# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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**SEPTEMBER 2025** 

## Reach Out and Ask - Just Talk About It

By Nick Musech, Secretary-Treasurer



I was pleased to have an informative discussion with BAC Local 1 apprentice member Ryan Smith, 19, around suicide awareness and prevention. He talked about his own personal struggle when he had confided in me while I was instructing at the training center, and his own day-to-day experiences navigating mental health. Ryan is a person who is more than willing to help destigmatize mental health by "just talking about it."

Ryan is a terrific young man and I can say it was an absolute privilege instructing him in the Pre-Apprenticeship (pre-job) course at the training center for the short six weeks we had together. After showing up on time every day with a positive attitude, completing his training, and successfully graduating as one at the top of his class, he was an immediate hire with one of our larger contractors and quickly began working in the field earning a solid wage and benefits. I like emphasizing this because Ryan noted the financial freedom and benefits he's now earning play an impactful role in relieving stress from his life and offer the medical resources he needs to continually improve his mental health.

#### Ryan's Background

Ryan is from Grand Marais, MN, and graduated from Cook County High School. He was raised in a family of lower economic class with both his mother and father struggling with substance use disorder. His mother was allegedly in active use when Ryan was born. After birth, Ryan says it was enough for his mother to get sober; however, his father continued to use. It was a turbulent environment at home while growing up. Both parents would continually argue and fight mostly because of the toxic relationship and financial problems. This had a direct impact on his mental health growing up and he suffered greatly because of it. At any early age, Ryan was left with the responsibility to look after himself. Messages of masculinity and such were strongly

enforced in his house and the answers were always "suck it up."

#### Q. How did he become a bricklayer/tradesman? What inspired him?

Ryan's uncle, 38-year BAC Local 1 member Dallas Smith, encouraged Ryan to register in the Pre-Apprenticeship opportunity at the training center this past spring. Smith played a key role as advocate for Ryan in the trade, and as a highly admired mentor through his life. Ryan says, "My uncle always cared about me and has always been there for me." Ryan looked at bricklaying as a chance to "jump start his life and get away from the family norm."

#### Q. What was the driving force to seek help?

When referring to that specific day Ryan reached out to me and the tremendously supportive training center staff for help, he says, "I didn't want to give up on becoming a bricklayer because of my mental health hurdles." He adds that on a larger scale, he was sick and tired of acting opposite of what he was feeling because of what people might think of him. It's exhausting to act "fake" and go on "pretending like everything was fine."

Q. What is the greatest benefit that came of out asking for and receiving help? What did Ryan learn?

Continued on page 3



Seen in a parking lot in Apple Valley, MN

#### 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

This number is the suicide hotline number if 988 isn't accessible in some areas of the nation.



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## **Congratulations, Metro Golf Tournament Winners!**

We had a very good turnout for this annual event. The weather was a bit warm, but all enjoyed the day of golf and festivities. The following are the winners of the event:



First Place Winners (L-R) – Jim Carey and Nick Carey. (Not shown: Mark Naylon, and Elliot Bloom )

A huge thank you to all our sponsors for this event. Without you we could not have had such a fun and relaxing day among wonderful friends.

Mairs & Power, Ullico Investment Co., and Laborers Local 563, Alan Biller & Associates, Hollenback & Nelson, Inc, Building Trades Credit Union, Carciofini Caulking, Fort Washington Investment, International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Steenberg Watrud, Marquette and Associates, Minneapolis Building Trades, Scaffold Services, Ullico Investments, Western Specialty Contracting, AGC Minnesota, Bob's SW Const. Services, Cement Masons 633, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, Cummins & Cummins, Delta Dental, Grazzini Bros, Laborers 563, Laborers ADC of MN/ND, LMHCC of MN, Tom Atmore, Martin & Squires, MC&MCA, Milliman Consulting, Northland Concrete & Masonry, RBC Global Asset, Shawn & Cindy Irwin, Shumaker LLP, Sieben & Carey, TEAM Corporation, Total Construction, Union Bank & Trust, Union Contractors Workers' Compensation Fund, Vanguard, White Star Advisors, William Blair, Zachman Precast, Zenith American Solutions.



