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Tom Bakk running for 2010 Governor of Minnesota
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Are you worth a dollar a minute?
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Hundreds of carpenters, floorcoverers and millwrights are working to complete Target Field in Minneapolis, future home of the Minnesota Twins professional baseball team. General contractor on the job is M.A. Mortenson Co., and subcontractors include Olympic Wall Systems Inc., J.R. Jones Fixture Co., U.S. Framers and Finishers Co., TRI Construction, Athena FF&E Solutions Inc., St. Paul Linoleum & Carpet Co., Infinity Access and Twin Cities Acoustics Inc.
Contents

Carpenters Mike Doss and Ike Turner, far right, are working for Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties in Minnesota to weatherize homes.

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On the cover
Douglas J. McCarron, General President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, traveled to Fargo in early July for the dedication of the newly opened Fargo Training Center. See story on page 10.

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Task force created to assist in contract enforcement

Although we face major challenges in our industry, I want to assure you that all Council staff are doing everything we can to assist members and contractors in securing work. Fortunately, the drop in membership hours has somewhat leveled off. Some challenges we continue to face include:

1) Maintaining a strong pension in the midst of economic turmoil and unhelpful federal laws,

2) Preserving our negotiated wages, benefits and conditions while our contractors feel the pinch, and

3) Leveling the playing field among all contractors in our industry in order to put members to work.

Note on pension security
We are still facing the pension fund challenges of investment returns, funding deficiencies and zone certifications for the Pension Protection Act as they relate to participant benefits. Along with the other trustees, labor management took an unprecedented step by allocating more funds than ever to secure retirement benefits. This was proactive and helped to stabilize the fund immensely. We could have waited to act, but too much is at stake for us to stand by and hope for better times.

Preserving our standards and leveling the playing field
As work has been on the decline, various components of construction have become creative regarding contractual agreements. As you travel, I ask everyone to be vigilant of jobs, night work and weekend warriors, and to keep your ears open to conversations of cheating, banking hours, square foot wages, working for cash, piece work, etc. We continue to hit the streets with a focus on organizing, but we must preserve standards among our signatory contractors. We need this type of information for both the Council and signatory contractors.

We have established a special task force for contract enforcement, but we need your help. If you have any information, please call with your name, a location, time, and brief description of your observation or conversation. Direct your call to the Regional Council office in Kaukauna or Saint Paul and speak with a union business agent, organizing representative or myself. All names and information will be used in the most confidential manner. Call the task force confidentially in Wisconsin at 888-313-3221 or in Minnesota at 877-HANDSAW.

I thank everyone in advance for your help on this very important contract enforcement issue for all areas of our four-state Council.

BIG BUCK Contest

$1,000 in prizes in each state
- Archery
- Rifle

Eligibility:
Members in good standing in the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

Send a photo showing all points, with a ruler clearly showing the rack spread. Winners will be determined by total points and widest inset spread. Contest is only for deer killed in the states of the council’s jurisdiction (WI, MN, ND, SD, and parts of Menominee County, MI).

Include your name, address, phone number, Local union, and details of where and how you bagged your buck. (Sorry, family members are not eligible.)

Send entries to:
Big Buck Contest
NCSRCC
N2216 Bodde Road
Kaukauna, WI 54130-9740

Entries must be postmarked by January 11, 2010
President Obama puts money where his mouth is and keeps campaign promises to labor

Ever since our nation’s 44th President was sworn into office January 20 of this year, Barack Obama has been working on fulfilling the promises he made to labor groups and middle class working families throughout his campaign. Some highlights of his first six months in office include:

• Establishing a White House Task Force on Middle Class Working Families, whose charge is to raise the living standards of middle class families. Before signing the statement the President said, “I also believe that we have to reverse many of the policies towards organized labor that we’ve seen these last eight years, policies with which I’ve sharply disagreed. I do not view the labor movement as part of the problem; to me, it’s part of the solution. We need to level the playing field for workers and the unions that represent their interests, because we know that you cannot have a strong middle class without a strong labor movement.”

• Advocating the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, more commonly known as the stimulus bill, which shares $787 billion of federal money between states with a goal of jumpstarting the economy by creating jobs. While this won’t fix all of our nation’s problems, it will put some of our members to work. Equally important is that every penny of this money is covered by Davis-Bacon prevailing wage protections. (In Minnesota, this includes weatherization [see story on page 7], infrastructure projects such as the Lowry Avenue Bridge and Highway 610 interchange in the metro area, wastewater treatment plants, and Lock and Dam No. 3 in Red Wing, among others).

“You cannot have a strong middle class without a strong labor movement.”
— President Barack Obama
January 30, 2009

• Reversing a Bush Administration policy by lifting a prohibition on the use of project labor agreements on federal construction projects. For eight years, federal agencies were prohibited from using PLAs. Now, they are encouraged to use them.

• Nominating Congresswoman Hilda Solis (D-Calif.) as Secretary of Labor. Solis, the daughter of a Teamster and strong workers’ rights advocate, has pledged to return the focus of the Department of Labor to enforcing labor laws. As she put it, “The Sheriff is back in town” when it comes to enforcing OSHA and labor protections.

• Appointing Mary Beth Maxwell to a senior advisor position in the Labor Department. Maxwell was executive director of the labor coalition American Rights at Work, a union-affiliated organization dedicated to union organizing rights.

• Continuing his strong support for the Employee Free Choice Act, which is again being debated in Congress. Obama was a sponsor of the bill when he was a Senator. The Employee Free Choice Act would make it easier for workers to organize unions and would increase penalties against employers who violate workers’ rights to unionize.

WI makes positive changes to prevailing wage law

Union carpenters living in Wisconsin have a lot to be thankful for in the state’s recent legislative session. As lawmakers gathered together to hammer out the state budget, Governor Jim Doyle (D) had the foresight to include several provisions that effect positive changes in Wisconsin’s prevailing wage law. Those provisions, modified and expanded by the legislature, will go into effect January 1, 2010.

“We’ve been trying to make these changes in Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws for a long time, and finally we’ve made good progress to obtain some badly needed improvements,” said Mark Reihl, executive director for the Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters.

Currently in Wisconsin, prevailing wage law does not apply to multi-trade public works projects with an estimated completion cost of less than $234,000 or single-trade public works projects less than $48,000. Come January 1, the threshold for applicability of the prevailing wage law will be set at $25,000 regardless if it is a single-or multi-trade project. This applies to both state projects and those undertaken by municipalities.

