THE BENCHMARK

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1
JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

OF THE OHIO KENTUCKY ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

This Newsletter is intended for Members Only

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Newsletter redesign part of District Council update plan

By Ken Kudela

As you can already see, we have taken on a new look starting with this issue of "The Benchmark."

You will still find all the reports from your Locals along with updates from the District Council, but hopefully in a more modern and easy to read format.

These changes come about from our partnership with the union marketing firm, The BMA Media Group. Their staff will handle both editing and layout of each edition.

The primary purpose of the newsletter remains the same – member communication. We will share important information you need to know, celebrate accomplishments of Locals and individuals, and help unify our collective strength when necessary.

With this new partnership with BMA Media we hope to bring "The Benchmark", our web site and all our other social media sites up-to-date to better serve you, promote our work and grow market share.

ELECTION REMINDER

I'm not going to go on and on about the elections, but I do want to share a bit of information I came across in my reading. Did you know that:

- In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.
- In 1845, one vote brought Texas in to the Union.
- In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States.
- In 1923, one vote gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- And In 1941, one vote saved selective service – just weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked.

And we say our vote doesn't matter.

Do you want to be that one vote? I sure as hell don't.

IN CLOSING

As always, my phone is on, and my door is always open.

A Labor Day Essay — *See page 11*

PHOTOS: TONI GEIB ON BEHALF OF BMA MEDIA GROUP

THE SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Freddie R. Hubbard, Sr.

Hello, Brothers and Sisters.

I hope you all had a productive and profitable summer season. It seems as though there have been more work opportunities for us all this summer, compared to the past few years. I hope you all have been able to find employment this year.

GOOD TIMES AT LOCAL 18 PICNIC

It was good to see the Local 18 members that turned out for the annual picnic. The weather was agreeable and it seemed we had many more family members attending than in the past.

WELCOME VISITS

I have been to some of your Union meetings over the summer, and I want thank you for your kind reception and for making me feel welcome. I hope to see you again soon.

BEST OF LUCK, DAVE

I want to wish **Dave Speed** a long and happy retirement. If you did not know, Dave retired Sept. 1 after a long career.

I know most of the Local 18 members know that he retired, but many of you may not know that Dave served in the old Southern Ohio Administrative District Council. Dave also represented Local 39 for a time, as well as old Local 17 Kentucky.

With Dave leaving, I want to welcome **Dennis McGrath** as Dave's replacement. Dennis is now the Tile, Terrazzo and Marble Representative for Local 18 and is doing a fine job.

Dennis is an excellent Craftworker and is proficient in all aspects of the trade.

WEBSITE UPDATE

We are close to getting our web site up and running. I think it will be a great help to all the members, but, for now, keep checking us out on Facebook. Just search for the Ohio Kentucky Administrative District Council, and you should be able to find us.

ELECTION REMINDER

Now my most despised subject: politics.

I'm not going to say a lot other than to make sure you vote. And as a lifelong Bricklayer that came from Coal Miners and Auto Workers, "vote for the politician who puts baloney between your bread."

I equate it to my favorite sentence in the oath we all take: that we will, "acquiesce in the will of the majority."

Believe me, all of us will never agree on everything. But if you do not vote, you have already acquiesced to put your and your family's fate in the hands of all the other voters.

At the very least, vote and have your say.

TRAINING REMINDER

Make sure to check the Northern and Southern training centers for upcoming training opportunities that will be available in the winter months.

Adding more tools to your bag is always a good idea.

NEGOTIATING PROGRESS

Director Kudela and myself, along with the various negotiating committees for the Locals, have had a good negotiating season so far, with contracts settled in Local 6 Canton Brick, Local 7 Akron Brick, Local 8 Youngstown TMT, Local 22 Dayton TMT and Local 18 TMT in Cincinnati.

IN CLOSING

Now I wish you all a safe and healthy winter season with lots of work opportunities.

Remember my door is always open. If you need anything, please let me try to help you.

I work for the entire membership of the District Council and love doing it.

IN MEMORIAM

David Bruns, Local 18 OH
William Carano, Local 05 OH
James Cartellone, Local 05 OH
Terry Cole, Local 05 OH
Fred Cox, Local 05 OH
Bernard Crockett, Local 05 OH
Charles Howard, Local 03 OH
Tony Immormino, Local 05 OH
Kenneth Jodon, Local 07 OH
James Johnson, Local 05 OH
Joseph Karas, Local 05 OH
William Keener, Local 18 OH
Mike Lauber, Local 05 OH
George Martina, Local 55 OH
Jacob Martincic, Local 05 OH
Frank Miklosko, Local 05 OH
Anthony Mirto, Local 36 OH
Dominic Nespeca Jr., Local 08 OH
James Nichols, Local 07 KY
Edward Noel, Local 08 OH
Donald Paugh, Local 05 OH
Howard Reed, Local 05 OH
Hobert Spicer, Local 03 OH
James Wilbur, Local 44 OH
James Wilkins, Local 08 OH
Werner Zahn, Local 40 OH

BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

LOCAL 3

Toledo, Ohio

Don Huss

I would like to start out by saying thank you to the Local 3 J.A.T.C., **Doug Rogers** and Empire Refractory Services.