**Second Place Winners** (L-R) – Brian Bruzda, Raul Zamarron, Richard Krough, and Pat O'Leary.



Third Place Winners (L-R) – Mike Charboneau, Nick Dekart, Mike Morrison, and Jake Morrison.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT



Doug Schroeder, President

## SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING You may just save a life

The CDC reports that construction has one of the highest suicide rates of any industry. Resources to prevent suicide deaths in construction are available.

In 2021, construction workers were disproportionately affected by suicide deaths. Almost one-fifth

(17.9%) of deaths by suicide where occupational industry was reported were in construction, despite construction workers accounting for only 7.4% of the workforce. It has been apparent for several years now that the construction industry has one of the highest suicide rates compared to other industries.

There is not a simple answer to why this increase has occurred – particularly among construction workers. However, just as we develop and identify resources to help workers and employers prevent visible injuries and illnesses, we are also committed to preventing those that may be less visible but equally as important to the safety, health, and well-being of the construction workforce.

There are a growing number of resources available to help organizations and individuals understand the issue, start a conversation, and play a role in supporting friends, coworkers, and family members. On pages 7 and 9, you'll learn about MAP and T.E.A.M. resources to help you with the challenges in life.

## **Executive Vice President Vanek Retires**

We wish to thank Joe Vanek for his many years of service as the Executive Vice President for BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD. The very best to Mr. Vanek in his future endeavors.

## Welcome Our New Secretary-Treasurer

Learn more about our new Secretary-Treasurer Nick Musech on page 7.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Jeremy Olson was ineligible to take the office of Secretary-Treasurer. We wish Mr. Olson the best in his career.

## **Reach Out and Ask** Continued from page 1

"I felt like a big weight was lifted off my shoulders," Ryan says. "Amazing feeling. I learned people are there all around me every day who care and want me to talk about 'it'."

He learned "not to stay quiet" and harbor the bad while trying to front a fake happiness.

## Q. What advice would he give others who feel the same as he did or others who are struggling in any category of life?

"Speak up and do what you feel like you need to do," Ryan says. "Do what you truly want. Don't do something because someone else wants it or wants you to. Listen to your heart. Don't buy in to the depression and anxious thoughts in your head. Reach out and use resources."

## Q. Whom should someone connect with who needs help or direction? A manager, supervisor, organization, etc.?

Ryan mentioned his resources; people to talk to. He listed friends, teachers, colleagues, co-workers, and training center staff. "Someone with a good heart who you can trust. What's the worst that can happen?", he says.

Ryan's worked with the counselors at T.E.A.M., along with the International Union resource MAP (Member Assistance Program). Both are BAC Local 1 resources. His earned medical benefits have also played a direct role in setting him up with a great therapist.

## If you are struggling, or just want to "talk about it" reach out to the following resources:

- https://www.startwithteam.com 1-800-634-7710 or the local Twin Cities numbers at 651-642-0182 or 218-727-8589 day or night.
- https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map
   1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255)
- Someone with a good heart who you can trust.

Thank you, Ryan, for sharing your story. It might just save a life.



## All Eyes on Nationals: Local 1 Apprentices Head to 2025 BAC/IMI International Apprentice Contest

As summer winds down, the excitement is just getting started for three of our standout apprentices who have earned their place in the 2025 BAC/IMI International Apprentice Contest, set to take place September 26–27 at Huntington Place Convention Center in Detroit, MI.

This prestigious event brings together the top apprentices from across the U.S. and Canada to compete for the title of International Champion in their trade. To qualify, competitors must place in regional contests hosted by BAC Locals across the country. Each must prove themselves through both hands-on challenges and theoretical written tests, with awards given for first, second, and third place in each of eight categories: Brick, Cement, Tile, Marble, Terrazzo, Plaster, Pointing-Cleaning-Caulking/Restoration, and Stone.