Municipality turnkey and leaseback projects will also become subject to prevailing wage laws, and workers employed on a publicly funded private construction project (i.e. TIF district) receiving more than $1 million in financial assistance will now have to be paid prevailing wages.

The changes to Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws will be more helpful in enforcing the law, said Reihl, due to stiffer penalties for contractors who violate the prevailing wage laws. With the new provision, contractors found guilty will have to pay double the back wages the abused worker would have earned.

“It’s a significant increase in the penalty that will make contractors think twice about ignoring prevailing wage laws and considering fines as just the cost of doing business,” said Reihl.

Currently, if a company is accused of not paying prevailing wages but...continued on page 4
A series of new laws advocated by our union that regulates independent contractors in the construction industry became Minnesota law January 1, 2009. The laws require all independent contractors who work in the construction industry to be pre-certified by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

The laws also require that the contractor paying the independent individual withhold 2 percent of payments for tax compliance purposes. Anyone without a certificate is now considered an employee of the company they work for and must be covered by workers’ compensation, unemployment insurance and have taxes withheld from their paychecks.

Unfortunately, many of the contractors who were abusing the old law have found a way to get around the new laws. Because the law only applies to independent contractors, many companies have forced their help to file paperwork to become Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) with the Secretary of State’s Office. They treat their crews as “subcontractors” instead of “independent contractors” and write the checks to the new corporate name (for instance, John Doe Drywall LLC).

Since December 1, 2008 (one month before the new laws took effect), there has been a huge increase in the number of LLC filings at the Secretary of State’s Office (see chart above). A quick glance through the names of those filing make it very clear what’s happening: the words “flooring, drywall, construction, roofing, painting” appear over and over again on the list.

The problem is, it’s still fraud and it’s still illegal. “Just because a non-union drywall outfit makes all of its crew go out and file separate LLCs doesn’t make them all subcontractors. They’re just employees that have done some paperwork so they can get paid in cash,” said Kyle Makarios, political director for the North Central States Regional Council.

“The good thing about the new law is that we now have state investigators charged with busting the people who are committing these frauds.”

The 2009 Minnesota legislature formed a task force, with designated positions for labor representatives, to continue to focus on these issues. The task force will help the state enforce current laws that govern this type of illegal activity, as well as recommend new ways to level the playing field in the construction industry.

Fight against misclassification fraud moves forward in MN

The Capitol Budget as well,” said Reihl. “This means jobs for our carpenters.”

In other news, a bill requiring instruction in public schools on the history of organized labor in America and the collective bargaining process passed through the Assembly and moved to the Senate, where it is expected to pass by Fall and to be signed by the Governor.

“We really need to give credit to Governor Jim Doyle and the Democratically led state legislature,” said Reihl. “We were able to get all of this done because last fall the Democrats took over the State Assembly and that made the difference in terms of us being able to get these gains and improvements. The bottom line is who you vote for does make a difference.”
Political Action

At the Minnesota Carpenters legislative conference held in February, several busloads of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) members brought our message to state leaders in Saint Paul. “Want to solve the state budget deficit? Put construction workers to work!”

Unfortunately, due to a combination of partisan politics and state legislators who wouldn’t prioritize job creation in the construction industry, we were unable to get our major jobs bill passed through the Minnesota House of Representatives. And, while there were some limited successes in getting projects moving this year, the legislature came up short on their big opportunity to put our members to work.

Working with the other trades, contractor organizations, architects and developers, we formed the Construction Jobs Coalition and came up with a series of proposals to give private-sector construction projects a jump start. We all know of good projects that have stalled due to an inability to place financing. These proposals would have provided developers with more tools and incentives to get those projects off of the ground.

Authored by Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South Saint Paul) and championed by UBC member and Senate Tax Committee Chairman Tom Bakk (our next governor? See article on page 8), the Construction Jobs Bill passed the Minnesota Senate on a vote of 56-11. The Minnesota House never advanced the bill, however, and when negotiations between legislative leadership and Governor Tim Pawlenty (R) over the state budget melted down, so did our hopes of seeing a major jobs bill.

We did have some limited success in creating construction jobs, including:

- A $35 million hydroelectric facility will be built at the Lower St. Anthony Lock and Dam in Minneapolis thanks to a tax credit that we supported.
- Using stimulus funds, the state will award $400 million worth of wastewater treatment plants and clean drinking water facilities this year. Prevailing wage requirements apply to these projects.
- We successfully secured prevailing wage and apprenticeship utilization language in the bill that authorized $132 million for home weatherization and $54 million for public building energy efficiency upgrades.
- $227 million in public buildings will be funded in the Capital Investment bill that passed. This will be used to fund projects at University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) campuses, the Duluth airport, and local road and bridge projects throughout the state.

Top left: Bob Sorensen, Millwrights Local 548; State Senator Lisa Fobbe (DFL-Zimmerman); Brian Lasserre, Millwrights Local 548.

Top right: House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) listens to Scott Walker of Floorcoverers Local 596.

Bottom left: Jim Tri, Local 87; Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman; Dave Bailey, Local 87.
Wisconsin takes steps to resolve misclassification

In October 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development established a Worker Misclassification Task Force. The task force was charged with examining the problems related to misclassifying workers in the construction industry and was asked to recommend administrative and legislative steps to address those problems.

Mark Reihl, executive director for the Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters, served on the task force, along with the president of the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council; the administrator of the Division of Unemployment Insurance, Department of Workforce Development (DWD); the section chief of Audit Technical Services, Department of Revenue; the government affairs director for the Teamsters Joint Council 39; administrator for the Workers Compensation Division of the DWD; administrator of the Safety and Buildings Division, Department of Commerce; and several others.

The task force met 10 times from October 2008-March 2009. During that time it heard testimony from contractors, labor union members and building inspectors within Wisconsin, and enforcement personnel and legal experts from other states. The group actively searched for the best practices that would permit Wisconsin to draw the maximum benefit from the experience of other states.

“The multiple layers of relationships tend to slow and discourage agency enforcement,” the task force noted in its report. “By the time all layers are penetrated by audit or investigation, the labor subcontractor has disbanded, discharged the employees, and set up shop under a new name.”

According to the report, in 2008 there were 2,199 audit investigations, 30 percent of which were in the construction industry. Of these, 44 percent of workers examined were reclassified as employees.

