

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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MARCH 2020



BAC 1 turns 135-years-old this year!

On May 25, 2020, the original charter of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 was signed in St. Paul, MN. The charter has changed several times during the years and now serves the states of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Happy birthday to us!



Welcome TR Masonry, Inc., in Elk River, MN

It is with great pleasure that we introduce to you our newest contractor.

Owner Randy Becker (left) is welcomed by President Doug Schroeder

International Union Announcements

[Washington, D.C.] December 18, 2019 – James Boland, President of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC), has announced his plan to retire effective December 31, 2019, following more than 24 years of service as an International Union officer, including nearly a decade as President.

The International Union’s Constitution provides that in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Secretary-Treasurer shall fulfill the remainder of the term. Therefore, Secretary-Treasurer Timothy J. Driscoll will become the International Union’s President effective January 1, 2020.

A native of Ireland, Boland immigrated to the United States in 1970 to find work and a better life for himself and his family. After joining BAC in 1977, Boland worked in the San Francisco Bay Area in brick, block, stone, and marble before becoming a Business Agent in 1988. In 1992, he became President of Local 3 California, an office he held for two years until being called to serve the International Union as Assistant to the President for Trade

Continued on page 2



INSIDE:

From the President	3
Training Center	4
New Apprentices	6-7
IMI Corner	8
Stay Informed	9
Events	11
Government	12

The 2020 Health & Benefit Fair has been cancelled this year.

International Union Announcements *Continued from page 1*

Jurisdiction and Regional Director for California and Nevada. In 1995, Boland was elected to his first term as a member of the IU Executive Board; he became Secretary-Treasurer in 1999, and President in 2010.

“Jim took the helm of our Union in its bleakest hour since the Great Depression,” remarked incoming President and current Secretary-Treasurer Tim Driscoll. “Jim’s passion for working people and his own capacity for hard work stabilized the organization and built it in to the strong and vibrant Union that it is today. And his own experience as an immigrant drove him to ensure that ours will be an inclusive and diverse Union for the future, welcoming of all comers.”

Driscoll, a second-generation bricklayer, joined BAC Local 3 Massachusetts in 1985, where he served his apprenticeship and worked as a journeyman bricklayer on numerous commercial and institutional projects throughout the Boston area. Traveling for work in the early 1990’s, he eventually settled in the Washington, D.C. metro area and joined Local 1 Maryland/Virginia/D.C. in 1992.

Driscoll’s service with the International Union began in 1995 when he joined the IU’s Government Relations department, later becoming Assistant to the President. In 1999, he was promoted to Director of Trade Jurisdiction, vigorously and successfully defending BAC members’ work opportunities in scores of matters over the course of the next decade. During that time, Driscoll also served on the AGC Basic Trades Committee, the National Maintenance Agreement Policy Committee, and administered various other National Agreements on BAC’s behalf, working with many of the Union’s largest signatory contractors. In 2010, Driscoll was first elected as Executive Vice President, the office he held until his appointment as Secretary-Treasurer in January of 2017.

As Secretary-Treasurer, Driscoll has overseen the International Union’s financial and administrative operations and has been instrumental in shaping the IU’s communication, publication, education, and government relations initiatives. Driscoll for



*Tim Driscoll, President/
Secretary-Treasurer*

years also has led the International Union’s efforts to address emerging new products and systems in our industry, enhancing work opportunities for signatory contractors and BAC members alike. Well known since his early work in Trade Jurisdiction, Driscoll is recognized throughout the building trades industry for his judgment and strength, reasoned approach to issues and ability to solve problems and get things done.

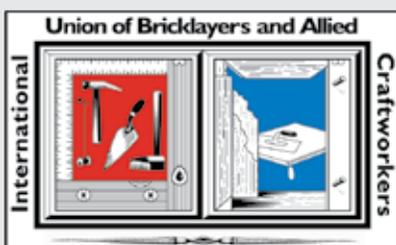
Boland said, “It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as the President of this great Union, and particularly to serve alongside my friend, Tim Driscoll. I have every confidence in Tim’s strong leadership, his excellent judgment and his commitment to our Union and each of its members. BAC is in great hands and has a bright future.”

