

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Congratulations to the Metro Golf Tournament Winners!



### 1st Place Team

(L to R): Nick Smitds, Scott Calverly, Tony Kosloski, Dave Steichen

Thank you all who participated in this year's annual metro golf tournament. We had a beautiful day for the event. Thank you to all who donated to this event. Without you, we would not be able to hold the golf tournament.

Thank you to the hole sponsors who managed the competition holes at the event: Taylor Pribyl and Elizabeth Hinnenkamp from Building Trades Credit Union and Theresa Fuhrmann and Karen McKernan from Union Bank and Trust.

Thank you to the staff at Pheasant Acres for another great day of golf, food, and reconnecting with friends.



### 2nd Place Team

(L to R): Payton Weber, Nick Baratto, Mark Parrish



### 3rd Place Team

(L to R): Tim Dougherty, Barry Blazeovic, Ian Carey, Bob Brabbit



### INSIDE:

From the President	3
Training Center	4 -5
Member Recognition	6-7
IMI Corner	8-9
Events	11
Advocacy Works	12

## New Location

The September 23rd metro retirees' breakfast will be held at the Delta Plaza  
1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis MN

# Employment Opportunity Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Training Center Local #1 MN/ND

The MN/ND BAC Apprenticeship Training Center is pleased to announce an opportunity for an instructor position. This is a full-time salaried position from Oct. 11, 2021, through June 3, 2022. Continuing annually September-May (Metro Journeyman Bricklayer scale).

Applicants should be a current journey worker, with a minimum of five years field experience. Preferably this candidate would be well rounded in the trowel trades with the ability to use social media and be familiar with Microsoft office primarily Excel and Word. This is a multi-faceted role and will require a self-motivated individual who is flexible in both skills and hours. Please submit a resume no later than the end of the business day Friday, September 10th. Interviews will be scheduled for the week of September 20th with a tentative start date of October 11th. Please include three references and their contact information with your resume.

Send your resume to John Slama either by email [jslama@bactraining.org](mailto:jslama@bactraining.org), or mail to BAC Apprenticeship Training Center, 5420 International Parkway, New Hope, MN, 55447, or it can be dropped off in person at the same address.

**Questions or inquiries for more information** about the position can be answered by email, calling 651-272-9910, or stopping by the training center.

## Working During COVID-19 - Share Your Story!

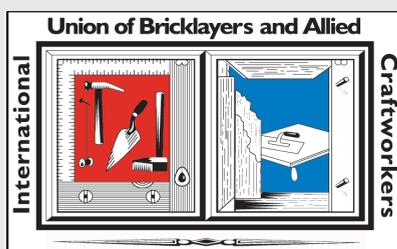
Credit: [bacweb.org](http://bacweb.org)



Despite the pandemic, BAC members are continuing to build communities across much of North America - and we want to see how you're doing it.

Please submit video and photos showing how you and your fellow members are working safely during the crisis, using the guide below, and we may feature your submission on the union website, on social media, or at our Executive Council meetings, New Leaders Conference or Local Leadership Conference.

Let's show the world how union craftworkers persevere through unexpected and extreme conditions. Visit <https://bacweb.org/MyStory>



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

**BAC INTERNATIONAL UNION:** 1-888-880-8222

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** [BAC1MN-ND.org](http://BAC1MN-ND.org)

**APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING:** [BACtraining.org](http://BACtraining.org) or phone 763-404-8345

**BENEFITS:** Check the Zenith American Solutions website: [zenith-american.com](http://zenith-american.com)  
Call 651-256-1801 or 1-800-879-4412 **Email:** [ZA-MN-CA@zenithamerican.com](mailto:ZA-MN-CA@zenithamerican.com)

## Step Up and Speak Up



Doug Schroeder,  
President/  
Secretary-Treasurer

The Local has been discussing better ways to organize and gain more market share. Agents attend city council meetings, county commissioner meetings and state legislative meetings to make sure that the voice of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers is heard. In some rooms this message is better communicated by the members residing in the area where the work is being proposed.

