

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

SEPT. 2015

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3

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

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## Stemper's Retirement is Rock Solid

By Patricia Johnson



*BAC retiree John Stemper is proud of the stone carving and level he inherited from his great-grandfather John Meyer.*

John Stemper, retired BAC Local 1 MN/ND member, has a strong connection with the past. And it's rock solid. His great-grandfather, John Meyer, (d. 1934) was one of the stone cutters who worked on Minnesota's state capital project during the late 1890s. At that time he was employed by general contractor Butler-Ryan Co.

Today Stemper enjoys a decades-old remembrance of Meyer's craftsmanship. One of two identical 25-pound limestone owl ashtrays carved by Meyer and inherited by Stemper via his father is a permanent fixture and conversation piece on his fireplace. The second resides with his aunt.

Stemper became a BAC member in 1979 and retired in 2012. One of his brothers was a laborer; another, a carpenter. The Minneapolis native worked for about four contractors throughout his

career, and although he was a bricklayer by trade, Stemper developed skills as a welder and stone and marble mason working on such projects as the restoration of the St. Paul cathedral,

*Continued on Page 2*

## The BAC Health Fund Announces a New Health Care Network

The Board of Trustees of the Health and Welfare Fund is pleased to announce a change in the Fund's Preferred Provider Network effective Jan. 1, 2016.

**Your benefits will not change. Most of your current health care providers are part of the HealthPartners network.**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, the Fund will move from Medica's LaborCare network to HealthPartners as the preferred medical provider network for the Fund. After careful consideration, the Trustees determined that Health Partners offers the best services, technologies and financial arrangements for you and your family.

**What this will mean to you and your family:**

- The Fund will use a different network of physicians and hospitals. After doing a careful comparison of the networks, the trustees determined that there were very few instances where the new network did not cover the current network of physicians and hospitals. You can check <https://www.healthpartners.com/public/find-a-provider/group-medical/> (Open Access Network) to find a doctor or

*Continued on Page 3*

## Chapter Meeting Date Changes

- The Metro Chapter meeting has been changed to 9/21 at 4:30 pm. 9/14 is cancelled. An additional meeting has been scheduled on 10/14.
- The Fargo meeting has been changed to Wednesday, 9/9 at 6 pm. The 9/22 meeting has been cancelled.
- The Rochester Chapter meeting has been changed to 9/21 at 7:00 pm. 9/14 is cancelled.
- An additional meeting has been scheduled for Mankato on 11/5 at 7 pm. There will be no cancelled meetings.

Spouses are welcome at all of the above meetings with exception of the Metro area where spouses will only be allowed at the 10/14 meeting.

### BAC LOCAL 1 TELEPHONE

612-379-2966

### 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

763-404-8345

### BENEFITS

Check the Zenith American Solutions Web site, [zenith-american.com](http://zenith-american.com)

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

## Stemper's Retirement *Continued from Page 1*

the Minnesota Historical Society, and many Minneapolis skyscrapers.

His summer days are now filled with tubing, fishing and "breaking in a new boat" at his resort on Lake Mille Lacs, 90 miles north of Minneapolis. He also sits on the input committee that meets with the Department of Natural Resources to discuss the severely decreased walleye population. Walleye fishing has been halted due to the fish population hitting a 30-year low. "The economy and resorts are suffering because of it," he says. "It's interesting to sit behind the scenes and see what really goes on because of this situation."

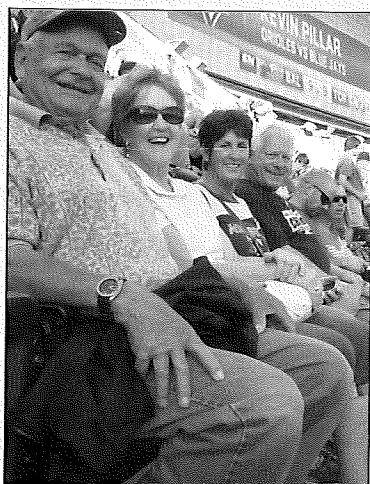
Stemper and his wife Mary have two daughters, 14 and 22. He's a volunteer archery coach for the local school district during the winter. He's also an experienced bow hunter having shot seven deer which have made the record book. His younger daughter is in the archery program so volunteering as a coach was a natural fit. Today he's a trophy hunter and accompanies the students

to tournaments.

