QUARTERLY UPDATE

Representing Bricklayers • Stone Masons • Tile Layers • Marble Masons • Terrazzo • Blocklayers • Finishers Shopworkers • Cement Masons • Pointers/Cleaners/Caulkers • Concrete Products Specialists

JUNE 2019

Health Fair Focuses on Healthy Family Living

Blood donations on the rise!

More than 2,050 people attended this year's Health & Benefit Fair held on April 13th at the Minneapolis Convention Center. BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD was represented by 39 members and their families. The following attendees won raffle prizes that will add to their healthful living repertoire:

Richard Krogh – Sonicare Toothbrush Set Gary Atkinson – Ninja Blender/Juicer James Cody – NutriBullet Ken Becklin – Cuisinart Food Processor John McCarthy – Set of nonstick cookware

The fair was a great opportunity for the members to be able to sit with a representative from Zenith and get their questions answered pertaining to health, pension and HRA items. There were many free medical tests, a kids' area, healthy cooking demonstrations, and lots more.

Memorial Blood Center exceeded its goal collecting 49 units of blood, or 117 percent of its goal. The number of lives these donations will help is 139. The food drive collected 211 pounds of food and \$64 which will provide 304 meals to needy people in the area.



Keith Kantor, second from the left, made the health fair a family event being joined by his wife Margaret (left) and daughter Delaney. Stan Paczynski, VP and NE MN bus rep along with other BAC leadership welcomed members to the fair.

Brothers Rich and Len Jarosiewicz, both retired bricklayers, once again attended the fair as in years past. "It's a great deal," says Rich of the health fair. "You get to meet nice people from other trades." Wendy, Len's wife, shares the same sentiment. "We come to the health fair every year. It is a great event." Rich knows how important it is to keep active and healthy. He is spending his retirement years with seven children, 33 grandkids and 35 great-grandkids. Wendy and Len also put their health first. They, too, are enjoying retirement with their combined family of eight kids, 22 grandkids and four great-grandkids.

Gary Bradley attended the health fair with his wife Ruth Ann, granddaughter Missy, grandson Prestin and great-grandson Landon. "I highly recommend the fair. You learn a lot," says Bradley. "You also get a lot of free stuff and Ruth Ann enjoyed a massage." The Mound, MN, resident has been with BAC Local 1 for 50 years and retired for the last 13.

Bricklayer Keith Kantor attended the fair with his wife, Margaret, and one of their four children, Delaney. "It's a great way to catch up and talk to reps and vendors," says Kantor. "They are flexible and have time to answer your questions." The Foley, MN., family has been attending the fair for the past four years.

The health fair is a wonderful, family-focused opportunity to reassess your health needs and goals. To explore additional resources and implement into your daily life new and healthful

ALLIED CRAFFINGER

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Health Fair Continued from page 1

behaviors that will reward you and your family now an in the years to come. Prepare for tomorrow by taking care of yourself today. You'll never regret it.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated blood and to the food drive. Your gift DOES make a positive difference in someone's life.

Plan to attend next year's fair which is scheduled for Sept. 26, 2020. Save the date!



Gary Bradley, on the left was joined by granddaughter Missy, great-grandson Landon and grandson Prestin for a relaxing day of learning, visiting with friends and gathering free, useful goodies.



From left, Rich Jarosiewicz along with his brother Len and Len's wife Wendy, and John McCarthy catch up at the 2019 Labor Health & Benefit Fair.





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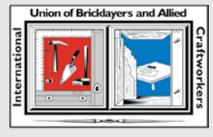
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BAC LOCAL 1: 612-379-2966 Fax 612-379-8754 BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION: 1-888-880-8222 GENERAL INFORMATION: BAC1MN-ND.org

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Minnesota, North & South Dakota Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers HRA



Doug Schroeder,
President/
Secretary-Treasurer

The HRA card can pay for healthcare, prescriptions, vision, and dental services for you, and your eligible dependents.

