

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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MARCH 2014

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1

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LOCAL TELEPHONE

612-379-2966

OUTSTATE AND ND

1-800-257-8636

BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION

1-888-880-8222

FAX

612-379-8754

INTERNET RESOURCES

General Information:

BAC1MN-ND.org

Apprenticeship and Training:

BACtraining.org or phone

651-487-5500

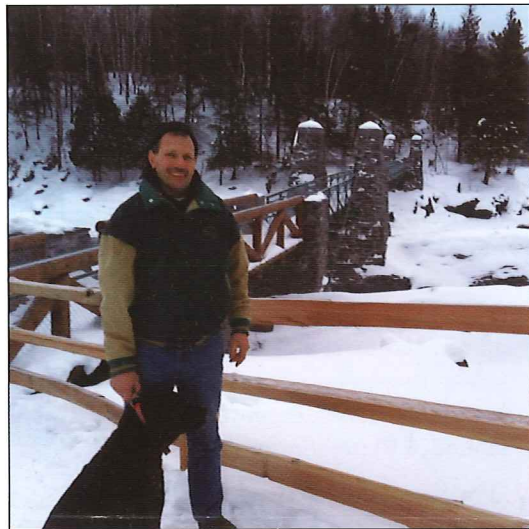
BENEFITS

Check the Zenith American Solutions Web site, zenith-american.com

Call 651-256-1801 or 1-800-879-4412

Talarico Crosses a Bridge into Retirement

By Patricia Johnson



John Talarico and his dog Tank enjoy the rebuilt Jay Cooke State Park swinging bridge in Northern Minnesota.

John Talarico delayed his retirement to work on one more project. His favorite kind. Restoring historic structures. In 2013 he spent his final summer as a bricklayer working on the \$1.1 million reconstruction project of the Jay Cooke State Park swinging bridge located about 10 miles southwest of Duluth, Minn.

Talarico was set to retire on May 1, 2013, but when the rebuild project came up he jumped on the opportunity because as he says, "I like historic structures and I like to save them." So he spent June through August working in the beauty of Northern Minnesota, 15 minutes from his home in Proctor, Minn., doing just that. And to make the project even more memorable, he ended his bricklayer career working for the same company where he began it in 1974, Stretar Masonry out of Duluth.

The bridge, which spans the St. Louis River, has undergone a number of changes since it was first constructed out of logs and rope in 1924. In 1934 it was rebuilt by the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1950 the bridge was partially destroyed by a flood later to be completely destroyed by yet another flood in 2012. Talarico helped rebuild the stone piers on the bridge using some of the stones that were harvested from the original pile. He finally retired on Sept. 1, 2013, and returned to the bridge for its grand opening in November.

Talarico began as a laborer and was later invited by his uncle, a mason contractor, to join him on a project. He then completed his apprenticeship and continued on working many different aspects of his craft – brick, block, stone and refractory work in taconite plants – primarily in Northern Wisconsin and the Duluth Iron Range.

The biggest change Talarico has seen throughout the 39 years is the improvement of the apprenticeship program and safety. "There was no training facility back then, no classroom or hands-on," he says. "Training was on-the-job with very little focus on safety." Today apprentices complete a structured training program and the focus is always on going home healthy at the end of the shift. He believes these changes are mostly driven by

Continued on Page 3

HEALTH & BENEFIT FAIR

Labor/Management Health Care Coalition



TOOLS FOR BETTER LIVING

Save the Date

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Minneapolis Convention Center

Hosted by the Labor/Management Health Care Coalition
Healthandbenefitsfair.org

Local Union and Chapter Nominations and Elections are Coming

Nominations – Chapter and local union nominations for officers will be held during the months of September and October for all Officers. Chapter officers will be nominated at the September chapter meetings. Local union officers will be nominated at the semiannual meeting in October. Please see page 5 for specific times and dates.

