Scaffolders work on iconic Duluth bridge

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Carpenters create custom door frames at LaForce

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Nuclear power plant outages provide work for many

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Twenty-two employees of Ames Construction, Inc., took 40 hours of hazardous materials training at the Twin Cities Training Center in February. Instructors from The Center for Construction Research and Training (formerly known as The Center to Protect Workers’ Rights) were on hand for a week teaching hazardous communications (how to read warning labels, etc.), how to wear an oxygen tank, washing and containment of contaminated materials and how to properly dispose of those items. The class primarily focused on the health, safety and protection of employees. “Much like OSHA 10, some jobsites will require hazmat training in the future,” said Paul Trudeau, Director of Apprenticeship at the training center. The hazmat training certificate is valid for one year.
UBC General President Douglas J. McCarron visited the Twin Cities in February, where he spoke with members of new Interior Systems Local 68.
Some silver linings despite a dim economic forecast

Although the economy is said to be looking brighter in many sectors in 2010 than it did in 2009, little has changed in the construction industry. An estimated 8.4 million jobs have been lost since the start of the recession, including a disproportionate 2.2 million in the construction industry alone. The unemployment rate for construction workers across the U.S. currently stands at 27.1 percent. Councilwide, that number is 26.2 percent among active members.

The Regional Council is working in partnership with our contractors to get everyone back to work, but the simple fact is jobs in our industry are scarce right now and will likely continue to be for some time.

There is some good news. Last month President Obama signed into law a package of some $18 billion in tax breaks and $20 billion in highway and transit programs designed to give the private sector a boost in hiring. Along with our contractors, we are working to persuade the federal government of the need for increased funding on these types of projects.

In Minnesota, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed a public buildings and infrastructure bill worth $686 million in construction spending for local road and bridge improvements, Minnesota State Colleges and University (MnSCU) buildings, a prison for sex offenders in Moose Lake, and the Duluth airport, among other things. In early April Pawlenty signed off on a jobs creation bill designed to help developers lock in financing on shovel-ready projects, including the rehabilitation of historic buildings like the Pillsbury A Mill in Minneapolis. The bill is expected to help get construction moving at the Mall of America, as well as dozens of other projects across the state.

The Regional Council continues to work hard for you, our members, on a local level. In March we held a jobs rally at the Minnesota State Capitol in conjunction with the Building Trades, asking legislators to push for job creation in the state. Through our organizing efforts, we are holding owners accountable for hiring contractors who uphold area standards.

We have been touring a number of contractors through our training centers, giving them a first-hand look at our facilities so they can see for themselves the rigorous training and safety standards required of our members. We have provided training specific to contractor needs (see inside front cover), and on May 20 we will host an Open House at the L.J. Shosten Union Training Center in Saint Paul. These are just a few of the ways we show contractors that Union workers are the best value for their dollar.

I know job referrals are coming slowly. Please take advantage of the training available to you to upgrade your skills and make yourself readily employable for as many jobs as possible. When the work starts coming in, we want you to be ready for it!
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America General President Douglas J. McCarron visited Saint Paul in February to tour the Twin Cities Training Center, meet with contractors and attend a meeting of new Interior Systems Local 68.

“Take a look at your hands — you create wealth,” McCarron told members of the new Local. “In the buildings you create, you build wealth for others. Health care for our families, good wages, good retirement... We deserve it.”

He discussed the advantages of creating a Local geared specifically toward interior systems work, noting “There’s a lot of opportunity here to do good — for yourselves, your families and your brotherhood. Greater market share means greater opportunity for everyone in this room.”

He spoke of his meeting with contractors earlier in the day and how impressed they were with our training center.

“Good training adds productivity to any jobsite,” McCarron said. “Today our contractors saw our commitment to the industry.”

Our industry is constantly changing, McCarron added, and reminded members that if we aren’t prepared to change then we will lose out on valuable opportunities.

“If you want something, you’ve got to do it yourself,” said McCarron. “That’s true in life and it’s true of our brotherhood. You can’t have a strong union without a common cause.”

If you are a carpenter performing interior systems work, metal stud and drywall, insulation, ceiling installation or lathing, you can transfer your current Local Union membership into Local 68 by calling Regional Council staff members Eric Meyer at 651-379-0214 or Sue Byrnes at 651-379-0216.
Tom Bakk exits race for Minnesota Governor

Saturday, March 20, retired LU606 carpenter and current state Senator Tom Bakk (DFL) ended his campaign for the 2010 Minnesota Governor’s seat. While he had solid support throughout his campaign, Bakk said he did not feel he had enough to be endorsed at the DFL Convention April 23-25 in Duluth.

“While we’re disappointed that Tom didn’t get as much support as we would have liked, he has had an incredible impact on the race for governor,” said MN Political Director Kyle Makarios. “He forced job creation and the economy to be central in the debate among candidates. Our issues — and the issues of the entire construction industry — have become front and center.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I’ve decided to end my bid for the DFL endorsement for governor and continue to focus my energies on the most immediate needs of our state — namely balancing the state budget in as fair and sensible a way as possible and putting in place policies that will restart our stalled economy.

Thank you for your support and friendship during my campaign for governor. I really appreciate all the phone calls you made, your vote at your precinct caucus, your willingness to attend your local convention and your efforts to be a delegate for me at the DFL State Convention in Duluth.

Thank you, too, for the financial support you gave to my campaign. Times are tough, but you came through for me when I needed you. The $5 donations from out-of-work carpenters, or the Canadian currency because members are working away from home, meant more to me than any other contribution.