The task force weighed a wide range of options to address the issue of worker misclassification, and guided its recommendations by utilizing the following general principles:

• Focus primary attention on the worst offenders
• Limit the impact on contractors who play by the rules
• Design an enforcement system that emphasizes quick action and prompt resolution of issues
• Improve data sharing among state agencies committed to reducing misclassification issues, enforcement and penalties
• Educate the public and the contractor community about misclassification issues, enforcement and penalties
• Take enforcement actions that are strong and visible in order to deter those who would engage in misclassification
• Remain flexible in addressing misclassification and be prepared to make adjustments

“The recommendations do not seek to solve every problem that results from misclassification,” the task force noted in its report. “Rather, we concentrated on developing an approach that draws on the strengths of our existing laws and agency expertise while overcoming the lack of speed and flexibility in our existing enforcement processes. There was particularly strong consensus behind the idea that the recommendations should create an interagency effort that has misclassification as its primary focus.”

The eight recommendations of the task force are as follows:

1. Create an Office of Worker Misclassification and empower the office to issue stop work orders. (This would include investigators and enforcement personnel who would visit job sites to ensure workers on site are properly credentialed.)

2. Increase information sharing among state agencies, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Revenue.

3. Support the operations of the Department of Commerce Builder Contractor Registration program, which requires building contractors to register with the Department of Commerce.

4. Establish a hotline to facilitate reports from workers, contractors and the general public about misclassification abuses.

5. Undertake an aggressive campaign to educate contractors and the general public about misclassification issues.

6. Withhold 2 percent on form 1099 from payments made by contractors to subcontractors, including individuals operating as independent contractors. The withholding requirement would permit the Department of Revenue to monitor payments to firms and individuals seeking to operate in violation of Wisconsin’s requirements on the proper classification of workers.

7. Provide significant penalties for contractors actively seeking to subvert and avoid proper classification of workers.

8. Conduct additional study of other policy options designed to combat worker misclassification, including creating a uniform definition of independent contractor.

The report of the Worker Misclassification Task Force was submitted to Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman in June.

“The task force recommendations will establish the basis for future legislation to address the problem of misclassification,” said Reihl. “We are already working with the legislature to draft legislation implementing the task force recommendations and hope we can have the bill to the Governor by early 2010.”

Reihl noted one of the task force recommendations has already been included in the state budget bill. Beginning in January 2010, contractors who willfully misclassify employees could receive a penalty of $25,000.
In February, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more commonly known as the stimulus bill. Included in the legislation was $6.5 billion dedicated to the weatherization of homes for low income persons across the nation, including approximately $141.5 million in Wisconsin and $132 million in Minnesota. Primary goals of the stimulus bill include helping to create jobs, cutting energy costs for working class people, helping the environment and freeing up dollars for spending.

Our carpenters are seeing the impact of the funds already. Mike Doss, Local 851, an apprentice with about one and a half years of training under his belt, has been working on weatherization since April. “It’s interesting work, to see what’s behind the walls of old houses,” he said. “It’s almost like learning a second trade — what I learned in carpenter school, and now this weatherization.”

Doss is working for Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Ramsey and Washington Counties, one of 28 community action agencies overseeing the weatherization work in Minnesota. Right there showing him the way is Ike Turner, Local 87, who began with CAP 14 years ago as an apprentice and is now a foreman.

On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 20-25 percent and overall energy bills by about $350 per year. In the past, the Weatherization Assistance Program hovered at $10 million per year in Minnesota, insulating walls and attics and sealing leaks in approximately 3,500 Minnesota homes. During the next two years, Minnesota expects to assist approximately 15,500 homes. In Wisconsin, the state weatherized 8,250 homes last year and plans to double that number this year. Homeowners aren’t the only ones receiving stimulus money — government buildings across the nation are also getting funds to make improvements toward energy efficiency, including $54 million in Minnesota and $55.5 million in Wisconsin.

Ken Roath, Local 87, insulates an attic in Saint Paul.

Stimulus package provides funds for weatherization, putting our carpenters to work

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New Contractors

Welcome to these new contractors! They signed with, or signed new jurisdictions within, the North Central States Regional Council between January and June 2009.

AG Strobel, Inc., Rochester, MN
Alden Drywall LLC, Foley, MN
Allied Construction Services, Inc., Des Moines, IA
Blue Sky Builders, Inc., North St. Paul, MN
Borton Construction, Inc., La Crosse, WI
Braxton & Sons, Inc., St. Louis Park, MN
City Wide Wood Floors, Inc., Cologne, MN
Commercial Flooring Installation, Rochester, MN
Dell Construction Co., Inc., Eau Claire, WI
Division 5, St. Paul, MN
Durbahn Construction Co., Inc., Buhl, MN
East Central Concrete LLC, Mora, MN
Fish Creek LLC, Green Bay, WI
Frana Companies, Inc., Hopkins, MN
Franklin Designs, Inc., Ridgeland, MS
Global Builders, Inc., Crest Hill, IL
Hollman, Inc., Irving, TX
Install Quality, Bloomington, MN
Integrity Acoustical Solutions, Inc., Oronoco, MN
Interior Preservation, Inc., Wyckoff, NJ
J & D Builders, Inc., St. Paul, MN
J&D’s U.S. Seamless of Bemidji, Inc., Bemidji, MN
JSE, Inc., Jordan, MN
Karas Enterprises, Inc., Milaca, MN
Lankford Construction Co., Johnsburg, IL
Mavo Systems, Inc., White Bear Lake, MN
Max Pro Flooring LLC, Emerald, WI
McMullen & Pitz Construction Co., Manitowoc, WI
Mulcahy, Inc., Mahtomedi, MN
Northside Construction, Inc., Hugo, MN
Northwest Cabinets, Inc., Bemidji, MN
NPD, Inc., Duluth, MN
O’Malley Construction, Inc., LeCenter, MN
Polar Insulation & Drywall, Hill City, MN
Primus Industrial, Inc., Hiawatha, IA
Schum Drywall Co., Bloomington, MN
Shade Tech, Inc., Hudson, WI
Sorlie Acoustics, Inc., Duluth, MN
Standard Construction LLC, Eden Prairie, MN
Stone Creek Contractors, Inc., Luxemburg, WI
T & G Construction of Stillwater, Inc., Stillwater, MN
Transformation Drywall LLC, North St. Paul, MN
TRI Construction, Minneapolis, MN
Tri-City Concrete Contractors, Inc., Bloomer, WI
Westside Contracting, Excelsior, MN
As Tom Bakk makes his run for Governor of Minnesota, there’s one thing he knows in a race full of uncertainties: his background as a carpenter and a union member is going to make all the difference.