Representing Local 1 and the MN/ND/SD Journeyworker and Apprentice Training Trust, three of our own will be among the best of the best:

- Anthony Fisher, tile setter
- Matt Pleisies, bricklayer
- Michael Corniea, pointer-caulker-cleaner



Anthony Fisher

These apprentices have already demonstrated their exceptional craftsmanship, perseverance, and dedication by advancing from the regional level. Now they carry the pride of their instructors, mentors, and fellow members with them to Detroit. The International Apprentice Contest is not just a competition—it's a celebration of the future of union trades and the power of apprenticeship training done right.





Michael Corniea

## New Training Year Kicks Off for Metro Apprentices

While our national competitors prepare to showcase their skills on the international stage, the training year has already begun here at home. On August 12, metro area brick and tile apprentices returned to the training center, kicking off a new year of hands-on learning, technical instruction, and skill development. From foundational techniques for first-year apprentices to advanced certifications for those nearing journey-level status, our programs continue to lead the way in building a stronger, more skilled union workforce.

As we look ahead to fall, we're reminded that every brick laid, every joint finished, and every lesson learned is building more than just structures – it's building the future of our trades.

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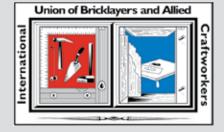
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Call 651-256-1801 or 1-800-879-4412

#### **MEMBER RECOGNITION**

## **Metro Gold Card Luncheon**

We had another great event this year at the Marriott Delta. We appreciate all who attended and hope that everyone had an enjoyable afternoon. The following members were honored at the event:



L-R: President Doug Schroeder, 40-year members Kenny Becklin, Dennis Nohava, Danny Long and Secretary-Treasurer Nick Musech.



L-R: President Doug Schroeder, 25-year members Matthew Bowen, Mike Heien, Jordanna Stiffarm, Brian Miklya, Alphanso Dunkley and Secretary-Treasurer Nick Musech. (Not shown: Refik Sijaric)

## Musech is Locked In with Service in His Sight



Nick Musech began his new position as the Secretary/
Treasurer of BAC Local 1 MN/
ND/SD in early June. With two solid months behind him, he can't speak highly enough of how welcoming President
Doug Schroeder and the team have been; supporting him and offering positive feedback as he continues to take on new challenges with a mindset of service.

His father, a project manager in the commercial building space,

played a huge part in Musech's childhood interests that would later rekindle in his adult life. His mother, an educator, urged him to attend post-secondary education where Musech earned a BA in accounting. After working some time in finance, he did his best to navigate the economic downturn of 2008 and headed to Colorado to become a ranch hand.

Musech later returned to Minnesota looking for a fresh start; a career in his 30's. Roger Sweet, and James Robertson were a huge encouraging force for Musech to consider a career in bricklaying. Both are active BAC Local 1 members, Brainard and the metro area, respectively. They both shared positive viewpoints of the trade that made a profound impact on Musech.

The groundwork had been laid; his father, a builder, and his distant family relative, Sweet, had paved the way. Musech continued down the same career path. He took action by enrolling in the six-week Pre-Apprentice course offered at the MN/ND BAC Apprentice Training Center.

He now had clear direction to learn new skills and a way to continue to help others. The training center was great to him, he recalls. "I fell in love with the work and hopped on board," says Musech. In time he landed a job at B &D Associates, LLC, and later worked for TR Masonry where he embraced leadership roles at both.

During his six years and counting as a BAC Local 1 member, Musech has grabbed every opportunity to learn more and support and encourage others through participating in member events, attending local meetings, volunteering at Construct Tomorrow, and serving on the Organizing Committee.

"My life, the past several years, has come full circle," Musech says. He recently enthusiastically returned to the Pre-Apprentice classroom as an instructor to 12 men and women, providing them the same growth trajectory that he was once offered.

Since taking on his new position, Musech says he misses being with the men and women (on the job sites) who make up this incredible union. Yet not all is lost. Knowledge acquired from his accounting degree runs parallel to his new secretary/treasurer responsibilities. He continues to further hone his office skills, and he is still "a numbers guy".

"It's an honor to be entrusted by the membership – a duty I take most earnestly," Musech says with great resolve and conviction. "The true equity of this Local consists of its craftworkers (and their families). Members are the most critical investment. We must not only protect but grow this invaluable capital, in solidarity."

Congratulations, Nick, and welcome aboard. You are well on your way toward serving the membership of BAC Local 1 with great success.

## **MAP the IUBAC Member Assistance Program**

1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255) and www.bacweb.org

Active and retired union members and their families may call toll-free to speak confidentially to a MAP licensed mental health professional. 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.

Take a step toward a healthier life. Call MAP now.

## INTERNATIONAL MASONRY INSTITUTE



### **IMI Masonry Minute**

#### **KEY IMI ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

Mark Swanson, North Central regional director for IMI, works to advance the use of masonry and union craftworkers with the goal of expanding job opportunities for BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD members and supporting signatory contractors.

#### PROJECT SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE

- NDSU Collaboration Swanson met with David Crutchfield, AIA, from North Dakota State University School of Architecture to coordinate a series of lectures scheduled for September. The session will focus on masonry design strategies and best practices, highlighting the importance of thoughtful detailing and the essential role of skilled craftworkers in achieving long-lasting, high-performance masonry construction. This engagement supports broader outreach in the Fargo area, reinforcing the value of masonry and workforce development in architectural education and the architecture firms in the area.
- Structural Coalition Support Forse is currently reviewing Sandman Engineering's database of CMU details, including general notes and storm shelter-specific assemblies. With Sandman's offices in both Moorhead and Maple Grove, MN, this collaboration strengthens IMI's presence and influence in the Fargo region.
- Snow Kreilich Architects, Mpls, MN Swanson provided technical support for the General Service Administration's new Land Port of Entry project in International Falls, MN, advising on the performance characteristics and ASTM testing standards for a locally sourced "Virginia Slate" stone from the Mary Ellen Stone Co., Biwabik, MN. Virginia Slate is a mining waste product from the Biwabik Iron Formation, often repurposed from overburden or tailings in the taconite mining process. It's

incredibly dense and iron-rich. He reviewed installation considerations and initiated follow-up questions to



guide best practices for the mock-up and wall assembly.

- IMI Tech Inquiry, TKDA, Bloomington, MN Swanson provided TKDA with tailored guidance on control and expansion joints for several small-scale masonry structures. He shared a PDF with best practices and emphasized IMI's continued support for using CMU masonry lintels and minimizing control joints in structural CMU walls through the engineered method.
- Concrete Masonry Summit and Expo, UCLA Swanson was a panel moderator on a 90-minute session that focused on exploring design trends, sustainability strategies, and the benefits and challenges of working with concrete masonry. From resilient civic buildings to high-performing educational spaces and creative multifamily infill, the panelists brought a diverse range of experiences and insights on how concrete masonry continues to evolve in architectural design. IMI's California Director Sunup Matthew, SE, presented to a full



room on "Masonry Fire Resistance, Resilience & Durability."

Of the many interesting seminars, Erica Garfinkel of Morris Adjmi Architects, NY,



presented on the approach of "Standing Out by Fitting In" on the recent, and I must say beautiful, 181 MacDougal St. in Greenwich Village, Manhattan. Perhaps its signaling a new

PAGE 8 Continued on page 9

design trend? Many owners and locations are demanding aesthetic detail, quality, efficiency, resilience, along with quality materials that can stand the test of time. Thankfully, masonry checks these boxes, and we can skillfully install this new material trend.

- AIA Conference on Architecture and Design Swanson attended the national conference in Boston along with IMI Directors Scott Conwell from Chicago, Craig Krupitzer from Boston, and our new Michigan IMI Director Cindy Lanoue. Key takeaways included the urgent need for decarbonization in the built environment, deeper integration of AI and digital tools in design practice, and a renewed focus on inclusive, resilient, and culturally responsive architecture. These themes will drive the demand for lower-carbon masonry materials, adaptable reuse strategies, greater use of digital models, and a greater emphasis on locally sourced materials and labor.
- National Webinar Series IMI recently hosted a well-attended webinar, Building Sustainably with Masonry: Innovations for a Low-Carbon Future, with nearly 400 participants. The session was delivered by IMI NC Director Swanson and IMI Portland Director Cole Cabler. It focused on reducing the environmental impact of masonry through practical tools and strategies. Key topics included Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), embodied carbon evaluation using EC3, alignment with Passive House principles, and decarbonization across the masonry lifecycle—from manufacturing to end-of-life reuse.



Swanson highlighted several BAC craft award-winning projects during the presentation, including the University of Iowa's Stanley Museum of Art by Seedorff Masonry, showcasing how sustainability and craftsmanship go hand in hand. With resilience now part of LEED 5, this helps keep masonry relevant as a sustainable material solution, generating work opportunities for craftworkers now and in the future.

• Region 3 of the Concrete Masonry Checkoff – Swanson attended the virtual July RAC 3 Town Hall where Concrete Masonry Checkoff outlined their strategy, budget, and five-year goals. The Checkoff is targeting a 20% increase in CMU market share through investments in six key areas: design assistance, education, marketing, outreach, codes and standards, and university engagement. Their messaging is centered on "Beauty of Block," aimed at delivering a unified voice to architecture, engineering, and construction audiences.

Region 3 has committed nearly \$873,000 across 13 active programs. Highlights include support for the Block Design Collective, funding for the mobile demonstration unit at St. Cloud State, and the development of a new CE443 masonry structures course. Q1 2025 assessments for the region totaled nearly \$250,000, with an overall budget of \$893,400. Nationally, the Checkoff has allocated \$13.1 million in program funds to date, with major investments in marketing, design support, and outreach. IMI has several directors involved with each region and participate on several committees.

- Structural Webinar Series Swanson hosted "Mastering Movement in Masonry: Strategies for Resilient Design" presented by Mike Manor, PE from Forse Consulting. About 540 architects, engineers, contractors, and owner groups tuned in for this webinar. We explored how masonry walls move and how to design for that movement so we can build stronger, longerlasting, and resilient buildings.
- Technical Assistance Dickenson, ND Kelley Casey, Mead Hunt—Swanson provided cast concrete echelon stone – Cordova Stone movement joints location spacing guidance.
- Local Technical Assistance Shakopee, MN Jay Nelson, architect. He follows the IMI Structural Webinar Series and had a question about face brick and how to support with lintel options. They discussed various options and structural solutions using the structural coalition. He was not aware of the service and was eager to engage, as a fan of Sam Rubenzer's, with the coalition on his next opportunity.

#### 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.

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#### **Deceased Members**

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

James Baker III Herbert Cook Hudson Fleming Leroy Monette

#### #2 MN - Mpls

Calvin Rolstad

Lavern Eckert Donald Gnerer Robert Lattery

#### #2 SD - Yankton

Arlan Albrecht

#### #4 MN -St. Cloud

**Donald Samuelson** 

#### #4SD-Bismarck

Herbert Ritz

#### #11 MN - Mankato

William Statham

#### #18 MN - Tile

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## **New Members**

Cody Aleman
Ian Anderson
Jordan Bahmuller
Isak Bernard
Taylor Boerem
Mitchel Brandell
Michael Demuth
Jesse Derouin
Noe Escandon
Bryan Hernandez

Marc Labrant
Anthony Lezama Espinoza
Jacob Mackey
Danielle Morrison
Brent Netland
Kurt Pearson
Christen Saul
Jonathon Vega
Nathan Warhol-Holland



#### **Retired Members**

BAC Local 1 members who have retired in 2025. We are grateful for your dedication to work and we wish you a great future!

Lyle Aherns

Leslie Azure

William Bisek

Leonard Foss

John Gester

Vasiliy Megega

Keith Tipka

#### **2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls - 4:30 p.m. Sept. 8, Nov. 10

**Chapter 1-Fargo, ND** Dilworth Hi Ho Tavern: 5:30 p.m. Sept. 23, Dec. 2

#### **Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD**

101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor Temple: 6 p.m. Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

#### **Chapter 2-Minot, ND**

Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Nov. 12

#### Chapter 2-Yankton, SD

Alexandria RJ's Sports Bar: 7 p.m. Oct. 10, Dec. 12

Yanktown VFW: 7 p.m. Sept. 12, Nov. 14

#### Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN

Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m. Sept. 10,

Valentini's Chisholm: 6 p.m. Nov. 12

#### **Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND**

E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m. Sept. 22, Dec. 1

#### Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD

Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m. Sept. 15. Nov. 17

#### Chapter 4-Bismarck, ND

Bismarck AmVets: 7 p.m. Nov. 11

#### **Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD**

Rapid City Labor Temple: 6 p.m. Sept. 5, Nov. 7, Dec. 5

#### Chapter 4-St. Cloud-Brainerd, MN

Brainerd American Legion: 7 p.m. Dec. 4 St. Cloud Labor Home: 7 p.m. Oct. 1

#### Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN

Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 8, Dec. 1

#### Chapter 11-Mankato, MN

Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 4, Dec. 4

#### Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND

Bemidji, Eagles Club: 5 p.m. Sept. 11, Nov. 6, Dec. 11

#### **GOLD CARD DINNERS**

Letters will be mailed.



#### Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN

Duluth Holiday Inn: 6 p.m. Oct. 10 Valentini's Chisholm: 5 p.m. Oct. 11

#### OTHER EVENTS

## **Retirees' Club Breakfast meetings** Jax Cafe: 9 a.m., Sept. 25

Central MN area Retirees' coffee meetings Brigette's Cafe. 9 a.m., Dec. 16

#### **Duluth area Retirees' coffee**

**meetings** The Chalet Lounge: Duluth 9:30 a.m., First Wednesday of each month Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3



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

#### BAC Holiday Party

Delta Hotels NE Mpls.: 7 p.m. Dec. 8

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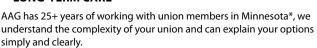
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# QUARTERLY UPDATE

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.

#### **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 #

## Hortman Leaves a Legacy of Serving Minnesotans



In this column we want to report on what happened during the last legislative session and how it will impact working people. However, it is only proper that we pause and reflect on the horrible violence that took Melissa and Mark Hortman from Minnesota.

Melissa Hortman was more than just a friend to the Labor Movement: she embodied our core values and wore them on her sleeve during her twenty years in public service. As Speaker of the House in 2023, she led the way in passing the most expansive pro-labor legislation in more than a generation – passing the strongest paid family and medical leave legislation in the nation, earned sick and safe time, expanded collective bargaining rights and so much more. Her legacy will live on for generations thanks to everything she did for working Minnesotans and our families.

Violence has no place in our political discourse. In our democratic republic, we should work out our disagreements through public debate and expressing our rights to peacefully protest injustice.

Despite an equally divided House and lawmakers from both parties attempting to weaken or eliminate key worker protections, Governor Walz

and most DFL lawmakers stood firm to successfully defend Paid Family and Medical Leave, Earned Sick and Safe Time, Unemployment Insurance eligibility for school workers, and more. Consequently, we can confidently say that nearly every worker in Minnesota will have access to paid family and medical leave starting January 1.

Lawmakers also came together to strengthen our infrastructure, create family-sustaining construction jobs, beefed up enforcement of worker misclassification laws, and will conduct a study to measure the impact of misclassification fraud in Minnesota.

Given a looming budget deficit in two



years, an erratic and unpredictable federal government, and the prospect of severe cuts to Medicaid funding on the horizon, we strongly urge lawmakers to not balance future state budgets on the backs of working people and the vulnerable.



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.