

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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SEPTEMBER 2026

Members Enjoy Camaraderie on the Links



The annual BAC Local 1 golf tournament on Saturday, July 25 was a fun and relaxing time against the backdrop of the beautiful greens at Pheasant Acres Golf Club, in Rogers, MN. Tee off time of 7 a.m. worked well for the 120 golfers, ahead of the continued stretch of high heat and humidity once again predicted that day.

More than 35 sponsors made generous contributions to support this great tradition. There were a lot of prizes, giveaways, and raffle items.

Winners for golf and skins was the group of: Todd Huber, Russ Lewis, Trace Benson and Mike Dubek. Longest putt contest winner was IUBAC NC Regional Rep Raul Zamarron. Honorable mention for the lowest score went to the BAC group of Terry Wong, Greg Jacobs, John Hable, and Rich Beattie.

Proceeds from BAC metro golf went to ACAM Injured Apprentice Fund and the BAC Disaster Relief Fund.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to our sponsors.



**Local &
Chapter
Elections**

**Semi-Annual Meeting
Oct. 3, 2026
9 a.m.**

312 Central Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

INSIDE:

Schroeder Retires	2
BAC Training	4
Member Recognition	6
IMI	8
Events	11

Schroeder Leaves a Mark in the Union and Community He Served

By Patricia Johnson



It was a beautiful blue-sky morning as Doug Schroeder began his sixth day of retirement. A 45-minute drive to The Ponds Golf Course gave him a good amount of time to briefly cover his bricklaying career as we spoke over the phone.

His former father-in-law, a crane operator at the time, introduced Schroeder to the trade, and

the very next day he landed an interview at BOR-SON Construction and became an apprentice.

"I never knew how gratifying the work would be," says Schroeder. "I never knew I had a longing for that feeling. Everything about it. Leaving a mark on the world."

His long historic mark continued to grow as Schroeder moved onto Arkay Construction working as a foreman for eight years, building "tons of schools". Braemar Concrete and Masonry followed where he fondly recalls with great satisfaction helping build Rogers Senior High, a school that his two children later attended. Then came Keystone Construction Services based in Iowa where he supervised 11 projects. His focus later turned to apartments and co-ops including two Applebee's restaurants while working at Donald R. Frantz Concrete Construction. In April 2006, two years later, Schroeder was hired as a Minneapolis business agent; a position he interviewed for along with 33 other applicants. On Dec. 1, 2017, Schroeder became BAC Local 1 president and secretary until he retired on August 1.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with people," Schroeder says, "I always had a good time." He notes it could be frustrating and demanding at times, yet he never felt the need to raise his voice. He stresses a good attitude along with the mindset of a team atmosphere, and viewing any project as bigger than himself, goes a long way.

Teddy Bear Park in Stillwater, MN, built in the mid-2000's, will remain one of Schroeder's favorite projects because of its unique and different types of stone and brick features on

its old barn. The project provided different aspects of the trade.

Schroeder's love of teamwork extends beyond bricklaying and serving the membership in a leadership capacity. He

readily admits he has a hard time saying no, and if a position was left vacate, Schroeder stepped up to the plate to fill it. Because of this, he has volunteered on no fewer than 20 boards and committees, including the IMI, while serving as president of BAC Local 1.

Schroeder's original career focus was on becoming a disc jockey which quickly disintegrated due to poor quality school equipment at the broadcasting school. But it wasn't a total loss because it was here, in February 1987, that he "ogled a gal from across the room" named Laura. The two eventually married in May 1991 and now have two adult children.

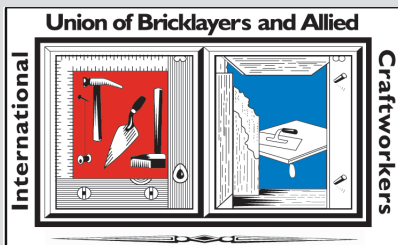
The last vacation traveling Schroeder did was back in 2007, so he and his wife have set their sights on Europe including Scotland and Ireland. He picked up his first golf club at 18. Forty years later Schroeder's played almost all 20 courses surrounding his home in St. Michael. Soon he'll apply to mow the courses, and in the winter, Schroeder will volunteer at the food shelf and deliver blood for the blood bank.

"Get engage, get involved, and support the union," says Schroeder. Wise advice given from a person who has exemplified and demonstrated the very words he speaks during his nearly 37 years as a BAC Local 1 member.

Doug, the very best to you in your retirement years. Green courses, clear skies, and smooth roads ahead as you call the shots in this new chapter of your life.