Incoming President Driscoll is also pleased to announce that he will appoint Robert Arnold as Secretary-Treasurer to fulfill the remainder of his own term, effective January 1, 2020.

Arnold, the National Director of Apprenticeship and Training for the International Masonry Training and Education Foundation since 2012, is a member of BAC Local 21 Illinois. He joined BAC as a bricklayer in 1978. Arnold was promoted to his first foreman position at the age of 23 and went on to lead numerous complex jobs for BAC signatory contractors as a foreman, general foreman, superintendent, and project manager.

Arnold began his teaching career in 1998 as an International Masonry Institute Job Corps instructor at the Paul Simon Job Corps Center in Chicago, Illinois. He then became an instructor with Local 21, and in 2001, Director of the Illinois District Council Training Center (DCTC), one of the largest BAC training centers in the U.S. In 2011, in addition to his DCTC position, Arnold became the North Central Regional Training Director and served in that role until becoming National Director the following year.

Driscoll said of Arnold’s appointment: “I have worked closely with Bob for many years on projects vital to the future of this Union. Bob’s enthusiasm for education and training, his track record of welcoming innovation and promoting members from underrepresented backgrounds, and his overall dedication to BAC’s members make him uniquely qualified for this moment in our Union’s history.”



BAC LOCAL 1: 612-379-2966 **Fax:** 612-379-8754

BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION: 1-888-880-8222

GENERAL INFORMATION: BAC1MN-ND.org

APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING: BACtraining.org or phone 763-404-8345

BENEFITS: Check the Zenith American Solutions website: zenith-american.com
Call 651-256-1801 or 1-800-879-4412



Doug Schroeder,
President/
Secretary-Treasurer

Membership

I have had several new members call me to discuss their experiences on the jobsite. A few of them have left because of how they have been treated by their contractors and fellow members. Some have stated that they are being used as a laborer and not spending any time on the wall learning their craft. Others have been met with a cold shoulder and impatience. The importance of

not only sustaining but increasing our membership is vitally important. These current and future members rely on the current members to help them show the way and become more educated in our crafts.

Not all of us were born into the craft that we now excel in. I, for instance, had no family members in the trade. I was introduced to the trade through a 49'er. He got me my first job. I was fortunate enough to have at least a few journey members around me who took the time to teach me the things I was not learning in school and the things I would need to know to stay employed. A lot of times it was "eyes open, mouth shut" or "always keep busy". Others taught me techniques that made me more efficient. The tricks of the trade are a daily learning experience. New products enter our field on a regular basis. We conduct training throughout the year to educate the membership on these new products and how to mentor the new members that are on the job sites.

When meeting a new member for the first time, take a breath and remember where you came from and that you once were

where this new member is now. Teach them, train them, support them so that they may pass it on. Membership is more than you and me. It's all of us.

Allocations

Allocation meetings have been commencing throughout the local. Please check your calendar for upcoming allocation meetings.

We will be entering into negotiations with North Dakota and South Dakota contractors in the coming months. If you are interested in being a part of negotiations in your area please send an email to info@bac1mn-nd.org and we will contact you with information on negotiations.

BAC Defined Benefit Pension Fund

The members voted at the Jan. 4, 2020, allocation meeting to increase the contributions to the Pension Fund by \$0.25 per hour. This is a proactive decision on the part of the members to continue to maintain this fund. It is important to understand that all the funds will need to be maintained to ensure that we can continue to enjoy these benefits.

Due to the International Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers convention being held Sept. 28, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2020, we will be moving our semi-annual meeting forward one week. The new date will be Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020, at 9 a.m. 312 Central Ave 2nd floor meeting rooms. Please check our website for further information. The Executive Committee will meet on Oct. 9, 2020, at 9 a.m.