As a carpenter who ran out of unemployment in the 1980s, I understand the stress today’s unemployed Minnesotans face. Every Friday in 2010, more than 200,000 Minnesotans received an unemployment check. A state record of 240,398 unemployment checks were issued January 9 and we’ve reached a point where almost 500 people each week are receiving their last check. With this backdrop the focus of my campaign was “jobs, jobs, jobs.” I was glad to see other candidates begin to talk about jobs, and I will continue to push to make this a defining issue of the upcoming election.

Running for the DFL endorsement for governor has been a great experience and I believe meeting so many people from across the state will make me a stronger legislator. Please know that as chair of the powerful Senate Tax Committee I will work harder than ever to help Minnesotans understand our economic and financial challenges, seek balanced approaches to these problems, and that Job One is to get Minnesotans back to work.

Fraternally,

Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook)
Burnsville Center promotes union carpenters

Malls have often been the backbone of commercial carpentry work, from new stores to remodels and renovations. The Regional Council has been in partnership with Burnsville Center of Burnsville, Minn., as a member of its reputable vendor program for the past three years.

As part of the vendor program, the mall recommends union general contractors and subcontractors who employ union carpenters to all mall tenants. Signs are posted within the mall when a union carpenter is doing work, flyers are available and information is posted on the mall’s website. The mall gets 14 million visitors each year and its website has 30,000 hits each month.

The mall promotes union carpenters because “We want to ensure the quality of work at Burnsville Center follows the highest standard and we know the Carpenters Union follows our standards,” said Amy Martin, marketing specialist with CBL & Associates Properties, Inc., which owns Burnsville Center.

“We know we’ll get quality work and things will be done correctly,” added Robbin Hahn, general manager at Burnsville Center. “The union understands the image Burnsville Center wants to uphold.”

Bismarck-Mandan Training Center celebrates addition with January Open House

The Bismarck-Mandan Training Center in Center, North Dakota, was expanded last summer with the addition of a 40x40-foot classroom/office area built by members of LU1091. Despite the 30-degree below zero temperature, nearly 60 people were on hand January 8 to celebrate the addition with an Open House.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer James E. Moore told the assembled power plant managers, maintenance supervisors and local contractors that the union added to the training center in order to better partner with the industry.

The day included tours of the training center and the installation of new millwright and carpenter apprentices. The LU1091 monthly meeting was held there later that night.

Big Buck Contest Winners

First place in Archery
WI — Tim Johnson LU731
MN — Troy Nelson LU361
ND — no entries
SD — no entries

First place in Rifle
WI — Gary Stroede LU314
MN — Timothy Rief LU596
ND — no entries
SD — Lance Steinberg LU587
Hundreds turn out across Minnesota for precinct caucus training

Minnesota Political Director Kyle Makarios conducted precinct caucus training for almost 300 union members in Duluth, Mankato, Rochester, Saint Paul and Virginia in the days leading up to Minnesota’s February 4 precinct caucuses. Precinct caucuses are meetings organized by political parties to begin the process of selecting candidates and shaping party platforms for the 2010 election.

Members learned what to expect at their precinct caucus, where to go for their individual precinct, how to become a delegate and offer resolutions.

“I appreciate our members who are willing to spend time to learn about the political process,” said Makarios. “It really impacts our ability as a union to influence the Legislature to create jobs.”

Are you as employable as you can be?

Ready to work but still waiting on that call? Taking skill enhancement or upgrade classes may be your quickest path to employment. OSHA 10 is practically a requirement to get on any jobsite these days. Scaffolding and welding skills also frequently come in handy. For information about classes that may move you up in the ranks of employability, contact the training center in your area (contact information for all training centers may be found on page 24).

In Minnesota, a TWIC card can prove valuable in your job hunt. A Transportation Worker Identification Credential shows potential employers that you’ve passed a background check and are a good bet to work on their property. Information on how to obtain a TWIC card is available online at https://twicprogram.tsa.dhs.gov.

If the job referral list feels like it is moving slowly, know that you are able to hunt for union jobs on your own. Write a resume, network with people in your field and be prepared to talk about your skills and experience.

“There’s not a lot of movement on the referral list right now,” admitted Karl Andraschko, who works in job referral for the Regional Council. “There aren’t a lot of jobs right now. Most employers who are looking for workers hire back the guys they laid off earlier.”

Things that will likely keep you on the referral list permanently? Not updating your contact information or returning calls from the referral hall, not having a driver’s license, a history of DUI or drug use, and being in arrears on your Union dues.

Are you current on your membership dues?
**U-Plan pricing available at Roseville Midway Ford**

The Regional Council has purchased fleet vehicles from Roseville Midway Ford in Roseville, Minn., for some time. As a member of the Regional Council, you are eligible to participate in Midway Ford’s “U-Plan” pricing program for new vehicle purchases. Through the U-Plan, you and your immediate family are able to purchase new Ford vehicles at the same price that Ford Motor Company offers to its vendors.

All members of the Midway Ford U-Plan also receive a two-year maintenance plan that includes oil and filter changes, tire rotations and fluid checks for two years or 30,000 miles. Purchase of any of Midway Ford’s pre-owned vehicles also comes with this two-year maintenance plan.

Roseville Midway Ford is located at 2777 Snelling Avenue North in Roseville. For more information, go to www.midwayuplan.com.

**Model train show to benefit Carpenters Union food shelf**

The Westminster Junction Model Train Show will be held April 24-25 at 710 Olive Street in Saint Paul, Minn., with all proceeds benefiting the Saint Paul Area Carpenters Union Food Shelf. The event is sponsored by the Great River Valley System in conjunction with the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters to benefit its food bank. There will be nine operating model train layouts.

The event will be held Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, April 25, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is either a nonperishable food item or cash donation to the Carpenters Union food shelf. For more information, contact trainman285@yahoo.com or go online to www.grvs.org.