Teddy Bear Park in Stillwater



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

Commitment Remains Steady through Transitions



Nick Musech
President

Doug Schroeder has resigned as President of Local 1 MN/ND/SD before the completion of his term. We thank Doug for his years of service to the Local and wish him well in retirement.

Effective August 1, the leadership team has been updated as follows:

President: Nick Musech

Secretary-Treasurer: Matt Hopkins

Vice President: Cory Willeck

While the transition occurred quickly, Local 1 remains fully committed to serving the members and upholding the values of our Union.

The seasons are also changing as we move from summer to fall and prepare for Local 1 elections scheduled on

Saturday Oct. 3, 2026. Nominations for office will be held immediately following the 9 am semi-annual meeting at 312 Central Ave. SE Minneapolis, MN 55414. If an election is necessary, it shall be conducted by a mail referendum. Ballots will be mailed out to your current address on file at the hall depending on the outcome of the nominations. If your mailing address has changed, please be sure to contact the hall immediately and inform us of any updates.

Elections for Chapter Chairperson, Sergeant at Arms, and Recording Secretary will be held at each chapter's regular scheduled meeting in September.

Please refer to the Local 1 Constitution for qualifications for office at both the Local and Chapter level. These will also be posted on the webpage, social media, and on display the day of the election meetings. Any requests for a copy of this information can be made by contacting the hall and will be mailed to your home address or emailed.

Fargo, ND, BAC Members Building to Last



Fargo/Moorhead area members working together on the line installing units on hydro-mobile scaffolding.



Capstone Classical Academy shown after completion.

BAC Local 1 members laid more than 340,000 modular bricks and 359,000 pounds of limestone during the build of Capstone Classical Academy in Fargo, ND. The project was awarded to signatory contractor Huesman-Schreiber Masonry. The build was completed in December 2024 following 18 months of work. The 92,000-square-foot permanent private Christian school facility officially opened its new building in January 2025.

The project's first stage equals approximately \$55 million in total value with two additional phases being planned.

Phase two is to begin shortly after the next round of capital campaigns. Once complete it should be the largest school in the Fargo/Moorhead area sitting on its 18-acre property. The academy will education 560 Pre-K through 12th grade students.

Thank you, Keith Stebleton, NW MN/ND business rep for this submission.



10-year member Chad Puckett on the left. 9-year member Grandon Barbee on the right.

Building on a Strong Foundation

As summer draws to a close, the training center is preparing to welcome apprentices back for another year of training. Orientation for metro-area registered apprentices took place in August, with first-semester classes beginning shortly afterward. PCC and non-metro apprentices will attend orientation in January, when their classes begin.

This year, apprentices will return to a program that continues to grow while remaining rooted in clear expectations, strong instruction, and the skills needed in our region. One of the most exciting changes is the addition of a new week of training for second-year brick apprentices. During this week, apprentices will attend back-to-back day classes, giving them the time needed to complete a more in-depth and complex hands-on project.

The expanded format will allow apprentices to remain focused on a project over consecutive days rather than stopping and restarting between class sessions. It also creates more opportunities to develop planning, layout, problem-solving, teamwork, and craftsmanship while completing work that more closely reflects the complexity of projects encountered in the field.

Many members may not realize how apprenticeship curriculum is developed within BAC. Training centers across the country use standardized curriculum developed through the International Masonry Training and Education Foundation, providing consistent knowledge and skill objectives for apprentices. At the same time, individual training centers have the flexibility to tailor and expand that curriculum to reflect the types of work and training needs found within their own regions.

At our training center, that curriculum has been developed and refined over time into an established program in which apprentices receive the same core instruction and are expected to demonstrate the same knowledge and skills from year to year. While adjustments and additions are made when needed, the foundation of the program remains consistent. That allows apprentices to clearly understand what they are expected to achieve while ensuring each individual is held to the same standard.

That work is also helping move our training center toward another important milestone: Training Center Certification. IMI is working to certify training centers across the country based on established standards for apprenticeship education. The certification process requires training centers to demonstrate that they meet specific criteria, including the use of IMTEF curriculum and the continued professional development of instructional staff through the Instructor

Certification Program. Our Training Center has progressed through the process and is now moving before the board for internal review.

Our instructors have made a significant commitment to meeting those standards and strengthening their own abilities as educators through the International Masonry Institute's five-year Instructor Certification Program. Since the program began in 1985, only 340 instructors have completed it. Graduation requires participants to assemble an intensive portfolio demonstrating their ability to develop and deliver effective training, including lesson plans, presentations, hands-on projects, and the evaluation matrices used to measure apprentice performance.

John Slama completed the program last year, while Nick Radtke and Rebecca Nohava will graduate this year. With Nohava's completion, she will become only the third woman to graduate from the program since its inception. John Kent is entering his third year, and Justin Korbel will attend for his second year.

The progress toward Training Center Certification, the continued development of our instructors, and the refinement of our apprenticeship curriculum are all part of the same goal: providing apprentices with a structured, high-quality program that prepares them for the work expected of BAC craftworkers in our region.

At the same time, consistency does not mean standing still. The new second-year training week is one example of how the training center can build upon an established curriculum when an opportunity arises to provide stronger, more meaningful instruction. We look forward to seeing what apprentices accomplish during the coming related training year and to welcoming them back into the shops and classrooms.

Continued on page 5



Pre-apprentices visit the active restoration at Fort Snelling's Round Tower.

Continued from page 4

Fort Snelling Pre-Apprenticeship Visit

This spring, brick pre-apprentices visited Historic Fort Snelling to explore masonry construction and preservation firsthand. Throughout the site, participants examined more than two centuries of stonework, discussed historic materials and construction methods, and had an opportunity to see active masonry restoration in progress. More photos and details from the visit are available on the training center website: www.bactraining.org/news



Pre-apprentices take a closer look at historic stonework, discussing the materials and construction techniques visible throughout Fort Snelling.



Pre-apprentices examine the masonry of the Commanding Officer's Quarters.

BAC Local Sisters Display Strength and Success

BAC Local 1 sisters and tradeswomen alike packed the house at this year's Women Building Success Awards Ceremony held on June 4 at the Kellerman's Event Center in White Bear Lake, MN. This annual event celebrates, recognizes, and promotes the success of women in union construction trades. Congrats to all the nominees, recipients, and powerhouse women who show up every day to help build our industry better.

Congrats, also to BAC Local 1 member Rick Martagon and the Building Strong Communities team for being recognized with the Women's Advocate of the Year Honorable Mention award.

BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD will continue to support our sisters at the nation's largest trade worker gathering this October at the NABTU Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference in Houston, TX.

Look for nomination applications March 2027 to support a BAC Local 1 sister at next year's event.



L to R: Lukas Lienke, Elle Hopkins, Kayleigh Dietz, Amanada McRae, Rebecca Nohava, Taya Ortiz, Jordana Stiffarm, Christen Saul and guest, Nick Musech.

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MEMBER RECOGNITION

Metro Gold Card



L-R: President Doug Schroeder, 25-year members Steven Englund, Larry Englund, Emilio Garcia, John Kent, Matt Nilson and Secretary-Treasurer Nick Musech.



40-year member
Herbert Bracht



L-R: President Doug Schroeder, 40-year members Grant Johnson, Darin Luoma, Ricky Morris and Secretary-Treasurer Nick Musech.



50-year member
Ronald Mikyla

Not Pictured:

25-year members Lowell Bergloff, Corey Byrne, Steven Carr, Billy Crow, Petr Damyan, Jay Falz, Cory Fedder, Robert Fischer, Shaun Fumanti, Frank Fundingsland, John Gester, Christine Haug, Jared Jamar, Robert Luger, Michael Marold, Daniel McGuire, Robert Meier, Robert Morine, Damir Muratovic, Matt Nilsson, Patricia Peterson, Fredy Quintanilla, Craig Schulz, Ronald Sparks, Jeffrey Summers, and Rebecca Vecoli.

40-year members Paul Ackerman, Clayton Berg, Mark Bergstrom, Philip Brink, Ricardo Dengel, Theodore Droneck, Gary Huston, Brion Klande, Ronald Lewis, Don McDermott, Stuart Morsching, James Mrozik, Danny Nelson, David Petschl, Larry Roepke, Todd Rose, Thomas Simon and Michael Tripp.

50-year members Brian Frelond, Robert Keller, Thomas Kraft, William Lanier and Steven Youngstrom.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Rochester Gold Card



25-year member Thomas Jones. 40-year member David Peterson. L-R: 50-year members David Bakke and Randall Walters. Not pictured: Christopher Ihrke, Steven Johnson and Eric Vik.

BAC Local 1 Answers the Bell



On Sunday morning, August 2, BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD showed its appreciation for the incredible Minnesota National Guard service men and women.

The event was held at the Peter J. King Family Foundation Leadership Center at Fort Snelling. President Musech joined Wounded Warrior Project, IBEW Local 110, IBEW Local 292, OPCMIA Local 633, SMART Local 10, and LiUNA Local 563 in a day of solidarity by serving lunch to those we can never thank enough.

The Minnesota National Guard consists of more than 13,000 citizen soldiers and airmen serving across 61 communities. It is split into the Minnesota Army National Guard and the Minnesota Air National Guard with main bases in Duluth and Minneapolis-St. Paul.



IMI Masonry Matter

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

During Q2 2026, IMI Director Mark Swanson supported BAC Local 1 MN/ND/SD through masonry education, technical assistance, training resources, contractor connections, project consultation, and regional outreach.

HANDS-ON BUILDING ENVELOPE EDUCATION AT THE BAC TRAINING CENTER

In May, IMI, BAC Local 1, BEC-MN, and CSI Minneapolis-St. Paul hosted the Rodeo Roundup on Building Envelopes at the New Hope Apprenticeship Training Center. Robert Bleistein of York Flashings presented on through-wall flashing performance, compatibility, sequencing, and installation before attendees rotated through hands-on workstations.

Participants practiced base and lintel flashing and sealing openings with 3M Sealing and Holding Tape 8069, connecting technical concepts with field installation. Thanks to John Slama and the BAC training center staff for preparing and supporting the event.



BEC-MN and CSI MSP participants rotate through flashing and air-barrier workstations at the BAC Local 1 Training Center in New Hope. Photos: IMI.

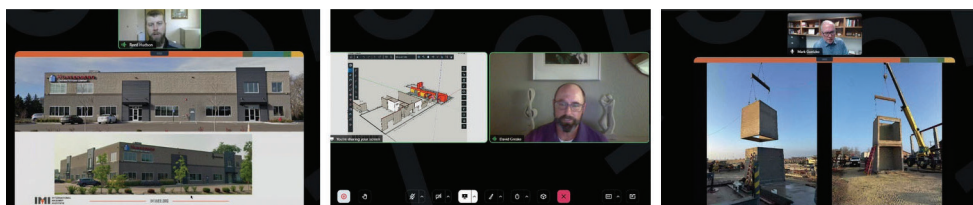
VIRTUAL EDUCATION REACHES A NATIONAL AUDIENCE

In April, Swanson hosted Designing for the Quiet Shake: Low-Seismic Masonry with Sam Rubenzer, SE, of FORSE Consulting. The webinar addressed practical design, code application, detailing, and wall anchorage in Seismic Design Categories A, B, and C.

Q2 STRUCTURAL MASONRY WEBINAR SERIES

In May, Reaching New Heights: Tall Veneers with Masonry, presented by Rebecca Herkes and Peter Babaian of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, drew 545 attendees. Topics included veneer height limits, support, anchorage, differential movement, flashing, and structural/enclosure coordination.

On June 3, Built on Collaboration: Case Studies in



The June Built on Collaboration webinar highlighted contractor-led design assist, digital coordination, prefabrication, and field problem-solving. Images: IMI webinar presentation.

Masonry Design and Construction featured Reed Hudson of Kiffmeyer Masonry, David Greske of Stretar Masonry and Concrete, and Mark Guetzko of Seedorff Holdings. With 553 registrants and 335 attendees, the program brought Upper Midwest BAC contractor expertise to a national audience.

The case studies showed how early contractor involvement, design-assist, digital coordination, modern equipment, and prefabrication improve constructability and reduce uncertainty while giving signatory contractors a national platform.

MINNESOTA

Project Support Before Problems Reach the Jobsite

IMI provided upstream support to improve masonry details and specifications, preserve masonry, and resolve questions before changes became costly.

Selected Technical Assistance Highlights

Westwood received guidance on H-block units, fully grouted masonry behavior, reinforcement, grouting, and seismic demands for a heavily loaded CMU retaining wall. DLR Group received assistance with mortar, vapor drive, flashing, drainage, caps, and joint detailing for an exterior natural-stone wall.



Project-specific detail review with the Finn Daniels Architects team. Photo: IMI.

Finn Daniels Architects - Edina Galleria

Following an adhered masonry veneer lunch-and-learn, IMI worked with Finn Daniels Architects on Edina Galleria details involving veneer selection, substrates,

installation, and moisture management—an example of education leading directly to project assistance.

Engineering and Constructability Assistance

IMI clarified low-lift grouting and reinforcement placement for Hollenback & Nelson; control joints for Sandman Structural Engineers; stepped-footing coordination for Nelson Rudie; and CMU head-joint mortaring and joint-reinforcement conflicts for JE Dunn Minneapolis.

Building Envelope and Restoration Support

For the Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center reuse study, IMI recommended a masonry/facade assessment addressing repointing, unit replacement, flashing, moisture deterioration, stabilization, phasing, and contractor qualifications. Other assistance covered natural stone, precast repair, insulation, CMU acoustics, and veneer drainage.

Perkins & Will - Turning Design Ideas into Buildable Masonry

IMI reviewed patterned brick feature walls, mockups, and digital coordination with Perkins & Will Minneapolis for a University of Tennessee Martin project, advancing buildable masonry solutions and contractor connections.

NORTH DAKOTA

Regional Visibility Through the Fargo-Moorhead Construction Community Assistance

Swanson joined CSI Fargo-Moorhead's tour of the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre project, led by McGough Construction.

The active-site visit strengthened IMI and Local 1 visibility and connections with McGough and Sandman Engineering.



CSI Fargo-Moorhead members review active construction at the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre project. Photo: IMI.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Brick Design Assistance in Sioux Falls and Rapid City

IMI reviewed brick detailing for a Shopworks Architecture apartment project in Sioux Falls, and BAC Business Agent Brian Sunderman was alerted while design decisions were developing.

For JLG Architects in Rapid City, IMI evaluated a tight-radius curved utility-brick wall, including curved or chamfered units, field-cut brick, projection, and early manufacturer coordination.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO BAC MEMBERS

IMI's Q2 work helps:

- Keep masonry, tile, terrazzo, and restoration work visible in project planning and design
- Improve drawings, specifications, and constructability before work begins
- Support BAC signatory contractors with technical clarification and design-team coordination
- Connect architects and engineers with BAC training, craft knowledge, and qualified contractors
- Identify major regional projects early and create more opportunities for BAC Local 1 members

Mark Swanson can be reached at mswanson@imiweb.org or 612-840-8695. To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit www.imiweb.org.



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!

Pirnie Brown	Brian Johnson
Duane Cuff	Michael Lesch
William Dukowitz	Michael Nightengale
Jeffrey Ehlen	Douglas Schroeder
Francisco Ibarra	



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New Members

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William Benedith	Xander Nelson
Brannon Bjork	Thomas Noye
Sweet December	Matthew Rynning
Gabriel Diemert	Paul Salak
John Dierkes	David Sarazin
Ryley Foley	Donvan Scheithauer
Jared Johnson	Victoria Schmidt
Michael Johnson	Alexander Schoenberg
Jeffrey Kubinski	Zachary Solots
Russel Kuhlman	Ngia Vang
Lucas Lindgren	Glenn Vanmeeteren
Jared Litwiller	Kao Vue
Devin Lund	Ahmad Wilson
Jacob McGregor	



Deceased Members

#1 MN - Mpls-St. Paul	Eugene Simon
Donald Kral	Douglas Squires
David Lucke	
Dennis Trenda	
#1 SD -Sioux Falls	#5 SD - Watertown/ Alexandria
Martin Boese	Hans Rupp
#2 MN - Mpls	#18 MN -
Lyle Lean	Stephen Gall
Jerald Miller	John Kollar
William Nickson	#107T - Terrazzo
Craig Pearson	Kelly Feyler

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter 1-Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

312 Central Avenue SE, Mpls - 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 14, Nov. 9

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

Chapter 1-Sioux Falls, SD

101 S. Fairfax Ave., Sioux Falls Labor
Temple: 6 p.m. Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 10

Chapter 2-Minot, ND

Minot VFW: 7 p.m. Nov. 4

Chapter 2-Yankton, SD

RJ's Sports Bar: 7 p.m. Oct. 8
Yanktown VFW: 7 p.m. Sept. 10

Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing- Iron Range, MN

Duluth Labor Center: 5 p.m. Sept. 16, Dec. 9
Valentini's Chisholm: 6 p.m. Nov. 11

Chapter 3-Grand Forks, ND

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

Chapter 3-Aberdeen, SD

Aberdeen Central Labor Union: 7 p.m.
Sept. 21, Nov. 16

Chapter 4-St. Cloud/Brainerd, MN

Brainerd American Legion: 7 p.m. Dec. 3

Chapter 4-Bismarck, ND

Bismarck AmVets: 7 p.m. Nov. 10

Chapter 4-Rapid City, SD

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

Chapter 5-Watertown, SD

Watertown VFW: 6 p.m. , Nov. 20

Chapter 8-Rochester-Faribault, MN

Rochester, Eagles Club: 7 p.m. Sept. 14,
Dec. 7
Faribault Eagles Club, 7 p.m. Nov. 2

Chapter 11-Mankato, MN

Mankato, Mankato Eagles Club:
7 p.m. Dec. 3

Chapter 15-Bemidji and ND

Bemidji, Eagles Club: 5 p.m. Sept. 17, Nov. 5,
Dec. 17

GOLD CARD DINNERS

Letters will be mailed.