His greatest comment about retirement is how thankful he is for his pension. "You won't believe how beneficial it is to have a defined pension until you need it," Stemper says. "I go to the retirees' breakfast and the guys are all smiles because we have money coming in. The new BAC members starting their careers will build a pension, unlike nonunion workers who won't have a pension ahead of them. I'm very grateful for what I have. The union has been good to me."

Stemper's retirement is as rock solid as his connection to his past. His great-grandfather carved out a legacy for future generations, and Stemper and BAC carved out financial security for his retirement years. Both make for great conversation.

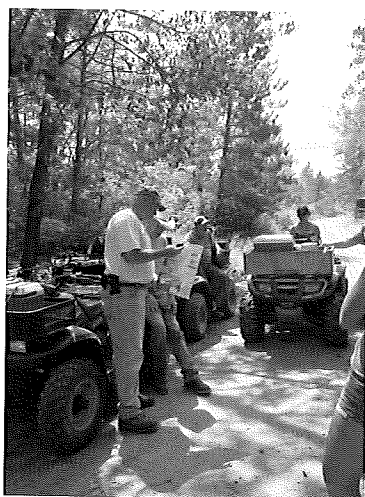
*Stemper's great-grandfather's level will accompany President Mike Cook to the 2015 BAC Convention in Baltimore, MD, this September commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the International.*



## A Perfect "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" Night for BAC Members

BAC members and their guests enjoyed the annual "Trade Night at Target Field" on Monday, June 22, 2015. It was a beautiful night to be in the stands to watch the Minnesota Twins slaughter the Chicago White Sox 13-2. Many witnessed a leadoff double by centerfielder Byron Buxton in the first inning. Buxton also threw out Milone in the third inning from center field.

*From the left retired BAC members from St. Cloud, MN., Wayne Lommel, Marcey Thielen, Dee Tvrdik and Loren Tvrdik enjoyed watching the Minnesota Twins win big against the Chicago White Sox.*



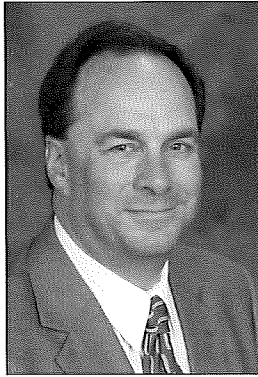
## ATV Ride was a Big Success

The fourth annual BAC ATV ride was held on July 11 with 10 machines along for the ride which covered 30 miles of well maintained trails through the Paul Bunyan State Forest located in Northern Minnesota. We had dustier conditions than we have experienced the last three years with the dry weather in the area recently, says Executive Vice President Mike Ganz. This year again we had a trail lunch that was catered by our BAC NE Rep Stan Paczynski who met us on the trail with Duluth-style coney dogs and chips. We enjoyed the sights, sounds and smells of the north woods. We started and returned to base camp which was the Stomping Grounds Campgrounds, Bar and Grill with great accommodations and wonderful hospitality from owners Steve and Connie. Watch for dates of the fifth annual BAC ATV ride for 2016.





## New Health Care Network *Continued from Page 1*



Mike Cook, President/  
Secretary-Treasurer

hospital or to see whether your health care provider is part of the network;

- For services on or after January 1, 2016, Health Partners will process your medical claims and handle customer service inquiries about medical claims;
- Participants will have access to new health management services, as well as online and mobile tools and applications to assist with questions about claims and other services.