IMI Announcements

Effective Feb. 1, 2020, the International Masonry Training and Education Foundation (IMTEF), welcomes Anthony DiPerna, president of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) Local 3 New York, as National Director of Apprenticeship and Training. IMTEF, together with Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committees (JATCs) across the U.S. and Canada, provides apprenticeship training and lifelong learning in the trowel trades to BAC members across North America.

BAC President Driscoll said, "We are excited to welcome Brother DiPerna to this critical leadership role for our industry. I have

every confidence that Tony's years of experience as a craftworker, supervisor, local union officer, and chair of his local JATC have uniquely positioned him to lead BAC's training and education programs in the coming decade and beyond."

For in-depth releases on BAC's new executive leadership and IMTEF's national director of apprenticeship and training, see [Driscoll Becomes President of Bricklayer's Union as Boland Announces Retirement](#), and [International Masonry Training and Education Foundation Announces DiPerna as National Director of Apprenticeship and Training](#).

Training Center News

By Barry Blazevic, Manager of Operations

We are in the busiest period of our school year right now. We are very excited as to how it is progressing at this time. The students have been very enthusiastic about the classes starting at 1 p.m. The attentiveness and ability to accomplish projects and lessons have been well received.

At this time we have the first- and third-year PCC students in for their training. A very comprehensive fall protection two-day training session was held and presented by CPWR. Due to our large numbers of PCC students, we have added two instructors, Craig Lundberg and Tom Noye. They bring years of experience to our team and are a welcome addition to the staff. The second-year PCC students will start their training shortly.

The first-through third-year brick and the tile students are attending on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons so we have had a full house of training.

We are hosting for the second year the Maple Grove middle school exposure to construction trades day that is sponsored by the MCMCA. This is on March 4, 2020. We are expecting 75-120 students that day and will have hands-on stations for them to experience the true trowel trades. We are always looking for help to man these stations so if you are available or laid off please contact John Slama and he will put your experience to work for part of the day!

Upcoming journeyman training sessions will be held at the center for flashing on March 11th, grout certification on February 26th.

We are going to conduct two pre-job training programs this year. We have found that this six-week training is invaluable

to someone starting in our trades to getting placed with a contractor in the field and to have the basic abilities needed to start as a first-year apprentice by fall. These sessions will be for brick starting March 9th for six weeks and the second session for brick and tile starting on June 8th. If you know anyone that shows an interest in the trade please have them visit the website at BACtraining.org to sign up for these sessions.

It has been a welcome change to have school counselors and administrators soliciting us for information and availability to our trades. We are trying to get to any school that shows a direct interest to the construction trades and have conducted hands-on demonstrations for multiple groups this fall and winter. The Construct Tomorrow event in St. Cloud recently held had more than 400 high school students attend and try the various trades represented. The future is now!

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HAZARD ALERT

CPWR
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FALL PROTECTION SYSTEMS: HARNESSES



Am I in danger?



Falls are the leading cause of death in construction.

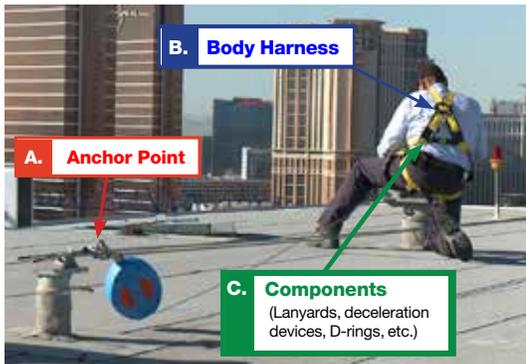
Almost every workday, somewhere in the United States, a construction worker dies as a result of a fall.

When do I need a fall protection harness?

If you are working ...

- more than 6 feet above the ground, and
- you are not protected by a system of guardrails or safety nets.

Know the ABC's of Personal Fall Arrest Systems:*



You are not safe from a fall unless you tie off.