Why Some Transactions Need Follow Up

Doctors' offices, hospitals, vison providers and dentists offer some services that may be ineligible under the HRA plan. Card transactions at these providers must be verified by submitting a copy of your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from

the insurance provider and/or a detailed statement from the provider's office.

Although your HRA Card was accepted as a payment method, you will need to verify the expense is eligible by submitting copies of a statement or EOB.

When you use your HRA card for prescriptions, most card swipes require no additional information (verification of eligibility) to be submitted because of the Inventory Information Approval System (IIAS) in place.

Documentation

The IRS requires that the information you submit to verify a card transaction must include these five pieces of information:

1. **Patient's Name:** The name of the person who received the service or for whom the item was purchased. For retail store purchases, this information may be excluded.

- 2. **Provider's Name:** The provider who delivered the service or where the item was purchased.
- 3. **Date of Service:** The date when services were provided or the item was purchased.
- 4. **Type of Service:** A detailed description of the service provided or item purchased.
- Cost: The amount paid for the service or product and/or the portion that is not reimbursed through your insurance carrier.

Please note a credit card receipt is not adequate for card use verification because credit card receipts don't include all five pieces of information.

Submit a detailed statement, EOB or other documentation for the transaction.

If you do not have a statement/EOB or fail to supply the above information you will be asked to repay your HRA account for the amount of the card swipe. You can submit a substitute claim on a claim reimbursement form for the same or greater amount for an eligible expense that you paid for out-of-pocket and have yet to file a claim reimbursement.

Keep Your Receipts

A good rule of thumb is to keep receipts and other supporting documentation related to your expenses and reimbursement requests. The IRS may request itemized receipts to verify select expenses.

To obtain a claim form and a list of eligible HRA services and items, log onto bac1mn-nd.org > Member Benefits.

2019 Negotiations

Thank you to all the members who participated in the recent round of negotiations. Negotiations started in early April with many being settled before May 1, 2019. We did have a few that were waiting on metro negotiations to settle before they started these negotiations.

All addendums are on the website and you can speak to the individual negotiating committee members for their input on how things went during negotiations.

I encourage all members to run for these positions. Your next opportunity for these nominations will be at the October 2020 semi annual meeting.

South Dakota Death Benefit

The local has been collecting the participation forms from the members in South Dakota for the death benefit. If you haven't completed your form and sent it back in, please do so at your earliest convenience. Let's keep this great South Dakota BAC tradition moving forward.



BAC Apprentice Contest 2019

Our Apprentice Contest 2019 took place at the BAC Local #1 MN/ND Training Center located at 5420 International Parkway, New Hope, MN, 55428 on Saturday, May 11, 2019. We had bricklayer and tile layer competitors from all over Minnesota and North Dakota this year.

The competition was a HUGE success this year and we had many wonderful donations from contractors that help us support apprentice training. If anyone is interested in helping judge or donate for our Apprenticeship Contest 2020, please contact Jslama@bactraining.org or Jmoore@bactraining.org.





From Left to Right – David Malone - Greater MN Coordinator,

1st Place Winners – 3rd Year Brick Matt Hopkins Jr., 2nd Year Brick John Risch, 1st Year Brick Thomas Stroup,

2nd Place Winners – 3rd Year Brick James Thell, 2nd Year Brick Brohdy Avery, 1st Year Brick Ryan Flores,

3rd Place Winners – 3rd Year Brick Aaron Eiynck, 2nd Year Brick Jacob Freitag, 1st Year Brick Caleb Jones, John Slama – Metro Masonry Coordinator



From Left to Right – Todd Quale 3rd Place Tile Layer – Alen Jusufovic 2nd Place Tile Layer – Corey Burns Judge – Michael Churilla Judge – Greg Haggen Judge – Jayson Moore Tile/Terrazzo Coordinator – Eric Anderson 5th Place (backrow) Tile Layer – Nick Barrato 4th Place Tile Layer – Tom Brady Contest Helper – Micah Aronson 1st Place Tile Layer

Thank you to our Sponsors

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Attention Golfers – Don't Miss the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

Golf Tournament

*Saturday, July 27, 2019, at Pheasant Acres Golf Club, Rogers, MN*Sponsored by the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local Union 1 MN/ND/SD

Tee Off Time: 7 a.m.; Shotgun Start - Be There to Sign In by 6:30 a.m.