### What will stay the same with the move to HealthPartners:

- Your plan of benefits will stay the same;
- Zenith will continue to serve as the Fund Administrator, handling questions related to contributions, eligibility, and self-payments. Zenith will also continue to process claims and answer questions related to dental services, death benefits, vision benefits, loss of time claims (short term disability), pension, vacation savings and the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA);
- Delta Dental will continue as the Fund's dental network, and OptumRX (formerly Catamaran) will continue as the Fund's Pharmacy Benefit Manager;

### What to Expect:

A series of enrollment meetings are listed in this newsletter, providing participants with an opportunity to see a demonstration of some of Health Partners' tools. This is also an opportunity for you and your spouse to ask specific questions about the change. Reminder notices of these important meetings will be sent later.

- You will receive mailings with detailed information about HealthPartners' programs and services, as well as an updated Summary of Benefits and Coverage
- You will receive new ID cards, including separate cards for medical and dental coverage;
- If you participate in the Health Club Reimbursement program, you will need to notify your club about the change to HealthPartners. The reimbursements and the frequency of visits required will not change.

As trustees of the Health and Welfare Fund we are excited to offer what we feel is a better network with better discounts to our membership. This also allows the opportunity to offer new health management programs to improve the overall health of our membership. There will

be additional technology management tools that help move our Fund into the future!

We expect that this transition to HealthPartners will be smooth and seamless. You have our assurances that HealthPartners will deliver on their promise to provide the highest level of service to our medical plan participants. We look forward to working with HealthPartners as they share with you the tools and resources to improve your health and manage your health care expenses.

## Health Care Meetings

1. Metro area – Wednesday, October 21 at the Radisson in Roseville. (7 pm)
2. Duluth – Friday, October 9 – at the Holiday Inn – in conjunction with Gold Card dinner. (6 pm)
3. Iron Range - Chisholm – Saturday, October 10 at Valentini's – in conjunction with Gold Card dinner. (6 pm)
4. Fargo – Wednesday, September 9 at the VFW (7 pm)
5. Bemidji – Thursday, September 10 at the Elks Club (7 pm)
6. Rochester – Monday, September 21 at the Eagles Club (7 pm)
7. Faribault – Monday, November 2 at the Eagles Club– in conjunction with the Bean Feed (7 pm)
8. Central Minnesota – St. Cloud – November 4 at the St. Cloud Labor Home (7 pm)
9. Mankato – November 5 at the Eagles Club (7 pm)

## Lifestyle Changes for the Better

### Inspire Others to do the Same

Were you or a family member inspired to make a positive lifestyle change since visiting the LaborCare Health and Benefit Fair? If you've changed your diet, added a family activity, taken up a new sport or something else, we want to hear about it. Call the BAC at 612-379-2966 office and tell us. You can also email us a picture of you or your family enjoying the new activity. Perhaps we'll feature you in an upcoming newsletter. Inspire other members to incorporate lifestyle changes for the better by telling us what you are doing differently.

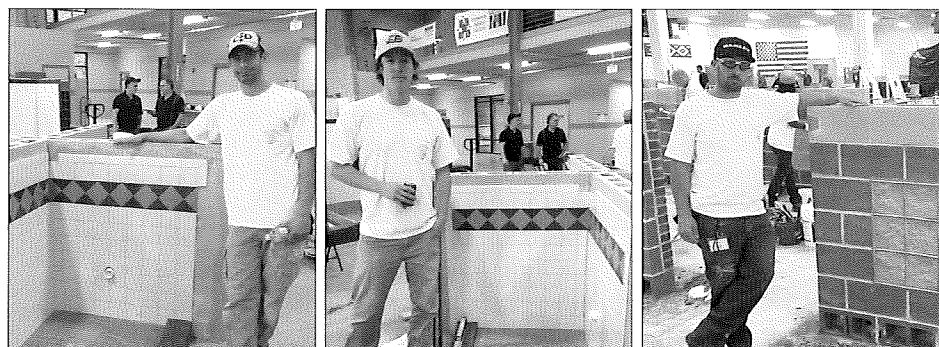
## 2015 Journeyman Upgrade Schedules

**All journeyman are welcome to attend any upgrade with RSVP.  
Call our new number at 763-404-8345 or visit us at [www.bactraining.org](http://www.bactraining.org).**



Use the QR Code to check out our new website!