As a former council member in the city that I live in, I can tell you firsthand that the voice of a taxpayer carries more weight than that of an organization vying for its own benefit. Although public service is not for everyone, it is still important to be heard by your city,

county, and state and local representatives.

If you know of projects being brought to these tables and are interested in having your voice heard, please take the time to let the Local know and attend the meeting. Together we are the union and together we can send our message.

## Business Agent Position Open

As summer is slipping away and winter is right around the corner, the Local is making plans to hire a new business agent for the metro area. **Interested parties should send in their resumes to [info@bac1mn-nd.org](mailto:info@bac1mn-nd.org).**

The following qualifications are recommended:

- Union advocate
- Good communication skills
- Organized
- Task orientated
- Self-motivated
- Light computer skills
- Ability to travel by air and to be away from home for extended periods of time
- Reliable transportation
- Ability to work evenings and weekends
- Safety orientated
- Ability to take detailed notes
- Good understanding of the BAC's jurisdictional coverage

## FCF Protects Wages

The Fair Contracting Foundation of Minnesota continues to work with your union to ensure that standards are protected in our industry. Recent highlights include:

- The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) found that Mortenson Masonry, Inc., misclassified workers and failed to pay overtime on the Northland Community & Technical College Aviation Hangar Addition and Renovation. In total the Department determined that Mortenson Masonry, Inc., owed workers \$30,725. In addition, DLI imposed a \$14,000 penalty. This was a high price to pay for trying to cheat your craft.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation determined that VanVickle Masonry, LLC, owed employees \$2,940 after FCF submitted a complaint alleging misclassification of workers performing Bricklayer work.
- FCF has recently learned that the Department of Labor and Industry has closed its case and found violations involving Rock Solid Masonry, Inc. on the Fergus Falls Public Library addition and renovation project. FCF had submitted a complaint on this project alleging possible misclassification and potential non-compliance with records submission requirements. FCF is awaiting public documents confirming what specific violations were found and the specific monetary results the violations carried.

FCF currently has numerous active complaints active with various agencies concerning the trades. These include complaints of misclassification of workers as independent contractors on multiple projects throughout the state. Misclassification of workers as independent contractors is an increasingly common problem in the construction industry and one of the worst ways that contractors abuse their workers, stripping them of significant legal protections and employment benefits, while achieving labor costs substantially lower than contractors who play by the rules. Additionally, FCF has submitted a far-reaching complaint to multiple agencies; a complaint involving alleged violations of numerous labor and employment laws as well as potential abuse of the H2B visa worker program.

As always, FCF is happy to work with BAC Local 1 to protect your standard of living and prevent the exploitation of labor.

## HIGHLIGHTS



The 2020-21 metro training year was concluded with the graduation celebration of 43 BAC apprentices on May 21st at the roofers training center.

We began the 2021-22 training year with a six-week pre-apprenticeship. Funds were

supplied for this training through the MNRAE grant. The grant's focus was toward individuals under 26-years-old and in underserved demographics to help find a career in the skilled trades.

As the largest age demographic in our membership continues to retire during the next 10 years, we were fortunate to have nine of the trainees under 23-years-old. On July 16 we graduated 16 pre-apprentice students! Each of them has either started working or have interviews with our signatory contractors.

The Mill City Museum is currently in a phase of restoration. The work is being done by signatory contractor Advanced Masonry Restoration. Due to the state of the historic landmark, the architectural firm of Miller Dunwiddie specified the use of quick lime mortar. This is a historic technique that continued through the mid 1800's up to the introduction of Portland based cement.

Although used in restoration in the UK and Scotland it is just now gaining recognition here in the US. We were fortunate enough to have the support of the IMI and IMTEF to provide this training here. It has not been done anywhere else in the BAC.

We start the metro apprenticeship classes the week of September 13th. Please check out our website calendar for the current schedule at BAC Apprentice Training Center Local #1 MN/ND ([bactraining.org](http://bactraining.org)).

