

# THE BENCHMARK

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017



This Newsletter is intended for Members Only

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

# Northern Training Center officially opens

By Ken Kudela



It is hard to believe, but after months of work, construction of our Northern Training Center in Amherst was finally completed and the building

officially opened on April 3.

The new building, combined with our Southern Training Center in Batavia now gives our District Council two training centers that rival nearly any other BAC facility in the country.

When we initially moved onto this property in January 2016, we asked our members for patience and understanding, as the decision to purchase the property in Amherst had a lot to do with finding

a more central location and a site with ample space to grow.

Now, following roughly 16 months of using a small building on the site as our temporary training center and two doublewide trailers to conduct business, I proudly welcome all our members to stop in and see our new state-of-the-art training facility.

Both training centers have the space to train the various crafts that will make up the future generations of our union, and the equipment to incorporate the latest technology into the classes.

These sites also provide the opportunity to show off our skills and explain our business model to elected officials that we hope will support not only our union but all union construction trades.

Similarly, we can set up tours of these buildings for high school students in an effort to get them into our pre-apprenticeship programs.

I would like to thank everyone involved in this process, including the volunteers who helped with different stages of the construction, and for everyone's understanding during the transition.

We now have two training centers worthy of the talented men and women that make up all the Locals of our District Council.

## A SPECIAL REPORT

Inside this edition of The Benchmark, you will see a slightly different contribution that offers a unique perspective on what it means for people outside the United States to be part of a union.

One of our members, Vitaliy Kusmiy, a third-year Bricklayer apprentice from Local 5, was invited by the American Solidarity Center to participate in week-long conference and tour around the country of Georgia.

[See MESSAGE on page 2.](#)

## Local 5 member attends workers' rights conference in country of Georgia



While attending a week-long workers' rights conference in the country of Georgia, Local 5 Bricklayer apprentice Vitaliy Kusmiy met with members of the Georgian Railway Workers New Trade Union. [See story on Page 10.](#)

## THE SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Don Huss



Spring is finally here, and as you already know, this is typically the time of the year that our BAC members get to start making

money again. For the most part, the winter in Ohio and Kentucky was fairly mild so hopefully there wasn't too many weeks of unemployment for the membership.

Most area Field Representatives have reported there is work coming up that has already been bid or is going to bid shortly. They are also reporting that many of our signatory contractors have secured a good amount of this work, which should give the membership plenty of work opportunities as the projects get started.

For those of you that are currently looking for work, be sure to contact your local Field Representative and make them aware that you are willing and ready to go out.

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE, GET INVOLVED

I urge each of you to get involved with your Union. Being involved is one of the biggest ways to make a difference.

We are always looking for volunteers, whether it is running for a Local office, volunteering to sit on a committee, assisting with a charity project or

helping with a political race.

Another great way to get involved is by attending your local meetings. Meetings can provide a wealth of inside knowledge on several topics, including upcoming jobs and future opportunities to help the Local.

Please try to make a difference.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

I would like to take this opportunity to give special congratulations to a few people.

First, to former Local 16 Ohio Field Representative, **Keith Hocevar**. Keith has recently been named the new Regional Director for the North Central Region.

Keith will now be tasked with overseeing the 14 states that make up the North Central Region.

Next, **Russel Smith** from Local 5 Ohio has been asked to take a job with the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers as a Regional Field Representative for the North Central Region.

Russel will be working closely with Keith and knowing both of these men personally, I am positive that they are going to do everything in their power to ensure that the BAC continues to be a great organization to belong to.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate **Jairo Cabrera**. Jairo has been hired to represent Local 5 and will cover the west side of the jurisdiction.

With time and proper training, I am positive that he will become a great Field Representative for the District Council and Local 5.

### STEWARD TRAINING

Trained job site stewards are an important job that the Union takes seriously. A large number of job site issues can be resolved at an early stage if the Steward gets involved, and more importantly, knows how to handle the situation.

Over the past few months, each of the Field Representatives in the OH-KY ADC have undergone training to become trainers of the steward class. This means we can have more trained Stewards throughout the state.

As most of you know, in the past we would only have a couple of steward classes a year and sometimes you would be forced to travel to neighboring Locals to get this training.

Now, each Field Rep. can schedule and teach the class in your own Union Hall.

All you need to do is contact your local Field Representative and let them know that you would like to go through the training.

### IN CLOSING

Lastly, I want to remind the membership to keep your monthly dues up to date.

As our Constitution states, if you become three months behind in your dues you will be dropped from membership.

Your monthly dues can be paid several ways: Mail them to OH-KY ADC 8497 Leavitt Road, Amherst, OH 44001; call 1-800-442-0479; or have them directly withdrawn from your bank account. ■

## Message

Continued from page 1.

During his trip, Vitaliy saw how people living in this former Soviet Republic bloc country are being discriminated against just because they belong to a union. He heard about it, and in some cases witnessed first-hand, the injustices our union Brothers and Sisters face in a country

that does not believe in worker rights or safety regulations.