**Contractor/customer Open House May 20 at L.J. Shosten Union Training Center**

Millwrights Local 548 and Pile Drivers Local 1847 will host a contractor/customer Open House Thursday, May 20, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at L.J. Shosten Union Training Center in Saint Paul, Minn. At the Open House contractors and end customers will have a chance to tour the training facility, see apprentices in action and receive an introduction to our training program.

“Too many times our work can be misclassified and given to another craft simply because the project manager or superintendent is not familiar with the skill sets possessed by the Union Millwright,” said Mike Nordstrom, millwright instructor at the facility. “The open house will allow contractors to view the best kept secret in the building trades.”

Multiple demonstrations will be held throughout the facility beginning at 8 a.m. Volunteer apprentices will demonstrate equipment and answer questions for guests. Extra instructors will also be on hand to discuss specific curriculum on each topic.

Members are asked to please refrain from visiting the training center that day.

**Pile Drivers**

Throughout the day, pile driver apprentices will:
- build a mock-up contact sheeting wall with soldier pile
- weld threaded bolts to soldier pile and bolt 3x12-inch contact sheeting to the soldier pile
- install flappers for the tie-back retention system and whalers
- splice H-pile and circular pile with shielded metal arc welding (SMAW)
- demonstrate SMAW training in the welding shop

**Millwrights**

- 8:00 a.m. Tour of the Training Center
- 8:15 a.m. Dial indicator alignment demonstration
- 8:30 a.m. Optalign demonstration
- 8:45 a.m. Rotalign demonstration
- 9:00 a.m. ANSI pump repair demonstration
- 9:15 a.m. Flowserve pump demonstration
- 9:30 a.m. Hytorc demonstration
- 9:45 a.m. Tramming demonstration
- 10:00 a.m. Tight wire demonstration
- 10:15 a.m. Optical precision leveling demonstration
- 10:30 a.m. Optical jig transit demonstration
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch
- 12-4:00 p.m. Repeat of morning
Letter from Senator Al Franken to Regional Council members

March 26, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want to thank you for all of the work you have done on behalf of real health care reform in America. As a long-time member of four unions, I have always stood with you on issues important to working men and women and their families.

The very first piece of legislation that I co-sponsored after being sworn in was the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), which is important to working men and women and important to me. I continue to look for ways to move it forward.

One of my top priorities to help working families has been to enact real health care reform. By working together, we’ve passed a bill that slows the growth in skyrocketing health care costs, reduces the deficit, and gets rid of the unfair insurance company practices of denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. It also eliminates lifetime caps on the amount of coverage families receive. I am pleased that the Senate bill contains my proposal to require insurance companies to spend a higher percentage of premium dollars on health care, rather than wasteful administrative costs, CEO bonuses and excessive insurance company profits.

When the excise tax on health plans emerged, I helped lead the fight against it by speaking on the Senate floor. I also championed an amendment to eliminate the tax and replace it with a surtax on wealthy Americans who make millions of dollars a year. I am heartened that the final bill contained significant improvements on this issue. We have time to improve the bill in the coming years, and you can count on me to lead the fight.

Again, I thank you for all of your efforts to make affordable and reliable health care a reality for working families. I remain committed to listening to you and working with you. Please contact my office at 651-221-1016 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Al Franken
United States Senator (D-Minn.)

Workers comp program outshines state compensatory system

The Union Construction Workers Compensation Program (UCWCP) is a collectively bargained program developed exclusively for the unionized construction industry. Its mission is to eliminate the adversarial culture of workers’ compensation administration by:

• ensuring prompt payment of appropriate medical and wage loss benefits
• directing medical treatment to the best doctors with successful treatment outcomes
• ensuring a prompt and safe return to union work, wages and benefits
• providing a resource for accurate workers’ compensation information
• reducing financial losses to injured workers and their families
• reducing the cost of workers’ compensation insurance for union contractors

In 2009 the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor released its “Evaluation Report on Minnesota’s Workers’ Compensation System.” The Legislative Auditor performed an extensive comparative review of Minnesota’s statutory workers’ compensation system and the UCWCP. The report concluded that, in the UCWCP:

• claims are less likely to be denied
• injured workers are less likely to be delayed in receiving benefits or require formal dispute resolution assistance
• the dispute resolution process is more simple, faster and less costly
• injured workers return to union work more quickly, lessening their financial losses
• overall claims are reduced, resulting in lower insurance premiums for union contractors

The report also stated it is worth considering broader use of the UCWCP approach in Minnesota. “Contractors and their union employees are able to completely forego the complex and sometimes frustrating statutory system in favor of the UCWCP’s streamlined approach,” said Kevin Gregerson, program administrator. “By requiring the contractor, insurer and injured employee to utilize pre-approved service providers, the focus is kept on recovery and return to work.”

The UCWCP approach was developed in the mid-1990s by a group of labor and management leaders who hired Wilson-McShane Corporation to help develop and administer the program. Only contractors who are signatory to participating unions’ collectively bargained agreements are allowed to join the UCWCP. Currently 22 trade unions and nearly 300 contractors participate, including all Minnesota signatory contractors and members statewide.
Retiree Russ Domino shares his knowledge in safety training

Retired member and former Regional Director for the UBC Health and Safety Fund Russ Domino LU851 recently donated his time to teach an OSHA 30 class to employees of Ames Construction.

“Having an OSHA 30 card is becoming extremely valuable,” said Domino. “It’s something owners are beginning to require of contractors to even get on the jobsite.”

He is currently assisting the Twin Cities Training Center in preparing a new eight-hour renovation, remodeling and painters awareness certification course to fulfill a new requirement by the Environmental Protection Agency.

“If I have some knowledge I can share with people that helps to save lives, I am happy to get involved,” he said.

