

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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

JUNE 2026

May is Mental Health Month

When You've Hit the Wall, Make the Call, 1-833-MAP-TALK or 988

May
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

It's OK to not be OK.

Your mental health matters. Take time to care for yourself, lean on others, and know you are not alone.

- BE KIND** to yourself and others.
- TALK ABOUT IT** Your voice can help.
- TAKE CARE** Rest, recharge and reset.
- SUPPORT** Build connection. End the stigma.

LIVE WELL. BE WELL. YOU MATTER.

#MentalHealthAwareness #EndTheStigma #YouAreNotAlone

Construction workers face higher-than-average risk for mental health challenges, as well as suicide and overdose fatalities. BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD knows that members' wellbeing is about more than physical safety on the jobsite, and BAC is stepping up to turn the tide. With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, it's the right time to blast the message: your mental health matters, and you are not alone.

Workers in construction often face pressure to "be tough," but tough means tough enough to speak up. Shame and stigma have held the power for far too long, and it's time to end their grip and start changing the conversation. Whether it's checking on your union brother or sister, sharing your story, or asking for help when needed – the construction industry wins when more people reach out and speak up about mental health.

To learn more about construction worker mental health log onto <https://baclmn-nd.org> or <https://bacweb.org> to view the IUBAC's Mental Health Awareness Month webinar held

Continued on page 5

Stacking Stories: Mortar Life Than Work

By Nick Musech, BAC Local 1 Secretary-Treasurer



Richard Burt

It was a cool and rainy spring evening when I first got the chance to see with my own eyes what I've only heard to be folklore. Framed and hung on his living room wall coupled with the stunning photograph of the 2004 Ice Palace was a check from the St. Paul Winter Carnival for \$1.00 made out to Richard Burt.

"This way you were officially a paid employee. In case you got hurt, you were covered under workman's comp — it's all legal BS", Burt laughed.

Continued on page 2



INSIDE:

Golf Tournament	3
BAC Training	4
Member Recognition	6
IMI	8
Events	11

Stacking Stories *Continued from page 1*

Burt was born, the middle child of three, in July 1941 in the small rural town of Los Molinos, CA. The Burt family moved back to their mother's native state of Minnesota where he found himself doing what any Howdy Doody did at that time before graduating in the last class fewer than 100 in 1959 from St. Paul Park. "After high school, I bummed around a while," Burt said.

After working some odd jobs, including at 3M, Burt saved up and bought a '60 Pontiac. "I was up one night cruising 7th Street in St. Paul, and a cop knocks on my hood and writes out three tickets." Burt recalls. "So, I went to court and the judge tells me he's going to throw two away, but the third ticket came with a \$7.50 fine and a suspended license."

Near the main doors at the courthouse was a Marine Corps recruitment office. Burt walked right in with his arms stretched wide open and said, "Here I am." Joining right there on the spot and scoring high on the intake exams, Burt was offered a spot in the Airwing starting with air school in Memphis, TN, and Cherry Point, NC, then spending less than a week in Japan before landing in South Vietnam.

"We arrived in Da Nang on 10 July '65," Burt remembered. "Nobody had really known at the time what was leading up to any of that."

Dutifully serving four and a half years in aircraft communication electronics, Burt was honorably discharged and discovered that when returning to civilian life "punching the time clock back at 3M wasn't for me," Burt continued.

As some can attest to, in this business the trade found us.

After some time studying at University of Wisconsin River Falls, Burt remembers well how his career as a bricklayer started.

"One day, a guy asked me if I knew how to run a jackhammer," he said. Being young and strong (willed) Burt agreed and showed up on the job that next day and was asked if he cared to continue working for a bricklayer. "What the hell does a bricklayer do?" Burt asked his boss. His foreman replied, "Don't mind that and just do what you're told."

The next day Burt was working alongside a South St. Paul bricklayer named Ray Eide. Not long after his second season in masonry, Eide convinced Burt to visit the local business agent. Gordy Christianson signed Burt on as a BAC Local 1 St. Paul member in 1968 after first turning him down arguing mid 20's was too old to join.