Health Fund Open Enrollment Update

As many of you know, the Health Plan has changed in many ways for 2014. Under the previous plan, members were only offered family coverage at one composite rate. The Fund now offers members five medical plan options and four coverage options (single, employee plus children, employee plus spouse, or family coverage) from which to choose the plan that best meets their individual needs. With the completion of our first successful open enrollment period, almost 50 percent of the membership took advantage of this offering and selected single coverage.

Another change effective in 2014 is the move from a Quarterly Hour Bank Eligibility System to a Monthly Dollar Bank System. This positive change allows members to become eligible with their first hour worked, and have access to Health Plan coverage much quicker than in the past. The limit on the number of partial self-payments has also been eliminated which will allow a member to have continued access to their benefits if the partial self-pay premium is paid.

Other notable changes include:

- Elimination of the annual limit for covered medical expenses
- Coverage for dependents up to age 26 regardless if that dependent has other coverage available through another source
- Coverage of preventive care services at 100 percent with no participant cost sharing subject to visit limits as defined by the plan
- The addition of an external appeals process

Annual open enrollment will be offered from October 1 through November 15 each year for those members who would like to make a new election. Changes may also be made outside of open enrollment if a member incurs a change in status event, including but not limited to marriage, divorce, or the birth of a child.

Based on the numbers reported at the close of open enrollment, we are pleased to see an increase in the number of covered members for January 2014 coverage, and expect to see this trend continue throughout 2014.

Affordable Care Act

How the HealthWORKS Coalition is Helping You

There is an organization based in Minnesota making sure the news about the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare is not all bad. Taft-Hartley HealthWORKS, Inc. is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation that formed, because Taft-Hartley health plans, including the Minnesota and North Dakota Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Health Fund, are concerned that Obamacare will harm them. The Board of Directors of HealthWORKS is made up of trustees and service providers for Minnesota Taft-Hartley health funds. The mission is simple: Educate Minnesota's congressional delegation about Taft-Hartley plans and explain how Obamacare can work without threatening the plans.

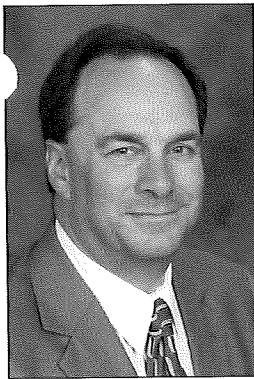
There are other organizations with similar missions. Several international union presidents and employer associations have banded together to promote revising and even repealing Obamacare. HealthWORKS is different, because its volunteers are a coalition of employer trustees, union trustees, plan administrators, attorneys, etc. HealthWORKS does not lobby. Its role is to advocate through education, and it has focused on a short list of objectives to guide Minnesota's senators and members of the House of Representatives.

The list of objectives is as follows:

1. Clarify Obamacare for Taft-Hartley Plans – These plans are rarely mentioned in the thousands of pages of regulatory guidance.
2. Level the Playing Field with Regard to Small Employer Tax Credits – Currently the credits do not apply to employers contributing to Taft-Hartley plans, which puts them at an economic disadvantage with employers that do NOT contribute to Taft-Hartley Plans.
3. Acknowledge that Employers Contributing to Taft-Hartley Plans Satisfy Obamacare's "Affordable Care" Requirement – This rule is currently suspended until January 2015, but making it permanent is the goal.

Last summer, HealthWORKS separately hosted Senators Klobuchar and Franken to discuss Obamacare with Minnesota Taft-Hartley plan trustees and service providers. Congresswoman Betty McCollum visited a clinic devoted to plumbers and pipefitters. In September, a HealthWORKS delegation of five people went to Washington, D.C. and met with other members of Minnesota's congressional delegation. The highlight of the trip was spending significant time with President Obama's Labor Liaison Ms. Carrie Twigg. While the delegation was in Washington, Secretary of Labor Perez issued a statement that Obamacare does not change an employer's agreement to contribute to a Taft-Hartley Plan.

HealthWORKS can already show results, but it still has a lot of work to do. It is good to know that there is a group dedicated to preserving Taft-Hartley plans for Minnesota's working men and women.