Date	Time	Branch Of Trade / Location	Class
9/24 - 11/12/15 Thurs.	4 - 8:30 p.m.	All Trades / Metro	OSHA 30
<i>This course for private sector personnel covers OSHA policies, procedures and standards, as well as construction safety and health principles. Topics include scope and application of the OSHA construction standards. Special emphasis is placed on those areas that are the most hazardous, using OSHA standards as a guide.</i>			
10/6/15	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Tile Finisher / Metro	TEC Grouts
<i>Grout hands-on workshop followed by TCNA/ANSI review.</i>			
10/7 & 10/14/15	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	All Trades / Metro	1st Aid/CPR/AED
<i>Safety Certifications through Minnesota Safety Council that includes 1st Aid, CPR, and AED (use of automated external defibrillator).</i>			
10/7/15	4 - 8 p.m.	Tile / Cotton	Blueprint Reading
<i>Basic Blueprint Reading held Tuesdays one night every week for four weeks. Class size is limited to 10 students. Call to be put on the list ASAP. We will add additional dates to meet demand.</i>			
10/8 & 10/15/15	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Tile Layer / Metro	Dural
<i>Training certification for the latest technology in tile underlayments and shower systems. Dural is offering a certified training course to explain the proper techniques and installation procedures for tiled floors over uncoupling membranes and waterproofing shower systems that save time and money for the installer.</i>			
11/3/15	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Tile Finisher / Metro	Ardex Grouts
<i>Grout hands-on workshop followed by TCNA/ANSI review.</i>			
11/5/15	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Tile Layer / Metro	Ardex Setting and self-leveling products
<i>Setting materials and self-leveling hands-on workshop followed by TCNA/ANSI review.</i>			
12/1/15	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Tile Finisher / Metro	Laticrete Grouts
<i>Grout hands-on workshop followed by TCNA/ANSI review.</i>			
12/2/15	4 - 8 p.m.	Tile / Cotton	Thin Tile Familiarization
<i>Basic familiarization of thin tile products and installation.</i>			
12/3/15	4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Tile Layer / Metro	Laticrete Setting materials/Self leveling
<i>Setting materials and self-leveling hands-on workshop followed by TCNA/ANSI review.</i>			



Left to right: Jeremy Joa (Tile), Brandon Peterson (Tile) and Mike Barthel (PCC).

### International Contest

On September 11 and 12, three apprentices representing the Minnesota/ North Dakota BAC Training Center will compete in the International Apprenticeship Contest at the John J. Flynn BAC/IMI International Training Center in Bowie, MD. The three participants are Jeremy Joa (Tile), Brandon Peterson (Tile) and Mike Barthel (PCC).

Congratulations Jeremy, Brandon and Mike! Good luck in the contest!

## Union Members Build Habitat for Humanity Home

When Zack Gath, construction coordinator for Rice County Habitat for Humanity was looking for skilled contractors to help construct a basement foundation wall for a new Habitat home in the city of Faribault, MN, he reached out to President Mike Cook at BAC Local 1 MN/ND. Cook responded by forming a team of union member volunteers from several construction trades to build it. "This was an opportunity to give something back to the community," he says. "Through our work as skilled union members, we have a sense of duty to strengthen our community by building a quality home for this family."

