

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

MARCH 2025

## Congratulations, New Apprentices. Let the Adventure Begin!

As members gathered for the annual holiday party at the Delta Plaza, we had the honor of swearing in new apprentices. Congratulations to the incoming members of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD. *For more holiday party photos, see page 2.*



Left to right: Jacob Klein, Huge Ipsen, Matthew Makis, Mickey Springer, Dylan Welsch, Tylor Matter, Elizebeth Hopkins, Lukas Lienke, Dania Whitney, Anthony Fisher, Jordyn Berg, Zakkry Arenz, Emir Rosic, Dylan Massie.

**Save the  
Date**

**Semi-Annual Meeting  
April 5, 2025  
9 a.m.**

312 Central Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Second floor meeting room

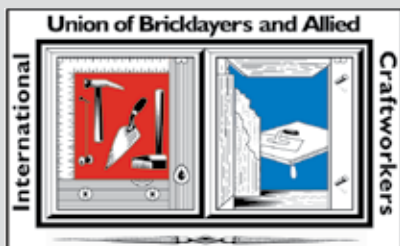


### INSIDE:

From the President	3
Training Center	4
IMTEF Training	7
Members' Benefits	9
Events	11

# Scenes from the Holiday Party

The BAC holiday party was a wonderful, relaxing time for many in attendance at Delta Hotels in Northeast Minneapolis. Many received small gifts and gift cards as they gathered around delicious food and conversation at the December 9 event. The Well Being Program from Health Partners was also presented to all party goers.



**BAC LOCAL 1: 612-379-2966 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



Doug Schroeder, President/  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Opportunities, Negotiations, and Allocations - What You Need to Know

As winter is hopefully settling down, work should be picking up. If you are out of work, please make sure to contact the hall and get on the out-of-work list. Business Rep Rod Schmidt will reach out to you and inform you of possible contractors looking for trades people.

The constitution and ballot were mailed out on Jan. 31, 2025, to all members at their known address on record at the hall. The results of the ballot vote will be posted on the website and communicated at chapter meetings around the local.

Negotiation committees have been meeting around the local. If you have any comments or input on these negotiations, please feel free to contact us at [info@bac1mn-nd.org](mailto:info@bac1mn-nd.org) or you may use this QR code to send us your ideas via a Google form.

Contract opener letters have been sent out to all contractors and Federal Mediation Services around the local's jurisdiction. Updates on negotiations will be posted on the

website and communicated at chapter meetings.

Allocation meetings are occurring around the local area. As some of the areas have voted to hold allocation meetings until negotiations are completed, a list of proposed dates for these rescheduled meetings will be announced closer to the completion of negotiations. Keep an eye out on the website and via the texting program for this announcement.



## Introducing the Organizing Committee

The Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 1 MN/ND/SD Metro-Organizing Committee, led by Nick Musech, Amanda Psihos-Iversen, Dylan Welsch, Sam Strandness, Joe Vanek, Zakk Arenz, Matt Hopkins, and Jeremy Olson is focused on uniting our membership, growing the union, and building strong community relationships. Our mission is to ensure every member feels supported and engaged. We'll be kicking things off with a cookout at the March metro chapter meeting—join us an hour before the meeting for food and camaraderie!

If you'd like to start an organizing committee in your area, please reach out to Jeremy Olson. Together, we can build a stronger future for our Local!

---

## The 2025 US Bates Scholarship opened for applications in February 2025

Program information and the online application form are now accessible at <https://bacweb.org/bac-journal/us-bates-scholarship>.

BAC annually awards three scholarships to students whose parents or stepparents are US BAC members. The stipends are \$5,000 per year for up to four years – up to \$20,000 total.

For further information, please contact BAC's Education Department at [askbac@bacweb.org](mailto:askbac@bacweb.org) or 1-888-880-8222 ext. 3887. Or to access the online application, please visit <https://aim.applyists.net/IUBAC>.



---

## Have you registered for the IUBAC Portal?

### BAC Website Login

Members are encouraged to create a free login account to Member Portal to access members-only information. You will use the same account username and password to log in to our website to access news for members only.

For questions about BACWeb, please contact [askbac@bacweb.org](mailto:askbac@bacweb.org).

## A Strong Start to the Training Year!

The new year kicked off with a full slate of training at the BAC Apprentice Training Center, and January set the tone for what's shaping up to be a busy and productive season. We recently had one of the busiest training weeks of the year, with third year brick, third year PCC, and second year tile setter apprentices completing an intensive week of OSHA 30 and Blueprint Reading. These essential courses help ensure our apprentices are well-equipped with the knowledge and safety skills they need to succeed on the job.