**Upcoming upgrades include:** Flashing, Grout, OSHA 10 and 30, Blueprint and Foreman training.



# Training Center News

## RECRUITMENT

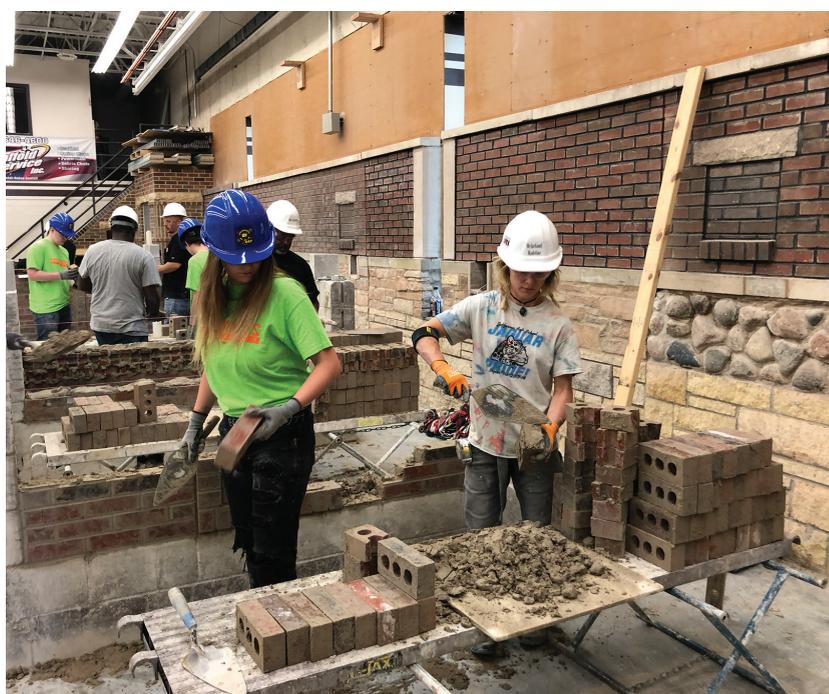
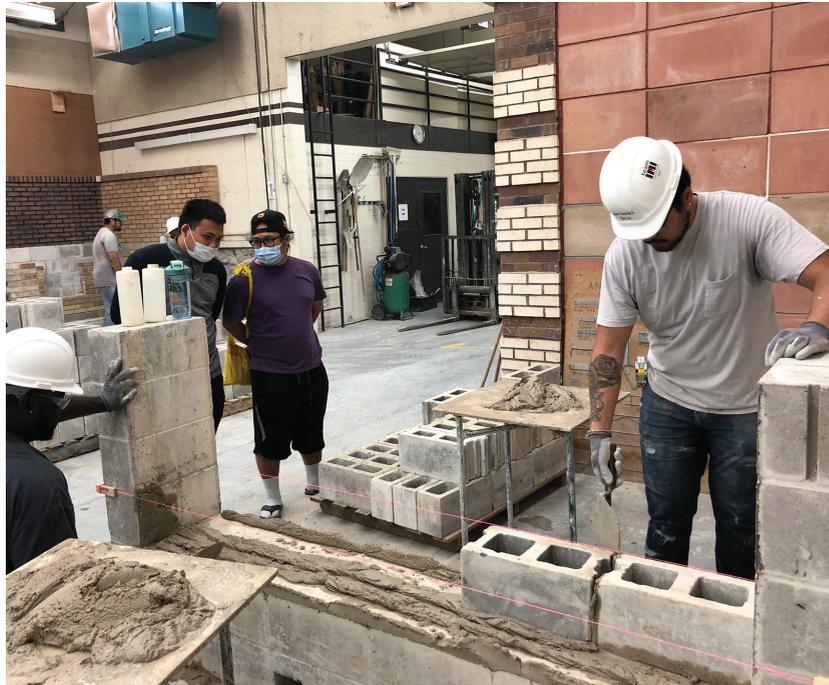
Every year through our partnership with ACAM, the building trades, and Construction Careers Pathways, we host a group of high school students from the MN Trades Academy to participate in a two-day workshop. This year we had a group of 14 students from the White Bear Lake School District. The timing coincided with week six of our pre-apprenticeship. By combining the MN trades students with our pre-apprentices, we saw great engagement from both groups. Upon leaving, the MN trade kids were excited and interested. They all really enjoyed being taught by someone their age and demographic. At least one third of them said they were strongly considering a career in the BAC because of the experience. Our pre-apprentices also commented on how much they enjoyed showing the high school kids what they had learned in five weeks. This gave them a great boost of confidence as they closed out the week in anticipation for their career.