“I’m the only DFL candidate in the race who has carried a lunch bucket to a job site and experienced first-hand what it means to be laid off and to be without health insurance while raising a young family,” he said. “I understand the importance of a job and know that people need a paycheck to take home so they can take care of their family.”

Although Bakk was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in November 2002, he was a journeyman carpenter for 11 years and led Local Union 606 from 1987 until he retired in December 2008. Prior to his election to the Senate, he served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for four terms. He was elected by his colleagues to chair the Senate Tax Committee in 2006 and serves on the Rules and Administration; Business, Industry and Jobs; and Environment, Energy and Budget committees.

Next to jobs, the state budget is the topic people are most concerned about, said Bakk. Fortunately, his status as chair of the Senate Tax Committee has positioned him well to have a solid understanding of our state’s budget.

“The state has to have a balanced budget,” he continued. “It is required by our constitution. Until you resolve the budget, you don’t have money to do the things that are important. The only way to get there is to get people to work and get the economy moving.”

As a carpenter and a union leader, Bakk spent years negotiating contracts and putting people to work. Government, he said, much like labor contract resolution, depends on building relationships and balancing the needs of everyone involved.

“At the end of the day, everyone needs to give a little something,” he said. “No one gets it all their way.”

Problem solving skills he learned as a carpenter help him every day in the Senate, Bakk added. “You develop a willingness to tackle problems, resolve them and move on,” he said.

One of the first problems he plans to tackle is figuring out why a blue state like Minnesota hasn’t voted a Democratic governor into office since the 1970s.

“I think convention delegates have to have a serious conversation about what our candidates are lacking that we can’t get them elected,” Bakk said.

Democratic delegates need a candidate for governor who can win statewide, he noted, someone who can pick up swing votes in rural areas as well as those voters who lean toward third party candidates.

“As someone who is committed to putting people back to work, understands the concerns of rural communities, has a voting record that affirms DFL values and is committed to protecting Minnesota’s environment for future generations, I am that candidate,” said Bakk.

Voters are often more invested in who is going to be their governor than in many other political races, Bakk said. That’s because the decisions a governor makes affect people on a very personal level, from schools to property, recreation to the environment. His plan is to reach out, get to know voters and earn their trust.

“This country is still in deep recession,” he said. “Too many Minnesotans are losing their jobs, homes and health insurance. It will take bold leadership to turn Minnesota around, [and] creating jobs must be a priority. As Governor, what I want is to put Minnesotans to work. It’s Job 1.”

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**How you can help:**

Go to www.bakk2010.com

- Volunteer by making calls or host a campaign event/fundraiser
- Help out in the campaign office
- Contribute
- Participate in your precinct caucus
Carpenters train Red Lake YouthBuild participants

In June, Union carpenters spent several days training members of the YouthBuild program on the Red Lake Chippewa Indian reservation in northern Minnesota. Included was 10 hours of OSHA training, an introduction to the trade of carpentry, and teaching hands-on skills such as steel studs and drywall, concrete wall forms, welding and cutting steel, tool safety and more.

“I told my Dad what we learned and he took us outside and put us to the test,” said YouthBuild participant Charmaine Andersen, who took the training along with her sister. “We showed him.”

Although YouthBuild participants are exposed to residential carpentry through their program, the Union is able to use its training truck to give them some exposure to commercial carpentry, said Steve Newby of Local 606 in Bemidji.

In addition to safety and hands-on skills, YouthBuild participants learned about union apprenticeship requirements and how they might join the Union.

The Union meets regularly with YouthBuild program participants as part of the Regional Council’s Outreach Program for Native Americans.

“The training we do is important because these kids represent the future,” said Newby. “We do the training mainly to find out if they like carpentry and to give them some basic tools to work with. It’s a lot of fun.”
Training, productivity and pride for a job well done were the overriding themes during the July 7, 2009, dedication of the Fargo Training Center. Ground was broken for the 14,513-square-foot facility in October 2008 and completed June 1, 2009. The primary contractor on the $2.4 million project was Gordon Construction of the White Earth Reservation in Mahnomen, Minn., with design by Anderson Architecture PC of Fargo.

Nearly 80 people were on hand for the open house, including Douglas J. McCarron, General President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC); Bobby J. Yeggy, UBC District Vice President for the Midwest; and James E. Moore, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters. Other visitors included current and retired union members, area politicians and several media outlets.

EST Moore welcomed the assembled crowd and commended Gordon Construction for its work. He noted this is the second training center built in North Dakota, with one having been erected in Bismarck in 2008.

“It doesn’t matter if the economy is up or down, we still need to train people,” Moore said. “Training is for the benefit of the employers, the employees who work for them, and the community.”

UBC District Vice President Yeggy also spoke, noting Fargo Local 1176 had “such a fire to build a strong local union” and had desired a training center for some time. He thanked LeRoy Babolian for his doggedness in achieving this goal, and both McCarron and Moore for their vision.

“I hope to come back here and see carpenters young and old learning the trade and improving their skills,” said Yeggy. “Be proud of this building; let’s fill it up with carpenters and tradesmen.”

UBC General President McCarron then took the stage, noting proper training
is “the driver behind all organized labor and carpenters.”

“I am one proud General President to walk in here and see this facility,” said McCarron. “This place is an investment in the future and in our carpenters. You will be successful here.”

He commended Moore for his leadership, noted training pays big dividends to all union carpenters, and said the Carpenters Union has always been about helping people.

“Carpenters help carpenters through productivity,” he said. “That’s how we get the good wages and benefits we deserve.”

Having a training facility in Fargo will show area contractors that Union Carpenters mean business, McCarron added. “This tells them that we have quality, skilled carpenters who will get the job done.”

Equally important, he said, is “it shows our carpenters that somebody cares about them and cares about their future.”

The Training Center and Local 1176 offices are located at 513 36th Street North in Fargo.

*****

Top: James Moore, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters; Douglas McCarron, General President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters; and Bobby Yeggy, UBC District Vice President for the Midwest.

Above: Douglas McCarron talks with union life member Bob Carson and his wife, Delores.
Are you worth a dollar a minute?

We all have a pretty good idea of how much money we make per hour and what our compensation packages are; using the current Wisconsin commercial wage and benefit package as an example, that amount is currently $43.32 per hour for a journeyperson carpenter. Some areas in our Council’s jurisdiction make a little more and some a little less, thus creating a comparative average of Council-wide wage and benefit packages.