On July 26, the J.A.T.C. teamed up with Empire Refractory Services to put on a Gunite familiarization class for the members of Local 3. The class was well attended by 25 Local 3 journeymen and apprentices.

This class did not necessarily make anybody a Gunite specialist, but it did give them a general idea of the application process and the equipment/tools that are used when working with this product.

I would also like to personally thank the members that attended the class. It says a lot about a craftsman's character when they are willing to give up a beautiful summer day and volunteer to take a class.

I am confident in saying these members have just made themselves more employable.

Thank you to all that participated.

LABOR DAY SUCCESS

The annual Labor Day Parade took place in downtown Toledo on Sept 1. As expected, Local 3 was very well-represented.

All that attended had a chance to catch up on old times with friends.

I would also like to express our gratitude to **Ken Kudela** and the OH-KY ADC for the use of the bricklayer truck.

If you were not able to make it to the parade this year, please mark your calendars for next year. Help us show the community that the labor movement in Northwest Ohio is alive and well.

ELECTION TIME

Nominations and elections of local officers will take place again this year.

The nomination meeting will be on Oct. 9, and if it is necessary for a ballot election to take place, that will happen at the regular scheduled meeting on Nov. 13.

The offices that will be up for election are: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary/Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and one Delegate.

LOCAL 5

East Cleveland, Ohio

Russel Smith

Fall is here, and we all know what comes next. The good thing is that work is steady and going strong.

Work in the eastern region of Cuyahoga County is very healthy right now.

We just got two PLA's in place for the upcoming University Hospital work in Broadview Heights, and the second phase project on the East Bank of the Flats. These are two projects that will send us into next year with great man-hours.

NEW MASONRY

Zavarella Brothers have started on the Parmatown Mall addition/expansion.

Zavarella will also start on the Ursuline College Gymnasium.

LMR just started on the Medical Facility at Cleveland State University.

Crowe Masonry just started on the Nursing Facility at Ursuline College.

Foti just started on the Case Western Reserve Student Dormitory. Foti also just got going on the Brooklyn High School addition.

K Klass just got started on the South Euclid Library and the Eliza Bryant addition.

Valentine just started on the East Bank of the Flats, Phase II.

We will have a couple of our contractors working on the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Cleveland that just got started.

RESTORATION

MA Building and Maintenance Co. just got started on the Guernsey Building.

Mid State Restoration just got started on the Old Stone Church.

VIP just got started on the Progressive Insurance (Eastmark) facility.

Grunwell Cashero just got going on the Templin Bradley Building.

Ram will be starting on the Bohn Towers.

ELECTION REMINDER

We have some important issues we must consider as the voting season comes about.

We as Union Members and Americans must do our homework and educate ourselves and our loved ones on the issues that are important to us.

If you have the time, help out in the community and get involved. We must all vote and do our due diligence to make this a better world for our kids.

IN CLOSING

Please make sure we take time to properly educate and train our apprentices in all aspects of our great trade.

These kids are the future, whether we like it or not.

Also, make sure your dues are paid and your drug card is not expired or about to expire.

As always, if you need me for anything, don't hesitate to call.

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PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 3

Local 3 members attended an Empire Refractory Services Gunite familiarization class in August.

BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

LOCAL 5

South Cleveland, Ohio

Dave Dabrowski

It's hard to believe we are moving into the fall months already. I hope all our members had a healthy, safe and prosperous summer.

We have had a busy work season thus far, and it looks like it should continue to be good through the upcoming months.

As most of you are aware, we had an influx of work in the northern area of our Local. The southern area has been slow-moving most of the year, but seems to be starting to pick up with some projects finally going to the bidding stage.

Some of the projects that I have been working on have been pushed back to the early part of next spring due to various circumstances.

It will be beneficial for us to have some projects ready to start next season.

THE RNC BOOST

With the National Republican Convention being awarded to Cleveland, the economy will receive a well needed boost not only in Cleveland, but the entire Northeast region.

This will also give developers incentive to push project starts and completion dates up in order for their ongoing and planned projects to be finished in time for the Convention.

In turn, this should be a positive impact for construction in the region.

Regardless of what side of the political aisle you are on, you should view this Convention as a positive.

This is extra money for the region that wouldn't otherwise be there.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

I would like to welcome all new members who have joined Local 5 this season.

Whether they are an apprentice just starting out, or a journeyman who has decided that this was the right time to become a Union member, welcome them as a Brother into our Locals.

IN CLOSING

I would like to remind all members to vote on Nov. 4. Take some time and research the candidates before you make your decision.

Look to see whose voting record supports Organized Labor and who just claim that they support us.

We need politicians that support us in office regardless of what letter is in front of their name.

And finally, work safe!

LOCAL 5

West Cleveland, Ohio

Vincent Isaac

At the time of this writing, work has exploded and everyone that wants to work is working.

We have resigned many of our former members and brought in quite a few nonunion bricklayers and put them to work.

The demand for manpower is so strong, we've had BAC members from out of state come to our area and go to work for our contractors.

Our contractors have been aggressively going after the work, and we're doing our best to make sure they have the manpower.

There are currently seven new schools working in Western Cuyahoga and Lorain counties, and also two school additions.