From the President

Mike Cook, President/Secretary-Treasurer

Wage Allocations

Meetings began on Saturday, January 4 at the Chapter 1 meeting hall in Minneapolis to start the 2014 wage allocations. Subsequent meetings in January followed in St. Cloud and Duluth. **Rochester**

Brick and Tile allocations were canceled due to severe weather. The Rochester allocations have been rescheduled for Monday March 3, 2014, at the Rochester Labor Hall at 7 p.m. The Iron Range area bricklayers allocated wages on February 12 at the Hibbing Electricians Hall.

Outstate members were able to join the Local Wide Wage Allocation meeting via the Internet and video conferencing in two locations on January 4. The Minot, North Dakota members joined the meeting at the IBEW Hall and the Duluth, MN, members participated at the Duluth Labor Center. While we had a few problems, we eventually worked things out and established connections so that the members in these two areas were able to listen and participate in the meeting. As we move forward, it is the intent of the Union to offer these meetings in additional areas. Members will again be able to participate at these two locations for the semiannual meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Some of the May 1 increases were automatically allocated. Check-off dues for the local union continues at 1 percent plus the market recovery allocation which is specific per area. The International Masonry Institute (IMI) contribution is 1 percent. The membership voted in funding plans for the local union and the International Pension (IUP) in January 2013. The local pension will have an increased contribution of \$.25 per hour and the IUP will

have an increased contribution of 4 percent. Most areas had an increased contribution of \$.07 to the IUP.

The Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) will be back in place on May 1, 2014. New rules will apply to the HRA to keep in compliance with the Federal regulations. If you and your family have the BAC health insurance, then you may continue the use of the HRA as you have in the past. If you or a family member does not have coverage from the BAC, then they must sign a form stating that they have other coverage that complies with the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA). If that form is not signed, then that family member is only eligible for ancillary benefits. For example: dental, vision and chiropractic. HRA funds cannot currently be used to purchase health care on the exchange. Please watch for details coming from the administrator.

The metro area bricklayers, marble masons, precast masons and terrazzo members will be putting \$.25 into the HRA on May 1. The metro tile layers will be adding \$.50 to the HRA. The Duluth bricklayers will be taking \$.88 from the health contribution and moving it to the HRA. The Duluth area tile layers and tile finishers voted to take \$.50 from the health contribution and move it to the HRA. The St. Cloud area bricklayers and cement masons voted to put \$.75 into the HRA. The Iron Range bricklayers had not yet met at the time that this article was printed. **A breakdown of all of the wages and fringe benefit packages can be found on our Website at bac1mn-nd.org.** Look for the 2014 wage addendums. As more areas and crafts complete their wage allocation, we will update the Website.

Contracts for some of the areas are being negotiated this spring. Bricklayers and cement masons in Northwest Minnesota along with the New Ulm area have expiring contracts on April 30, 2014. All areas in North Dakota for the bricklayers will also be negotiated this spring. This includes: Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and the Bismarck areas. Addendums for these areas will also be posted as they are completed.

Talarico, *Continued from Page 1*

laws and the insurance industry.

Today, the father of six kids and grandfather of three says it's too soon to tell how he is enjoying retirement, but he knows for sure he misses working with his tools. Now he spends his time with family, siblings and friends and working on house projects. He also attends Union meetings to stay in contact with his work buddies

and enjoys visiting with other BAC retirees and the elderly and WWII vets in nursing homes.

The advice he gives to the members is simple. If you don't like your work and can't make it fun, go find something else to do. "I always had fun on my jobs even the hard or miserable ones," he says recalling the "dirty, noisy, harsh killer environment" of

refractory work, "and get to know the people you work with." A couple of years ago he started a notebook listing all the people he's worked with. Today it has hundreds of names in it; page after page of bricklayers, laborers and other crafts. "I wish I had started it when I was a laborer. I miss the guys."

Great words of advice for everyone.