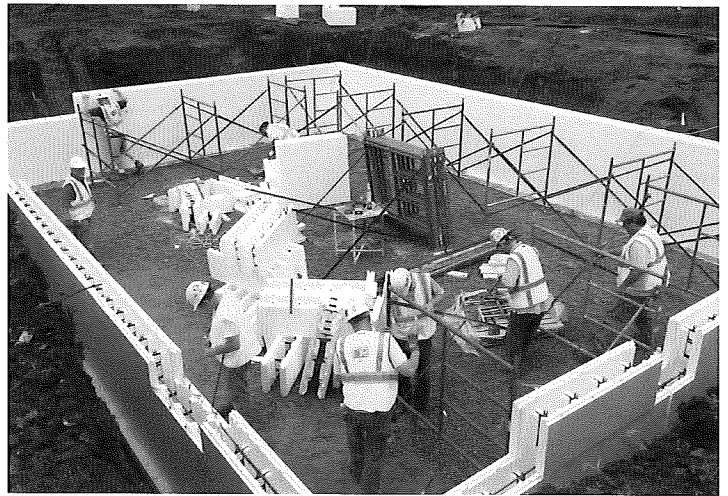
Habitat for Humanity has provided hundreds of thousands of low-income families hope for their future in the form of affordable housing worldwide. There are more than 2,200 Habitat homeowners in Minnesota. In fiscal year 2014, the 32 Minnesota Habitat for Humanity affiliates built 100 new homes. Of those, 45 were built in Greater Minnesota with the remaining 55 built in the Twin Cities metro area.

As explained by Rice County Habitat Executive Director Dayna Norvold, Habitat for Humanity does not give homes away. Habitat homes are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans. Applicants must go through a rigorous process and provide hundreds of hours of



"sweat equity" before receiving the home loan from Habitat. The homeowners' mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat homes. The home in Faribault is being purchased by the Weaver family, a single mother with three children.

"Although Habitat for Humanity prides itself on welcoming every volunteer of any skill level on the site, it sure is helpful at the beginning of a build to have a group of people who know



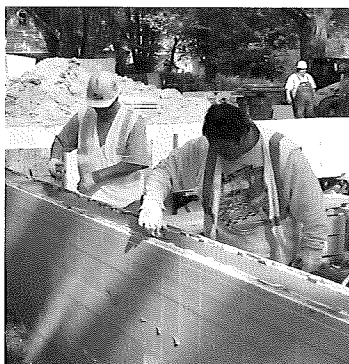
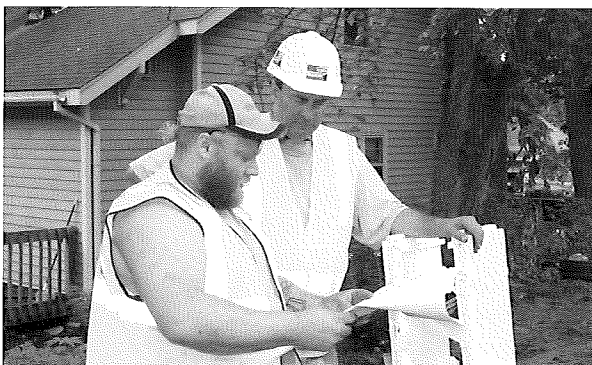
what they're doing. The group of union folks that came to the build site was great and we look forward to having them back," said Executive Director Norvold.

Cook reached out to key members in the trades to assist with the effort and put the best possible volunteer team in place on quick notice. He contacted signatory contractors for equipment and tool donations as well as key union members for their skill sets. Union members from various trades including brick masons, cement masons, ceramic tile setters, roofers, operating engineers, and laborers all worked together to pull off this volunteer effort. By pooling union resources and by working together, Cook emphasizes, "We can apply our skills to give back and build a better community."

A special note of thanks goes out to the following individuals: Mike Cook, Terry Wong, Rod Schmidt, Mark Caron, Eric Vik, Dick Kentzelman and Roger Buirge all members of BAC Local 1 MN/ND; Director Mark Swanson, IMI; Brian Gullickson, Cement Masons Local 633; Joel Smith and Steve Zupon, Laborers Local 563; Joe Navejas, United Union of Roofers Local Union 96 and Ferlin Miller, Int. Union of Operating Engineers Local #49.

An added thanks to the following companies for providing services and equipment: Gresser, Advanced Masonry Restoration, Advantage Scaffold, Cemstone, and Standard ICF Corporation.

For more information on how you can help Rice County Habitat for Humanity, please visit [www.habitatricecounty.org](http://www.habitatricecounty.org).