COURSE REQUIREMENT: ALL GOLFERS MUST WEAR SOFT SPIKES!



SCRAMBLE TOURNAMENT – A "Scramble" is a competition among foursomes, not individuals. Everyone in the foursome tees off. The best drive is selected, and everyone hits his/her second shot from this location. This procedure is repeated on every shot, including putting, until you putt out. The foursome will have only one score on each hole.

COST IS \$85 PER PERSON – This includes green fees, golf cart, dinner, drink tickets and prizes. Deadline for reservations is July 23. Entrants will be limited to the first 128 golfers. You may make up your own foursome, or we will place you in one.

Retired members will pay \$70 for golf.

Any questions concerning the tournament can be directed to Doug Schroeder at 612-379-2966.

Because each person must be on a cart, the deadline for golf reservations is July 19. **No exceptions!** The golf tournament is open to all <u>members</u> of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD.

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE WITH RESERVATION – Make your check payable to BAC Golf Day. Send to BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD, 312 Central Avenue SE, Room 328, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

2019 RESERVATION BAC GOLF TOURNAMENT



NAME		3a
PHONE (H)		
NAMES OF OTHERS IN YOU	UR FOURSOME	

MEMBER RECOGNITION



St. Cloud, MN: 40-Year Members
Gold Card Dinner at St. Cloud Eagles Club on April 6, 2019

Left to right: Vice President Mike Ganz, 40-year members Thomas Orth and William Rhoads, and Shawn Barclay, Chairman for the St Cloud Chapter



St. Cloud, MN: 50-Year Members
Gold Card Dinner at St. Cloud Eagles Club on April 6, 2019

Left to right: Vice President Mike Ganz, 50-year members Thomas Steinmetz, Gary Eggerth, Alfred Kelzenberg and Clement Kremers, and Shawn Barclay, Chairman for the St Cloud Chapter

MEMBER RECOGNITION



Mankato, MN: 40-Year Member Gold Card Dinner at Mankato Eagles Club on April 26, 2019

Left to right: President Doug Schroeder, 40-year member Robert Pongratz, and Vice President Eric Vik



Bismarck, MN: 40-Year Members Gold Card Dinner at AmVets Club on March 1, 2019

Left to right: Business Representative Randy Carlson, 40-year members Stephen Schneider and Dustin Huber

FCF is On the Lookout On Your Behalf

When conditions get bad enough people take action. For example, when subway crime became intolerable in 1979, private citizens formed the Guardian Angels to patrol New York's transit system. In 1980 a grieving mother created M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) to reduce drunk driving deaths.

The construction industry even took action on a national level in 1998 to fight fraud and wage violations that were harming our industry. This national construction organization was called the **National Alliance for Fair Contracting (NAFC)**. In 2011, the Bricklayer & Allied Craftworkers Union Local 1 played a key role in creating a NAFC group for Minnesota's own construction industry. Minnesota's **Fair Contracting Foundation (FCF)** began operations in 2011.