In addition, we were fortunate to have Marthe Brock on site, teaching sealants to our first year PCC apprentices as well as T.E.A.M. This specialized training provided valuable hands-on instruction in proper sealant application techniques; an essential skill for their craft.

Beyond the classroom, we had the opportunity to connect with the next generation of skilled tradespeople at the Hinckley Construct Tomorrow event. This outreach event introduced students from surrounding schools to careers in bricklaying, PCC, and tile setting, giving them a hands-on glimpse into our industry and the opportunities that lie ahead. A special thanks to our member volunteers, Joel Aaser and Denis Gubanov.

January also marked the launch of training for all years of PCC apprentices, alongside brick classes for apprentices from outside the metro area—all while our regularly scheduled metro classes continue in the afternoons and evenings.

With a packed schedule and strong engagement from our apprentices, instructors, and industry partners, 2025 is already off to a great start!



*Apprentices participating in the blueprint reading activities*



*Hinckley staff and volunteers working with high school students*

### Looking for a Rewarding Career?

Do you know someone who is interested in a rewarding career in bricklaying or PCC? Our Brick/PCC Pre-Apprenticeship program is still accepting applications. We offer two separate sessions for this introductory training program. The first six-week training course begins on March 31 and the second will begin June 2. Both sessions provide hands-on instruction, safety training, and foundational skills to prepare participants for a registered apprenticeship. Apply at <https://bactraining.org/become-an-apprentice>.





## Exploring the Future of Construction with Amvic™ ICF

Last month, the training center hosted an Amvic™ Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) training session, providing apprentices and industry professionals with hands-on experience in this energy-efficient and resilient building system. Led by Alleguard's expert team, the session covered key benefits, including superior thermal performance (R-values of 22 and 30), structural integrity for high-wind areas, fire resistance, and sound attenuation. Participants gained practical knowledge of ICF installation for energy-efficient walls and frost walls, equipping them to integrate this versatile system into future projects.

A special thank you to Marty McCartney, Gene Guetzow, and Brad Hovden for leading this engaging training, as well as IMI's Pat Conway and Wisconsin BA's Tony Fox for their support. Events like these ensure our members stay at the forefront of industry innovation - helping us push boundaries and build the future!

**Comprehensive & Compassionate Dental Care**

Mention this Union ad and receive \$100 towards any dental service.  
*New Patients Only. Some exclusions may apply.*





**FROEBER**  
DENTISTRY

Contact us today and experience 25 years of exceptional dentistry.

**612.379.2428**  
froeberdentistry.com


## Protecting the Rights of Injured Workers Since 1952

- Auto Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Workers Comp

- Wrongful Death
- Slip & Fall
- Dog Bites

**FREE Accident Investigation Services**  
*after hours, call...*

Jim Carey .....	(612) 860-4929
Harry Sieben .....	(612) 865-9258
Jeff Sieben .....	(651) 336-1925
Mark Olive .....	(612) 221-8211
Ian Carey .....	(651) 336-4005



— Personal Injury Law —

**SiebenCarey**  
Know your rights™

901 Marquette Avenue • Suite 500 • Minneapolis, MN 55402

**knowyourrights.com • 1-800 4-RIGHTS**

**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



**ADVANCED**  
Advisor Group, LLC

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

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES - WINTER/SPRING 2025

The John J. Flynn BAC/IMI International Training Center  
 17101 Science Drive ■ Bowie, Maryland 20715

### TRAIN-THE-TRAINER COURSES (INSTRUCTORS)

March 10 - 14	<b>JAHN Train the Trainer</b> Must attend both sessions
March 18 - 19	<b>Mentorship Matters Train the Trainer</b> Class size limited to 20
March 18 - 19	<b>Procore Train the Trainer - Software Platform</b> Class size limited to 20
April 14 - 18	<b>OSHA 500</b> Trainer Course in OSHA Standards for Construction
April 28	<b>Grout &amp; Flashing Train the Trainer</b>

### CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

January 13 - May 23 (Weekly enrollment - Until April)	<b>Prejob/CrossCraft/Upgrade Training</b>
April 7 - 12	<b>Foreman Training/Mentorship Matters/FSL/Blueprint/First Aid/CPR</b> OSHA 30 required to attend
March 31 - April 4 (Orientation March 27)	<b>Online Foreman Training</b> Class size limited to 20

## Fun Facts About Bricks

### Did you know?

- The standard brick size in the United States is 2 ½ x 3 ¾ x 8 inches.
- The Great Wall of China was made from 3.8 billion bricks.
- The oldest discovered bricks were made from shaped mud and date back to 7500 BC in the upper Tigris region of Mesopotamia.
- Brick homes have an average 6% higher resale price than non-brick homes.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