2014 Journeyman Upgrade Schedules

All journeyman are welcome to attend any upgrade with RSVP

Call 651-487-5500 or visit us online at www.bactraining.org

Date	Time	Branch Of Trade	Class
3/12/14	4 - 8 p.m.	Tile/Cotton	Large Format/Thin Tile
<i>Hands-on demonstration of Large Format and "New" Thin Tile installation methods.</i>			
3/13/14	1 - 6:00 p.m.	All Trades/Bemidji	1st Aid/CPR/AED
<i>Safety Certifications through Minnesota Safety Council that includes 1st Aid, CPR, and AED (use of automated external defibrillator).</i>			
3/19/14	4 - 8 p.m.	Tile/Metro	Large Format/Thin Tile
3/27-28/14	10 - 4 p.m.	Bricklayers/PCC Bemidji	OSHA 10 Training
<i>10-hour safety training course. Must attend both days.</i>			
3/28/14	8 - 3 p.m.	All Trades/Metro	Arches
<i>Basic knowledge and hands-on practice in identifying and laying out arches and building centering forms.</i>			
4/9/14	4 - 8 p.m.	Tile/Metro	Self-Leveling Mortars
<i>Hands-on demonstration of self-leveling mortars and installation methods.</i>			
4/10/14	4 - 8 p.m.	Tile/Rochester	Custom Building Products
<i>Hands-on presentation of new and existing thin-set mortars, grouts (cement and epoxy) and crack isolation products.</i>			
4/11/14	8 - 3 p.m.	Bricklayers/PCC Metro	Ashler Stone
<i>Basic knowledge and hands-on practice in identifying and laying out ashler stone pads.</i>			
4/11-12/14	8 - 5 p.m.	All Trades/Grand Forks ND	1st Aid/CPR/AED & OSHA 10
<i>RSVP is needed by March 25, 2014. Must attend both days.</i>			
4/16/14	4 - 8 p.m.	Bricklayers-PCC/Cotton	Flashing and Moisture Control
<i>Flashing, Anchoring and Reinforcing Masonry introduces new materials and techniques for completing these portions of trowel trades work. Through lecture and demonstration, course participants learn best practice and the installation characteristics of these materials.</i>			
4/23/14	2 - 8 p.m.	Bricklayers-PCC/Cotton	Grout Certification
<i>New materials and techniques for completing these portions of trowel trades work through lecture and demonstration. Certification is required on some jobs.</i>			
5/7/14	4 - 8 p.m.	Bricklayers-PCC/Rochester	Flashing and Moisture Control
<i>Flashing, Anchoring and Reinforcing Masonry introduces new materials and techniques for completing these portions of trowel trades work. Through lecture and demonstration, course participants learn best practice and the installation characteristics of these materials.</i>			
5/9/14	8 - 3 p.m.	All Trades/Metro	1st Aid/CPR/AED (Repeat Class)

Attendance Awards

The Management Committee of BAC Local 1 MN/ND voted to give away attendance awards for BAC members attending the final meeting of 2013 in their area. All members attending these meetings were assigned a number and the numbers were thrown into a bucket. We then drew out the following 12 names at the corresponding meetings:

Dave Rancour	Chapter 1 – Metro	Jeremy Joa	Chapter 1 – Metro
Bryan Ehlke	Chapter 15 – Minot, ND	Tom Juckel	Chapter 1 – Metro
Doug Eiklenborg	Chapter 15 – NW Minnesota	Fran Wydra	Chapter 1 – Metro
Bob Holm	Chapter 15 – Minot, ND	Mitch Vold	Chapter 15 – Grand Forks, ND
Allan Gillan	Chapter 1 – Metro	Chris Grabinger	Chapter 8 – Rochester
Bruce Wohlfeil	Chapter 1 – Metro	John Perkerewicz	Chapter 15 – Grand Forks, ND

The above members received a \$25 Target gift card. Thanks for attending your BAC chapter meetings. All BAC members attending meetings for the first six months of 2014 will have their name put into a new drawing. At the end of June 2014 we will be drawing for two black BAC jackets with the BAC logo. After names are picked we will contact the member to order the correct size. Good luck. The more meetings that each member attends, the more chances they have to win.