# Congratulations to the 2015 Completed Apprentices!

Completion banquet was held June 4 at Mancini's Char House & Lounge



## Bricklayers

Left to right: Francis Wydra, Matthew Tusing, Todd Thomas, Ken Herbsleb, Christopher Olmscheid and Masonry Coordinator Joe Vanek



## Pointers, Cleaners, Caulkers

Left to right: Masonry Coordinator Joe Vanek, Joseph James and Daniel Peasley



## Tile Finishers

Front row: Tile-Terrazzo Coordinator/Instructor Sam Greenwood. Second row, left to right: Brittney Fredrickson, Bradley Schroeder, Kayleigh Monroe, Damico Steele and Instructor Rod Schmidt. Back row, left to right: Instructor Robbie Luukonen, Jacob Paden, Ryan Johnson, Kyle Andreasen, Andrew Hanson and Chris Baker



## Tile Layers

Front row, left to right: Scott Luther, Tile-Terrazzo Coordinator/Instructor Sam Greenwood, Justin Hammer. Back row, left to right: Joseph Mauer, Rahman Dragonjic, Daryl Johnson and Jeremy Joa



## Golf Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 BAC Golf Tournament at Pheasant Acres in Rogers, MN, on Saturday, July 25. Together they shot 9 under par and finished with a 62. There is still plenty of great weather left to practice for next year's tournament. Get out and enjoy it!

From left to right: Gordy Meagher, Mike Falness, Bud Gyllen and Tom Gyllen





## Oakdale, MN: 50-Year Gold Card Members

Gold Card Dinner at the Prom Center on July 16, 2015

Front row, left to right: 50-year members Frank Hanrahan, Brian Balfe, Eugene Brunette, Rodney Walters, Louis Geislinger, Anthony Kotla, Richard Mouritsen, International Union President James Boland. Back row, left to right: Executive Vice President Mike Ganz, Metro Business Representative Rod Schmidt, 50-year members Ronald Anderson, Orlen Torke, Wilfried Groeger, Harry Traen, John Savage, Brian Hedman, William Thiede, Regional Director Steven Bailey and President Michael Cook



## Oakdale, MN: 40-Year Gold Card Members

Gold Card Dinner at the Prom Center on July 16, 2015

Left to right: Executive Vice President Terry Wong, 40-year member Milton Schommer and President Michael Cook



## Oakdale, MN: 25-Year Gold Card Members

Gold Card Dinner at the Prom Center on July 16, 2015

Front row, left to right: Metro Business Representative Rod Schmidt and President of IU Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers James Boland. Back row, left to right: 25-year members Thomas Juckel, William Falck, Executive Vice President Terry Wong and President Michael Cook

# Learn the Art of Stress Management

You can't avoid stress — it's everywhere! Stress has become so ingrained in our daily lives that it almost seems natural to feel stressed. Working long hours, planning a big event, everyday traffic.

We've become used to having that slight hint of anxiety with us wherever we go, even when things are going well, and we can't quite put our finger on why it's there. The first step toward stress management may be recognizing this feeling and knowing that it's not necessary.

**There is a difference between good stress and bad stress.** You need stress. It helps you manage your life and propels you to be successful. It even determines what is dangerous and what is not. That's why we have a fight-or-flight response. If you are on the highway and a car swerves into your lane, you need to have a stress response.

**How does good stress become bad stress?** When the human body starts to feel overloaded, it starts to give you

signals. It may begin with physical responses such as: heart palpitations, headaches, backaches and gastrointestinal problems. You may also find that nothing seems to make you feel good. You become irritable and often overreact to everyday life situations.

**We can learn to manage our stress!** Everyone reacts to stress differently, and each body sends out its own set of red flags. Some people may not even feel the physical or emotional warning signs of stress until hours or days after the stressful activities. But when you do notice a stiff back or that you are snapping at your friends, pay attention to the signs and listen to what your body is telling you. By noticing how you respond to stress, you can manage it in healthy ways.

Check out T.E.A.M.'s Work-Life Services tab at [www.team-mn.com](http://www.team-mn.com) or call to schedule an appointment with a T.E.A.M. counselor to design a plan on how to manage your stress.