We hosted students from the Karen Group. They participated with the pre-apprenticeship students in some hands-on activities. This non-profit focuses on the Tibeto-Burman community and career opportunities.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Watch our website for upcoming volunteer opportunities such as Construct Tomorrow events. Construct Tomorrow brings in 300-600 high school kids into a venue to try different hands-on trade activities. It is a great opportunity for members to talk about their trade and help kids lay to the line. The first one is September 28th and 29th in St Paul.

Here is a link to their current upcoming events calendar for Construct Tomorrow. <https://www.constructtomorrow.org/upcoming-events>



# MEMBER RECOGNITION

## Gold Card Luncheon

Thank you to all who attended the Metro Gold Card Luncheon on July 8, 2021. We had a great turnout this year and it was good to be back in person with these members.



### Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN: 25-Year Members

Left to right: President Doug Schroeder, 25-year members Michael Mullen, Gregory Haas, Mark Gibson, Eric Johnson, Sean Skillings, John Slama, Burt Ackerman, Timothy Hagen, Rodrick Schmidt, and IUBAC Treasurer Bob Arnold

### 25-Year Members not in attendance:

James Arbuckle  
Michael Bradley  
Jeff Chmielewski  
Thomas Clemens  
Kevin Coffin  
Kent Daerda  
Timothy Doyle  
James Dreyling  
Gary Dudley  
William Dukowitz  
Ryan Eik  
John Evenson  
Gregory Foster  
John Fraser  
Thomas Garrett

Greg Haan  
Brian Hamann  
Randy Hamann  
Dejay Heath  
Susan Jenni  
Bradley Johnson  
Terrance Judge  
Thomas Kadrlik  
David Kamrowski  
Richard Kassa  
Mark Katzenmeyer  
August Keller  
Steven Kreger  
Paul Kuntz Jr  
James Leining

Daniel Loahr  
Daniel Luedke  
Steven Luepke  
Douglas Maros  
Rick Martagon  
David McCabe  
Jack Mccarthy Jr.  
Jeffrey Mctague  
Kevin Medchill  
Louvern Moen  
Jeremy Nagorski  
Gerald Pavek  
John Penner  
Wayne Risher  
Jason Rowland

Karen Russell  
Timothy Salak  
Michael Sanoski  
Terry Sayer  
Kjell Schafer  
Raymond Schmidt  
Brent Shanahan  
Wade Shanahan  
Edward Smolinski  
Gregory Spanier  
Dale Stavish  
Richard Steineke  
Wayne Wells  
Amber Winston

# MEMBER RECOGNITION



## 40-Year Members not in attendance:

Michael Blumberg  
Dale Determan  
Charles Hart  
James Michael  
Douglas Rose  
Daniel Ryan  
Mahlon Schweiker  
Jeffrey Stanley  
Robert Weckwerth  
Mark Wolters

## Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN: 40-Year Members

Left to right: President Doug Schroeder, 40-year members David Dewitt, Donald Steele, and IUBAC Treasurer Bob Arnold



## 50-Year Members not in attendance:

Richard Larson  
John Zahler  
James Zemke

## Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN: 50-Year Members

Left to right: President Doug Schroeder, 50-year members Ronald Christensen, Herbert Mielke, Randall Fedder, and IUBAC Treasurer Bob Arnold



### IMI Masonry Minute

#### KEY IMI ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The main goal of the IMI director's activity is to create more job opportunities for members of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD. Mark Swanson does this through masonry education and consulting expertise to the design and construction community, promoting masonry and skilled union craftworkers.

#### IMI WEBINAR SERIES

Swanson facilitates many local and national webinar programs for IMI: the local IMI Masonry Wednesday program, the National Masonry Webinar Series, the National Structural Coalition Webinar Series, and the IMI Vendor Webinar Series. Swanson hosts industry experts in these areas to deliver thoughtful and educational content to the audiences. To date more than 10,000 people have registered for these webinars.