*Source: OSHA 29CFR 1926.502

To learn more visit:

- ▶ www.StopConstructionFalls.org
- ▶ OSHA's eTool: Falls - Personal Fall Arrest Systems
<https://tinyurl.com/OSHA-eTool-Falls>

To receive copies of this Hazard Alert and cards on other topics:
call **301-578-8500** or visit **www.cpwr.com**.

To stop a fatal fall ...



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED REHFELD, LE CET

1 Wear a full-body harness

A proper fall protection harness has straps worn around the trunk and thighs. If you fall, it will distribute "stopping force" across your thighs, pelvis, chest and shoulders to prevent severe injury.

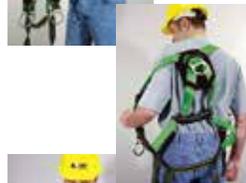


PHOTO COURTESY OF MILLER® FALL PROTECTION

2 Inspect your harness It must be worn properly and be in good condition

- Inspect your harness for worn or damaged straps, buckles, D-ring and lines.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when you put on your harness.
- Make sure all straps are fastened and adjusted correctly.
- **Don't start work** until you are satisfied with the condition and fit of your fall protection harness.



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITAL SAFETY

3 Make sure you are connected

Your lanyard should be attached to the D-ring on your fall arrest harness, then **anchored securely** to an anchor point. The anchorage must be capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds per worker attached.* Ask your supervisor if your anchor point can sustain the load without failure. **Guardrails are not anchor points.**

*Source: Source: OSHA 3146-05R 2015

It's not over when the fall stops!

It only takes a short time for the harness to restrict blood circulation, which can lead to unconsciousness or even death.

OSHA requires employers to have a plan to

"provide for prompt rescue of employees in the event of a fall."

If you think you are in danger:

Contact your supervisor.
Contact your union.

Call OSHA
1-800-321-OSHA



Apprentices were sworn in at the holiday party held Dec. 9, 2019, at the Inwood Oaks

Row 1: Jayson Moore, Kristian Weeks, Daniel McConnell, Bo Dolan, Bridgette Sharp, Tim Cerjance, Wendy Simmons, Amanda McRae, Luke Wiseman, Brandon Rutherford, Nicholas Hanson, McKenzi Donaldson, Noah Thompson, Sonny Ozuna

Row 2: James Robertson, Dayton Thesing, John Stewart, Maxwell Wachman, Austin Morales, Christopher Washington, Colton Mehrhof, James Persicke and Masonry Coordinator John Slama

Row 3: Nick Musech, Davis Fuhrer, Chris Holden, Brandon Hoerchler, Aaron Messerer, Joshua Krohn

NEW APPRENTICES



Swearing in of new Apprentices PCC members from Jan. 13, 2020

From left to right: Brandon Crowson, Ryler Hayes, Nicholas Giebel, Greyson Cunningham, Alison Owens, David Kohl, Anthony Thompson, Shane Bodle, Joel Aaser, Calvin Becker, Jesse Grotberg, and Mike Starr.



IMI Masonry Minute

From Mark Swanson, AIA IMI - Director of Industry Development and Technical Services - Minnesota area office

Key IMI Activity Highlights

Minnesota IMI Director Mark Swanson provides masonry education and consulting expertise to the design and construction community, promotes masonry and skilled union craftworkers. The main goal of his activity is to create more job opportunities for members of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD by influencing the design and construction community to use masonry solutions in their projects.



Masonry Wednesday - December 2019

Summary totals of 2019 MN IMI Activity

Events /Programs/ Seminars 71
 Continuing Education Learning Units (LUs) given 74.5
 Registered people for events 1,468

AIA MN Conference

Swanson and IMI/BAC Local 1 administrative assistant Meghan Bittner staffed the IMI booth on Masonry Street in the expo hall, in mid-November, during the AIA MN Conference. The MN architect conference is one of the largest in the nation. The conference provides the opportunity to network with architects and contractors working in the region.