Our contractors are also doing a good job of landing many of the smaller jobs that have come out to bid, sometimes using the Market Recovery Fund to help secure the work.

Even better news is that there are more schools and other big projects such as Crocker Park that are slated to go out for bid later this year and early next year.

Needless to say, if you are laid off, call the Union Hall and let us know.

Now is not the time to stay away and do side work.

TRAINING CARD CRITICAL

I hate to harp on this subject, but again, some members could not go to work on some of these jobs because they did not have an OSHA 10 card.

Our training center has been offering these classes three to four times a year, and we are constantly telling our members to get the OSHA training.

Many guys that did not have the card ended up taking the course online through the OSHA website and paying $90, or they missed out on getting on some good jobs.

If you don't have the card, take the class to avoid this problem.

Also, in another development, many owners of the projects we work on are starting to demand that all workers have an OSHA card that is not older than four years.

Much of this demand is due to insurance purposes. So look at your card, and if you are hitting that threshold, take the class and get updated.

Members also need to make sure your drug card is up to date. And if you get a notice for a random drug test, take it.

Call Safety Controls Technology at 216-587-3000 to make your appointment to take your test.

IN CLOSING

It's easy to become complacent when you are working a lot of hours.

Also, fatigue can start to set in. Try to stay alert and pay attention to the hazards around you while you're working.

Watch out for your coworkers.

As always, work safe and go home to your family.

LOCAL 6

Canton, Ohio

Brett Trissel

Here it is, late-September already. The night temperatures are dropping, fall is here, and winter will be right around the corner.

I am hearing that we can expect another winter like last year. I sure hope they are wrong.

YEAR IN REVIEW (SO FAR)

2014, so far, has actually been a pretty good year with calls for manpower coming in since spring. There are a couple

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of projects that should have already started or will be starting very shortly, such as the Canton Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion, ODOT Building-New Philadelphia, St. Luke's in North Canton, and the Timken Faircrest shutdown at the end of the month.

Brown Local Schools (Malvern) should come out here shortly, and the Canton Local School District's new high school should start in early 2015.

Carrollton Exempted Village sounds like they are going to go ahead with their plans for a new high school, and, I believe, a new elementary building.

There are plans for a natural gas-fueled power plant in northern Carroll County in which the Building Trades are trying to secure a Project Labor Agreement. The school district believes they can build these new buildings without having to pass a levy due to the increased corporate and payroll taxes.

The Fawcett Stadium renovation has been pushed back into next year after all of the enshrinement events. Also, it may grow into more the just a stadium renovation.

So with the increased work load, we have signed up quite a few new journeyman members and apprentices alike.

I also know that other areas are just as busy. Remember, if you are off and available, let us know.

BENEFITS IN REVIEW

I recently met with Jon Smith from Leonard Insurance to look at our claims experience for our group so he can be prepared to meet with Aultcare underwriting when the 2015 rates are presented. He is still looking at other health care providers for our group. Personally, I don't think anyone can touch Aultcare's prices for the coverage.

A few members have called earlier in the year and complained about health care prices and commented that they thought that Local No. 6 or the Fund Office sets the prices. This is absolutely untrue; all renewal rates are set by our group's prior claims experience, and then we negotiate from there.

The 2013 pension accrued benefit statements are in from the actuary and will be mailed out to all the active and deferred members shortly.

Any questions on the hours and/or contributions reported, let us know.

RECIPROCAL REMINDER

A reminder to all of our relatively new members: when you travel for work into a different Local, remember to make sure you fill out a reciprocal form so these hours get sent back to your home Local.

DEDICATED SERVICE

Local 6 would like to congratulate the following members for reaching milestone years of dedicated service with BAC:

- *50-Year Members:* **Merlyn B. Immel, Neil O. Weygandt.**
- *40-Year Members:* **David G. Ertle, Richard J. Ott, Michael G. Rohr**
- *25-Year Members:* **Vance A. Dourm, Robert W. Gieger, Allan K. Humbert, Chancey C. Shawver** and **Thomas E. Williams Jr.**

LOCAL 7 OH

Akron, Ohio

Noah Carmichael

Hello, Brothers and Sisters.

Work in Summit and Portage Counties is as good as I've seen it in my tenure as Field Representative. I'm glad to see our Local members working steadily.

Firestone/Litchfield Schools and the Children's Hospital project have employed many workers this summer, and other private sector work has picked up the pace as well.

As always, feel free to call about any projects going on, and let me know if you are looking for work.

Hopefully, this slight surge in building is a sign of things to come, and we can focus on growing our membership.

PICNIC SUCCESS

Despite the rainy, cool weather, the Local 7 OH annual picnic was a great success!

This is just another bit of proof that BAC members are tough people and will persevere through adverse conditions.

We made the best of the time we had, had some great food and great fellowship!

While speaking to a member at the picnic, we both agreed that getting to know each other at picnics and other gatherings is how we become stronger as a Labor Union.

We observed that when our kids play together and when our families interact with each other, we become more connected.

We see that we are allies and that our common goal is to make a better life for ourselves and our families.

TARGET FUND STARTS

At the July meeting, Local 7 OH members overwhelmingly voted in favor of establishing a Target Fund to help our members regain some of the work that we have been losing over the years through bid supplements.