"So, I went back to labor for Eide until the next spring when I pleaded my case again to Christenson, and I said, I want to be a bricklayer," Burt said.

Christianson replied, "I told you last year you're too old."

Burt wasn't leaving without a yes. "But, I've been in the Marine Corps for over four years, so subtract that."

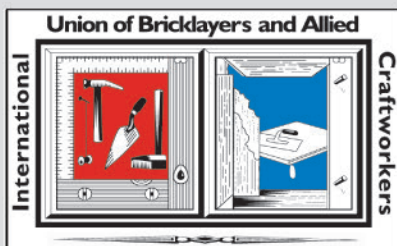
Burt offered a historical perspective. "At that time to be a union bricklayer, if you didn't know somebody, you didn't get in."

"After speaking to the union officers and telling them why I wanted to be a bricklayer I started my apprenticeship at the St. Paul Technical School," he said.

Burt remembers working on his first commercial job at South St. Paul High School and for multiple contractors on some of the most prominent buildings in the east metro including three Winter Ice Palaces: 1986, 1992, 2004. He was elected VP of BAC Local 1 St. Paul (1988), president (1990), and later served as business agent of the newly merged Local 1 MN until his retirement in 2000.

Always making the effort to represent the members, Burt commented, "I tried to attend every union meeting I could. My favorite part of being a business agent was being able to help out the members in any way I could."

Burt and I first met at a retiree recognition event last year which he tries to attend regularly and stays plugged into the building trades brotherhood. Since retiring, Burt has traveled to New Zealand and stays in touch with family. His days are centered around a life of faith and volunteer work. From the Como Park Conservatory Gardens in the spring and summer to helping at Friends in Need every Tuesday and fitting in the Friday fish fry is how you'll find Burt continuing his life of servitude-if you can't find him in his own giant gardens at home certainly enjoying retirement.



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

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

Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 25, 2026, at Pheasant Acres Golf Club, Rogers, MN
Sponsored by the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local Union 1 MN/ND/SD

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

COURSE REQUIREMENT: ALL GOLFERS MUST WEAR SOFT SPIKES!



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

COST IS \$85 PER PERSON / RETIRED MEMBERS IS \$70 PER PERSON – Deadline is July 17, 2026. This includes green fees, golf cart, lunch, drink tickets and prizes. Entrants will be limited to the first 128 golfers. You may make up your own foursome, or we will place you in one.

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

Because each person must be on a cart, the deadline for golf reservations is **July 17, 2026. No exceptions!** The golf tournament is open to all members of BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD.

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE WITH RESERVATION – Payment by card or check accepted. Please note there is a processing fee for all card payments. Make your check payable to BAC Golf Day. Send to BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD, 312 Central Avenue SE, Suite 328, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

2026 RESERVATION BAC METRO GOLF TOURNAMENT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (H) _____ (C) _____

NAMES OF OTHERS PLAYERS IN YOUR FOURSOME



Congratulations, Graduates and Skills Contest Winners!

Spring was a busy season at the training center, highlighted by our annual Apprentice Skills Contest where apprentices from across our crafts stepped onto the competition floor to put their training to the test. From layout and precision to craftsmanship and problem solving, the level of talent on display was impressive from start to finish. Congratulations to all of this year’s contestants and winners. First place winners are:

- 1st Year Brick: Timothy Christenson
- 2nd Year Brick: Seth Brandenburg
- 3rd Year Brick: Jake Olson
- 1st Year PCC: Brock Morine
- 2nd Year PCC: Sam Strandness
- 3rd Year PCC: Christian Solis
- Tile: Anthony Fisher

Second, third, and fourth place winners are listed on the training center’s link below.

