

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

MARCH 2026

New Members Swear-In

Twelve individuals were sworn in on Dec. 8, 2025, at the local wide BAC holiday party at the Delta Marriott Hotels in NE Minneapolis. This is the party's kickoff; typically one of the first items done that evening at the party. The next step is apprenticeship, both in-class at the training center and on-the-job training while new members work and earn in the field. Congrats to all and welcome aboard!



Front L to R: Tommy Stafford, Anthony Lezama Espinoza, Brendon Crayford, Rico Hall, Taylor Boerem, Isak Bernard
Back L to R: Grant Szynal, Michael Demuth, Mitchel Brandell, Luke Siemon, Jason Burkman, Jordan Bahmuller



Metro Holiday Party For story and additional photos, see page 6-7



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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 2026.**

Create an online account in about 5 minutes with your member ID card. Scan the QR code or visit 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**

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Doug Schroeder,
President

Put Your Mental Health First

Throughout the past weeks, the state of Minnesota has been the center of attention around the nation due to the unfortunate killing of two of our fellow residents. The news, Facebook, Instagram, and many other social media platforms have publicized many points of views and opinions related to these deaths as well

as other activities by the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. These things are hard to ignore and even harder to get away from.

As the world keeps turning, and the news keeps reporting, make sure to take some time to shut these things out and take care of your mental health. Your mental health is the key to a happy and productive life. Check in and talk to someone when you are feeling the stress of everyday life; whether it's with family or friends, a doctor or counselor, or a coworker or supervisor.

There is an abundance of resources when it comes to your mental health. Here are just a few.

Member Assistance Program (MAP)

MAP Helpline

1-833-MAP-TALK (627-8255) M-F,
8 a.m.-7 p.m. ET

U.S. Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988 (Call or text 24/7)

Canada Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988 (Call or text 24/7)

Email

map@bacweb.org (General inbox)

ajacobi@bacweb.org (MAP Director)

As a BAC Local 1 union member, you and your loved ones have free-of-charge access to MAP's support, intervention, informational and care coordination services. Whether you are dealing with an acute setback or a persistent challenge, help is available. Advocacy efforts, guidance, and referral



processes are customized according to your specific needs, in alignment with its mission to promote the wellbeing of our members and their families. Call toll-free at 1-833-MAP-TALK (1-833-627-8255) and ask to speak to one of MAP'S licened mental health professionals. All calls are confidential.

T.E.A.M.

651-642-0182

218-727-8589

Toll free: 1-800-634-7710



T.E.A.M. is dedicated to BAC Local 1 to improve quality of life by offering counseling and resources at no cost to members and their families. T.E.A.M. counselors are available by phone 24/7 or at scheduled face-to-face confidential counseling appointments to address alcohol or drug concerns, behavioral challenges such as gambling or over-spending, family and parenting issues, legal and financial questions, job-related problems, and personal/emotional difficulties. Visit startwithteam.com for more information and to connect with a counselor.

National Alliance on Mental Health Minnesota

There is hope if you or someone you know is struggling with their mental

health. Help can be as simple as a phone call, or text, or online chat. Call 988, text help to 988, text "Ayuda" to 988 for Spanish. Chat at chat.988lifeline.org. Chat in Spanish at 988lineadevida.org or visit the website at 988lifeline.org.

If you miss time at work, make sure to check with Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave or the Worker Wellness program to see if you are eligible for wage replacement.

Your health and wellbeing are the key to a long and healthy life.



Apprentices Stay Committed to Building Skills for a Solid Career

By the time this newsletter lands in mailboxes, the training center will already be onto the next thing. That’s the challenge of writing for print. Training moves fast; the mail does not.

Our PCC apprentices will be wrapping up the final weeks of their training cycle, which means they’re deep into the work that separates “I’ve done this before” from “I actually know what I’m doing.” Grinding and pointing, laying brick, caulking, and patching. This is the stage where patience gets tested, details matter more than speed, and apprentices start to understand why their instructors keep saying, “Do it again.”

All our brick apprentices have completed their annual mid-term evaluations, which serve as an important checkpoint. It’s a chance to look honestly at what’s going well, what still needs work, and where the next stretch of training should be focused. In the metro program, second-year brick apprentices recently finished their arch projects. They worked through piers, layout, cutting creepers, and learning that arch math doesn’t just live in arches. Those same principles show up in radius walls, whether you like it or not.

Safety training continues to be a big focus across all crafts. Metro first-year apprentices also wrapped up their OSHA 10 training. They now know exactly how many ways a jobsite can go sideways if safety is ignored. Our third-year brick and PCC apprentices, along with second-year tile setters, are beginning their OSHA 30 certification. It’s more time

in the classroom, yes, but it’s also time well spent building habits that keep people going home in one piece at the end of the day.