Domino, retired since 1996, continues to assist in training for the National Building Trades and does contract training for CPWR (now The Center for Construction Research and Training).

Third annual Pheasants Forever banquet April 22

Pheasants Forever Chapter 844, Carpenters for Conservation, is hosting its third annual banquet Thursday, April 22, at 710 Olive Street, Saint Paul, Minn. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining the Pheasants Forever chapter, contact Candy Lund at 715-529-1785, cklund@yahoo.com, or Mike Krizanac at 651-776-4231, carp87@comcast.net.

Workers Memorial Day April 28

A Workers Memorial Day panel discussion will be held at the Saint Paul Labor Centre Wednesday, April 28, at 7 p.m. Workers Memorial Day, which takes place annually around the world April 28, is when unions remember workers who have been injured or killed on the job and renew the call for safer workplaces.

At the discussion you will learn more about current safety and health issues from a panel of organizers and educators from Painters District Council 82, the United Food & Commercial Workers and the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Minnesota.

The Labor Centre is located at 411 Main Street, Saint Paul, Minn.
In school and on the job:

Members at work

FARGO: Members taking a 32-hour scaffolding class at the Fargo Training Center in January include, back row from left, Jordan Turman, Todd Stoll, Richard Nerlien, Rick Fox, David Maw, Instructor Richard Berg. Front, Bill Ridout, Anthony Smith, Nathan Seelye, Lee Hoherz.

FARGO: Members taking a First Aid/CPR/AED class, pictured from left, Todd Stoll, Bill Ridout, Brent Nelson, Neil Hendrickson, Mark Tandeski, Mike Hendrickson, Aric Feist, Jim Edwardson.

KAUKAUNA: Apprentice Wade Knorr LU955 practices his carpentry skills at the Eastern Training Center in Kaukauna, Wis.

Photos on Page 11
Top left: SAINT PAUL: Rick Tjosvold LU596 of Platinum Floor Covering installs high-end carpet at Crowne Plaza in downtown Saint Paul.
Top right: SAINT PAUL: Bryan Hanrahan LU87 of McGough Construction works on the expansion of United Hospital in downtown Saint Paul.
Middle left: DULUTH: Two members work on the addition of a new hockey arena at Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.
Bottom left and right: SHEBOYGAN: At right, Al Sippel LU731 of Quasius Construction works on the Hansel and Gretel Administration Building that is a part of Bookworm Gardens under construction in Sheboygan, Wis. At left, you will notice the unique structural qualities of the roof. The project was practically a design-build in that it required special carpentry in the form of rounded walls, angled ceilings and the wavy roof.
Scaffolders work 180 feet in the air to complete Duluth Lift Bridge project

While working outdoors during the winter months is nothing new for a carpenter in Minnesota, mounting scaffolding 180 feet in the air with high wind speeds certainly adds an interesting challenge to the project. In late December, carpenters began scaffolding the north tower of the landmark Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge so Rainbow, Inc., could sandblast and repaint the tower. All of the work had to be contained so the lead-based paint would not contaminate Lake Superior and cars using the bridge would not be damaged.

“It was a very unusual project,” said Micki Hentges, president of Scaffold Service, Inc., which owns Superior Erection Services, the contractor on the project. “Working over water, the cold and wind, being tied off 100 percent of the time… any element that could work against us did.”

At times during the project, two shifts were working 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The tower measures 180-foot elevation with 200 lineal feet around the base. A dancefloor was decked at 42 feet.
The project took eight weeks to erect, five weeks to paint and two to dismantle. One of the project requirements was that it be completed by March 31 in time for the shipping season.

“This is one of the first of this type of project that we’ve done,” said Hentges. “It had to be engineered for us to set and we worked with two engineering firms. We had to accommodate changes as we went along; it was a very specialized project.

“Scaffolding is a trade all its own,” Hentges added. “It takes a team effort. It’s a very dangerous job in the conditions we worked in and we pulled it off.”

The two-phase, $5 million project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The south tower is scheduled for completion next winter.
Carpenters making custom door frames at LaForce, Inc., for more than 40 years

LaForce, Inc., of Green Bay, Wis., once a hardware supply business, today is a leading distributor of door hardware and manufacturer of custom hollow metal frames and doors. Founded in 1954, it began using union carpenters in the late 1960s. LaForce has some 250 employees in the Green Bay area (including 40-plus union carpenters) and 100 more in branch locations across the Midwest. Working with light gage galvanized steel requires employees to develop technique and finesse in order to get a top quality finished product, according to CEO Ken Metzler. “Those working in our bonding/forming department must be very careful to maintain the tolerance necessary to ensure the component parts will fit together properly,” he added.

Top: Dan Byng LU1146 is shown finish grinding the edge seam of a steel door. He has worked at LaForce for 25 years.
Bottom right: Cory Stillings LU1146 is shown welding together the components of a hollow metal door frame.
Bottom left: Russ Wagner LU1146 is shown operating a large press to form hollow metal door frame components.
Maintenance outage at Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant employs dozens

Seventy-three carpenters were employed at Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant near Two Rivers, Wis., in January during a regular maintenance outage. Union contractors on site included Bechtel Construction Company, Day and Zimmerman NPS, Quasius Construction and Siemens USA. Anywhere from 10-100 carpenters are on-site year-round, primarily building scaffold.

A power upgrade outage will begin in March 2011 and is expected to employ up to 200 union carpenters. Minimum requirements for the job will include OSHA 10 training and current scaffold certification in welded frame, mobile power, tube and clamp and systems scaffolding. There will be mandatory drug testing and background/criminal history checks (including for DWI/DUI). TWIC cards are not accepted in Wisconsin.
LES sponsors women’s leadership program

On May 21, the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service will sponsor another in its series of educational programs for working women. Titled “New Directions in Leadership: A Discussion with Women Union Officers,” the program will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, May 21, at the Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 Ivy Avenue East in Saint Paul.