The fund will also be used for advertising and marketing to promote the Local.

The way that the deduction will work is like this: .50 cents per hour will be contributed in 2014-15 (.25 cents from the vacation fund, .25 cents from base wages), .25 cents from the 1.30 raise in 2015, and .25 cents in 2016.

This will total $1.00 per hour in June of 2016. This timeline will ease us into the fund and provide a good base for us to use in the next few years.

Anyone working in Local 7 OH Jurisdiction will pay into this fund. Target Funds are one more weapon for us to organize with, and in this political and social environment, we need more tools to help us gain back market share.

HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

I hope everyone enjoyed this past Labor Day. Spending time with our families is very important, and the cookouts and parties that we enjoy on Labor Day are great also.

While we are celebrating, let us also never lose sight of the reason and meaning behind Labor Day.

It is the only holiday that celebrates workers. Can you believe that?

One day out of 365 in which the people who build this great country get to stand back and look at their work, while taking a little time for themselves.

As hard as BAC members work, I think it should be called Labor Week.

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PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 7 OH

New Local 7 OH officers (from left to right) Sec-Treasurer/Field Rep Noah Carmichael, President Ryan Olinger, Recording Secretary Rich Nagle, Vice President Steve Pavkov, and Sergeant-at-Arms Demar Gibson.

BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

I am proud to be part of this Organization, and actually, this family that we call BAC.

Even though we may not agree with each other all of the time, it cannot be overstated – from the officers and leaders of this union, to the first-year apprentice, we are all in this together.

In light of the Labor Day celebration, I will leave you all with some food for thought from FDR.

"True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made." - **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

Let us do our best to strive for economic security and independence, by whatever activism we find necessary.

IN CLOSING

Best wishes to you, and your families.

LOCALS 7 KY & 39 OH

Ashland, Kentucky

George Mellert

Work in our entire jurisdiction continues to be fair.

It is starting to pick up due to the use of the Industry Advancement Program (IAP). Central Masonry and W.B. Fosson are doing work on the building that Local 7 KY purchased for a new Union Hall.

Hopefully, we will be able to host our 2014 Christmas Party there this year.

Dale McClary with ARC was successful in winning the Manchester Athletic Center and Menford Water treatment project.

Refractory work improved this month due to an outage at Calgon Carbon and Kingsford Plant in Burnside, KY.

The Haverhill Coke Plant still handles maintenance with both CBI and Fosbel.

New duct work with Onex at Sun Coke is going well on Phase I, with Casey McElroy of Onex.

Overall, it seems like the economy is improving, but at a very slow pace.

I have received interest from contractors willing to go after more work in new counties.

VISIT THE TRAINING CENTER

The Southern Ohio Training Center is also a tool for journeyman upgrades in all areas.

Jeff Garnett and **Mark White** bring much experience to the new training center. They welcome you to stop in to check out the center.

These two men are proud to be there and be a part of improving skills, education and safety of our bricklayer Brothers. Call 859-468-7709 anytime to see about Journeyman upgrades.

LABOR DAY PARADE

Thanks to the Local 39 members who were involved in the Portsmouth Labor Day parade.

Special thanks to President **Jon "Spud" Williams** for organizing.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 39

Local 39 members participated in the Portsmouth Labor Day parade organized by President Jon "Spud" Williams.

LOCAL 8

Austintown, Ohio

Jerre Riggle

Hello, Brothers and Sisters.

Summer work seems to have everyone working union that wants to work union. As I write this (late August), several projects are just starting: Marriott Courtyard in Canfield; a K-4 school in New Middletown; and the ODOT garage in Lisbon, all by Lencyk, Zavarella Bros is doing the masonry on the Cafaro office at the Eastwood Mall.

INFO ONLINE

Please login to the IU Member Portal at www.bacweb.org and sign up to view your personal account information. It's free.

You can also notify any Local that you are working in their area, per IU Constitution Code 4 Section 1 (B).

It's a simple process. Best of all, you can view every hour ever reported by your employers.

CONTRACTOR INFO

If you are thinking of becoming a contractor please visit the following links for useful information: www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Businesses/BusinessInformation/starting.aspx or www.business.ohio.gov/starting.

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 7

Progress is being made on the improvements to the Local 7 KY Union Hall.

BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

These two links will provide the basics needed to start up a business.

PROJECT STATUS

Hollywood Slots Racino opened Sept. 17, and the first live horse race will be in November.

Furnco is still on their second phase at the coke battery.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Congratulations to **Mark Horvath**. He was this year's recipient of the Attorney Nick Modarelli $1,000 scholarship fund.

Way to go, Mark!

EMAIL UPDATES

When I receive emails about work outside our jurisdiction and around the country, I forward it to as many members as I can. But if I don't have your e-mail address, you won't know about the jobs.

If you are interested in receiving these type of updates, shoot me an email at jriggle@oadc.net and I will put you on the list.

NEED A WAGES CARD?

I have wages cards in the office and the car, so just ask me.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our 128th Annual Banquet will be held Oct. 18 at 6 p.m.

Notices will be mailed out prior to the event.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I am sure you all know about the changes by now, because you have all received a letter from the Administrative District Council seeking resumes for the position of Field Representative.