In this example, $43.32 per hour breaks down to 72 cents per minute. So, it costs our contractors 72 cents per minute to employ a journeyperson… right? Wrong! The true cost of employing one of our journeypersons is considerably more than that once contractor overhead is factored in. Overhead is the behind-the-scenes cost of operating a business. Following are some examples of what contractor overhead may include:

**Buildings**

Chances are that the contractors have a physical building where they and their support staff work and storage buildings and yards for their tools and equipment. Similar to the costs of our personal residences, contractors have mortgage or lease payments, property taxes, utilities and routine maintenance on company buildings.

**Staff**

Another expense that we don’t always consider is the contractor’s support staff. Estimators, project managers, expeditors, superintendents, administrative personnel, bookkeepers and other staff must be employed to keep jobs rolling in.

**Tools and equipment**

Heavy equipment, company trucks, job trailers, gang boxes, safety equipment, power tools, etc., are all provided by the contractor. These tools and equipment must be routinely maintained, periodically replaced and otherwise kept in good working order to properly and safely function on the job site.

**Employment taxes**

In addition to the amount we see on our paychecks, the contractor must also pay workers’ compensation, unemployment and liability insurance, Social Security, Medicare and other employment taxes on top of our negotiated wage. This alone tack on an additional 30 percent or so to the cost of employing a journeyperson.

**Miscellaneous expenses**

Paper, pencils and other office supplies; fuel, company apparel, safety programs and equipment, and other PPE all cost money. Punch lists, call backs, and re-dos are also not free and add to company overhead.

**Profit**

Let’s face it, none of us would work for free and we can’t expect the contractors to, either. In order to pay their carpenters, overhead, and continue to bid and secure more jobs to keep everyone working, the contractor has to produce a profit. That isn’t easy in these tough economic times.

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Remaining current in safety and continually enhancing our skills not only helps ensure that we remain the best in the industry, but that we are the best value for our contractors and their customers.

This list is by no means all-inclusive and there are additional expenses contractors incur, with costs varying from contractor to contractor. When everything is said and done, the cost of employing one journeyperson carpenter is in the neighborhood of $55 per hour! If the true cost of employing a journeyperson is around $55 per hour, that breaks down to about 92 cents per minute. That is almost $1 per minute.

What would our expectations be of somebody we were employing for a dollar a minute? Would we expect that person to be fully competent and trained when working for us? Would we expect premium services and premium results for that price? Would we be as concerned about quality, professionalism and productivity if the money were coming from our wallets? You better believe it!

It is important that we understand the true cost of employing a journeyperson and to ask ourselves, are we worth a dollar a minute? Rest assured the contractors will be asking themselves the same thing, especially when bids are much more competitive and increasingly difficult to win. Work is slow right now, so this is an excellent time to get to our training centers to hone our existing skills or learn new ones. Remaining current in safety and continually enhancing our skills not only helps ensure that we remain the best in the industry, but that we are the best value for our contractors and their customers.

Daniel Westcott, Business Representative
Carpenters Local 804
Get Ready to Work with tips from the referral hall

In a tight economy like the one we’re currently experiencing, it seems like everyone is looking for work. That’s why it is important for you to be ready, willing and able to respond to a job offer at all times. The following tips will help put you at the head of the game:

Keep your referral hall/Local Union up to date with a current telephone number. Each time your phone number changes, you must update the referral hall. If we can’t get in touch with you, we can’t put you to work. (Apprentices, contact your referral hall/Local Union and the Regional Council training center with any updates to your contact information.)

Fill out or update a skills assessment sheet. Accuracy is important; please check only those skills you actually have. The referral hall will call only those journeypersons whose skills match what is required by the contractor. Apprentices are dispatched in sequence.

When job hunting, your telephone should have an outgoing voicemail message that clearly identifies yourself. Remember, this is often the contractor’s first impression of you.

Please note you will not be dispatched to a job if your union dues are not in good standing.

When accepting a job, you are expected to start on the terms offered by the contractor, not negotiate your own terms or call the contractor to refuse a job.

When starting a new job, call the referral hall within five days to be removed from the Ready to Work list.

Arrive at your new job on time! Go to work fully equipped with tools, boots and safety gear.

As a job seeker, you should present yourself professionally on the job site or contractor’s office. Wear clean work clothes in good repair. Be polite and respectful, both in person and on the telephone. Don’t wear shirts with inappropriate logos, phrases or graphics.

“Contractors won’t call us with jobs if we don’t send them quality, professional workers,” said Jacobson. More and more employers are requesting resumes. At the least, you should have a list of job experiences, including contractor’s name, supervisor name, dates you worked and telephone numbers, ready at all times. This is especially important for apprentices, whose work experience may be limited.

Having basic computer skills is also important. Many employers accept applications only online. If you do not have a computer at home, visit your local library or Minnesota Workforce Center for help.

Another way to use your time off effectively is to take classes to enhance or learn new skills. Contractors want employees with well-rounded skill sets, including OSHA 10 training.

“It’s a competitive market out there, and companies are becoming more selective,” said Jacobson. “They are paying for quality, skilled workers, and that’s what they expect to get.”
Sign up now for Steward training

If you are interested in Steward training, classes will be offered Wednesday and Thursday, September 16-17, from 5-9 p.m., or Wednesday and Thursday, November 18-19, from 5-9 p.m. The eight-hour course includes information on job descriptions and responsibilities, as well as team building, contract enforcement, legal issues and fringe benefits. Information and tactics necessary for a steward to succeed will also be discussed.

For more information or to sign up, contact Nick Vevea at 651-379-0237.

Did you know?

For most of us, Labor Day is a time for parades, hot dogs and relaxing with family. That wasn’t always the case, however. Men like UBC founder Peter McGuire and fellow union pioneer Samuel Gompers fought both literally and politically to turn concepts like the eight-hour workday, equal pay for women and paid overtime into reality.

McGuire, known as the “Father of Labor Day,” first brought up the idea of setting aside a day to honor “the strength and dignity of labor” at a meeting in New York City in May 1882. A parade at a labor festival in Toronto that July gave fire to the idea, and McGuire joined the Knights of Labor to celebrate the first Labor Day September 5, 1882, with a parade of more than 10,000 workers down the streets of New York.

The idea spread quickly, and two years later virtually every major city held a Labor Day parade of worker solidarity. As always, the lobbying took a little longer, but came to fruition June 28, 1894, when, by an act of Congress, Labor Day was officially made a federal holiday.


Work continues to get construction moving on Mall of America’s Phase II

Although the Phase II expansion of Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., is expected to create more than 7,000 new construction jobs, plans remain on hold a little while longer as our nation’s faltering economy is righted. It’s not all bad news, however. While the sounds of construction may yet be down the road, plenty of work is still getting done behind the scenes.

With Phase II, the MOA has development rights for up to an additional 5.6 million square feet of mixed use space north of the existing mall. Currently, developers are considering a plan that would be between 3.8 and 5.6 million square feet. Expansion plans consist of a four-level complex that will connect to the existing mall on all four levels, generating some $2 billion in new construction.

“It would be the largest commercial construction project in the state’s history,” said Kurt Hagen, Vice President of Development for the MOA. “We’re working hard with the City of Bloomington to progress this deal.”

The addition of IKEA in 2004 was actually the first step in getting Phase II under way, according to Dan Jasper, Director of Public Relations for the mall. Future plans include hotels, a water park, museum space, a 25,000-square-foot town center and much more.

“This is a no-brainer because we have 40 million people here a year,” said Hagen. “Our key partners all want to be a part of Phase II.”

An additional 20 million visitors are expected each year with the completion of Phase II, he said.

In June, Mayo Clinic signed a letter of intent to house an anchor facility in the MOA expansion.

“Mayo Clinic’s plan to establish a gateway at the Mall of America strengthens Minnesota’s position as a destination for people seeking health care services from around the nation and world,” said Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty. “Both organizations enjoy national and international appeal. It makes perfect sense to build on each organization’s assets to strengthen the economy of Minnesota.”

Phase II’s Development Team is working with the City of Bloomington to determine the next steps the mall will take toward realizing its ambitions. For more information, go to www.mallofamericaphase2.com.

Model of proposed Phase II construction at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota.
Local 596 members, also known as INSTALL Twin Cities Floorcovering Professionals, are keeping a brisk pace in training to stay current with emerging flooring installation techniques. In just the past few months, major flooring manufacturers Forbo, Shaw and Ardex have visited North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters training centers to offer comprehensive training or certification sessions for members. Flooring training coordinator Ruben Stewart said another dozen of Local 596 members earned their Forbo associate mechanic certification in June. Prior to that, Shaw’s Patcraft Designweave experts held a training session at the St. Paul INSTALL Training Center to review Shaw’s newest green products.

Floorlayers in the Duluth region were also recently given personalized training by Ardex technical experts regarding Ardex products and substrate moisture issues. Finally, floorlaying members in the southern part of the state were visited by INSTALL instructors to administer the elite INSTALL certification test for resilient and carpet, Stewart reported.

“All of this activity is done for one reason: to give contractors the best flooring installers in the region,” said Terry Nali, business representative for Local 596 and coordinator of the INSTALL Twin Cities program. “INSTALL partners with 100 of the flooring industry’s major mills and manufacturers in part to have inside and immediate access to new materials and installation methods as they become available. We appreciate the effort of our partners to keep floor layers from our Regional Council current with ongoing training.”

Local 596 members able to earn Armstrong Resilient Flooring Installation Certification via INSTALL

Armstrong Floor Products, the national INSTALL program, and the Carpenters International Training Fund (CITF) are partnering to present a joint certification for commercial resilient flooring installation. The three parties finalized an agreement to mutually recognize the CITF and Armstrong training for certification purposes. Specifically, the CITF resilient certification test, which tests INSTALL professionals for proficiency in this skill, is now recognized as an Armstrong certification test as well. Armstrong, as one of INSTALL’s original partners, supports the concept of a comprehensive, in-depth training program with stringent national standards.

“By promoting the INSTALL program, we hope to bring this training and expertise to an even larger contractor audience. In this way, we can promote and advance minimum industry standards for quality installation, which benefits our entire industry,” said Tim Rawlins, manager, New Product Development, Installation Services, Armstrong.

To help ensure customer confidence, installers certified by Armstrong receive up to $2,500 in material cost for Armstrong branded linoleum and commercial sheet flooring and installation products to correct workmanship error. “What this means is that should an Armstrong commercial flat lay flooring job fail after being installed by an INSTALL, CITF-Armstrong Certified Installer, Armstrong will provide up to $2,500 in materials to repair or replace the project, and the certified installer contractor will supply all labor,” explained Rawlins.

For more information, contact Terry Nali, Coordinator of the local INSTALL Twin Cities program, at 651-636-0091 or tnali@mncarpenter.org.

INSTALL creates virtual portfolio on web

The everyday successes and project excellence of the Local 596 INSTALL Twin Cities Floorcovering Professionals are now available for review on INSTALL’s website, www.flooranswer-twincities.com. The website already serves as a resource portal for specifiers, facility managers, project managers and building owners looking for guidance on flooring issues, and now stories highlighting INSTALL Twin Cities contractors can be accessed just as easily. “This portfolio section serves as an ongoing testimonial section regarding our contractors so that anyone in need of quality flooring contractors can read about these possible candidates,” said Terry Nali, Coordinator of the INSTALL Twin Cities Floorcovering Professionals program.

Nali pointed out that the website also gives visitors a list of resources within just a few clicks of the mouse. For instance, the directory section offers a comprehensive directory of the best flooring contractors in the region. For more information, visit www.flooranswer-twincities.com.

Keep up to date on Regional Council news by going to northcountrycarpenter.org
Local 596 Floorcoverers
Meetings are held at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Floorcoverers Apprenticeship and Training Center, 680 Olive Street, Saint Paul. Please note this August’s meeting, however, has been moved to Thursday, August 13, at 6 p.m.

Sheboygan Local 731
Tim Ostermann of Local 731 is leading a community effort in Sheboygan to restore a 43-foot gill-netter commercial fishing tugboat named “The Islander.” Once the rotted wood has been replaced or repaired, AmeriCorps volunteers will paint the boat before it is placed on permanent display. When finished, the 72-year-old boat will be on display in the city’s South Pier District in honor of the community’s vanishing commercial fishing industry. The official unveiling of the boat will take place this summer.

The quarterly meeting and steak fry was held July 9. The next meeting is September 3 at 6:30 p.m. Retirees meet the second Wednesday of each month at noon. The office is located at 1210 North Eighth Street in Sheboygan.

Local 1847 Pile Drivers
Pile Drivers Local 1847 held its 23rd annual golf tournament July 25 at Manitou Ridge Golf Course in White Bear Lake, Minn.

Mankato Local 464
The Mankato Area Labor Summer Picnic will be Sunday, August 9, from 1-3 p.m. at Sibley Park. This is a free event for area union members and their families. Sibley Park is located at 900 Mound Avenue in Mankato. Please look for the shelter closest to the amphitheater for food, games and prizes!