The program will open with a networking breakfast followed by a keynote speech by Shar Knutson, first female president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO. Knutson will moderate a discussion with other union leaders about the role women currently play in the labor movement and how to increase women’s involvement in their unions. The morning will wrap with a skills session.

Cost is $35 and the deadline to register is May 12. Download a flyer and registration form online at www.les.csom.umn.edu or call 612-624-5020 for more information.

LES to host Midwest School for Women Workers

Addressing the challenges posed by the economic crisis will be the focus of the 2010 Midwest School for Women Workers hosted by the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota.

The School, open to all working women, will be held July 28 to August 1 on the university’s Minneapolis campus.

The School is a four-day residential program bringing together participants from several states for general sessions, skills workshops and networking. It is one of four regional women’s schools sponsored by the United Association for Labor Education and hosted by university labor education programs.

This year’s theme is “Taking a stand in tough economic times.” Participants will include rank-and-file union members, activists, staff and officers.

Tuition is $550 for resident students and $350 for commuters. Child care, simultaneous English/Spanish interpretation and a limited number of scholarships will be offered.

Agenda and registration information are available online at www.les.csom.umn.edu or call 612-624-5020 to receive a brochure.

Did someone in your family work on building the Minnesota State Capitol? If so, contact Randy Croce, University of Minnesota Labor Education Service, at rcroce@umn.edu or call 612-625-5546. He is working on a project called “Who Built the Capitol?” in conjunction with the Minnesota Historical Society.
INSTALL Minnesota and ARDEX offer moisture control training seminar

INSTALL Minnesota and industry partner ARDEX will present a MC Moisture Control Training Seminar at the INSTALL Minnesota training center April 20. The day-long event will feature an American Institute of Architect's accredited moisture control continuing education seminar, hands-on demonstrations, and specific training on the MC Moisture Control system. Once attendees have successfully completed this training, they will be able to offer the ARDEX MC Moisture Control 10-year warranty.

According to company information, the ARDEX MC Moisture Control System, which includes ARDEX MC Plus and MC Rapid, reduces moisture from 98 percent RH to flooring manufacturing requirements overnight. Training will include moisture in concrete problems, sources, measurement and control, product information and use, self-leveling concrete topping and underlayment information, and a sealer demonstration.

The event begins at 8 a.m. at the INSTALL Minnesota Training Center, 670 Olive Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55130. The two-hour AIA segment runs from 10 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be sponsored by Hank’s Specialties. To register for the event, contact the training center at 651-221-1304.

INSTALL Minnesota is the local affiliate of the International Standards and Training Alliance, which is North America’s only four-year training and certification program for floor covering professionals. Nearly 100 flooring industry mills, manufacturers, consultants and organizations partner with INSTALL so that the industry’s best technical and education experts from these groups can review and advise on the curriculum from which INSTALL professionals are taught.

Locally, those professionals are members of Carpenters Local 596. In addition to offering both apprentices and existing floor covering professional the best training available in the industry, INSTALL Minnesota has a comprehensive specifier education program, with a number of resources to help area construction professionals understand the importance of a proper flooring installation. For more information, go to www.installminnesota.com, find them on Facebook or LinkedIn, or contact Terry Nali at 651-636-0091 or tnali@mncarpenter.org.
Jason Croone, Louie Whall and Pete Carlson woke up early Saturday, February 27, to compete in the first-ever Drywall Olympics at the Twin Cities Training Center in Saint Paul, Minn. They were given 11 pieces of drywall and asked to create 43 lineal feet of wall. Their work was based on quality and productivity. They were judged on edge screw spacing, field screw spacing, screw depth, routering and more. Each received feedback on their work and were invited to compete in Chicago at a regional UBC Drywall Olympics March 27.

Although Croone was unable to make the trip, Whall and Carlson were among the 15 carpenters who competed, with Whall placing eighth and Carlson placing 11th. The first-place finisher was from the Columbus, Ohio, area.

“I learned a couple of new tricks just going through the process,” said Carlson. “It was interesting to see the differences between the guys in different states and fun to get to know them.”

“I was proud of them,” said Steve Nagel, president of Interior Systems Local 68, who accompanied the men on the trip. “We learned some things along the way and plan to be more competitive in 2012.”

Top left: Pete Carlson LU68
Top right: Jason Croone LU87
Bottom left: Louie Whall LU87
Wausau retirees gather monthly for fellowship and action

Retired members of Local 310 in Wausau, Wis., meet at the VFW Club on the Tuesday following the Local 310 meeting each month. Much of the talk centers around carpenter and labor issues, labor-friendly political candidates and more.

The group has been meeting since January 2003 thanks to Laverne Furger and Frank Ruppe (who has since moved to Detroit). The two decided it would be fun to “get a group of guys together once a month, have breakfast and talk about old times,” said Furger.

In addition to monthly meetings the group is politically active and is available to help with various projects in the Wausau area.

“There’s a great resource of energy out there in retired people,” said Furger. “We are very focused and very capable. We are former foremen and superintendents on projects, people who put a lot of effort into our organization over the years. We’re not about to just ride off into the sunset.”

Twin Cities area retirees gathered at the Saint Paul union hall in March to stuff care packages for members who are on active duty in the military. To donate to the program, send a check to: Union Care, c/o Kathie Marks, 710 Olive Street, Saint Paul, MN 55130.

Retired member Joe Cutich LU1074 was recently featured in Ashland, Wisconsin’s The Daily Press. Joe’s hobby is matchstick construction, and he spent five months building a replica of Paris’ Notre Dame Cathedral from a kit. Photo by Rick Olivo, The Daily Press, Ashland, Wis.