VSP<sup>®</sup> MEMBERS: GET AN EXTRA

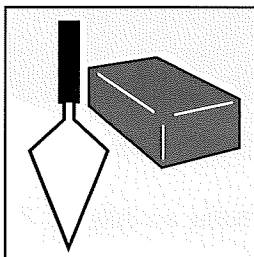
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## Got Tools?

Donate your old or used tools to BAC and help an apprentice out.

Call the BAC office at 612-379-2966 to learn how.

All donations are appreciated.

## #NEVERTOOEARLY

## #YOURNEXT30YEARS

*Clear vision for retirement....or no idea how to start?  
Today's retirement takes more than savings and Social Security.*

Advanced Advisor Group (AAG) is here to educate and assist you in sifting through your options.

- Pension
- Investment
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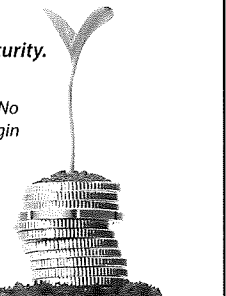
AAG has 25+ years of working with union members in Minnesota\*, we understand the complexity of your union and can explain your options simply and clearly.

Call 763-689-9023 today. No obligation. 100% confidential. No minimum dollar amount to begin investing.

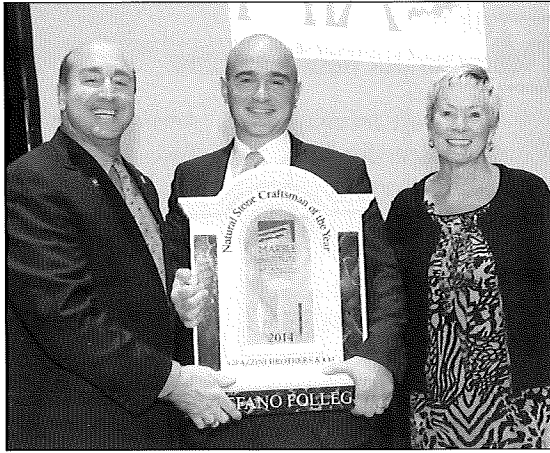
**It's never too soon to start planning.**



\*Education Minnesota, with over 25,000 members served and over \$1.1 billion in assets under management through affiliate firm Educators Financial Services (EFS). EFS and AAG are not affiliated with Education Minnesota. Securities offered through Advanced Advisor Group, Member FINRA & SIPC. Investment Advisory Services offered through Educators Financial Services, A Registered Investment Advisor. 440 Emerson St II Ste 4, Cambridge MN 55008 (877) 403-2374. Advanced Advisor Group and Educators Financial Services are affiliates under common control D/R/A EFS Advisors.







Stefano Follega (center) accepts the 2014 Craftsman of the Year Award from MIA President Tony Malisani and program sponsor Brenda Edwards of TexaStone Quarries.

## Congrats, Stefano Follega!

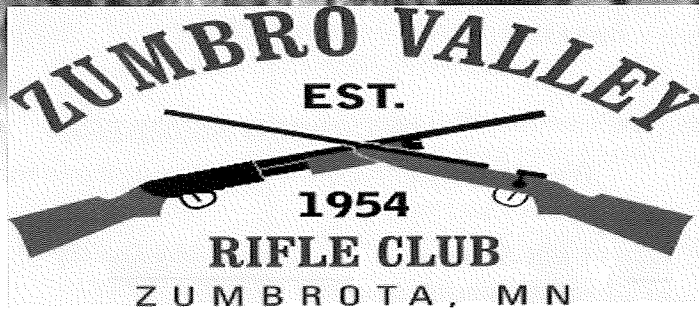
2014 MIA Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year

Excerpt from MIA Press Release

Stefano Follega of Grazzini Brothers & Co. in Eagan, MN., was named the 2014 Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year. The Marble Institute of America (MIA) award honors excellence in craftsmanship. Follega received the award at the MIA's annual awards luncheon at StonExpo/Marmomacc Americas in Las Vegas.