Workers' Compensation Changes

During the 2013 session, the Minnesota Legislature passed a new workers' compensation act that provides positive benefit changes for Minnesota's injured workers. This bill was signed into law by Governor Mark Dayton on May 16, 2013, and applies to injuries occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2013. This article will attempt to briefly summarize the changes that are likely to affect Local 1 members.

First, the maximum compensation rate for temporary total disability benefits (the benefit payable to injured workers while off work due to a work related injury) has been increased from its current rate of \$850 per week to 102 percent of the statewide average weekly wage (published every December 31) of the proceeding year. Currently, for injuries occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2013, the new maximum weekly benefit will be \$934.32 for temporary total disability benefits. As importantly, for injuries occurring next year on or after Oct. 1, 2014, there will be an automatic increase in the maximum compensation rate without further legislative action and for every year thereafter.

Second, cost of living adjustments on weekly workers' compensation benefits will become effective on the third year anniversary date of injury versus the four year anniversary date of injury under the previous law. Again, this applies to on-the-job injuries on or after Oct. 1, 2013. The annual cost of living adjustments are limited to a maximum of 3 percent per year where under the previous law these were limited to 2 percent per year. Also, under the new law, there can never be a negative cost of living adjustment thereby resulting in a reduction of weekly disability benefits.

Third, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can now be a covered work related condition. Since 1981, due to a Minnesota Supreme Court decision, the Lockwood case, mental health conditions have only been covered if related to a physical injury. The new law carves out an exception to this rule where the diagnosis is PTSD. For PTSD to be a covered condition under the new law, a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist must render the diagnosis using the criteria outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (V.) published by the American Psychiatric Association.

Fourth, the attorney fees statutory provisions were altered in the 2013 legislation. Attorney fees payable from disputed benefits awarded to an injured worker are now based on a straight 20 percent formula and this applies to injuries on or after Oct. 1, 2013. Under the previous law attorney fees on disputed benefits were based on 25 percent of the first \$4,000 recovered and 20 percent thereafter. Also, the process for obtaining judicial approval of awards of attorney fees was simplified.

Fifth, and finally, the new law places limitations on the length of rehabilitation assistance and, specifically, the amount of job search an assigned rehabilitation provider can render. Job development services cannot exceed 26 weeks. This may have a limited effect on Local 1 members, since most job opportunities are provided through the union hall or through contacts in the field.

If you are injured, contact the local union. We can direct you to the people that will help you through this process.

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 #4 – Central Minnesota – Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, St. Cloud Labor home, 1903 4th Street, St. Cloud, Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Chapter #11 – Southwest Minnesota – Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014, Eagle's Club #269, 708 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato, Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Chapter #1 – Metro Area – Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, United Labor Center, 312 Central Avenue, 2nd floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 4:30 p.m.

Chapter #8 – Southeast Minnesota – Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, Rochester Labor Temple Building, 11 4th Street SE, Rochester, Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Chapter #3 – Northeast Minnesota – Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014, Duluth Labor Center, 2002 London Road, Basement Hall, Duluth, Minnesota, 5 p.m.

Chapter #15 – Northwest Minnesota and North Dakota – Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014, Bemidji Elks Club, 116 4th Street NW, Bemidji, Minnesota, 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 Oct. 4, 2014, United Labor Center, 312 Central Avenue, 2nd floor, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 9 a.m. The positions include: president / secretary-treasurer, executive vice president and three vice presidents.



Apprentices at the Oakdale Prom Center

First year apprentices were sworn in at the holiday meeting on Dec. 9, 2013

Front row, left to right: Mathew Kuehl, Joseph Mauer, Jonathon Davis, Todd Thomas, VP/Business Agent Dick Kentzelman, Brick Instructor Dave Mensing, PCC Instructor Gary Jirovec. Back row, left to right: Tile Instructor Rod Schmidt, Francis Wydra, James Freeman, Patricia Kelly, Rahman Dragonjic, Julie Braschayko, Will Moyer, Eric Warner, Chris Baker, Matthew Tusing, Keith Gibson, Freddie Luster, Michael Belt, Apprenticeship Coordinator Rick Martagon.