By the time you read this, the position likely will have been filled.

I am confident whoever gets the position will receive the training necessary to fulfill the duties and will hit the ground running.

To that new agent, I wish him well.

I must thank you, the membership, for making it easy for me to serve you over the years. It has been an honor and a pleasure, and it's been fun watching the apprentices grow into Journeymen Bricklayers and saddened by those who didn't complete the program.

Please support your new Field Representative as you have supported, me and this Local will go a long way.

IN CLOSING

With that being said, we all have work to do to survive. So let's get started by supporting YOUR UNION.

And come election time, vote for the candidates that support unions, not corporations.

If you're not sure who to support, then talk to your Local Union Officers and attend a meeting.

Locals 9 & 10

East Liverpool, Ohio

Don Mays

I want to welcome new Local 10 apprentices, **Branden Mullins** and **Alex Williams.**

They both successfully completed the eight-week pre-apprentice program at the NORTC in Hudson, Ohio.

They are working and have reported they like it. I hope you both take advantage of this opportunity to learn and become highly-skilled journeymen and educated union members.

WORK STATUS

It has been a busy summer in Local 10, but Local 9 has given me some challenges.

Over all, the membership has had a very good work year to date.

My hope is that many of you can work through most of the winter months as well, as it looks to be possible at the time of this writing.

We have finally gained market share in some of the gas facilities.

The Mark West Cryogenics 2 plant and Gas Processing facilities have finally given signatory contractors the chance and considered the qualified workforce they bring to the jobsite.

The efforts over the last 3 years have produced something positive.

What seemed like countless inquiries, conversations, and meetings to only get smoke in the back door has at least been heard by Mark West.

I don't believe the effort to gain any of this work as a Local would have been enough.

The collective actions from area building trades councils and the partnered efforts in our area from our Labor/Management Association, Project BEST, I believe made the difference so far.

This has worked in Local 10's favor for now, but the work continues as more of these facilities will be here in the coming years.

There is now planning for a major Natural Gas facility in Local 9's Belmont County in the not too distant future.

We are working as one force in the Local building trades to expand our market share.

I want to thank the local Stewards for stepping up their efforts in documenting and reporting their jobsites.

It is critical that we document and house these reports in a centralized location for future assistance to you all as members.

I have recently experienced some examples of this need as we have had a couple of retiring members missing hours in past years. The challenge to find documentation to support their claims have been met with some success, as well as some failures.

We need to remember the true importance of looking out for one another. These very Steward Reports could be important to you as well.

Thank you again, Stewards!

LOCAL 16

Mentor, Ohio

Keith Hocevar

I am pleased to announce that Lake Health has signed a PLA for the Lake West Power House project.

This project will be a new alternate power addition located on Lake West Hospital in Willoughby. This is the second PLA that Lake Health has signed, and hopefully there will be more to come in the future.

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BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

There are several other projects on the books coming up. For a complete list of projects you can go to our website and request a Job sheet or come to the Local 16 meetings, held the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

NEW RECORDING SECRETARY

Local 16 Recording Secretary **Pat Dwyer** resigned from his position prior to Local 16's July meeting.

Pat was a dedicated member of the Local 16 Executive Board for more than two decades and intends to retire at the end of the year.

The Local 16 Executive Board proudly appointed **Mike Dodge** to finish out the remainder of Pat's term as recording secretary.

Mike is a graduate of the OH-KY/ADC apprenticeship program and, as an apprentice, competed in the National Apprenticeship Contest.

Mike is also a member of the Local 16 steward group, Local 16 Social Committee and Local 16 Political Committee.

Mike's dedication to the Local and his participation on several of the Local's committees made him a perfect choice for the position.

On behalf of the Local 16 Executive Board, I would like to thank Pat for his service to the membership and wish him a happy retirement.

EXCELLENT GOLF CLASSIC

Local 16 Social Director **Rich Bacurin** outdid himself again this year with the 6th Annual Local 16 Golf Classic, held at Madison Golf and Country Club.

This event has become a premier building trades golf outing and exemplifies Local 16's continued pursuit of excellence in representing the Local as a top-notch organization.

Thanks go out to all the volunteers that came out to work the event. It could not have been possible without their help.

ENDORSED CANDIDATES

The Statewide elections are approaching and there are several candidates that need your support this year. Please make sure that you are registered to vote.

The list of endorsed candidates that are running in the Local 16 area include:

- **Dave Joyce (R):** 14th Congressional District
- **Lisa Klammer:** Probate Judge
- **Dan Troy (D):** Lake County Commissioner
- **John Rogers (D):** 60th State House District
- **Sarah LaTourette (R):** 76th State House District
- **John Patterson (D):** 99th State House District
- **Tim Cannon:** Court of Appeals
- **Cynthia Rice:** Court of Appeals
- **Matt Donovan (D):** Mentor City Council

The Local will be sending out a list of endorsed candidates in the mail prior to early voting. Please consider supporting endorsed candidates, as these are the candidates that have shown they will best serve the interests of union tradesman and their families.

LOCAL 18 OH-KY

Cincinnati, Ohio

Brian D. Wear

The work in the area has stayed busy, for the most part.