Congratulations on 50 years of Union membership

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<td>Earl Greer</td>
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(From December 2009 — March 2010)

RETIREES: Send your news to Tracy Madden
651-379-0235, tmadden@ncsrcc.org
700 Olive Street, Saint Paul, MN 55347
Local 464 Carpenters
Local 464 held a pin ceremony January 9 to honor 27 members for their years of service. Receiving pins were: 5 years - Dustin Gansen, Timothy Leach, Todd Podratz, Kelly Lindgren, Michael Sheldon, Jeremy Grossman, Richard Linde; 10 years - Jeffrey Ackerman, Joe Oskerson, Richard Reasor, Jon Nowak, Dan Theis, Thomas Schwarz, Alan Joosten, Bruce Nielsen, Steven Ossefoort, Joseph Passante; 15 years - Burton Flitter, Curtis Willson, Chad Amundson; 20 years - Thomas Pepper.

Above: LU464 members receiving pins for years of service included, top from left, Michael Sheldon, Craig Jaskulke. Bottom, from left, Bruce Nielsen, Jeremy Grossman, Burton Flitter, Timothy Wolff, Jon Nowak.
Left: Jason Jaskulke, left, received a commemorative UBC knife in honor of completing his apprenticeship. Presenting the honor was Jason’s dad, Craig, a business representative for the Council.

Steven St. Peter, Gary Winchester; 35 years - Wade Krohn, Craig Jaskulke; 40 years - Timothy Wolff; 50 years - V. Hofmeister, who received a pin and a Lifetime Membership card from the UBC.

Members who recently completed their apprenticeships were also acknowledged, including Matt Erickson, Dustin Gansen, Jason Gleason, Jason Jaskulke, Aaron Strand, Malachi Wunderlich. All received commemorative UBC knives in honor of completing their apprenticeship.

Local 361 Carpenters
Local 361 held its annual party March 20 at the Holiday Inn in Duluth. In addition to presenting nine graduating apprentices with their journeyman certificates, recognition was given to members marking five-year anniversaries with the union. One very special guest was Arthur Shearer, who attended with his son. Shearer, who will turn 100 in July, received his 65-year pin (and said he plans to return in five years for his 70-year pin!).

William Schwarzbauer wows JAC with extra effort
William Schwarzbauer LU1056 impressed members of the Joint Apprenticeship Committee in Kaukauna in January when they discovered he had 235 hours of night school training, nearly double the 120 hours required of an apprentice.

“Many apprentices are now taking advantage of the training opportunities we offer,” said Director of Education Al Atkinson. “It makes them better craftsmen and more employable.”

News to share?
Contact
Tracy Madden at 651-379-0235 or tmadden@ncsrcc.org

Training courses available on demand
A schedule of skill advancement classes is available online at www.northcountrycarpenter.org. Additional classes will be held at all training centers per your request. If there is a class you are interested in taking that is not listed on the website, please notify your local training center. For a list of training centers and contact information, go to page 24.
Looking for an event hall for a wedding, reunion, graduation, retirement or other event? Consider

**710 Olive**

Our event hall, located at 710 Olive Street in Saint Paul, Minn., seats up to 300 at tables or 450 theater-style. Our lobby is an excellent space for receptions or cocktail parties. Our kitchen has stainless steel appliances and countertops and includes a stove, oven, dishwasher and ice machine.

We also have smaller meeting rooms available for rent. For more information, contact Tracy Madden at 651-379-0235 or tmadden@ncsrcc.org.

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**Burlingame family grateful for extra support following car accident**

Each year, retired Teamster Roosevelt Gaines raises money throughout the Building Trades and donates it to a deserving individual. In December 2009 he presented more than $1,700 to Mike Burlingame LU596, who was seriously injured in a car accident in October. The Regional Council also made a donation on his behalf.

Burlingame expects to be out of work for a full year or more due to his recovery and rehabilitation, and his wife, Lori, had to cut back on her work hours to help Mike. With mounting medical bills, the Burlingames were grateful for the extra support they received just before Christmas.

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Celebrating 60 years of membership at the Local Union 930 Pin Ceremony last fall were Elon Helman and Robert Madeson. Pictured are business representative Todd Malcolm, Helman, Madeson, and retired business representative Larry Mareck.

Pictured, from left, Roosevelt Gaines, Mike Burlingame, and Jeff Miller, business representative and vice president of Local 596.
In Loving Memory...

Local 68 – St. Paul, MN
Walter Hannes
Karl Landholm

Local 87 – St. Paul, MN
Edward Bednar
Gofray Johnston
Lester Kuntz
Matthew Loebel
Frank Rossbach
John Waldoch

Local 314 – Madison, WI
Laverne Haas
Carl Solberg
Rene Stoll
Lor Thao
Dock Thompson Jr.

Local 361 – Duluth, MN
Merle Hanson
Gerard Lepage
Gregory Reid

Local 464 – Mankato, MN
Donald Hermel

Local 548 – Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
Pearley Egge
Herbert Fried
Earl Kennard

Local 596 – St. Paul, MN
George Carlson
James Gibis
William Heldt Sr.
Loyd Law

Local 606 – Brainerd, MN
David Meyer

Local 646 – Rhinelander, WI
Henry Pajtash
Jerry Symbal

Local 731 – Sheboygan, WI
Wilbert Hassler

Local 804 – Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Leonard Behnke
Allen Frederick
Alfred Konitzer
Rodney Stine

Local 851 – Anoka, MN
Max Bartelt
Robert Gendreau
Donald Hauser
Kenneth Johnson
Everett Olson
Linus Rohling
Kenneth Seppelt
Gary Terwey

Local 955 – Appleton, WI
Bryan Kallies

Local 1056 – Waupaca, WI
Merwyn Kolstad

Local 1074 – Eau Claire, WI
Travis Geist
Richard Johnson
Joseph Nelson

Local 1143 – LaCrosse, WI
Paul Heinzelt
H.E. Martell
Clem Shulte

Local 1146 – Green Bay, WI
Donald Agamaite
Donald Challis
Chester Klarkowski
Jesse Pasterski
Donald Spearo
William Wingert

Local 1176 – Fargo, ND
Leonel Anderson
Clark Christianson

Local 1348 – Virginia, MN
Kenneth Kubis

Local 1382 – Rochester, MN
Rex Frescher
Donald Roemer
John Tully
Alfred Weiland

Local 1644 – Minneapolis, MN
Henry Laska
Kenneth Leuthner
Shane Porter
Harold Snodgrass
Harvey Wolter

(December 2009 — March 2010)

Support our Union soldiers deployed on active duty

Local 68 - Jeffrey Van Ryn
Local 87 - Matthew Colbeth,
William Eccles Jr., Daniel Lanoux,
Chad Wandschneider
Local 310 - James Bradley
Local 314 - Curtis Knutson
Local 361 - Steven Gerard, Michael
Sirois
Local 464 - Todd Fritz
Local 806 - Frank Chilson, Dennis
Coan, Casey Fisher, Israel Saville
Local 731 - Anthony VanderGrinten

Local 851 - Paul Caswell, Jeffrey
Holmstrom, Scott Swanson, Mark
Sweden
Local 955 - Jesse Fenske
Local 1056 - Matthew Benzshawel
Local 1146 - Robert Jack Jr.,
Thomas Jakubovsky
Local 1176 - Duane Rubbelke
Local 1348 - Jeffery Lee
Local 1644 - Brian Budzynski,
Christopher Burns, William Dodd,
Dennis Koski

Do you know a union member not listed who is deployed on active duty in the military? The Twin Cities Retirees send monthly care packages to Regional Council soldiers via a program called Union Care. To have a package sent to your soldier, send their name, Local, military address, rank and APO to Bernie Schmidt at bigbern@q.com.
## Monthly schedule of Local Union meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td><strong>WEEK 1</strong></td>
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<td>Carpenters Local 587</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 955</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 310</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 731</td>
<td>Carpenters and Millwrights Local 1091</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Rapid City</td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Appleton</td>
<td>6:30 p.m., Rothschild</td>
<td>6:30 p.m., Sheboygan</td>
<td>8 p.m., Bismarck</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m. Sioux Falls</td>
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<td>Carpenters and Millwrights Local 1176</td>
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<td>Carpenters Local 1146</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 361</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 314</td>
<td>COMET Training</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m. Green Bay</td>
<td>6:30 p.m., Hermantown</td>
<td>5 p.m., Madison</td>
<td>8 a.m., Saint Paul</td>
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<td>Carpenters Local 606</td>
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<td>Sisters Committee</td>
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<td>7 p.m., Virginia</td>
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<td>Millwrights Local 1056</td>
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<td>Quarterly: March, June, September, December</td>
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<td>Millwrights Local 3</td>
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<td>Interior Systems Local 68</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 87</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 1382</td>
<td>Carpenters Local 1382</td>
<td>COMET Training</td>
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<td>6 p.m. Saint Paul</td>
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<td>5 p.m., Rochester</td>
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<td>Millwrights Local 548</td>
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## Credit Unions vs. Banks: Knowing the difference could save you money

If you’re like many consumers in this economy, you’re looking for ways to save. Did you know that banking with a credit union instead of a bank could save you money on interest rates, fees and more? While credit unions look like a bank from the outside and offer similar services and products, they are very different on the inside — which could save you money.

Credit unions are member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperatives. Simply put, credit unions exist solely to help their members.

**Credit Unions:**
- Not-for-profit cooperatives
- Credit unions return earnings to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher savings rates, and free or low cost services
- Each person who deposits money into the credit union is a member with a share of ownership
- Credit unions are controlled by a board of directors elected by members
- Credit union board members are volunteers
- Credit unions are only allowed to serve a select group of individuals who have a common bond such as where they work or live.

**Banks:**
- For-profit organizations
- Banks return profits to shareholders
- Customers have no ownership in the corporation
- Banks are controlled by stockholders who elect the board of directors
- Bank board members are generally paid for their service
- Banks can serve anyone in the general public

Being smart with your money is critical and credit unions pride themselves in helping their members succeed financially. If you’d like to learn more about the credit union difference contact Carpenters Federal Credit Union at 651-646-8827 or toll-free at 888-815-8827. The CFCU is located at 710 Olive Street, Saint Paul, Minn., www.carpentersfcu.org.
MINNESOTA
- Twin Cities Training Center
  Open weekdays 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
  740 Olive Street
  Saint Paul, MN 55130
  Phone: 651-646-7337
  Fax: 651-646-7395

- I.J. Shosten Union Training Center
  Open weekdays 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
  1295 N. Hunting Valley Road
  Saint Paul, MN 55108
  Phone: 651-233-2353

- Jerry Alander Training Center
  Open weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
  5238 Miller Trunk Highway
  Hermantown, MN 55811
  Phone: 218-729-9003
  Fax: 218-729-9357

- Local 596 INSTALL Training Center
  Open weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
  680 Olive Street
  Saint Paul, MN 55130
  Phone: 651-221-1304
  Fax: 651-221-1306
  www.tcinstall.org

- Rochester Training Center
  6692 10th Avenue SW
  Rochester, MN 55902
  Phone: 507-424-2670
  Fax: 507-424-2671