Recent IMI Seminars

IMI provides continuing education to architectural and engineering firms as well as signatory contractors. I encourage each of you to use masonry aesthetically, structurally and efficiently in their projects. Recent design firm outreach includes seminars to The Cuningham Group, U+B Architecture, Collage Architects and Wilkus Architects. The MN Structural Masonry Coalition was recently at SEH Engineers in St. Paul encouraging the use of structural masonry wall systems.

Masonry Wednesdays

IMI Masonry Wednesday Seminar Series expose the design community to new masonry knowledge and create opportunities for suppliers to donate materials to the training center for

members to train on. Masonry Wednesdays are always the third Wednesday of the month at the BAC Training Center in New Hope, MN. In November, more than 70 architects, engineers, and contractors registered for Meagan Elfert’s seminar, “Flashing, What Could go Wrong?” Her seminar focused on understanding the performance characteristics, compatibility with other wall components, and life

cycle costs of the different through-wall flashing materials. In December, Justin Armatage of Henry Systems delivered a seminar on overcoming waterproofing challenges by using a liquid-applied PUMA system. PUMA is a cold fluid-applied waterproofing system with quick-curing technology providing long-term stability and permanent UV exposure. It is resistance to impact, scratches, punctures and slip resistance. Members and signatory contractors are always welcome at Masonry Wednesdays. *(See list of upcoming topics on page 9)*



Swanson Duluth Masonry Day

IMI Traveling Road Show

Swanson has put together a combined seminar series that he puts on at major cities within the Local 1 MN/ND/SD territory. Recently, Swanson was in Duluth, MN, presenting “Flashing and Moisture Control” and “Masonry Movement Joints” seminars to more than 30 attendees which included architects, engineers, suppliers, and BAC signatory contractors like Streeter Masonry and Louhi & Kivaela Masonry. In 2020 Swanson will conduct

similar events in Rochester, MN, and in North Dakota, Fargo, Bismarck, and Grand Forks. Swanson will be visiting Sioux Falls and Rapid City, both in South Dakota.

Training Programs for You

Training, quality, and safety is what sets the BAC apart from our competition. To learn more about training programs available to BAC members, visit www.IMTEF.org and www.bactraining.org.

Mark Swanson can be reached at mswanson@imiweb.org, 612-332-2214 or on his cell at 612-840-8695. To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit www.imiweb.org.

What's on the Election Day ballot in 2020?



All voters will have these races on their general election ballot:

- U.S. President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Judicial seats

Voters may also have one or more of these races on their ballot:

- County Officials
- City Officers
- School Board Members
- Township Officers
- Local ballot questions

Special Elections

Special elections are used to fill vacant offices or decide ballot questions. They can be scheduled at various times during the year and may be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled election.

MN information - <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/elections-calendar/>

ND information - <https://vip.sos.nd.gov/pdfs/Portals/electioncalendar.pdf>

SD information - <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/general-information/default.aspx>

Mark your calendar and join us for an upcoming Masonry Wednesday



2020 IMI MASONRY WEDNESDAYS 3rd Wednesday of each month

March 18	MAPEI: Porcelain Tile Systems
April 15	IMI Masonry Restoration Day – Roy Ingrassia, WJE & KPFF
May 20	Hohman & Barnard – Jeremy Douglas
June 20	University of Louisville – Dr. Mark McGinley
July 15	Biggs Consulting David Biggs, PE Extreme Masonry Veneers
August 19	York Flashing
August 26	MCMCA
September 16	NCMA – Nicholas Lang
October 21	MI – Pat Conway
November 18	SMARTci – Peter Grotenhuis
December 16	HEDNRY Justin Armitage, David Schurman: Progeq



Welcome OUR NEW MEMBERS

Joel Aaser
David Bell
Terrence Binford
John Blake
Jared Burr
Phillip Bushweiler
Keith Campbell
Joshua Clepper
Cory Crust
Thomas Demo
Joshua Dohmen
Nicholas Giebel
Jesse Grotberg
Nicholas Hanson
Adam Johnson
Gregory Kania
Brian Liska
Alison Owens
Colby Pavelka
James Persicke