2nd year PCC Apprentice Julie Braschayko.

3rd year PCC Apprentice Josh Mueller demonstrates and helps a high school student lay a brick.



High school students get hands-on experience.



1st year Bricklayer Apprentice Jonathon Davis.





Woodbury, MN

Gold Card Dinner at the Prom Center on Dec. 9, 2013

Left to right: VP/Business Agent Dick Kentzelman, 25-year member Mark Bigler and Vice President Terry Wong.



Save the Date!

July 12, 2014

ATV Member Ride

**Stompin' Grounds Lodge & Camping
Akeley, MN**

**Camping available. Call Mike Ganz
at 612-865-0343 with questions.**

How Will YOU Deal With It?

TEAM, our Employee Assistance Program, offers you and your eligible family members with a wide variety of free and confidential services to help you deal with many of life's challenging issues:

- Child Care**
- Crisis Counseling**
- Elder Care**
- Face-to-Face Problem Resolution**
- Financial Counseling**
- Legal**
- Work/Life Services**

Call 1-800-634-7710 or 651-642-0182 to speak to a counselor 24/365 for any crisis and non-crisis concerns. Or log on to www.team-mn.com. **TEAM is here to help YOU.**



FARE FOR ALL

Food that makes Cents

Fare for All is an organization that buys frozen meat, vegetable and produce packs in bulk saving Union members and others upward of 40 percent on grocery store prices. On Dec. 9, 2013, at the metro chapter meeting a Food For All December Holiday Pack was raffled. It contained an 8-pound ham, one whole chicken and two chicken breasts, one pork tenderloin, two bags of vegetables and an apple pie. The raffle raised \$188 which we donated to the food shelf. Fare For All has many distribution locations all around the metro area. To take advantage of the tremendous savings it has to offer, log one to www.fareforall.org or call 1-800-582-4291 or 763-450-3880.

MEMBERS

RETIRED MEMBERS

BAC Local 1 members who have retired in 2013. We are grateful for your dedication of work and we wish you to have a great future ahead after your retirement!



#1 MN-St. Paul
Patrick Cameron
Daniel Dahedl
Keith Gallmeier
Tory Hendricks
John Hunter
Kevin Lindquist
Gregory Olson
Thomas Stanek
Glenn Svoboda

#2 MN-Minneapolis
Richard Dahl
William Falck
William Hicks
Wayne Johnson

Kenneth Klefsaas
Gregory Larkin
David Lee
David McCabe
Leroy Pederson

#3 MN-Duluth
Randy George
Gregory Knoll
Robert Murphy
John Talarico

#4 MN-St. Cloud
Donald Gronli
John Kuseske
Paul Lochner

**#6 MN-Springfield/
New Ulm**
Joel Majeski
John Melchert

#8 MN-Rochester
Michael Korbel

#11 MN-Mankato
Larry Eager
Keith Steffensmeier

#15 MN-Brainerd
John Stall

#16 MN-Hibbing/Virginia
Jeffrey Olson

#17 MN-Red Wing
Richard Frandrup

#18 MN-Tile Layers-Metro
Kevin Duggan
John Fraser
Robert Johnson
James Lundgren

James Vail
Nancy Vanderbeek

#107T-Terrazzo Workers
Marvin Wojcik



#2 ND-Minot
Charles Badke
Thomas Lock

#4 ND-Bismarck
Donald Ell
Daniel Wolf

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members...

Carl Bailey
Chris Baker
Nathan Bartz
Adam Boltz
Crawford Collier
Felipe DeLeon
Randy Downs
David Drevdahl
Nicholas Evangelist
Samson Ghebregergish
LeLand Gould
Ryan Hendrickson
Steven Janousek
Anthony Johnson
Eric Krogh
Dustin Larson

Lisa Max
Kyle McKellar
Jake Metusalem
Dustin Miller
Joshua Munkeby
Jesse Olson
Jacob Paden
Mitchell Proudfoot
Steven Register
Dominic Roufs
Aaron Semerau
Joseph Smith-Cunnien
Damico Steele
Jeffrey Weibel
Demetrius Williams
Daniel Zaspel

DECEASED MEMBERS

We are sorry to report the deaths of these members...