March 17 - 18

### **ACT Orientation/TCNA & ANSI**

Class size limited to 20

---

April 14 - 18

### **ACT Hands-on**

Class size limited to 10

---

April 29 - 30

### **Adhered Veneer**

---

May 1 - 2

### **Rainscreen Installation Certification**

---

March 10 - 14

### **JAHN/Conproco/Edison/Lithomex**

Class size limited to 10

---

February 24 - March 13

March 31 - April 17

April 21 - May 8

### **Welding: 2 1/2 Weeks**

Class size limited to 8 | D1.1 3G and 4G Certifications offered

---

March 31 - April 4

### **IMI Concrete Repair Certificate Program**

Class size limited to 10 - Must complete online portion prior to hands-on

---

March 10 - 18 | MSHA 18 - 21

April 7 - 15 | MSHA 15- 18

### **Refractory/MSHA**

Class size limited to 16

---

April 7 - 9

### **ABAA Air Barrier Certification**

Air Barrier Association of America (ABAA) requires \$250 for ABAA Certified Installer License Fee (1st year) and \$100 annual renewal fee payable to ABAA by the installer to receive and maintain their Installer Certification Card.

**Register online to secure your spot at [imtef.org/calendar](https://imtef.org/calendar).**

Registration is offered on a first-come first-serve basis. For questions or more information, contact: **Serenia Holland, Director of Education Operations** at 301-291-2105 or [sholland@imtef.org](mailto:sholland@imtef.org).



## Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers' health and well-being program

# Your health and well-being are important to us!

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our members, the Board of Trustees wants to make healthy resources available to you through a new health and well-being program.

### What is the health and well-being program?

This program helps you invest in your health by taking proactive steps towards a healthier lifestyle. Plus, you'd gain access to valuable well-being activities and resources to support your well-being goals. **As a bonus, you'll earn a gift card up to \$300 for participating in 2025.**

Create an online account in about 5 minutes with your member ID card. Scan the QR code or visit [healthpartners.com/signup](https://healthpartners.com/signup)



To earn your gift card, you'll need to complete these steps:

1. **Create an online account:** Start by creating your online account to access the program's resources and activities.
2. **Take your health assessment:** Confidential, 10-minute health assessment to learn more about your current well-being needs and focus areas.
3. **Complete a preventive visit & well-being activity:** Whether you'd like to focus on physical fitness, nutrition, emotional well-being, sleep or something else, there's something for everyone.

#### Need help?

Call HealthPartners Customer Service at **952-883-7800** or toll free at **1-800-311-1052**



## Frequent Fitness Programs

HealthPartners has updated frequent fitness programs for BAC Local 1 Union members.

GlobalFit's Gym Network 360 is a single shopping experience offering you access to fitness and wellness brands at exclusive discounts. For more information visit <https://marketplace.huskwellness.com/>

Active & Fit offers access to 11,900+ fitness centers and studios with no long-term contracts plus access to 8,700+ guided workout videos. For more information visit <https://www.activeandfitdirect.com/>

## Member Rewards

Members are awarded points for every Chapter, Semi-Annual, and Holiday meeting they attend. Member points can then be exchanged for BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD gear, including hats, sweatshirts, and jackets. To view the complete catalog, visit [https://live-uh-bac.pantheonsite.io/system/files/2024-06/member\\_rewards\\_catalog.pdf](https://live-uh-bac.pantheonsite.io/system/files/2024-06/member_rewards_catalog.pdf). To place an order, submit a completed order form at [https://live-uh-bac.pantheonsite.io/system/files/2024-06/member\\_rewards\\_order\\_form.pdf](https://live-uh-bac.pantheonsite.io/system/files/2024-06/member_rewards_order_form.pdf).

Order forms can be emailed to [info@bac1mn-nd.org](mailto:info@bac1mn-nd.org) or mailed to 312 Central Ave SE, Suite 328, Minneapolis, MN 55414. To find out how many member points you have earned, or for help with any other questions, call the BAC Local 1 office at 612-379-2966.

## Member Perks

Members of BAC Local 1 are eligible for benefits and discounts through Union Plus. Visit <https://www.unionplus.org/> for more information and call 1-800-472-2005 with questions.

The International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers

offers an online store for members to purchase tools of the trades at a discounted rate. Or show your BAC pride with logo printed shirts, jackets, hats, and decals! Visit the BAC Tool Sales website at <https://bactoolsales.myshopify.com/collections/all?page=5> to purchase.