Palmer Peterson
Aaron Randolph
Jeremy Robak
Kenneth Rodriguez
Chase Sauvageau
Joseph Schmock
Kristian Seibert
Bridgette Sharp
Joseph Sharp
Travis Skudlareck
Braycen Smith
Raul Soto
Devin Staudenmayer
David Steichen
Joshua Thorson
Isaiah Tilden
Jake Vondrasek
Noel Wilkinson
Tymofii Yurchenko



Deceased Members

#1 ND-Fargo
James Balster
Aleksander Laid

#4 SD-Rapid City
Jerald Remer

#1 SD-Sioux Falls
Lester Benson

#8 MN-Rochester
Gary Hidlebaugh

#2 MN-Mpls
Wilfried Groegor
John Speckel

#11 MN-Mankato
David Fields
Thomas Rykhus
Donald Theissen

#3 MN-Duluth
Dell Hartwick

#15 MN-Brainerd
Rodney Sletten

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2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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, MN

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis:
4:30 p.m. Mar. 9, May 11, June 8,
Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Nov. 9,
Delta Hotels-Mpls. NE, 1330 Industrial
Blvd NE, Minneapolis: All Metro
members 7 p.m. Dec. 14

Chapter 1-Fargo, ND

Dillworth Hi Ho Tavern: 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 22, Dec. 8
Glyndon Rod & Gun Club: 5:30 p.m.
June 25,

Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD

101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor
Temple: 6 p.m. Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May
12, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13,
Nov. 10, Dec. 8

Chapter 2-Minot, ND

Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Mar. 6 (Wage
Allocation meeting), May 13, Nov. 11

Chapter 2-Yankton, SD

209 Cedar Terrace, Yankton VFW:
7 p.m. Mar. 13 (Wage Allocation
meeting), May 8, July 10, Sept. 11,
Nov. 13
Butch's Tavern: 7 p.m. Apr. 10, June 12,
Aug. 14, Oct. 9, Dec. 11

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN

Duluth, Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m.
Mar. 11, June 10, Sept. 9, Dec. 9
Hibbing, Crown Ballroom: 6 p.m.
May 13, Aug. 12, Nov. 11,

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND

E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m.
June 22, Sept. 23, Dec. 9
Speedway Restaurant: 6 p.m. Mar. 19

Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD

617 S. 15th St., Aberdeen Central Labor
Union: 7 p.m. Mar. 16 (Wage Allocation
meeting), May 18, July 20, Sept. 21,
Nov. 16

Chapter 4-Bismarck, ND

Bismarck, AmVets: 7 p.m. May 14,
Nov. 10



Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD

922 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City Labor
Temple: 6 p.m. Mar. 6, May 1, June 5,
Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Dec. 4

Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd, MN

St. Cloud Labor Home: 7 p.m. Mar. 4,
May 6, June 4, Aug. 5, Nov. 4,
Brainerd American Legion: 7 p.m. Jan. 6
(Wage Allocation meeting), Sept. 3

Chapter 5-Watertown, SD

808 S. Broadway, Watertown VFW:
6 p.m. Nov. 20

Chapter 6-New Ulm, MN

New Ulm Amer Legion: 7 p.m. Apr. 9

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN

Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Mar. 2,
June 5, Sept. 14, Dec. 7
Faribault, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. May 4,
Aug. 3, Nov. 2

Chapter 11-Mankato, MN

Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. Mar. 5, Apr. 24, June 3, Sept. 3,
Dec. 3

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND

Bemidji, Elks Club: 5 p.m. Mar. 12, May
7, June 11, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Nov. 12,
Dec. 10

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.