#1 MN—St. Paul
John Cherny
Paul Christenson
Donald Owen
William Patton

#2 MN—Minneapolis
Lawrence Anderson
Hervey Arnold
Frank Derksen
Arthur Freiermuth
Roger Janke
Jerry Larkin
Alden Olson

#3 MN—Duluth
Armond Kossow

#8 MN—Rochester
Max Judd

#15 MN—Brainerd
Arvid Anderson
Corrado Giorgini

**#16 MN—Hibbing/
Virginia**
Joseph DeBaere

#18 MN—Tile
William Johnson

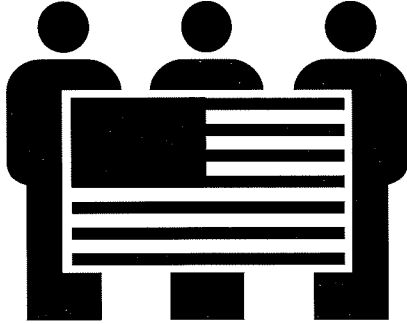


Please notify us if you know of any member that has passed away. It is always our intention to send flowers or a memorial to the funerals of BAC Local 1 MN/ND members. However, we are not always informed until after the funeral. The Local also has to send out applications for death benefits to the family. Once the local union is notified we pass the information to Zenith American Solutions 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.



2014 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. 10, May 12, June 9,
Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Nov. 10
Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave.,
Oakdale: All Metro members
7 p.m. Dec. 8

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range
Duluth, Duluth Labor Center:
5 p.m. Mar. 12, June 11, Sept. 10,
Dec. 10
Hibbing, Electricians Hall: 7 p.m.
May 14, Aug. 13, Nov. 12

Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd
St. Cloud Labor Home,
1903 4th St. N.: 7 p.m. Mar. 5, May 7,
June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault
Rochester, Rochester Labor Hall:
7 p.m. Mar. 3, Sept. 8, Dec. 1
Faribault, Eagles Club: 7 p.m.
May 5, Aug. 4, Nov. 3

Chapter 11-Mankato-New Ulm
Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. June 5, Sept. 4, Dec. 4

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND
Bemidji, Elks Club: 7 p.m. Mar. 13,
May 8, June 12, Aug. 14, Sept. 11,
Nov. 13, Dec. 11
Bismarck, AmVets: 6 p.m. Mar. 21,
7 p.m. Dec. 18
 Fargo, F.M. Labor Home:
7 p.m. Mar. 25, June 24, Sept. 23,
Nov. 19
Grand Forks, E. Grand Forks

American Legion: 7 p.m., Mar. 26,
June 25, Sept. 24, Nov. 20
Minot, VFW: 6. p.m. Mar. 20, May 22,
Aug. 28, Sept. 18, Dec. 17

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.

Metro Area Gold Card Luncheon
Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave.,
Oakdale: 11 a.m. July 10

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing- Iron Range
Duluth area: Radisson Hotel,
6 p.m. Oct. 10
Iron Range: Valentini's, 6 p.m. Oct. 11

Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd
St. Cloud Eagles Club: 6 p.m. Apr. 5

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

Chapter 11-Mankato-New Ulm
Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
6 p.m. Apr. 25

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND
Bismarck, AmVets: 6 p.m. Mar. 21
Chapter 15 TBA: 6 p.m.
 Fargo, F.M. Labor Home:
6 p.m. Nov 19
Grand Forks, Speedway:
6 p.m. Nov. 20
Minot, Minot KC: 6 p.m. Mar. 20
Nevis, Bullwinkles: 6 p.m. Apr. 26

OTHER EVENTS

Retirees Club Breakfast meetings
Jax Cafe, Minneapolis
9 a.m., Mar. 27, Sept. 25, Dec. 4

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

Iron Range Retirees Breakfast meetings

Iron Kettle, 9 a.m., Chisholm
Third Monday of each month

St. Cloud Retirees Breakfast meetings

Brigittes Café, 9:30 a.m.,
Third Thursday of each month

Executive Committee meeting

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m. Apr. 4, Oct. 3

Semiannual Meeting-All of MN and ND

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis
9 a.m. Apr. 5, Oct. 4

Chapter 1 Apprenticeship Banquet:

6 p.m. Mancini's Char House, May 1

BAC Golf Tournament

Pheasant Acres:
7 a.m. July 26



Chapter 3 Golf Tournament

Grandview Golf Links, Duluth
8 a.m. Sept. 6



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QUARTERLY UPDATE

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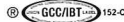
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GOVERNMENT



POLITICS – Our Issues

By Shar Knutson,
President of the
Minnesota AFL-CIO

Time for the State Senate to Act on Minimum Wage

When the Minnesota Legislature reconvenes on February 25th, lawmakers will be greeted by hundreds of people from Labor, Faith, Non-Profit, and Community Groups calling on them to increase Minnesota's minimum wage to at least \$9.50 per hour.

The hundreds of Minnesotans gathered at the Capitol will be there because of one underlying principle; nobody who works full time should have to live in poverty. They'll be gathered there because in 2013, the Minnesota Senate failed to act on a meaningful minimum wage increase.

In 2013, the Minnesota House passed legislation that would increase the state's minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour by 2015, increase the rate each subsequent year based on inflation, conform the state to the federal 40 hour work week, and protect tipped workers from having their wages cut.

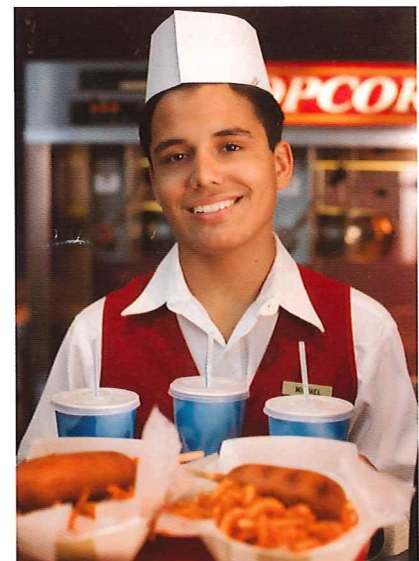
Governor Mark Dayton went on record saying he would sign a \$9.50 minimum wage increase.

Unfortunately, the Minnesota Senate decided to pass a bill to raise the wage to \$7.75, only 50 cents higher than the federal minimum wage. By the time session ended, a final bill was still left on the table.

Since the end of the 2013 legislative session, a broad and growing coalition of community, faith, labor, non-profit and service-based organizations has come together to make sure a minimum wage increase to at least \$9.50 is on Governor Dayton's desk early in the 2014 session. We've been having conversations with Minnesotans all year and are finding that a significant minimum wage increase enjoys broad support. During the state fair, more than 5,000 people signed postcards showing their support. We're knocking on doors. We're making phone calls. We're showing up at town meetings. This is a campaign with serious momentum.

The time is right. On January 28, President Obama signed an executive order raising the minimum wage on all new federal contracts to \$10.10 per hour and called for a federal minimum wage increase to \$10.10 in his State of the Union Speech.

With the President of the United States, the Governor of Minnesota, the Minnesota House, the Minnesota DFL Party, and a clear majority



of Minnesotans all supporting a minimum wage increase of at least \$9.50 per hour; this should be an easy and smart decision for a Minnesota Senate with a DFL majority.

The clock is ticking. There is still much work to be done. It is vital that we continue to tell our State Senators that a minimum wage increase to at least \$9.50 per hour is passed early in the 2014 session. Please visit www.raisethewagemn.org to get in contact with the campaign, volunteer for a phonebank, and to contact your Senator.