Several apprentices also completed their related training, marking the culmination of years of hard work, classroom instruction, and on-the-job learning. A completion/graduation banquet was held on May 15 to recognize their accomplishments. Congratulations to the following graduates:

Brick Apprentices: Keith Allen, Kevin Craner, Kaylynn Foley, Joseph Gale, Ethan Krekelberg, Jeremy Ness, Jake Olson, Jonathan Pena-Solis

PCC Apprentices: William Bergen, Josue Duran, Connor Goulet, Scott Gruber, Levi Holland, Isaac Miskowitz, Andrew Morrisette, Christian Solis, John Weingarten

Tile Finisher Apprentices: Aden Crow, Rico Hall, Anthony Lezama Espinoza, Tylor Matter, Emir Rosic, Mickey Springer, Richard Yelegon

Tile Setter Apprentices: Michael Demuth, Faith Egerdahl, Anthony Fisher, Tom Schmock, Tommy Stafford

We also recently wrapped up another successful Brick and PCC Pre-Apprenticeship program. This six-week course gives individuals the opportunity to learn very basic masonry skills while gaining exposure to the trades and an opportunity to pursue employment with a signatory contractor. The program concluded with jobsite visits, including the opportunity to observe restoration work taking place at the Round Tower at Historic Fort Snelling. These visits give students a firsthand look at the type of work performed by union masonry workers every day.

Check out photos from the graduation, contest, and other recent events, and updates at BACtraining.org/news.



Anthony Fisher, 1st place Tile



Brock Morine, 1st place, 1st year PCC



Sam Strandness, 1st place, 2nd year PCC



Christian Solis, 1st place, 3rd year PCC



Seth Brandenburg, 1st place, 2nd year Brick



Timothy Christenson, 1st year, 1st place Brick



Jake Olson, 1st place, 3rd year Brick

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Bemidji Gold Card



L-R: Business Rep Matt Hopkins, 25-year member Michael Schlee, 50-year member Creig Mertens (Greg Grahman holding award), 40-year member Thomas Anderson and Business Rep Cory Willeck. Not pictured: 25-year members Robert Bjorge and Wayne Striebel, 40-year member Terrance Johnson and 75-year member Duane Shelquist.

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

Mental Health Month

Continued from page 1

on May 18. BAC also has additional mental health resources for members found under the Member Resources tab on its website.

If you or a loved one wants to further discuss or needs mental health support, please contact the IUBAC’s Member Assistance Program (MAP) at 1-833-MAP-TALK, M-F, 7 am-6 pm CT for free, confidential help. For 24/7 crisis intervention, call 988.

Put your mental health first, for yourself and your loved ones.

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

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Bismarck Gold Card



L-R: 50-year member Daniel Wolf and Business Rep Keith Stebleton. Not pictured: 50-year member Arthur Mosbrucker

Minot Gold Card



L-R: Business Rep Keith Stebleton and 50-year member Merle Yoder

Grand Forks Gold Card



Robert "Bob" Bina, a 50-year recipient is pictured with his two sons Aaron (L) and Robert "Bob" (R). Not pictured: 40-year member David Reuther

St. Cloud Gold Card

25-year members:

Raymond Dewitt
Larry Englund
David Loidolt
Nicholas Mikrot
Chad Reger
Paul Schwartz

40-year members:

Jon Packard
Kurt Lommel

50-year members:

John Kohman
Scott Lommel
Timothy Hoeschen

Mankato Gold Card

25-year members:

Duane Cuff
John Karels

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Fargo Gold Card



L-R: Business Rep Keith Stebleton and 25-year member Jason Hoekstra.



L-R: Business Rep Keith Stebleton and 25-year member Paul Rustad

St. Cloud Gold Card



Although the honored members were unable to attend the St. Cloud Gold Card Dinner, a good time was had by all with plenty of stories and rekindled relationships.

Mankato Gold Card



Although the honored members were unable to attend the Mankato Gold Card Dinner, a good time was had by all with plenty of stories and rekindled relationships.