Chapter 1-Fargo, ND West Fargo
Speedway Bar & Grill: 6:00 p.m. Mar. 20

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN

Duluth area: Holiday Inn, 6 p.m. Oct. 9
Iron Range: Valentini's, 6 p.m. Oct. 10

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND

Speedway Restaurant: 6 p.m. Mar. 19

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN

Rochester, Rochester's Eagle Club:
6 p.m. June 5

Chapter 15-NW MN

Becida Bar & Grill: 6 p.m. May 2

OTHER EVENTS

Retirees Club Breakfast meetings

Jax Cafe: Minneapolis, 9 a.m., Mar. 26,
Sept. 24, Dec. 3

Duluth area Retirees coffee meetings

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

Iron Range Retirees coffee meetings

Sportsman's Cafe: 9 a.m., Hibbing
Third Monday of each month

St. Cloud Retirees coffee meetings

Brigitte's Café: 9:30 a.m.,
Third Thursday of each month

Executive Committee meeting

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

Semiannual Meeting-All of MN/ND/SD

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis:
9 a.m. Apr. 4, Oct. 10

BAC Golf Tournament

Pheasant Acres: 7 a.m. July 25



Chapter 3 Golf Tournament

Grandview Golf Links: Duluth
8 a.m. Sept. 12

QUARTERLY UPDATE

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

Ambassador
Printing to add
current
mailing indicia
and Permit #

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

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

President Doug Schroeder

Editor Patricia Johnson

Design & Production Peggy Zetah

GOVERNMENT POLITICS: OUR ISSUES



POLITICS – Our Issues

By Bill McCarthy,
MN AFL-CIO President

Legislature Must Pass Local Jobs and Projects Plan

On February 11, the Minnesota Legislature reconvened for the 2020 session and lawmakers have much work ahead of them. At the top of the Minnesota AFL-CIO's legislative priorities is the Local Jobs and Projects Plan, sometimes called a bonding bill. Simply put, this bill will allow the state to borrow money in order to repair and upgrade our critical public infrastructure and fund new public construction projects in communities across the state. It's an opportunity to create tens of thousands of construction jobs while meeting Minnesotans' infrastructure needs.

Minnesota's public infrastructure is in need of a lot of work right now. Local communities and public institutions have identified more than \$5 billion in needed construction projects throughout the state. Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan listened to Minnesotans and in January, announced their priorities

for the Local Jobs and Projects Plan. It was a historic announcement; with more than \$2 billion in proposed infrastructure projects and more local projects than any previous Governor's bonding proposal in state history. If passed, the proposal will fund roads, bridges, water treatment, and public building upgrades in our communities. It really proves that Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan mean it when they talk about building One Minnesota.

Passing the Local Jobs and Projects Plan will take bi-partisan support in both chambers, as bonding bill's need a super majority of votes to get to the Governor's desk. Please call your legislators (House at 651-296-2146 and Senate at 651-296-0504) and tell them specifically to pass a bonding bill that has at least \$2 billion in investment.

While the Jobs and Local Projects Plan is our top session priority, there is much more lawmakers can do for working people this year. In 2019, we joined together to pass the nation's strongest wage theft protections. The new law makes it a felony for employers to withhold wages workers are owed. The next step in fighting wage theft will be to crack down on Employer Fraud, the practice of employers treating workers who should be considered employees as independent contractors. Employer Fraud

denies workers benefits, eligibility for workers compensation, and the right to organize. This practice is all too common in gig economy jobs, package delivery, non-union construction, and others. Employer fraud not only hurts workers but also puts high road employers at a competitive disadvantage. We're in the early stages of working with lawmakers on legislation and it will likely take a new Legislature next year to get it passed, but legislation will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO will also be supporting other key priorities this year such as Paid Family & Medical Leave, Tax Fairness, Affordable Healthcare, and the Freedom to Drive. However, given the current leadership of the Minnesota Senate, these issues aren't likely to move forward this year. Elections have consequences and we can move forward on these and other pro-worker priorities if we retain the working families' majority in the House and flip a handful of Senate seats. If you're interested in being part of that effort, look for information on how you can get involved in our Labor 2020 campaign in a future column and on our website. I hope you can join us this year.