Follega, a native of Rome, Italy, learned the craft from his father and uncle. He also worked with top architects and designers in historic Rome, home to some of the world's most beautiful architecture. He credits his first teachers — his father, uncle and prominent architects — for his work ethic and simple philosophy: ask questions, be respectful and always be ready to do the job. He also admits he's a perfectionist with a fervent passion for stone. "I like seeing a piece of stone, a rock or something change," he said. "I always envision the finished product before I start."

His work with the Lakewood Mausoleum Project in Minneapolis earned Grazzini Brothers the 2012 MIA Grande Pinnacle Award. "No project is beyond Stefano's ability," said Eugene Grazzini, Jr., Chairman of the Board at Grazzini Brothers. "His layout, his attention to detail and his creativity are superb. We are proud to have him as part of our team."



## FIRST ANNUAL BAC Target SHOOT

Zumbro Valley Rifle Club  
45440 – 200<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Zumbrota, MN 55992

Saturday, September 26, 2015

Register: 1:00 PM

Cost: \$20.00 (cost includes lunch)

Family Members Welcome!

Select:

- Trap – 1 Round
- Skeet – 1 Round
- Pistol – Range

**You must supply your own ammunition!**

**RSVP to Eric Vik by: Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Email: [evik@bac1mn-nd.org](mailto:evik@bac1mn-nd.org)

Phone: (507) 339-1745

## BAC Retirees' Tools Donations Help Build Future Generations

A huge thank you to our retired BAC Local 1 MN/ND members Paul Fors, Jim Fortwengler, Richard Mouritsen and Al Kelzenberg for graciously donating their tools to the next generation of trades people. Their donations will lessen the burden of beginning a new career for many apprentices in need. They were greatly appreciated!

Please call the BAC office if you have old or used tools or other equipment you'd like to donate.

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

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

President . . . . . Mike Cook

Editor . . . . . Patricia Johnson

Design & Production . . . . . Peggy Zetah

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

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



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First Class Mail  
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## GOVERNMENT



### POLITICS - Our Issues

By Shar Knutson,  
President of the  
Minnesota AFL-CIO

### Thank You for the Opportunity to Serve

With the Minnesota State Fair and Labor Day on the horizon, we all will try to enjoy the last bit of summer and look forward to the autumn months. As autumn begins, my time as Minnesota AFL-CIO President will come to a close. As I head into retirement, I wanted to thank you and everyone in Minnesota's Labor movement for the opportunity to serve as your president.

Growing up in a union family and working a union job as a single parent showed me how much of an impact the Labor movement has in improving peoples' lives. It has been a humbling experience to lead a movement that was there for me and my family.

Working together, we fought back attacks and made gains for Minnesota's working people. During the last six years, we:

- Helped lead the coalition that successfully raised Minnesota's minimum wage.
- Coordinated efforts that kept a "Right to Work" constitutional amendment off the ballot.
- Increased union member political participation.
- Successfully passed legislation extending unemployment benefits for locked out workers.
- Opened up new avenues for women and young workers to be involved in the Labor movement.
- Helped secure historic improvements in the state's worker's compensation system that increased benefits to injured workers.
- Built an infrastructure to support affiliate unions in their organizing efforts.

Earlier this summer, the Minnesota AFL-CIO General Board elected Bill McCarthy as our next president. Bill currently serves as President of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation. He is a leader who has already worked for policies to ensure that all workers earn a living wage, receive health and retirement benefits, and most importantly, are treated with dignity and respect. Bill will be a great president and I look forward to seeing



what he does in his new position.

One more thing; if you're reading this on or before Labor Day, please be sure to visit the Minnesota AFL-CIO Labor Pavilion at the State Fair. We're located at the corner of Dan Patch and Cooper. It's a wonderful opportunity to catch some performances by union musicians and learn what other union members are up to.

*The Minnesota AFL-CIO is a labor federation made up of more than 1,000 affiliate unions, representing more than 300,000 working people throughout the state.*

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