IMI Masonry Matter

TECHNICAL SUPPORT, PROJECT ASSISTANCE, AND MARKET INFLUENCE FOR BAC LOCAL 1 MN/ ND/SD

Mark Swanson, AIA, CSI, LEED AP, is IMI's North Central regional director. He provides masonry education and technical support to architects, engineers, contractors, owners, and construction professionals while assisting BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD with efforts that protect masonry scope and support union work. IMI's work happens both upstream and downstream — with design teams, general contractors, owners, and signatory contractors — so potential issues can be addressed before they become jobsite problems.

MASONRY EDUCATION AND MARKET INFLUENCE

The 2026 IMI Structural Masonry Webinar Series continues to draw strong participation from engineers, architects, contractors, owners, and construction professionals. These programs are not just educational events. They create follow-up conversations, technical assistance requests, and project opportunities throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the broader North Central region.

IMI kicked off the 2026 Structural Masonry Webinar Series in January with Mastering Masonry Design: Tools, Codes & Innovations, presented by Sam Rubenzer, SE, of FORSE Consulting.



Structural Webinar Series

The program attracted 660 registered participants and nearly 400 live attendees, including engineers, architects, contractors, and owners. The session focused on masonry codes, technical references, early coordination to reduce RFIs and redesign, and aligning structural intent with constructable masonry systems.

In February, Swanson continued the series with Innovations in Structural Masonry, also presented by Rubenzer. The session drew more than 425 live attendees and focused on

new material developments, finite element analysis tools, and optimizing masonry wall f'm strength for efficient structural design.

In March, Swanson hosted Structural Fundamentals: Masonry Movement Joints, presented by IMI's own, Dan Siteman. That program set a new record for the series with more than 1,100 registrants and more than 688 live attendees, bringing engineers, architects, general contractors, mason contractors, and owners together around masonry movement, joint detailing, and coordination responsibilities.

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. Better engineering details lead to clearer drawings, fewer RFIs, fewer jobsite conflicts, and fewer "fix-it-in-the-field" situations for masons.

IMI, working with Rubenzer, completed a focused review of Sandman Structural Engineers' internal masonry detail standards after Sandman requested assistance following Swanson's CSI Fargo presentation. The review addressed masonry lintels, reinforcement, foundations, and arching behavior. The feedback was incorporated into Sandman's standard details, improving alignment between engineering design intent and field installation. Sandman Structural Engineers have offices in Moorhead, Brainerd, and Minneapolis.

This is the type of upstream technical work that helps normalize constructable, code-aligned masonry details across engineering practices and reduces risk for BAC signatory contractors before projects reach the field.

TURNING LUNCH-AND-LEARNS INTO PROJECT- LEVEL SUPPORT

IMI's education work often leads directly to project assistance. One example is IMI's work with Finn Daniels Architects in Mendota Heights.

Swanson provided an adhered masonry veneer lunch-and-learn for Finn Daniels Architects and then followed up

Continued from page 8



Finn Daniels Technical Assistance

with technical assistance for their Edina Galleria project. The discussion connected IMI education directly to an active project condition involving adhered masonry veneer detailing,

veneer selection, substrate coordination, installation considerations, and moisture management.

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 2026 examples included masonry base-of-wall conditions, below-grade exposure, stone detailing, adhered veneer, CMU walls, and contractor questions related to grout placement.

Several recent technical assistance requests focused on masonry at or near grade. These are important conditions because masonry base details are exposed to moisture, snow, deicing salts, splashback, irrigation, and freeze/thaw cycling. Ideally, we like to see masonry veneers kept above grade, but architects seem to like the look of brick and stone going into the ground.

IMI assisted JE Dunn Construction with multiple technical inquiries involving below-grade masonry veneer performance, including brick, limestone, granite, stone, and CMU veneer conditions. Guidance focused on durability of base-course materials, moisture exposure, rising damp, drainage, drying strategies, material suitability, and long-term performance in wet and freeze/thaw environments.

IMI also provided technical assistance with Oertel Architects on a natural stone veneer base-of-wall condition where the proposed detail appeared to carry adhered granite veneer below grade. IMI recommended revising the lower portion to an anchored dimensional granite base course with waterproofing/damp proofing, slope away from the wall, and a separation joint above. This allowed the design intent to remain while avoiding an adhered veneer installation in a vulnerable below-grade and splash-zone condition.