Meetings are held at 5 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the union hall, 310 McKinzie Street in Mankato.

Saint Paul Local 87
Carpenters Local 87 annual picnic took place August 1 at Phalen Park Pavilion in Saint Paul.

Local 548 Millwrights
Millwrights Local 548 annual picnic will take place Saturday, August 15, at noon at Lake Phalen, 1600 Phalen Drive in Saint Paul. Senator Tom Bakk, recently retired as a Council Business Agent, will attend.

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 19, at 6:30 p.m., 710 Olive Street in Saint Paul. Please bring a nonperishable food item to the monthly meeting; all items will be donated to the Retirees’ Food Bank for members in need.

Several members of Local 548 participated in “Chore Day” June 20 at the L.J. Shosten Training Center. Another Chore Day is being held Saturday, September 19. Call Mike Nordstrom at 651-251-0344 for more information or to participate.

Local 9190 Lathers
Lathers Local 9190 meets the second Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. The next meeting is August 12 at 730 Olive Street in Saint Paul.

Local 9190 is seeking retired lathing tools to be showcased at the Twin Cities Training Center. Call Terry at 507-421-1038 if you are able to share.
Support our soldiers with Union Care

Regional Council Retirees from the Twin Cities operate a program called “Union Care” that sends monthly boxes of goodies to any deployed soldier that is a member of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters. To have a monthly box sent to your union soldier, please contact us with their military address, including name, rank and APO. Please also indicate which Local Union the soldier is a part of. Send addresses to: Union Care, c/o Kathie Marks, 710 Olive Street #108, Saint Paul, MN 55130 or by email to bigbern@q.com. Boxes will be sent to union soldiers from Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The more than 30 Carpenters listed are currently serving overseas in the military. Please show your support.

Local 87
William Eccles Jr. - Farmington, MN
Daniel Lanoux - Saint Paul, MN
Jesse Lansing - Elmwood, WI
Local 310
James Bradley - Merrill, WI
Abel Jump - Tomahawk, WI
Daniel Welsher - Mosinee, WI
Local 314
Curtis Knutson - Mineral Point, WI
Rodney Pastorius - Milton, WI
Local 464
Todd Fritz - North Mankato, MN
Local 606
Frank Chilson - Bemidji, MN
Dennis Coan - Virginia, MN
Casey Fisher - Nashwauk, MN
Israel Saville - Bovey, MN
Local 731
Anthony VanderGrinten - Fond du Lac, WI
Local 851
Paul Caswell - Tomah, WI
Jeffrey Holmstrom - Anoka, MN
Scott Swanson - Midland, GA
Mark Swedeen - Stanchfield, MN
Local 930
Michael Kisner - Saint Cloud, MN
Ricky Zenner - Becker, MN
Local 955
Jesse Fenske - Fremont, WI
Local 1056
Matthew Benzshawel - Appleton, WI
Local 1146
Robert Jack Jr. - Lena, WI
Thomas Jakubovsky - Green Bay, WI
Local 1176
Duane Rubbelke - Devils Lake, ND
Local 1348
Jeffery Lee - Hibbing, MN
Local 1644
Aaron Bohunko - Minneapolis, MN
Brian Budzynski - Macomb, MI
Christopher Burns - Apple Valley, MN
William Dodd - Minneapolis, MN
Dennis Koski - Hudson, WI
Thomas Quant - Hastings, MN
Local 9190
Jeffrey Van Ryn - Faribault, MN

Make a bid at the silent auction

The Regional Council Retirees from the Twin Cities are hosting their annual silent auction at 710 Olive Street in Saint Paul Thursday, August 27, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All funds raised will go to the Council’s Food Bank, which supports area carpenters and is operated by the retirees. Stop by and check it out!

In addition to food and monetary donations, the group accepts old eyeglasses, used cell phones and personal care items such as soap, shampoo and conditioner.

If you are in need of the Food Bank, it is available each Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Regional Council’s Saint Paul office, located at 710 Olive Street.

Members of the Retirees working at the Food Bank on a recent Thursday include, from front left, Linda Beckers, Rose Preimesberger. Middle, Bernie Schmidt, James Preimesberger, Kathie Marks, Shirley Williams, George Beckers. Back, Pete Nelson, Tony Stelter, Charlie Marks.
Two hundred retirees and their families from Locals 731, 955, 1056 and 1146 took four buses and traveled to Milwaukee for a Brewers baseball game June 11. The group had a wonderful time tailgating and watching the game.

Share your email address with the Council at bhamilton@ncsrcc.org
In Loving Memory...

Local 87 – St. Paul, MN
Alexander D. Bacs
Gary K. Callahan
Robert W. Doran
James M. Eide
Chad A. Greiner
Keith E. Heidemann
Theodore S. Musial
Herbert H. Radmann
Urban S. Schultz
Thomas B. Tuma
Fred M. Washenberger

Local 310 – Wausau, WI
Edwin F. Kijek
Clarence A. Szalewski

Local 314 – Madison, WI
Lawrence A. Bube
Edwin E. Cairns
Gerhard Ellerkamp
Floyd F. Lamere
Oscar C. Larson
James C. Melton
Kenneth L. Mickelson
George J. Monthey
Robert Wm. Sandy
Geo. Spoerl

Local 361 – Duluth, MN
Roger A. Pihlaja

Local 548 – Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
Donald R. Elfstrom
Ernest V. Hartman
Dan E. Laumeyer
Dale Robert Lentz
Arden R. Lindemoen
Lester Naastad

Local 587 – Pierre, SD
Reuben Fischer
Harry R. Hornby

Local 596 – St. Paul, MN
Harris G. Johnson
Raymond J. Peter
Offutt Lee Rush

Local 851 – Anoka, MN
Ronald D. Boedigheimer
John Engberg
Clifford Nehring
Eugene Ofsthun
Francis Peters Jr.
Phillip Pogorely
Larry F. Rolfe
Robert Alex Wills

Local 930 – St. Cloud, MN
Chad J. Giroux
Walter W. Graf

Local 955 – Appleton, WI
Carl P. Bruehl
Donel H. Wyman

Local 1056 – Waupaca, WI
Rich H. Schuessler
Donald E. Wolf
Donald C. Zielke

Local 1074 – Eau Claire, WI
Valerian Luczynski

Local 1091 – Bismarck/Mandan, ND
Delwyn F. Berger
John F. Senger
Ronald Lee Wallenvein

Local 1143 – La Crosse, WI
Patrick P. Kelley
Frederick G. Zabel

Local 1146 – Green Bay, WI
Gilbert J. Beauleau
LaVerne V. Kaster
John C. Lacy
Thomas A. Lawniczak
Frank J. Spitzer

Local 1176 – Fargo, ND
Charles A. Pollock Jr.
Clem L. Sikorski

Local 1348 – Virginia, MN
Arthur B. Peterson
Jeffrey A. Plackner

Local 1382 – Rochester, MN
James D. Krismer
Lorenz J. Schieck

Local 1644 – Minneapolis, MN
Thomas T. Baer
Francis Bartush
Wendell R. Everson
Thomas P. Ingvoldstad
Melvin E. Lee
Donald Michalik
John D. Mueller
Gerald C. O’Brien
Walter A. Oehme
Walter A. Radosevich
Avison Carter Ring
Kalmer Senstad
Louis C. Willems

Local 9190 – Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
Eddie P. Lahs
Edward N. Sanders

(From January-June 2009)

Twin Cities Labor Chorus to perform at Minnesota State Fair

The new Twin Cities Labor Chorus will perform and lead singalongs of rousing labor songs at this year’s Minnesota State Fair. Performances will take place at the House of Labor on the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Cooper Street Saturday, August 29, at 12 p.m.; Tuesday, September 1, at 7 p.m.; and Monday, September 7 (Labor Day), at 1 p.m. The chorus will also march in the Labor Day parade through the fairgrounds at 2 p.m.

New Staff

Joel Laskey and Mike Harrom were hired in April as Organizers for the Regional Council.

Joel and his family moved from southern California to Minnesota in late 1999. Once settled in he joined Local 1644, where he was busy running crews in rough framing and finish carpentry. His territory includes South Dakota and he is a member of Local 587.

Mike graduated from high school in Breckenridge, Minn., and joined the Carpenters Union in 2000. Until recently he was a member of Local 1644, but transferred to Local 1176 with his new position. His territory includes North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. He and his wife, Melanie, have two sons, Nicholas and Wyatt.
INFORMATION

REGIONAL COUNCIL

- Council Headquarters
  N2216 Bodde Road
  Kaukauna, WI 54130-9740
  Phone: 920-996-2300
  (Toll-free 888-313-3221)
  Fax: 920-996-2301

- Minnesota office
  700 Olive Street
  Saint Paul, MN 55139-9825
  Phone: 651-646-7207
  (Toll-free: 877-HANSAW/ 877-426-3729)
  Fax: 651-645-8318

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

TRAINING CENTERS

WISCONSIN

- Central Training Center
  Open weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
  1630 County Road XX
  Rothschild, WI 54474
  Phone: 715-355-8080
  Fax: 715-355-8087
  illienard@ncsrcc.org

- Eastern Training Center
  Open weekdays 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
  N2219 Bodde Road
  Kaukauna, WI 54130
  Phone: 920-766-1515
  Fax: 920-766-7050
  aguyette@ncsrcc.org

- Southern Training Center
  Open weekdays 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
  5202 Monument Lane
  Madison, WI 53704
  Phone: 608-241-0960
  Fax: 608-241-0930
  hhoemke@ncsrcc.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

- L.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.tcininstall.org

- Rochester Training Center
  6692 10th Avenue SW
  Rochester, MN 55902
  Phone: 507-424-2670
  Fax: 507-282-3920

NORTH DAKOTA

- Fargo Training Center
  Open weekdays 7 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

GENERAL

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

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 Andraschko                                Brian Beedle
Michael Carey                                  Robert Colton
Steve Dorvinen                                 Daniel Estrada
James Greer                                    Bob Guenther
Michael Harrom                                 Mike Hendricks
Herb Jacobson                                  Chris Hill
Keith Kessler                                  Scott LeCaptain
Ed Liljedahl                                   Mark Magler
Jay Manke                                      Larry Mareck
John Merritt                                   Ben Miller
Bob Monette                                    Joe Mrotek
Terry Nali                                     Gary Nelson
Steve Newby                                    Wayne Nordin
Barb Pecks                                     Dennis Perrier
Tom Pilger                                     Brian Pyle
Steve Risacher                                 Jake Rodgers
Rich Slomkowski                                 Pat Smith
Tom Tinglov                                    Nick Vevea
Dan Westcott                                   Darrin Westphal

STAFF

Executive Assts.                              Alissa Cole, Erin Moore, Kris Swift
          Special Projects                     Burtn Johnson
Assistants to the EST                      Ben Moore, Dave Wigmun
Assistant Executive Director              Mert L. Summers Jr.
Asst. Directors of Organizing          Phil Askvig, Toby Biigel
Communications Coordinator                Tracy Maddren
IT/Minnesota                                  Jerry Arippe
Apprenticeship Coordinator                 Paul Trudoe

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 addresses.
Much like the “Extreme Home Makeover” television show that changes the lives of ordinary people, members of two of our Wisconsin-area Locals are changing lives by volunteering their time and carpentry skills to those in need.

Rebuilding Together is a nonprofit organization that believes in a safe and healthy home for every person, including elderly, low income and disabled persons who often have a difficult time remaining in their own homes. Rebuilding Together’s mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of homeowners in need.

Services offered to homeowners include everything from installing new roofs to handicap-accessible showers, as well as new windows, doors and floors, according to Mike Hendricks of Local 1146, who is a member of the Board of Directors for Rebuilding Together of Greater Green Bay.

More than 35 members from Local 1146 in Green Bay, Wisc., participated in Rebuilding Together Saturday, May 16, with more than 340 hours contributed to the refurbishment of 11 homes.

Twenty-eight members of Local 731 in Sheboygan, Wisc., got together Saturday, April 25, to participate in Rebuilding Together for Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties. They, along with nearly 500 other community volunteers, refurbished 14 homes.

“Participating in Rebuilding Together is a great way to promote our Union to the community,” said Hendricks.

All of the work completed by Rebuilding Together is overseen by trained carpenters, plumbers and electricians who volunteer their time to assist community members in completing projects safely and professionally.

In addition to the Saturday project days, many carpenters volunteered additional hours after work during the week to make sure the projects were complete.
ALL CARPENTERS
SHOTGUN TUNE-UP
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club, Prior Lake, MN
• 6-member teams
• Registration: $65 individual / $390 team
• For registration or additional information, call 651-379-0233

• Registration
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

• Shooting
1-3:30 p.m.

• Pig Roast/Awards
3:30-6 p.m.

Register by Saturday, September 5, 2009, for a free ticket to the gun raffle