Some contractors and workers have asked the following: *Why do we need our own monitoring agency to help the government perform its job of enforcing the laws?*

First, government funding has drastically cut enforcement of our construction and wage laws in the past 40 years. If we don't assist in the enforcement, our prevailing wages laws are ignored and violated. **Second,** the government doesn't usually have access to industry expertise that would help them identify violations. For example, the Department of Labor & Industry

might not draw distinctions between tile setters and tile finishers or sheetmetal workers and pipefitters. But these differences are important to accurate payment of prevailing wages. **Third**, wage laws sometimes become a "political football" that are carried by one political group and dropped by another. We need to monitor our industry, regardless of which party is in control, to ensure good follow through and enforcement on all of the laws that keep our contractors competitive. **Fourth**, our union contractors are very reluctant to complain about bidding irregularities or cheating in the industry because they want to become eventual business partners with the public owners. They often look to the building trades unions to raise these concerns for them.

Minnesota's FCF has worked with city, state and federal officials to enforce prevailing wage laws. FCF has also worked with Independent School Districts and quasi-agencies like the Met Council, the University of Minnesota and the Airport Commission. We attempt to assist these public entities and enforce the laws when

contractors cheat. If you have any questions or complaints about wage violations, please call FCF at 651-797-2726.



Fair Contracting Foundation

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INTERNATIONAL MASONRY INSTITUTE

IMI Masonry Minute

How IMI Supports BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD

Mark Swanson, IMI Minnesota director, promotes masonry design and skilled union labor to the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) community through education and consulting. The goal of IMI's initiatives is to create more job opportunities for BAC signatory contractors and members of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD.

Recent IMI Seminars

Swanson and Sam Rubenzer, PE, IMI consulting engineer, presented on Masonry Lintel Design at S.E.H., a firm known for its work designing water treatment facilities. Rubenzer showed the firm how using F.E.A. software and masonry lintels can help them design more efficient masonry wall systems. Rubenzer also presented on Masonry Shear Wall Design at Kimley Horn Engineers in St. Paul and LHB in Minneapolis.

Other recent presentations by Swanson include seminars in Minneapolis at Leo A. Daly, Alliiance, Cermak Rhoades, and HTG Architects, along with Brunton Architects in Mankato and LHB in Duluth.

IMI Flashing and Movement Joints Seminar in Fargo, ND

In May, Swanson presented a 2-credit continuing education program on flashing and movement joints to more than 20 attendees at the Delta Marriot in Fargo. Randy Carlson, business agent, BAC Local 1 ND, attended along with signatory contractor Mike Huesman of Huesman Schrieber Masonry. David Crutchfield, AIA, associate professor of architecture at North Dakota State University, was also at the seminar which led to a conversation about how IMI can assist the school's architecture program by providing education on masonry design.

ACE Mentor Program

Swanson volunteers on the Minneapolis Hub team of the ACE Mentor Program. The program gives high school students real-world experience designing, scheduling, and estimating a local project during the course of 16 weeks. The Minneapolis Hub, which met at Ryan Companies in downtown Minneapolis, includes mentors from IMI, Kraus Anderson, Mortenson, MBJ Engineering, and Ryan. The team took third place in a competition held at the University of Minnesota in March. Recently, a student from the Minneapolis Hub was awarded a \$10,000 ACE scholarship, an honor given to only 25 students nationally. The national ACE program is sponsored and supported by many general contractors and architectural and engineering

firms around the country.

Masonry Wednesday Seminar Series at the BAC Training Center: Restoration Day

Masonry Wednesdays are always held the third Wednesday of the month. April's IMI Masonry Wednesday Seminar Series featured an extended program on restoration. For the event, IMI hosted Wiss Janney Elstner (WJE) consulting engineers Ed Gerns, Chelsea Ames, and Angela Bateson to discuss restoration procedures and case studies. More than 60 AEC professionals registered for the event. General contractors, signatory contractors, architects, engineers, owners, and schools officials – including those from the Academy of Holy Angels and Cretin-Durham Hall high school - were present. Masonry building repairs, including what to do and what not to do, were also discussed. The state capitol project was highlighted as a case study. The seminar also included hands-on patching stone and repointing brick activities. Advanced Masonry Restoration (AMR) and American Masonry Restoration donated material for event. AMR gave the support of their craftworkers, Sarah and Andre, for the demonstration portion, along with John Slama, BAC training center masonry coordinator, who discussed the PCC training program. The event was a big success! BAC signatory contractors and members are always welcomed to attend Masonry Wednesday seminars.