SUPPORTING SIGNATORY CONTRACTORS AND FIELD CONSTRUCTABILITY

IMI's technical assistance also supports BAC signatory contractors by helping clarify code requirements and construction practices before they become field disputes.

Hollenback & Nelson reached out to IMI for clarification

on low-lift grouting requirements. Swanson confirmed that TMS 402/602-16 does not require rebar positioners for low-lift grouting; reinforcement must be properly placed and maintained during grout placement. The contractor's response was direct and positive: "Super helpful. Thanks!"

This type of technical support helps contractors respond with accurate information, avoids unnecessary requirements, and keeps masonry work moving.

SOUTH DAKOTA PROJECT SUPPORT

Swanson reviewed brick detailing for a Sioux Falls apartment project after Scott Conwell, IMI Chicago director, handed off an inquiry from Shopworks Architecture. A Teams meeting was held to review the project details, and an FYI was sent to BAC Business Agent Brian Sunderman because the project included a significant amount of brick masonry.

STAYING CONNECTED WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE

IMI continues to represent masonry in broader industry conversations where owners, architects, engineers, developers, and contractors are making decisions about building systems, labor, sustainability, and long-term performance.



ULI Decarbonization & Resilience Program

On January 22, IMI participated in ULI Minnesota's Building the Future: Decarbonization, Resilience & Green Finance forum in downtown Minneapolis. The event brought together developers, architects, and finance leaders to discuss policy, capital markets, and material strategies shaping low-carbon and resilient buildings. IMI's participation helped position masonry as a durable, resilient building solution aligned with decarbonization priorities and long-term work opportunities for BAC members.

Swanson also participated in the BEC, CSI, and ABAA event at Scout Base Camp in St. Paul, strengthening IMI visibility with regional building enclosure, design, and construction professionals. The event reinforced IMI's role in technical education and building enclosure discussions.

Continued on page 11



New Members

Evan Arpan	Isaac Miskowitz
Thomas Bystrom	Abraham Perez
Miriah Carruth	Owen Peterson
James Coombs	Alex Springman
Shane Davis	Saul Tinoco
Terry Friez	Pao Vang
Haden Greenwood	Dallas Yenor
Nathaniel Hawn	Michael Zaffke
Charles Mikrot	



Deceased Members

#1 MN - Mpls-St. Paul David Kemp Charles Taylor	#5 SD - Watertown/ Alexandria John Urevig
#1 SD -Sioux Falls Kenneth Lundquist Martin Boese	#7 MN - Winona Jeffery Mcnamer
#2 MN - Mpls Stephen Pawlyshyn Gary Schahn	#15 MN - Brainerd Clyde Bell Roger Bilden
#4 MN -St. Cloud Robert Sadlo	#16 MN - Hibbing/ Virginia William Streu
#4 ND - Bismarck Robert McIntyre	#107T - Terrazzo Kelly Feyler



FOLLOW US ON
facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/BAC1MN.ND.SD>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BAC1.MN.ND.SD>

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



Retired Members

BAC Local 1 members who have retired in 2026. We are grateful for your dedication to work and we wish you a great future!

Daniel Andersen	Jeffery Mcnamer
Shawn Barclay	Todd Meile
Christopher Bijold	Michael Naber
Robert Boettcher	John Penner
Michael Ganz	Patricia Peterson
Jay Kaemmerling	Michael Rash
Nafid Karic	Robin Williams
Richard Linder	

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls - 4:30 p.m.
June 8, Aug. 10, Sept. 14

Chapter 1-Fargo, ND

Dilworth Hi Ho Tavern: 5:30 p.m. June 23, Sept. 22

Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD

101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor Temple: 6 p.m. Sept. 15

Chapter 2-Minot, ND

Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Aug. 12

Chapter 2-Yankton, SD

Yanktown VFW: 7 p.m. Sept. 10

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing-Iron Range, MN

Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m. June 10, Sept. 16
Valentini's Chisholm: 6 p.m. Aug. 12

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND

E. Grand Forks American Legion: 7 p.m.
June 22, Sept. 28

Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD

Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m.
June 15, Sept. 21

Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD

Rapid City Labor Temple: 6 p.m., June 5,
Sept. 4

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN

Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 14,
Dec. 7

Chapter 11-Mankato, MN

Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. June 4

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND

Bemidji, Eagles Club: 5 p.m. Aug. 20, Sept. 17

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.



Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

Delta Hotels, NE Mpls - 11 a.m. July 2

Chapter 8-Rochester/Faribault, MN

Rochester Eagles Club: 6 p.m. June 5

OTHER EVENTS

Metro area Retirees' coffee

meetings Jax Cafe: Mpls: 9 a.m. June 25,
Sept. 24

Duluth area Retirees' coffee

meetings Pike Lake Golf & Beach Club:
Duluth 9:30 a.m. June 3, July 1, Aug. 5
Sept. 2



Metro BAC Golf Tournament

Pheasant Acres Golf Club: 7 a.m. July 25

IMI *Continued on page 9*

In April, Swanson attended the Building Enclosure Council-MN annual board meeting and presentation at Kraus-Anderson in downtown Minneapolis. The program included a Mortenson presentation on prefabricated multifamily enclosure construction, with discussion around skilled labor shortages, material cost volatility, product performance, quality control, schedule certainty, and enclosure coordination.

These conversations matter because masonry must remain part of broader discussions about building performance, durability, constructability, and the value of skilled labor.

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, rework, and unnecessary risk
- Support BAC signatory contractors with technical backup
- Strengthen relationships with architects, engineers, general contractors, owners, and developers
- Promote masonry as a durable, resilient, long-term building solution
- Create more masonry opportunities for BAC Local 1 members

Mark Swanson can be reached at mwsanson@imiweb.org or 612-840-8695.

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

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



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

It's Better in a Union



POLITICS - Our Issues

For generations, union workers have known a simple truth: life is better in a union.

That's not just a slogan. It's something union members live every day on job sites, at workplaces, in union halls, and at home with family. It means better wages, safer working conditions, retirement security, health care, and a democratic voice on the job. It means standing together instead of standing alone.

Bricklayers and allied craftworkers understand this as well as anyone. The work you do helps build Minnesota from the ground up. From schools and hospitals to public buildings and commercial projects, your work leaves a lasting mark on our communities. The strength behind that work is not just the skill of individual workers. It's the power of solidarity.

At a time when corporations and anti-worker politicians continue attacking unions and trying to divide working people, it's more important than ever that we tell our story proudly and

loudly. Too many workers still don't know what union membership can mean for their lives because they have never had the opportunity to experience it themselves.

That is why the Minnesota AFL-CIO launched the "Better in a Union" campaign.

This campaign is about lifting up the real voices and experiences of union members across Minnesota. It is about reminding workers that unions are not outside organizations or distant institutions. Unions are us. We are working people coming together to improve our jobs, our communities, and our future.

Whether it's apprentices starting their careers, experienced journey workers passing down skills to the next generation, or retirees who fought to secure the benefits many enjoy today, every union member has a story worth telling.

The labor movement grows when workers see themselves reflected in one another. A nonunion worker who sees a Bricklayers' member talking about fair pay, workplace safety, or having the freedom to spend more time with family may realize they deserve those same things, too.



The "Better in a Union" campaign is designed to help make those connections happen.

Please take a few minutes to connect with the campaign by visiting aflcio.mn/itsbetterinaunion.

There, you can learn more about the campaign, share your own union story, and help spread the word about the difference unions make in the lives of working people every single day.

Our movement has always been strongest when rank and file workers step forward and speak with honesty about their experiences.

Minnesota's labor movement remains strong because of working people like you who continue standing up for one another.

MINNESOTA
afl-cio
A STRONG, UNITED VOICE FOR
MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE