 2: Balance the Budget Fairly

With a $6 billion dollar revenue shortfall, everyone agrees there are no longer easy solutions to the state budget.

If we want our kids to attend the best public schools in the nation, have a highly-skilled workforce that attracts business, efficient public services, and safe infrastructure; we cannot continue this current course.

That’s why the Minnesota AFL-CIO is advocating for fairly-raised revenue as part of a budget solution.

The richest Minnesotans pay less than 9 percent of their household income in state and local taxes while the average working family pays more than 12 percent. To balance this budget without further damaging Minnesota’s economy and hurting every Minnesotan’s quality of life, there must be new revenue, and it must come from those who have benefitted most, the rich.

Step 3: Stay Focused

With so many people out of work and a budget crisis of this magnitude; the Minnesota AFL-CIO is urging our leaders to stay focused on what Minnesotans elected them to do.

Now is not the time to bring up divisive social issues or score political points for the next election. It’s time to do what is best for Minnesotans. It is time to focus on job retention and creation and fairly balancing the budget.