#### TRAINING, QUALITY, AND SAFETY IS WHAT SETS THE BAC APART FROM OUR COMPETITION

What's old is now new again. A recent trend we are seeing is that architects are specifying hot lime mortar for historic building repairs. Swanson helped facilitate a Historic Lime Mortar Training with a focus on hot lime mortar in July for Advanced Masonry Restoration. This was for a historic project in Minneapolis with requirements for hot lime mortar to be used. A team from IMTEF, IMI and the Scottish Lime Centre Trust put on a two-day training session at the BAC Training Center in New Hope, MN, for this project training. From IMTEF: Pete Kohl and

Dave Wysocki represented IMTEF. Swanson, Amy Woods and Meghan Bittner represented IMI. John Slama, Matt Hopkins, Dave Malone and Barry Blazevic were also present from the BAC Training Center. Roz Artis attended via Zoom from the Scottish Lime Center Trust. Members from the Minnesota Historic Society and the architectural firms working on the project were also present.

*"This training will help our crews understand the types of mortars that were used on the building we work on and with this knowledge we'll have a better idea of how to make a lasting repair. This class was an all-out effort on everyone's part and it was a really great experience. We are looking forward to other learning opportunities."*

*Continued on page 9*

*—Tom Miller, AMR*



*Historic Mortar Training Group Photo. Left to right, First row: Dave Malone, Pete Kohl, John Slama, Melissa Ekman, Tom Miller, Jason Alferness, Craig Thumstedter, Mark Swanson. Second row: Sandy Holm, Matt Hopkins, Marshall Boone, Valerie Heider, Dave Wysocki, Marais Bjornberg, Levi Post, Barry Blazevic. Not pictured: Craig Lundberg*



*Tom Miller of AMR*



*Pete Kohl of IMTEF with Dave Wysocki in background*

## IMI Masonry Minute *Continued from page 8*

Additional training and educational opportunities will emerge from this effort.

### TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

Swanson has been engaging the Building Information Modeling community for several years advocating for better masonry representation in the software that architects and engineers use to design buildings. In June he hosted a webinar that looked behind the curtain for BIM for Masonry. The program focused on highlighting workflow solutions that designers can use when designing with masonry in software. In June, for a contractor audience, Fred Kinateder and Swanson presented Technology Solutions for mason contractors. They demonstrated PROCORE and Bluebeam along with BIM Tools for Masonry in the Revit software, showcasing the latest in project management and masonry software developments.

### JBC MASONRY INNOVATION COMPETITION

IMI's JBC Masonry Innovation Competition challenges practicing and aspiring architects and engineers to advance the future of masonry design and construction. The competition is an invaluable marketing tool and allows us to continue building meaningful relationships with A/E firms and professionals to inspire them to design with union masonry and tile. This year, we're encouraging participants to consider how masonry can be a part of critical infrastructure in the post-pandemic world, like schools, warehouses, and healthcare facilities. Winning submissions will be used to promote forward-thinking uses of BAC crafts and materials to the broader AEC community, helping us continue to grow the use of masonry in these key markets. More broadly, we're also accepting imagined, built, or under-construction projects that add value, usefulness, appreciation, and relevance to masonry design and construction.

If there are any projects in your area you feel would be a good fit, contact your IMI director so we can extend a personal invitation for the design team to submit.

Mark Swanson can be reached at [mswanson@imiweb.org](mailto:mswanson@imiweb.org) or 612-840-8695. To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit [www.imiweb.org](http://www.imiweb.org).



## Building Trades Credit Union

### Switch your banking to BTCU!

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| > Free Checking       | <b>Plus Great Loan Rates!</b> |
| > Automatic Savings   | > Auto                        |
| > Mobile Banking      | > Recreational                |
| > NEW! Mobile Deposit | > Home & Mortgage             |

[www.buildingtradesCU.com](http://www.buildingtradesCU.com) (763) 315-3888

Federally insured by the NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.

## SOME DAY YOU WILL RETIRE. Will you be financially sound?

Advanced Advisor Group (AAG) will educate you about your options.