I encourage everyone to read his article. I think it will give all of us a new perspective on our situation here in America. The story begins on Page 10.

### IN CLOSING

For most of our members, it's time to get back to work. While many members are already on the job, I encourage

everyone to make sure you have the proper certifications to be "work ready" for the season.

Make sure you have your OSHA and drug-free certifications, along with any upgrade training needed to earn the type of paycheck you want.

It is shaping up to be a busy year for almost all our Locals, so be sure to work safely and demonstrate why we are the most skilled workforce in the building trades. ■

## THE IMI UPDATE:

By Tom Elliott



Advanced Certifications for Tile Installers (ACT) is a program that was created with the help of the IMI and the BAC.

The intent of the program is to raise the standards within the construction community for tile installation.

ACT is not a training program, but a certification. It evaluates both the skills and knowledge of the tile installers.

There are currently seven specific areas of the trade that a craftworker can be evaluated to gain a certification. The areas are: Grouts; Large Format Tile and Substrate Penetration; Membranes; Mortar "Mud" Floors; Mortar "Mud" Walls; Shower Receptors; and Thin Porcelain Tile.

The evaluation consists of a written test as well as a field test that is administered by an IMI/BAC trained evaluator.

Installers who wish to become ACT certified must be a journeyman tile setter who has successfully completed the apprenticeship program conducted by the IUBAC.

The certification will stay with the individual craftworker and

not the contractor.

The design community is expecting premium installation on the projects they design, and are implementing ACT certification language in the project specifications on many of their projects.

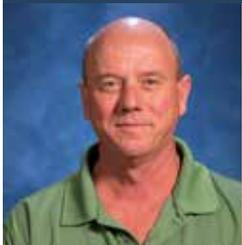
### IN CLOSING

The BAC members are considered the "best hands in the business," and through the IMI/BAC training programs and certifications available to us, we can continue to raise the standards.

If you wish to set up an evaluation, contact your local field representative, or you can contact me directly at [telliott@imiweb.org](mailto:telliott@imiweb.org). ■

## BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

### LOCAL 3



Toledo,  
Ohio

Matt Aberl

Spring is here, and should bring plenty of work opportunities for the membership. The current work status looks promising for 2017 and is as follows:

Schools such as Liberty Center, Defiance and Eastwood are in progress, with schools such as Ayersville, Rossford and Fayette starting shortly.

We also have projects at water treatment plants, hospitals and the auto industry.

Restoration in the Toledo area is growing rapidly, and work in the refinery is starting to pick up.

Moreover, small projects continue to help keep us busy.

### SPECIAL THANKS



Along with Local 3, I would like to extend a special thank you to Allstate for their donation of

materials to the apprenticeship program.

We also would like to thank Empire Refractory for allowing us to use their facility for the Chartek training class.

Lastly, thank you to **Doug Rogers, Will Rogers, Robert Colton, Bob Horn** and **Richard Ruffier** for their help with the Chartek and apprenticeship fireproofing classes.

Your dedication to Local 3 and the trade is greatly appreciated.

### STEWARD TRAINING



To anyone interested in getting a steward certification: Myself, along with other field reps, have recently participated in training that allows us to teach steward classes.

Becoming a steward has the added benefit of financial assistance in union dues and allows you to give back and play a greater role in your union.

If you have any questions about how this works or how to enroll in training, please contact me.

### DUES REMINDER



All our members are important and appreciated. It ruins our day, as well as yours, to have to charge you a \$70 reinstatement fee for failure to pay your dues. Please take this as a friendly

reminder. If you become three months behind in payment of your dues you will be automatically dropped from the membership.

If this happens, it can become costly for you and your family. Not only do you have to pay the reinstatement fee, but you can jeopardize your health insurance as well.

If you allow your membership to drop, the funds office will be notified and your benefits can be suspended.

As we all know, health insurance is important and its need is always unexpected.

You do not want to risk losing your insurance over something as simple as paying your dues.

Furthermore, if you are not a member, most Field Representatives will not refer you to a job site, so letting your membership drop could cost you a job as well.

Because we like to make it as easy as possible, dues can be paid in several ways: Mail them to the District Council office at 8497 Leavitt Road, Amherst, OH 44001, or pay them on a credit card by calling 1-800-442-0479.

### IN CLOSING

If you have had any changes in phone number, address, marital status, etc.,

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

please contact me and let me know.

It is important that I have updated information so that I can help you as efficiently as possible.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our regular meetings on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Not only will your attendance keep you updated in matters of business, but it is your opportunity to voice your opinions and concerns, as well as a great time to meet your fellow members. ■

## LOCAL 5 EAST



Cleveland,  
Ohio

Russel Smith

Work could be better in the Eastern Region of Cuyahoga County. Although the winter was not too bad, work is delayed until it's gone completely. Spring will start off strong, that is whenever spring really gets here.

The statement I keep getting from our contractors is, "It will start in April."