While full employment has not been reached, it has been a fair year.

The state of Ohio's change to Construction Managers At Risk has increased our workload.

If you are not familiar with this, here is a quick rundown.

The CM is responsible for the performance of "their" subcontractors. Now, instead of picking the lowest-priced contractor to do the job, the CM has to predetermine what contractor is qualified and capable of doing the job.

It makes them put things in a different light.

We have been successful at Miami University due to the recent change.

The change has given us opportunities with Construction Managers that we would typically not do work with.

The local contractors and our qualified workforce have shown the CMs that we are a key component to making their projects a success.

Weisbrod, Jim Hauer Masonry, Trisco Systems, Hagerman and Jess Hauer Masonry have all landed projects at Miami University so far.

LOOK AHEAD

The workload for the next year is looking promising.

There are several projects at The University of Cincinnati and Miami University coming out for bid, along with school additions and renovations in Lebanon and Fairfield Ohio.

OSHA CARDS

A recent change on several projects involves the date on your OSHA 10-hour card.

Messer and Turner want updated training in relation to safety on projects. If you cannot produce your yellow OSHA card, you need to retake the class.

Copies of cards are no longer valid for these projects. In the past, a letter from the Hall and or a copy would do. That is no longer the case.

If you have your card, and it is older than three years, you should be able to get by with the refresher course.

OSHA refresher and 10-hour classes are available at the training center in Batavia. Please be proactive on this.

This could potentially keep you from working and earning your paycheck.

LOCAL 18 TMT

Cincinnati, Ohio

Dennis McGrath

I would like to start by extending best wishes to **Dave Speed** as he begins his retirement. He officially retired on Aug. 29. Thank you for many years of faithful service to the Union.

With that said, I would like to introduce myself.

I am **Dennis McGrath,** and I will be your new TMT Field Rep. for Local 18 OH/KY.

I have been with the Union since 1987. I have been working in the fields of Terrazzo and Tile.

At one time or another, I have worked for every contractor in the Cincinnati area, as well as some from Dayton, Louisville and Indianapolis.

I ask that everyone keep in contact with me – both with where you are working and

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any problems that may arise on your jobsite.

If I don't know, I can't be of any assistance to you.

NEW CONTRACT

I am pleased to announce that Contract Negotiations have been settled. We now have a seven-year contract, with a graduated raise of $7.40.

We have gone many years with very little in the way of an increase. With such an agreement, I would anticipate that there will be an increase of work for our membership.

ELECTION REMINDER

Now for a final note that will also have a direct effect on our future increase of work.

November is just around the bend.

Elections are something we must all participate in if we wish to continue with our way of life.

The Republicans in Kentucky are prepared to do away with Prevailing Wage and are ready to make the state a So Called Right to Work state.

If they are able to pick up five seats in the House, they will be able to do exactly what they want.

If you are not already registered to vote, you have until Oct. 6 to do so in Kentucky. It only takes five minutes to do something that can have a serious effect on life as you know it.

LOCAL 22

Dayton, Ohio

Shawn Herzog

It has been a decent year so far in the Local 22 jurisdiction.

Our success is due to the Project Labor Agreements with Honda Anna, Honda East Liberty and the Dayton Hollywood Raceway, as well as the Piqua Schools, some University work and many other small projects.

But we are still not where we need to be.

We need to remember every day that we're the best hands in the business and can produce not only quality, but quantity.

Take pride in your work, and it will pay off.

DAYTON RACINO OPENS

As many of you know, the Dayton Hollywood Raceway has been completed.

Penn National Gaming, along with Turner Construction, were very impressed with the craftsmanship and hard work the BAC members put into this project to not only complete it on time, but also under budget.

This should be an economy boost to the north Dayton Area.

LOOKING AHEAD

The work that is coming out for bid the remaining part of this year are Greenville K-8 school, Bethel K-12 school, Covington School and an addition at Grand View North Hospital, along with a host of smaller projects.

We should be able to pick up a few of these projects.

ELECTION REMINDER

Finally, remember this is an election year, so get out and vote to help stop the war on the middle class in this country.

Your vote does make a difference.

LOCAL 36

Cleveland, Ohio

Dan Zavagno

Hello, Brothers and Sisters.

This summer was one of our busiest in quite a few years. We were fully employed and in need of more Tile Layers and Finishers.

We were able to organize some non-union Tile Setters and Finishers along with bringing on some new apprentices.

Every building trades union that I talked to was experiencing a similar workload. It was good to see that many of the jobs were working overtime. This hopefully helped out because we did have a slow start this year.

SEEKING TILE SETTERS, FINISHERS

We still receive calls from our contractors looking for Tile Setters and Finishers, even though they have slowed down.

A list of all our contractors is available to you. We recommend that you call our signatory contractors when you get laid off. Also notify the Hall when you get laid off as we don't know that you are available until the monthly stewards report comes in or your hours are reported by our contractors.

PROGRESS IN SUMMIT, PORTAGE

We are making headway in the Summit and Portage County area.

This is part of Local 36's jurisdiction.

Yes, I know it can be a long drive for those who live in Cleveland, but this helps us regain an area that is very strong with non-union contractors.

Having our members working out there is key to maintaining prevailing wage in all of our territory.

I have heard from many of you that you don't like the lower wage package. We had a lot of good conversations on this matter before we negotiated our contract at our union meeting.

Many of you who complain, do not attend union meetings, so you didn't provide any input.

We give everyone a voice at our meeting, and majority wins.

WE MUST GROW

I hit the streets every day and talk to general contractors, pushing them to use union Tile Setters and Finishers.

Most of the time, they get that we are the best trained out there and that jobs will run smoother, safer and finish on time with us.

What they don't get is that you pay a higher premium for that to happen.

It all comes down to the total cost of the square footage, and holding down our cost will get us a bigger piece of the pie.

I thank each of you who have made this sacrifice.

We need to continue to grow our union, or we will die.

Our pension needs to be supported by the next generation, and so does theirs.

IN CLOSING

Fight for the good of the middle class worker.

Continued on page 10.

BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

Vote for the politicians that believe in our causes.

Go to the polls this November, because the only way to change how Washington works is to change the politicians who don't work for us.

LOCAL 44, 45 & 52

Marietta/ Athens, Ohio

Ted Linscott

At the writing of this, work in SE Ohio is better than it has been in years.

There is no reason for any capable bricklayer that is willing to make a reasonable drive to be sitting on the bench.

We currently have jobs in Athens, Marietta and Lancaster that are hiring.

The refractory end of our trade appears to be heating up as well.

If you are not working, contact me.

KEEP DRUG CARDS CURRENT

I know that I am sounding like a broken record. I can't tell you how important it is to keep your drug test up-to-date.

When drug testing was required on a particular job, it was fairly common practice to get hired before they would send you to get your drug test or have on site testing.

As time goes on, more and more jobsites are now requiring us to have proof of a current drug test before we can even take orientation.

It is becoming the "norm."

Many times this summer members lost a couple days work getting their drug test taken care of before they could start.

Drug testing is part of our Collective Bargaining Agreement, and we have a procedure to follow.

Again, simply contact me, and I can make arrangements for you to get your testing done.

The Drug and Education office has a large network of testing facilities, so there is a good chance there is a testing facility fairly close to your home. It costs the membership nothing but a little time and urine.

LOCAL 46

Fremont, Ohio

Steve Shively

Fall is officially here, with a chill in the air that makes working outdoors a great time to be in construction.

We had a great deal of work this summer, with more calls for men who are willing to travel than I've ever seen.

Many of you have had to expand work areas in order to find employment. There's work out there if you can travel.

We have received requests for men from Kansas, Indiana, Michigan (40-50 men) the Cleveland area (30 men), South Dakota, Minnesota and Missouri, as well as the ongoing work in Northwest ohio.

Again, if you are willing to travel, there are a lot of opportunities out there.

It's a great time to be a union trowel tradesman!

It's a great time to be a union member and to be part of a great group of men and women united in the same interests – a brotherhood of like-minded people whose skills and work ethics are what separates them from others.

Being a union member means working for the benefit of all the members and their families, to better the lives of all who choose to join this Brotherhood.

AREA WORK OUTLOOK

There should be a good amount of work in the area with Mosser at the Fremont Water Treatment Plants. Studer-Obringer has several projects including the Bellevue library and the Norwalk municipal building and Kirk Brothers will be at the Marathon Performing Arts Center in Findlay.

WINTER TRAINING

I also want to encourage all of you to attend the journeyman upgrade classes offered at the regional training centers over the winter.

We have had a great number of requests for pointer-, cleaner-, and caulker-skilled men throughout the area.

This training could be very beneficial to those who choose to take the time to attend the class.

It won't make you a journeyman, but it might teach you enough to get your foot in the door with some new companies. And remember that tuck pointers, grinders and caulking guns are a lot lighter than 12-inch block.

In summary, the more skills you acquire, the more employable you become.

SHARE HUNTING SUCCESS

If you get any trophy bucks this hunting season, send me the pictures, and I'll see if I can get them published.

KEEP CONTACT INFO CURRENT

Remember, if you have a change of address, phone number or beneficiary, let me know.

If you get laid off, call because there are jobs in need of men. You may have to go outside your comfort zone, but remember it's all about hours!

DEDICATED SERVICE

Congratulations to the following award members:

- 25-year member: **Dennis Barth**.
- 40-year members: **Ernest Botton, Keith Fox** and the great **Mark Krupp.**
- 50-year member: **Jerry Apling.**

These are all good men with a lot of years of experience!

SAVE STUBS

One last thing to remember: Save your pay stubs!

It may be the only record out there. It's all about hours!

IN CLOSING

I want everyone to remember that they took an oath to seek work for the members of this union and abide by the bylaws.

- It's important that we all seek new members to help this union grow.
- We all know some non-union bricklayers. You need to encourage them to become members. This will help to ensure our future. If we control the work force in our area we should be able to get more jobs for our members.

We are offering greatly reduced initiation fees through December.

Now is the time for each of us to help ensure that our union continues to grow.

Please spread the word.

Continued on page 12.

LABOR DAY

This is a condensed version of an essay that first appeared in The Athens News earlier this year.