Chapter 3-Duluth-Hibbing- Iron Range, MN

Duluth Holiday Inn: 6 p.m. Oct. 9
Valentino's Chisholm: 5 p.m. Oct. 10

OTHER EVENTS

All Chapters Semi-Annual Meeting

United Labor Center: Mpls:
9 a.m. Oct. 3

Local and Chapter Elections Semi-Annual Meeting Sat., Oct. 3, 2026, 9 a.m . 312 Central Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Elections will be held for the offices
of President, Secretary-Treasurer,
and three Vice Presidents.

Chapter Officers will be voted on
during regularly scheduled chapter
meetings during the month of
September. Elections will be held
for Chapter Chairman, Recording
Secretary, and Sergeant-At-Arms.

Metro area Retirees' coffee meetings

Jax Cafe: Mpls: 9 a.m. Sept. 24

Central MN Retirees' coffee meeting

Brigitte's Café, 9:30am, Dec. 15

Duluth area Retirees' coffee

meetings Pike Lake Golf & Beach Club:
Duluth 9:30 a.m. Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4,
Dec. 2



Duluth BAC Golf Tournament

Grandview Golf Links: 8 a.m. Sept. 12

BAC Holiday Party

Delta Hotels NE Minneapolis: 7 p.m.
Dec. 14

Yellow Ribbon RibFest Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026



National Guard
Readiness Center
4800 Hamline Ave. N
Arden Hills, MN 55112

The annual charity barbecue
competition and community event
features trade union cook-offs, live
music, and family activities to raise
funds supporting military service
members, veterans, and their
families.

Gates open at noon. Free admission.
For additional information log onto:
yellowribbonribfest.org

Notice:

**BAC Local 1 MN/ND/
SD will be hiring Field
Representatives in the MN
Metro & SE MN areas.**

Please watch the BAC Local 1
website and Facebook account
for details.

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
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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.

Labor Voices: It's Better in a Union



POLITICS - Our Issues

By Kera Peterson

Trade unionists know that our lives are better because we work union. Non-union workers know it too. Sixty million Americans say they would join a union if they could, according to a 2022 study by researchers at MIT. Why? Because the best check on a bad boss is a strong union contract. Workers across our economy can envision the real ways union membership could improve their jobs – and their lives.

People often assume that workers join unions because they want to improve their pay and benefits. It's true that workers who enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining earn, on average, 11.2% more than people in comparable jobs without union contracts. Workers covered by union contracts are more likely to access healthcare benefits and participate in a retirement plan, too. But pay isn't always the top priority when workers make the decision to come together in union.

In unstable times like those we face



today, our unions are a source of stability and confidence for workers and our families. Workers organize unions because they want more dignity and respect at work. They want to improve working conditions like safety, staffing and training. They want a more sustainable work-life balance, with predictable scheduling, paid holidays and time off. Collective bargaining delivers on these issues.

Unions don't just deliver results for workers in their bargaining units. Workers in strong union states, like Minnesota, enjoy higher wages, lower rates of workplace injuries and fatalities, lower overall rates of poverty, higher rates of health care coverage and better school funding. Yes, it's better in a union, and it's also better in a union-strong state like ours.

Billionaires would disagree, of course.

They know collective bargaining is a proven tool for workers looking to get an honest share of the profits they help create, and that unions are a powerful voice advocating for fair taxes and investments – in healthcare, in child care and in education – that working families need to get ahead. We've seen what a billionaire-first agenda means during President Trump's second term: foreign wars and tax cuts for the wealthy, paid for with steep cuts to Medicaid and health insurance subsidies.

But workers aren't backing down, they're organizing – both locally and nationally. The number of American workers represented by unions grew to 16.5 million in 2025, its highest point in 16 years. That's good news because it's better in a union, and unions make America better, too.



Kera Peterson is president of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

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MINNESOTA'S WORKING PEOPLE