Metro tile apprentices also had their first visit from Noble Company, which brought a hands-on demonstration of NobleSeal products to the Training Center. Apprentices got to work directly with the materials, ask real questions, and see how these systems function beyond the brochure. It was a solid reminder that learning doesn’t just come from instructors. Sometimes it comes with a product rep and a table full of tools.

On the journey-worker side, upgrades have been busy. Both First Aid/CPR classes filled, which is a good problem to have. Because of that demand, we’ve added another date. Foreperson Training was also well attended and several members have nearly completed the Supervisor Certification Program.

Looking ahead, we’re gearing up for the apprentice contest in April and we will be looking for judges. If you’ve ever said, “Back in my day...” this might be your moment. For those interested in signing up, log onto: bactraining.org/news/judge

Training isn’t flashy. It’s repetition, problem-solving, and showing up even when the work is tedious or your layout isn’t cooperating. It’s also where good habits are built and skills are sharpened. We’re proud of the work happening at the training center and grateful for the membership support that keeps it moving forward.

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Scholarships Available to Union Members and Dependents

Application Deadline for the Earliest is April 9, 2026

US Bates Scholarship - The deadline is April 9, 2026. All applicants will be notified of the selection results in June 2026.

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

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must:

- Be a senior in high school and planning to enter college in the fall of 2026
- Be the child or stepchild of a US member in good standing of a US BAC Local

To access the online application, please visit <https://aim.applyists.net/IUBAC>. Please click https://bacweb.org/system/files/documents/IUBAC_FAQ.pdf to view a list of frequently asked questions about the scholarship.

Questions? Call BAC at 1-888-880-8222 ext. 3887, or email askbac@bacweb.org.

2026 Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships

Click here to compete the application for the two scholarships listed below: <https://mnaflcio.org/scholarships-awards>.

2026 Minnesota AFL-CIO Scholarships – Deadline is May 1, 2026.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO sponsors scholarships for high school seniors graduating in 2026. There are four requirements for the Minnesota AFL-CIO scholarships.

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a union member or a dependent of a union member whose local union is affiliated with the Minnesota AFL-CIO;
- A graduating high school senior;
- Have a straight “B” average or better (3.0 in a 4.0 grade point system);
- Attend a post-secondary institution located within the state of Minnesota.

Martin Duffy Adult Learner Scholarship – Postmark deadline is June 17, 2026.

The Martin Duffy Adult Learner Scholarship is a \$500 tuition scholarship awarded to Union members of Minnesota AFL-CIO affiliate unions (not high school graduating dependents).

Building Trades Credit Union Scholarship - Deadline is June 30, 2026.

Each year, Building Trades Credit Union awards a total of \$14,300 in scholarships. Ten scholarships, each valued at \$715, are awarded across two cycles to students who are either enrolled in a union apprentice training program or pursuing post-secondary education (college, vocational, or technical school). Applications for the spring cycle are accepted between March 1 - April 15. For the fall cycle, August 1 - September 15.

Scholarship applications can be found on the Building Trades Credit Union website at www.btcu.com

Have you or a dependent received an educational scholarship?

If so, we would love to hear from you. Call the BAC Local office at 612-379-2966 or email us at info@bac1mn-nd.org. You might get your picture in the newsletter.

METRO HOLIDAY PARTY

The BAC Local 1 holiday party held on December 8 at the Delta Hotels in northeast Minneapolis offered a great meal and camaraderie to 79 people. This year, with the help of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD organizer Jake Nelson and Vice President Matt Hopkins, several attendees won prizes and gift cards. Some of the prizes raffled off at the event were:

Milwaukee Pack Out, Milwaukee tire inflator, Milwaukee tape measures, and a DeWalt chainsaw. These items were all donated by DeWalt, Milwaukee, and White Cap.



METRO HOLIDAY PARTY



Jaxxon Johnson won a DeWalt chainsaw



Roger Buirge won the Milwaukee Pack Out



Taylor Boerem won a tire inflator



Jordana Stiffarm and Lilyanna Lofgren-Garcia won gift cards



IMI Masonry Matter

Mark Swanson, AIA, is IMI’s North Central regional director. He provides masonry education and technical support to architects, engineers, and contractors while assisting BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD with efforts that protect masonry scope and support union work. The primary goal of this work is to create more work opportunities for BAC Local 1 signatory contractors and members.

The International Masonry Institute (IMI) continues to work across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota to protect masonry work and support BAC Local 1 members. IMI’s role is to work both upstream and downstream with architects, engineers, general contractors, owners, and signatory contractors so masonry is properly designed, detailed, and built—reducing problems in the field.

MASONRY EDUCATION AND MARKET INFLUENCE

arches, movement considerations, and applicable codes and standards.

IMI launched the 2026 Structural Masonry Webinar Series with Mastering Masonry Design: Tools, Codes & Innovations, also presented by Rubenzer. The program attracted 660 registered participants, with nearly 400 live attendees. It focused on proper application of masonry design codes, early coordination to reduce RFIs and redesign, and aligning structural intent with constructable masonry systems.

These programs generate project leads and follow-up technical requests within MN, ND, SD, the broader North Central region, and nationally.

WORKING WITH ENGINEERS SO MASONRY GETS BUILT RIGHT



A major focus of IMI’s work is helping engineers better understand how masonry performs structurally and how it is constructed in the field.

Following an IMI Structural Masonry Webinar moderated by Swanson, the Minnesota Structural Engineers Association (MNSEA) president contacted Swanson to coordinate a November 2025 presentation by Rubenzer titled Mastering Masonry

Structural masonry education remained a primary focus of IMI’s work in the region throughout last year. The 2025 Structural Masonry Webinar Series continued to draw large, technically focused audiences, reinforcing IMI’s role as a trusted resource for engineers, architects, contractors, and owners.

In November 2025, Sam Rubenzer, PE, SE, presented Loadbearing Masonry Design: Advanced Planning Strategies for Structural Integrity & Efficiency to more than 465 attendees, including engineers, architects, contractors, owners, and representatives from the GSA. The session addressed material and mortar selection, foundation reinforcement strategies, masonry lintels and

Shear Walls: Design & Analysis with FEA. Better-informed local engineers lead to clearer drawings, fewer jobsite conflicts, and fewer “fix-it-in-the-field” situations for masons.

Following a CSI Fargo presentation by Swanson, Sandman Structural Engineers (Moorhead, MN) requested a review of their internal masonry detail standards to better align engineering design with constructable masonry practices. IMI, working with FORSE Consulting, reviewed lintels, reinforcement, foundations, and arching behavior. That feedback was incorporated into Sandman’s standard details, improving consistency between engineering design intent and field installation.

SOLVING REAL PROJECT PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY HIT THE JOBSITE

IMI provides technical assistance on projects under design and active projects to help resolve masonry issues early. Recent examples include working with Herzog Engineering on a historic masonry façade rehabilitation, addressing anchorage, mortar selection, drainage detailing, and fire-resistance requirements.

IMI also assisted Collage Architects on a project involving the infill of an alley-side masonry opening, focusing on moisture management and durability rather than cosmetic-only solutions. This type of early involvement helps prevent bad details from showing up in the field and protects BAC signatory contractors from unnecessary risk.

PROMOTING MASONRY WHERE BIG DECISIONS ARE MADE

IMI also represents masonry in broader industry conversations where material decisions are increasingly tied to sustainability and resilience.



Tina Subasic representing the Brick Industry Association, IMI's California Director Sunup Matthew, and Director Swanson

In November, IMI had a booth at Greenbuild 2025 in Los Angeles, engaging architects, contractors, and owners on masonry's durability, long service life, and resilience. Swanson connected with organizations such as CMU Checkoff, the Carbon Leadership Forum and Building Transparency, reinforcing masonry's role in long-term, low-risk construction.

In January, Swanson, who sits on the Urban Land Institute programs committee, participated in ULI Minnesota's Building the Future: Decarbonization, Resilience & Green Finance forum in downtown Minneapolis. These discussions influence future project funding and material choices, and IMI's presence helps ensure masonry – and the skilled labor required to build it – remains part of the conversation.

SUPPORTING RESTORATION AND LONG-TERM WORK

As more owners invest in repairing and restoring existing buildings, IMI continues to support masonry restoration efforts. IMI provides guidance on moisture issues, freeze-thaw damage, and appropriate repair strategies, while emphasizing the need for trained BAC masonry restoration craftworkers. The HMPC certification gives our contractors an advantage when working on historic and adaptable reuse projects. IMI directors promote the use of IMI/IMTEF training specification language to architects and engineers to include in the project specs to ensure that only qualified, skilled craftworkers are considered.

Registration for continuing education courses at the John J. Flynn BAC/IMI International Training Center is offered on a first-come first-serve basis. Register online to secure your spot at imtef.org/calendar. For questions or more information, contact: Serenia Holland, director of education operations, at 301-291-2105 or sholland@imtef.org.

For local training opportunities: <https://bactraining.org/training-education-safety/upgrade-training>

WHY THIS MATTERS TO BAC MEMBERS

IMI's work helps:

- Keep masonry in project designs
- Improve drawings and specifications before work starts
- Reduce jobsite conflicts and rework
- Support steady, long-term masonry work for BAC members

Mark Swanson can be reached at mswanson@imiweb.org or by cell phone at 612-840-8695.

To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit www.imiweb.org.



Deceased Members

#1 MN - Mpls-St. Paul

Maurice Cook
George Curwick
Virgil Hoffman
Ronald Johnson
Richard Jones
David Lombardo

#1 ND - Fargo

Scott Myhra

#2 MN - Mpls

Vernon Monette
Frederick Reins

#4 MN - St. Cloud

Jeffrey Austing
Robert Lindmeier
Wayne Lommel

#16 MN - Hibbing/ Virginia

James Grillo

#17 MN - Red Wing

Leroy Goranson

#18 MN - Tile

Richard Cassidy



New Members

Jonte'L Dozier
Jason Foley
Cole Gould
Alison Kreminski

Adam Schwitalla
Charles Sexton
Luke Siemon



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!

Paul Kuntz
Tod Lindberg
Darren Streyle
Mark Tonn
Joseph Vanek

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2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls - 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 9, May 11, June 8

Chapter 1-Fargo, ND Dilworth Hi Ho
Tavern: 5:30 p.m. Mar. 24, June 23

Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD
101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor
Temple: 6 p.m. Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12

Chapter 2-Minot, ND
Minot VFW: 7 p.m. May 6

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

**Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-
Iron Range, MN**
Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m. Mar. 11, June 10
Valentini's Chisholm: 6 p.m. May 13

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND
E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m.
June 22

Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD
Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m.
Mar. 16, June 15

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

Chapter 4-Bismarck, ND
Bismarck AmVets: 7 p.m. May 18

Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD
Rapid City Labor Temple: 6 p.m. Mar. 6,
May 1, June 5

Chapter 5-Watertown, SD
Watertown VFW: 6 p.m. Apr. 24

Chapter 6-Springfield/New Ulm, MN
New Ulm American Legion: 7 p.m. Apr. 2

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN
Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Mar. 2

Chapter 11-Mankato, MN
Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. Mar. 5, June 4

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND
Bemidji, Eagles Club: 5 p.m. Mar. 19, May 21

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.



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

Chapter 8-Rochester/Faribault, MN
Rochester Eagles Club: 6 p.m. June 5

Chapter 11-Mankato, MN
Mankato Eagles Club: 6 p.m. Apr. 24

Chapter 15-Bemidji, MN
Bemidji Eagles Club: 6 p.m. May 1

Chapter 1-Fargo, ND
TBD: 6 p.m. Mar. 19

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND
Speedway Restaurant: 6 p.m. Mar. 18

OTHER EVENTS

Executive Committee Meeting
312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls: 9 a.m. Apr. 3

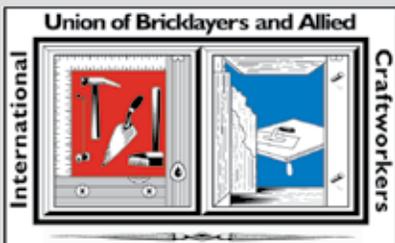
Semi-Annual Meeting
312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls: 9 a.m. Apr. 4

**Metro area Retirees' coffee
meetings** Jax Cafe: Mpls: 9 a.m. June 25

**Duluth area Retirees' coffee
meetings** Pike Lake Golf & Beach Club:
Duluth 9:30 a.m. Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 6,
June 3

St. Cloud Retirees' coffee meetings
Brigitte's Café: 9:30 a.m. Mar. 17

Bemidji Retirees' coffee meetings
Bemidji Eagles Club: 10 a.m. Mar. 3



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

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QUARTERLY UPDATE

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Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
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Mike Ganz Retires



We wish Mike Ganz a very happy and healthy retirement. Mike has served the local as a business agent, vice president, executive vice president, and trustee on the trust funds for many of his 25 years with the local. His dedication to community service and service with the Central Building and Construction Trades Council and Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council will be remembered for years to come. Mike's character and dedication will proceed him in his retirement.

Thank you and happy retirement, Mike!

Ganz Retires to Lots of Fresh Air and Free Time

By Patricia Johnson

When you call Mike Ganz and get his voicemail, it will give you a glance into his retirement which began February 1. "I'm either fishing, hunting, or taking a nap," it says. "Or splitting wood," he told me during his return call.

The 20 pound, 42" Northern Pike he caught at Clear Lake in early January gave him a head start to more days and years ahead filled with relaxing outdoor activities. Also on the agenda is time with his three kids and five grandkids who

all live near his Palmer Township home in Minnesota. He'll also help build a patio home for his mother this summer.

Ganz, a 35-year BAC member, 25 years with the Local, ended our conversation with a chuckle and offered some wise words to the younger BAC members, "Stick with it and don't be discouraged by the old guys."

The best to you, Mike!