By Ted Linscott

Another holiday weekend has come and gone. To most, Labor Day symbolizes the end of summer, the beginning of a new school year, or the beginning of football season. But for various reasons, the percentage of Americans that truly understand and appreciate why we celebrate Labor Day has diminished. This leaves us to ask why… Why did the Federal Government feel the need to enshrine Labor Day as a national holiday? Why is it so important? Why is it still significant and relevant?

For most, we compartmentalize our lives with work, family, worship and some leisure. Then it's a matter of priority and having time to dedicate to each. For most, these compartments overlap, and some are synonymous. But rarely is our work or job a priority, even though there are those blessed to make a living doing what they love. For most of us, either through choice or circumstance, work is a means to which we make the other parts of our lives possible.

Then why was Labor Day established? Labor history is rarely taught in our schools. It might get mentioned in passing, but it never truly gets the attention it deserves. But make no mistake - Labor Day was brought forth BY working men and women, FOR working men and women. Labor Day parades were not originally organized as celebrations, but more as a demonstration against forces keeping working people down. Labor Day was established by the federal government as recognition and a celebration commemorating the everyday struggles we, as working folks, face to make a better life for ourselves and families.

The need for a united Labor Movement is as important now as it was at the turn of the century, when workers found working conditions that included a 14+ hour work day six days a week and wages so low that everyone in the family, including children, had to work just to scrape by. This is when the wealth gap between the haves and the have nots began growing at an incredible pace. That's when workers began realizing the power of solidarity. These American patriots banded together and organized themselves at great personal cost, changing their lives and the society at large for the better. All very human, all very American. One of the great labor leaders of the time, Samuel Gompers, was quoted:

> *"What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures"*

Today, Labor's detractors say "that was then, this is now. Labor has done its job and now they ask too much." Perhaps Labor is guilty of being successful for workers. A sense of entitlement is setting in with younger generations who don't have a grasp on these sacrifices. After all, we have weekends, a standard 40-hour work week, workplace safety, overtime pay, retirement security, and no more children working in our factories – what few remain. Many workers today do not even know standards were set, nor the blood that was shed, to earn these basic human/worker rights.

To those detractors who say Unions have outlived their usefulness, please read the Gompers quote again. Years after gaining these basic rights, workers find themselves again working longer hours for less pay. Most families are striving to cover basic necessities: a roof over the heads of their families, groceries to feed that family, the means to educate their children, retirement security, and very little leisure time. Far too many are working multiple jobs and have less opportunity to cultivate their better natures. This quote and labor itself is as significant and relevant today as it was then.

PHOTO: TONI GEIB ON BEHALF OF BMA MEDIA GROUP

Today, working people are finding themselves toiling for a hand-to-mouth existence. The ability to provide a better life — "the American Dream" — for our families seems out of reach for far too many. Call me crazy, but I believe there is no reason that anyone working 40 hours a week should be classified as impoverished. Pay workers enough to make a living, and treat them with respect, and they will want to stay and help their employer be profitable. At that point, these workers will have expendable income to spur the other sectors of the economy and the ability to lift up their communities by contributing to a stable tax base.

It is very easy to create a report, present it to shareholders or board members, and show that by lowering labor costs, the company can increase profits. Unfortunately, we live in a society that deals with "the bottom line," and corporations and CEOs are more than willing to throw their workers under the bus in order to increase that bottom line. This race to the bottom, with respect to wages and benefits for working men and women, is not working for everyone. It is working for a few, but we can see its devastating effects right here in our own community.

I hope on this past Labor Day you had a moment to pause and reflect on the importance of labor and its history in this country. Realize that the word "Union" is not a dirty word or something corrupt, socialist or any of the other labels Labor has been tagged with by extremists over the years. Know that these extremists are right about only one thing: Labor IS a special interest group, and that interest is you, the worker, your family, your dignity, and your community! That kind of special interest has an important role in our society and will continue to do so forever.

Ted Linscott is the President of SE Ohio Central Labor Council; a 35-Year member of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers; and a third generation bricklayer.

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BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

LOCAL 55

Columbus, Ohio

Tom Cannon Jr.

Work has been slow to start for Local 55 this summer.

A lot of members have been traveling to work in other areas. Remember, if you didn't fill out reciprocal forms, give me a call.

Mouser Masonry continues to work on the two Southwestern City School projects they have and will be back at the Prairie Township Rec Center soon.

Tuttle Construction has started at the Westerville Water Treatment Plant.

Smoot Construction has started at the OSU Dormitory.

Leidel and Hart will soon be starting at the Poindexter Village Housing project. Remember to call in if you're looking for work.

LABOR NIGHT FUN

The Central Ohio AFL-CIO Labor Council had their annual Labor Night with the Clippers. All the members that attended had a good time.

One of our members won one of the TVs given away at the game.

MEETING REMINDERS

The retirees hold their monthly lunch on the last Wednesday of the month, at the Hall. It starts around 10:30 a.m.

At the last meeting, Roy Jones was presented his 40-year pin.

I'd also like to remind members that the Union meeting is held on the first Monday of the month, starting at 7:30 p.m.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 55

President John Conner (right) presenting a 40-year pin to Roy Jones (left).

The meeting is held at the JATC/Hall, 3005 Lamb Ave. in Columbus. The phone number is 614-342-8970.