## Member Assistance Program (MAP)



The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers' Member Assistance Program (MAP) provides confidential telephone crisis intervention, referral and information services to BAC members in the U.S. and Canada.

Visit <https://bacbenefits.org/map/challenging-times> for state-by-state mental health, substance abuse, and social service resources.

### About MAP

MAP provides members with a place to turn for help in coping with personal problems that interfere with job performance or home life. MAP services are offered at no cost to active and retired union members and their families. Members' privacy is fully protected.

### The Referral Process: How MAP Works

Active and retired union members and their families may call toll-free to speak confidentially to a MAP licensed mental health professional at 1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255). Calls are generally accepted from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday. While many calls are answered immediately, our staff may be responding to another call. In this case, members are given the option to leave a confidential voicemail message for a return call.

With the member's permission, MAP professionals do the legwork on behalf of the member by contacting insurance representatives and locating community referrals uniquely tailored to an individual's specific situation and needs. MAP also assists uninsured members to connect with services.



## Deceased Members

### #1 MN - Mpls-St. Paul

Ronald Cardinal  
Martin Horvath  
Leroy Lenz  
Dennis Melgaard  
Mark Smith

### #2 MN - Mpls

Gerald Gagnon  
Larry Lauer  
Harlan Snyder  
Cyrus Swenson

### #3 MN - Duluth

Jerome Thompson

### #10 MN - Faribault

Steve Alexon

### #11 MN - Mankato

John Frank

### #15 MN - Brainerd

John Stall

### #28 MN - Rochester

Lon Mclagan



## New Members

Christopher Anderson  
Christopher Ayala Rivera  
Pavlo Bryhadrya  
Franklin Burkherth  
Albert Calderon  
Jerand French  
Carlo Griggs  
Robert Grotzke  
Royce Hudalla  
Hugh Ipsen

Carter Janu  
Kaleb Kliever  
Trent Mack  
Dylan Mackenthun  
Cole Maki  
Justin Meagher  
Adrian Pinedo  
Lester Rodriguez  
Taylor Snow  
Michael Stuhaug



## Retired Members

BAC Local 1 members who have retired in 2024. We are grateful for your dedication to work and we wish you a great future!

Robert Anderson  
Thomas Anderson  
Scott Bartylla  
Darrell Chambers  
Hudson Fleming  
Steve Goerd  
Shawn Groshens  
Lyle Halverson

David Lattery  
Rory Lindquist  
Maurice Mechels  
James Noyes  
John Salmon  
Jeffrey Stoutland  
Troy Westendorf  
Mark Wold

## Have You Been Exposed to Asbestos?

CENTER FOR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING\*



GET A LUNG CANCER SCREENING EXAM TODAY!

WE SPECIALIZE IN ANSWERS

This exam is covered by your fund.\*

\*Verify with your fund before scheduling.

TO SCHEDULE, CALL **866.765.7138**.

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



FOLLOW US ON  
**facebook**



<https://www.facebook.com/BAC1MN.ND.SD>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BAC1.MN.ND.SD>

# 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN**

312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls - 4:30 p.m.  
Mar. 10, May 12, June 9

**Chapter 1-Fargo, ND** Dilworth Hi Ho  
Tavern: 5:30 p.m. June 24

**Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD**  
101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor  
Temple: 6 p.m. Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 13

**Chapter 2-Minot, ND**  
Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Mar. 7, May 14

**Chapter 2-Yankton, SD**  
Alexandria RJ's Sports Bar: 7 p.m.  
Apr. 11  
Yanktown VFW: 7 p.m. Mar. 14, May 9

**Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-  
Iron Range, MN**  
Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m. Mar. 12, June 11  
Valentini's Chisholm: 6 p.m. May 14

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

**Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD**  
Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m. Mar.  
17, May 19, July 21

**Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD**  
Rapid City Labor Temple: 6 p.m.  
Mar. 7, May 2, June 6

**Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd, MN**  
St. Cloud Labor Home : 7 p.m. Mar. 5

**Chapter 5-Watertown, SD**  
808 S. Broadway, Watertown VFW:  
6 p.m. Apr. 25

**Chapter 6-New Ulm, MN**  
New Ulm Amer Legion: 7 p.m. Apr. 3

**Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN**  
Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m.  
Mar. 3

**Chapter 11-Mankato, MN**  
Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:  
7 p.m. Mar. 6, June 5

**Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND**  
Bemidji, Eagles Club: 5 p.m. Mar. 13,  
May 8

## **GOLD CARD DINNERS**

Letters will be mailed.

**Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN**  
Delta Hotels-Mpls. NE, 1330 Industrial Blvd  
NE, Minneapolis: 11 a.m. July 3

**Chapter 1-Fargo, ND** West Fargo TBD: 6  
p.m. Mar. 21

**Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND**  
Speedway Restaurant: 6 p.m. Mar. 20

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

**Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN**  
Rochester Eagles Club: 6 p.m. June 6

**Chapter 11-Mankato, MN**  
Mankato Eagles Club: 6 p.m. Apr. 18

**Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND**  
Bemidji Eagles Club: 6 p.m. May 2

## **OTHER EVENTS**



**Retirees' Club Breakfast meetings**  
Jax Cafe: 9 a.m., June 26

**Bemidji Retirees' coffee meetings**  
Bemidji, Eagles Club: 10 a.m. Mar. 4

**Duluth area Retirees' coffee meetings** The Chalet Lounge: Duluth 9:30 a.m., First Wednesday of each month  
Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7, June 4, July 2

**St. Cloud Retirees' coffee meetings**  
Brigitte's Café: 9:30 a.m., Mar. 18

**Executive Committee meeting**  
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis:  
9 a.m. Apr. 4

**Semiannual Meeting-All of  
MN/ND/SD**  
312 Central Ave., Minneapolis:  
9 a.m. Apr. 5

**BAC Member Picnic**  
Date, Time, and Place TBD

**Metro Area BAC Golf Tournament**  
Pheasant Acres: 7 a.m. July 26



**Duluth BAC Golf Tournament**  
Grandview Golf Links: 8 a.m. Sept. 6

**BAC Holiday Party**  
Delta Hotels NE Mpls.: 7 p.m. Dec. 8

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

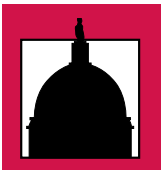
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers  
Local 1 Minnesota/North Dakota/South Dakota  
312 Central Avenue, Suite 328  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

7 Corners 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.

## Keeping Tabs on the Legislature



### POLITICS - Our Issues

What happens at the State Capitol impacts working people in every corner of Minnesota. It's why the Minnesota AFL-CIO and members of our affiliated unions advocate for pro-labor legislation and fight to stop any attack on our rights. With a closely divided legislature for the next two years, it will be vital to defend the historic gains we won in 2023 and 2024 and continue Minnesota's progress toward becoming the best state for working people. What follows are the Minnesota AFL-CIO's shared labor legislative priorities.

#### Protect Working Minnesotans

2023 and 2024 saw victories that grew workers' protections and freedoms like Paid Family & Medical Leave, a ban on anti-union captive audience meetings, expanded prevailing wage, unemployment insurance for school workers, greater freedom to organize, and more. Minnesota's Labor Movement is resolved to fight any attempt to roll back these historic wins.

#### A State Budget for Workers and Families

From public schools and healthcare to water quality and construction –

Minnesota's two-year state budget impacts workers, retirees, and their families in so many ways. As a Labor Movement, our goal is to make sure the next state budget provides the necessary resources for Minnesotans of every color and in every zip code to have the freedom to provide for their families and thrive.

#### Infrastructure Bonding Bill

From roads, bridges, public buildings, water treatment, and more – there is critical infrastructure across our state that needs improvement. Every dollar we spend on infrastructure keeps tradespeople working, who in turn spend money in their communities. Investing in infrastructure should be a priority for lawmakers from every corner of our state.

#### Ending Misclassification Fraud

Working people have an expectation that state and federal laws designed to protect them will apply no matter where they work. Sadly, far too many employers across industries break the rules to save money by classifying workers as independent contractors while demanding the same expectations as if they were employees. Minnesota took major steps in strengthening enforcement of our existing misclassification laws last year. It's now time to strengthen our laws to stop employers from wrongly misclassifying and exploiting workers who should be treated as employees.

#### Unemployment Insurance for Striking Workers

Collective action – like going on strike or even threatening to go on strike – is still the most effective way for workers to improve their pay and conditions. However, a strike is a tactic of last resort because it often means no pay for workers and families. Even though unemployment insurance payments don't come anywhere near a livable income, it would allow a worker to put food on the table and meet the bare minimum of family expenses until they return to work. Our nation's labor laws remain heavily skewed in favor of employers – who can temporarily replace workers, stall negotiations, make threats, or cut off healthcare. It's time to balance the scales between workers and management by continuing the fight for Minnesotans to access unemployment insurance while on strike.

There's a lot happening at the Capitol and that will continue into the spring.

Visit [aflcio.mn](http://aflcio.mn)/email to keep updated on the latest news and calls to action.