- PENSION
- INVESTMENT
- LIFE INSURANCE
- LONG-TERM CARE



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.

\*Education Minnesota with over 25,000 members served and over \$1.1 billion in assets under management through affiliate firm EFS Advisors. EFS Advisors & AAG are not affiliated with Education Minnesota. Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through EFS Advisors. A Registered Investment Advisor. Member FINRA & SIPC. 440 Emerson St N Ste 4, Cambridge MN 55008 - 763-689-9023

## Have You Been Exposed to Asbestos?

GET A LUNG CANCER SCREENING EXAM TODAY!

This exam is covered by your fund.\*  
\*Verify with your fund before scheduling.

CENTER FOR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING\*



WE SPECIALIZE IN ANSWERS

TO SCHEDULE, CALL **866.765.7138**

[myCDI.com/TwinCities](http://myCDI.com/TwinCities)

## Helping injured people for over 60 years.

Auto Accidents

Medical Malpractice

Workers' Compensation

Wrongful Death

Construction Accidents

— Personal Injury Law —  
**SiebenCarey**  
**Know your rights**

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

[knowyourrights.com](http://knowyourrights.com)

**(612) 333-4500 • 1-800 4-RIGHTS**

Minneapolis • Lakeville • Duluth  
901 Marquette Avenue, Suite 500, Minneapolis, MN 55402



## Deceased Members

### #1 MN - St. Paul

Robert Plummer  
Vernon Runge

### #1 ND - Fargo

Richard Demro

### #1 SD - Sioux Falls

Marvin Manke

### #2 MN - Minneapolis

Leon Halling  
Robert D. Johnson  
Allen Kugel  
David Laabs  
Duane Lindberg

### #4 MN - St. Cloud

Paul Aslagson

### #4 ND - Bismarck

Arthur Hilfer  
Timothy Perius

### #4 SD - Rapid City

Bernard Ness

### #7 MN - Winona

Dale McNamer

### #8 MN - Rochester

Jeffrey Barton

### #15 MN - Brainerd

Ivo Tauchman



## Retired Members

Some BAC Local 1 members have retired in 2020. We are grateful for your dedication of work and we wish you a great future in your retirement years!

### #1 MN - St. Paul

Kenneth Becklin  
Jay Copp  
David Mauren  
Miroslav Mikulic

### #1 ND - Fargo

Kevin Schlotfeldt

### #2 MN - Minneapolis

Richard Beattie  
Mark Bergstrom  
Shannon Foote  
Allen Fuhrmann  
Robert Nuorala  
Gordon Skillings  
James Super

### #4 MN - St. Cloud

Randall Lemke  
Daniel Niehoff

### #4 ND - Bismarck

Gordon Jangula

### #15 MN - Brainerd

Terrance Johnson

### #18 MN - Tile

Fuad Husidic  
John Penner

## Comprehensive & Compassionate Dental Care



Contact us today and experience 25 years of exceptional dentistry.

612.379.2428  
froeberdentistry.com

Mention this Union ad and receive \$100 towards any dental service.

*New Patients Only.  
Some exclusions may apply.*



## Welcome OUR NEW MEMBERS

Elijah Beyer  
Victor Brumm  
Tannor Boxwell  
Nicholas Carroll  
Garrett Hendrickson  
Martin Horvath  
Adam Hufstedler  
Thomas Laabs

Dominic Luukkonen  
Luke Osborne  
James Powell  
Nick Reding  
Cornell Scott  
Ian Urell  
Branden Welch

# 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN**  
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: 4:30 p.m. Sept. 13, Nov. 8,  
Delta Hotels-Mpls. NE, 1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis: All Metro members 7 p.m. Dec. 13

**Chapter 1-Fargo, ND** Dilworth Hi Ho Tavern: 5:30 p.m. Sept. 22, Dec. 6

**Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD**  
101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor Temple: 6 p.m. Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14

**Chapter 2-Minot, ND**  
Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Mar. 5 (Wage Allocation meeting), Nov. 10

**Chapter 2-Yankton, SD**  
209 Cedar Terrace, Yankton VFW: 7 p.m. Sept. 10, Nov. 12  
Butch's Tavern: 7 p.m. Oct. 8, Dec. 10

**Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN**  
Duluth, Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m. Sept. 8, Dec. 8

Hibbing, Valentini's in Chisholm: 6 p.m. Nov. 10

**Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND**  
E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m. Sept. 23, Dec. 7

**Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD**  
617 S. 15th St., Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m. Sept. 20, Nov. 22

**Chapter 4-Bismarck, ND**  
Bismarck, AmVets: 7 p.m. Nov. 9

**Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD**  
922 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City Labor Temple: 6 p.m. Sept. 3, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

**Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd, MN**  
St. Cloud Labor Home: 7 p.m. Nov. 3

Brainerd American Legion: 7 p.m. Sept. 2, Dec. 2

**Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN**  
Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 13, Dec. 6  
Faribault, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Nov. 1

**Chapter 11-Mankato, MN**  
Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 2, Dec. 2

**Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND**  
Bemidji, Elks Club: 5 p.m. Sept. 9, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

**GOLD CARD DINNERS**  
Letters will be mailed.

**Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN**  
Duluth area: Holiday Inn, 6 p.m. Oct. 8  
Iron Range: Valentini's, 5 p.m. Oct. 9



## OTHER EVENTS

**Retirees Club Breakfast meetings**  
Delta Plaza located at 1330 Industrial Blvd NE, Minneapolis 9 a.m., Sept. 23, Jax Cafe: Dec. 2

**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 Tuesday of each month

**Executive Committee meeting**  
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: 9 a.m. Oct. 1

**Semiannual Meeting-All of MN/ND/SD**  
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis: 9 a.m. Oct. 2

**Chapter 3 Golf Tournament**  
Grandview Golf Links: Duluth 8 a.m. Sept. 11

## Reminder!

This year's semi-annual meeting will be held on Saturday Oct. 2, 2021, at 9 am. The meeting will take place in the second-floor meeting rooms at 312 Central Ave SE, rooms 216-217.

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
US Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit # 7382

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



## Advocacy Works When Building Trades Members Engage

*Submitted by FCF of Minnesota*

Since the Great Recession, organized labor has faced an unprecedented assault on the policies that allow us to maintain healthy unions and provide good jobs for working people. Austerity-minded politicians seized the opportunity created by the economic downturn to institute Right-to-Work (RTW) laws and repeal Prevailing Wage in multiple states, including traditionally pro-labor states such as Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. While we have largely been insulated from these changes in Minnesota, there is always more that we can do to advocate for working families. We see our greatest success when rank-and-file members are involved in their local communities.

There are 70,000 union construction workers in Minnesota, and each of us is a citizen of a city or town, county, school district, and the state. Each of these governmental entities can potentially play a role in the struggle over labor rights. Every municipality builds structures, and opens an opportunity for passing responsible bidder requirements, or a local Prevailing Wage policy, or a Project Labor Agreement.



You—yes, you—can lead the charge in your community. You can attend public meetings and educate the local elected officials about these policies. Or you can run for office yourself, and be a part of making that decision. There are huge opportunities for Building Trades members who are willing to seize them, from city council, county board, and school board races, to campaigns for state house or senate, or maybe even Congress. The ways to get involved are nearly endless.

Why do it, though? Because advocacy works! Despite the losses mentioned above, since Building Trades advocates got involved in the policy fights over RTW and Prevailing Wage, we have

started to see some successes: RTW was voted down in Missouri (2018), Montana (2021), and New Hampshire (2021); and Prevailing Wage was reinstated in Colorado (2019), and was established for the very first time in Virginia (2020). These successes were because the men and women of the Building Trades took it on themselves to make these labor policies a big deal. They educated their elected officials and presented information to the general public to show them how these policies actually work and the benefits they provide.

Contact FCF for help on exploring opportunities in your community. Let's continue together in this advocacy toward even greater success!



*The Fair Contracting Foundation promotes prevailing wage law education, compliance and enforcement. It advocates for practices, policies and laws that ensure fair government contracts, a strong local industry and protection of the public interest. We're here to help. Give us a call at 651-797-2726 or toll-free at 1-844-777-0606*