Perkins + Will Architects at the BAC Training Center

Swanson recently hosted designers and architects from the Perkins + Will Minneapolis office at the BAC Local 1 Training Center for a hands-on masonry building day. Attendees learned how critical skilled craftworkers are in ensuring that their designs are properly installed, and how IMI can support Perkins + Will projects. BAC Masonry Coordinator John Slama was instrumental in running this customized program. "This reintroduced us to thinking about designing patterns into the brickwork," said Pete Salmon, AIA, CDT, LEED AP technical director, senior project architect. "I believe we'll be more thoughtful in detailing of masonry systems and just have a better understanding of what's involved. We generally design with 2-dimensional computer images. The hands-on experience will allow us to see beyond the 2 Ds."

Training Programs for You

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



Deceased Members

#1 MN-St. Paul

Steve Larson Brent Minkel

#2 MN-Mpls

Theodore Hines Richard Mouritsen Gerald Pierce Richard Rolland John Speckel

#5 SD-Watertown

Gerald Enger

#6 MN-Springfield/ New Ulm

Douglas Walters

#11 MN-

Terry Cowden Arthur Rame

18 MN-Tile

Richard Brambrink
James Huberty

Stand for Working People

Continued from page 12

writing, negotiations on expanded wage theft protections are underway. We are hopeful for a positive outcome.

Putting working people first means building a fairer tax system to fund our public schools and other shared priorities. Recently, school districts across the state asked voters for \$839.1 million in property tax levy increases just to meet basic needs. Minnesota can and should do better. We can start by making sure that big corporations and the wealthy few, who reaped massive handouts from President Trump's 2017 tax bill, pay their fair share. We can also work to mitigate some of the 2017 tax bill's damage by allowing working people to deduct tools, travel costs, union dues, and other work expenses on their state taxes.

Minnesota's legislators have a choice to make. They can take our state down the old pathway of gridlock and inaction. Or, we can come together to write a new story that's focused on working families, the hopes we share, and what's possible for all of us – across race, zip code, and religion.

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.



Welcome

OUR NEW MEMBERS

John Balko Keith Bell Robert Bina Robert Clay Michael Durant Bryan Fetsch Brian Fritz Samuel Grant Carl Hanson Jerad Hendricks Davis Huibregtse Michael Johnson Zachary Johnson Jeremy Kube Matthew Kunde Kyle Lindquist Daniel Lutzi

Austin Maxwell

Garrett Maxwell
Michael Maxwell
Aaron Molkenthin
Steve Montantes
Jarred Oakman
Dylan Olson
Alex Peck
Sam Phillips

Jose Rivera Gonzalez

Dustin Rossi

Brendan Rutherford Nathanial Schroder

Jake Solano Jeffrey Stadtler Jake Streyle Cody Voight

Cody Voight Scott Voogd



2019 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

312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: 4:30 p.m. June 10, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Nov. 11

Delta Hotels-Mpls. NE, 1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis: All Metro members 7 p.m. Dec. 19

Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD

101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor Temple: 6 p.m. June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Chapter 2-Yankton, SD

209 Cedar Terrace, Yankton VFW: 5 p.m. July 12, Sept. 13, Nov. 8

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range

Duluth, Duluth Labor Center: 7 p.m. June 12, Sept. 11, Dec. 11 Hibbing, Crown Ballroom: 6 p.m. Aug. 14, Nov. 13

Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD

617 S. 15th St., Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m. July 15, Sept. 16, Nov. 18

Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD

922 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City Labor Temple: 7 p.m. June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd

St. Cloud Labor Home: 7 p.m. Aug. 7, Nov. 6,

Brainerd American Legion: 7 p.m. June 6, Sept. 5, Dec. 5

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault

Rochester, Rochester Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 9, Dec. 2 Faribault, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Aug. 5, Nov. 4



Chapter 11-Mankato-New Ulm

Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club: 7 p.m. June 6, Sept. 5, Dec. 5

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND

Bemidji, Elks Club: 5 p.m. June 13, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Nov. 14, Dec. 12
Bismarck, AmVets: 7 p.m. Nov. 12
Fargo, Dilworth Hi Ho Tavern: 5:30 p.m. Sept. 24, Dec. 10
Fargo Area Meeting, Glyndon Rod & Gun Club: 5:30 p.m. June 25
Grand Forks, E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m., June 26, Sept. 25, Dec. 11

Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Aug. 14, Nov. 13

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.

Metro Area Gold Card Luncheon

Delta Hotels-Mpls. NE, 1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis: 11 a.m. July 11

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range

Duluth area: Holiday Inn, 6 p.m. Oct. 11 Iron Range: Valentini's, 6 p.m. Oct. 12

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault

Rochester, Rochester's Eagle Club: 6 p.m. June 7

OTHER EVENTS

Retirees Club Breakfast meetings

Jax Cafe, Minneapolis, 9 a.m., Sept. 26, Dec. 5

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

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

Executive Committee meeting

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

Semiannual Meeting-All of MN/ND/SD

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

BAC ATV Ride and Cookout

Stomping Grounds, Akeley July13 Ride: 10 a.m., Cookout: 6 p.m.



BAC Golf Tournament

Pheasant Acres: 7 a.m. July 27

Chapter 3 Golf Tournament

Grandview Golf Links, Duluth 8 a.m. Sept. 7



Join Us! Saturday, July 13, 2019

BAC ATV Ride and Cook Out Stomping Grounds, Akeley, MN For more information call Mike Ganz at 612-865-0343

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

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 #

GOVERNMENT POLITICS: OUR ISSUES



POLITICS- Our Issues

By Bill McCarthy, MN AFL-CIO President

State Leaders Should Stand with Working People

As this issue goes to press, we are in between the end of the regular legislative session and the upcoming special session to finalize Minnesota's state budget for the next two years. Working people are watching our leaders closely and will continue to do so into next year's session. While Minnesota's union workers come from different places and backgrounds, we are united by our shared values. We believe in dignity, justice, and freedom for working Minnesotans. These are the values our Labor Movement strives for - not just for union members, but for all working people.

Governor Walz and lawmakers have the opportunity to chart a new course. They have the opportunity to act boldly. They have the opportunity to invest in priorities that reflect the best of Minnesota by putting working families first.

Putting working people first means protecting and improving the transportation system we depend on every

day to get us to our jobs and home safely. We can't afford to let our roads and bridges fall apart and we must never let a tragedy like the 35W bridge collapse ever happen again. Governor Walz and House DFLers supported a comprehensive, long-term and sustainable transportation funding package to fix our roads and bridges, ease congestion and make Minnesotans safer. We are disappointed Senate Republicans chose not to prioritize a safe and modern transportation system. This issue isn't going away and will need to be addressed next year.

Putting working people first means providing us with the freedom to care for themselves and the people they love without sacrificing a paycheck. Creating a paid family and medical leave program, as Governor Walz and House Democrats have proposed, will make Minnesota a happier and healthier place



to live and work. Once again, it appears that Senate Republicans are standing in the way of making this a reality. We aren't giving up. As a co-chair of Minnesotans for Paid Family & Medical Leave, the Minnesota AFL-CIO remains committed to fighting for this freedom.

Putting working people first means broadening wage theft enforcement and enacting strong penalties for employers who steal from workers. The tens of thousands of Minnesotans who suffer wage theft every year deserve justice; and our leaders need to make clear that Minnesota is a place where working people will be paid what they are promised. As of this

Continued on page 8