- Twin Cities Job Referral
  General Construction
  710 Olive Street
  Saint Paul, MN 55130-4459
  Phone: 651-646-5843
  Fax: 651-379-0292

- Twin Cities Job Referral
  Interior Systems
  710 Olive Street
  Saint Paul, MN 55130-4459
  Phone: 651-379-0268
  Fax: 651-379-0292

NORTH DAKOTA
- Fargo Training Center
  Open weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
  513 36th Street North
  Fargo, ND 58102
  Phone: 701-235-4981
  Fax: 701-235-4901

- Bismarck-Mandan Training Center
  603 Industrial Drive
  Center, ND 58530
  Phone: 701-255-3700
  Fax: 701-255-3701

SOUTH DAKOTA
- Sioux Falls Training Center
  Planned construction
  4208 N. Hainje Ave.
  Sioux Falls, SD 57104

- Saint Paul, Minnesota
  Every Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
  710 Olive Street, Saint Paul

- Local 514
  First Thursday of each month
  11 a.m.-1 p.m.
  5202 Monument Lane, Madison

FOOD BANKS

NORTH CENTRAL STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL
Executive Secretary-Treasurer        James E. Moore
Executive Director                   Kenneth L. Clark
Director of Organizing               Mark D. Kramer
Director of Education                Allan L. Atkinson
Political Directors                  Kyle Makarios, Mark Reihl

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES/ORGANIZERS
Karl Andrachko                       Brian Beedle
Corey Bialcik                        Robert Colton
Steve Dorvinen                       Daniel Estrada
James Greer                          Bob Guenther
Michael Harrom                       Chris Hill
Craig Jaskulke                       Howard Jensen
Joel Laskey                          Scott LeCaptain
Todd Malcolm                         Jay Manke
John Merritt                         Ben Miller
Bob Monette                          Joe Mrotek
Gary Nelson                          Wayne Nordin
Dennis Perrier                       Brian Pyle
Jake Rodgers                         Pat Smith
Nick Vevea                           Scott Watson
Darrin Westphal                      Gerald Yarie

STAFF
Executive Assistants                 Alissa Cole, Erin Moore
Attorney                              Burt Johnson
Assistants to the EST                Ben Moore, Dave Wigmian
Assistants to the Executive Director  Mert L. Summers Jr., Tom Tinglov
Assistants to the Director of Organizing Philip Askvig, Toby Biegel
Communications Coordinator           Tracy Madden
IT/Minnesota                          Jerry Aripez
Apprenticeship Coordinator           Paul Trudeau

Issue #8: January-April 2010
- North Country Carpenter is published three times a year by North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, N2216 Bodde Road, Kaukauna, WI 54130.
- POSTMASTER: Send address changes to North Country Carpenter, N2216 Bodde Road, Kaukauna, WI 54130.

www.northcountrycarpenter.org
The Regional Council website contains a complete list of Local Unions in the Regional Council, times and locations of Local Union meetings, and contact information for Local Union offices, including addresses, phone numbers, email and website address.
Schroeder wins 27th annual John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon

On February 3, Nathan Schroeder of Chisholm, Minn., member of Local 1348, claimed first place in the 27th annual John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon in Duluth. Schroeder finished the 373-mile race with nine dogs in 40 hours, 4 minutes and 25 seconds, traveling an average speed of 9.3 miles per hour.

The race is held each year in honor of John Beargrease, an Ojibwe man who delivered mail along the North Shore via dogsled for nearly 20 years in the late 1800s. This was Schroeder’s sixth attempt at the John Beargrease marathon, having withdrawn from the race in 2009 and placing sixth in 2008.

To win the race, Schroeder built a big lead through the first half and held on to that lead against 29 other mushers, seven of whom withdrew from the race.

Schroeder trains beginning in September through race season. All of the training is done in his own yard, starting with the dogs pulling a 4-wheeler until it snows and sleds can be used. He has 24 dogs total, 14 of which he uses on a typical race day.

“It’s a process of developing muscles and conditioning the dogs to give you the speed you need,” said Schroeder of his win.

“I don’t know how John Beargrease did it with three or four dogs,” Schroeder admitted. “We do it with 14 and it’s a struggle.”

Schroeder has been mushing for 20 years now. He first became interested in the sport when he was a schoolboy of 12 and a substitute teacher brought a Malamute puppy to class. In addition to his job as a millwright, he spends two hours a day feeding, scooping and watering his dogs. Add in training runs of one to six and a half hours and it’s obvious Schroeder doesn’t have a lot of spare time on his hands. Or spare money, once you add together race fees, travel fees, dog food and equipment (including booties, harnesses and arctic jackets for the dogs), and provisions for a 4-person crew to help on race days.

He participates in 3–5 races each year, including a February 18 race in Marquette, Mich. (second place); a March 2 race in Kent, Maine (third place); and a 130-mile race in Deer River, Minn., in January, where he placed second, just four minutes out of first place. Northern Industrial Erectors, a union contractor out of Grand Rapids, Minn., has been helpful in sponsoring his efforts this year.

Next year he hopes to participate in the Alaskan Iditarod or Yukon Quest sled dog races, but knows that will require sponsorship he hasn’t locked up yet. For more information, contact Schroeder at cnhorsesnhuskies@yahoo.com.
HUNDREDS RALLY FOR JOBS AT MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

Some 200 Regional Council members, along with upwards of 600 union members from other building trades, joined together to have their voices heard and rally for jobs at the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda March 10. The group, filling the main floor and balconies, waved signs, shouted chants and sought out Legislative representatives from their areas to express concern about the lack of construction jobs throughout the state. Union, construction industry and legislative leaders took turns speaking about the need for a large capital investment bill, including retired member Senator Tom Bakk LU606 and MBCTC President Harry Melander LU87.