Let's all keep our fingers crossed and see what April brings.

Upcoming work that will start when spring arrives is also looking great!

It includes: Forest City Square Mixed Use Development, William Rainey Harper Pre-K – 8, Sunbeam Pre-K – 8, Fullerton Pre-K -8, Perry Pre-K – 8, St. Martin De Porres High School Addition, Citizen Academy Breakthrough School, Centric Apartment Building, W. 117th Piers, RTA Brick Wall Re- Build and CVS.

## NEW BEGINNINGS

I was offered a job with the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. I accepted the offer and I will be a Field Representative for the International Union covering the North Central Region.

I'm putting this together thinking that when I first entered this trade, I never imagined being able to move up in this union.

We all come to work and do our best

each and every day. We give an honest day's work, for an honest day's pay!

I plan to continue to fight the battle just on a different level. I will always stay involved and committed to Local 5. I plan on keeping in touch with everyone.

I must thank **Ken Kudela** and **Dave Wondolowski** for even allowing me the opportunity to become a Field Rep for this Local.

I thank all the OH-KY ADC Family, Field Reps (retired and current), the Local 5 Executive Board, **Fred Hubbard, Tom Nagy, Vince Isaac** and **Dan Zavagno** for the wealth of knowledge that was shared with me.

I also would like to thank **Bob Zavagno** and his Dad for allowing me to start my Union career with Cleveland Marble.

I want to thank all the membership for keeping this Union strong and relevant.

I hope I left this Union Hall a bit better than when I came.

Thank you all, God Bless. ■

## LOCAL 5 WEST



Cleveland,  
Ohio

Dave Dabrowski

I would like to take this time to congratulate **Russel Smith** on his promotion to International Union Regional Representative. This is a great opportunity for Russel, as well as Local 5, and I have no doubt that he will do as outstanding a job in this position as he did as the East Side Field Representative.

As a result of this move, I will be moving over to the East Side of Local 5 and become the East Side Field Representative, starting in April. I am looking forward to this move and should become familiar with the area in a short amount of time.

## BACK TO WORK



I can tell from the phone calls I have been receiving, our members are eager to get

back to work.

The West Side is a little slow right now, but there are many projects that are either bidding or waiting to be awarded at this time. I am hopeful that things will start picking up soon.

There are sizable projects in the area that are looking to start this year, including some of the schools that passed levies last fall.

So, the work outlook for this year, not only on the West Side but for all of Local 5, looks to be promising.

I encourage all members to attend the monthly Local 5 meetings on the third Wednesday of every month for updates on these projects.

If you haven't already done so, start contacting contractors regarding employment. We have a contractors list at the Local 5 office if you are in need of one.

## SHARING OUR UNION PERSPECTIVE

Local 5 member and apprentice, Vitaliy Kusmiy, recently returned from a trip to the country of Georgia with the American Solidarity Center.

Vitaliy was contacted by the American Solidarity Center to join a union member from Columbus, OH and a school representative to travel for one week in Georgia, where they met with workers from various manufacturing industries, railroad workers, women entrepreneurs and youth groups.

The purpose was to share what being a Union member is all about, not only in Ohio but the United States.

Vitaliy's report can be seen in this edition of The Benchmark, and the full report will be on the District Council's website.

Local 5 is very proud of Vitaliy and his representation of our Local. Great job!

## CONDOLENCES



I am saddened to say that we lost member **Angelo Agresti** recently after his fight with cancer.

Angelo was 50 years old, and a 30-year member of Local 5.

Our sympathies go out to his family.

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

## DUES REMINDER



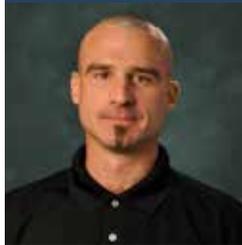
Please remember to keep your monthly dues and your drug card current. If you are dropped for non-payment of your monthly dues, you are no longer a member in good standing, which will affect your health and welfare coverage.

## IN CLOSING

Lastly, be safe and aware of your surroundings while on the job site.

Your family and loved ones need you home safely at the end of the day. ■

## LOCAL 6



Canton,  
Ohio

Justin Gartrell

Fellow Brothers, things are looking promising for Local 6 as we start into 2017.

Many of our members were employed

right through the mild winter that we had. Those of you that are off, please be ready for the call.

I encourage everyone to make sure that you have your OSHA 10 Card and your Drug Free Card. Most projects require both.

Do not miss an opportunity to work because you do not have these. Anyone in need of the OSHA 10 Hour Training can go online to [careersafeonline.com](http://careersafeonline.com) to get the training. The cost is \$25.

You can do this at your leisure. Make sure that you take the Construction Industry Training, not General Industry Training.

If you are a member in good standing and need your Drug-Free Card, call me. I will get you scheduled to have it done.

## WORK OUTLOOK



Most of our contractors have a full slate for this year with plenty of jobs still coming out for bid.

Contractors, and jobs that they have secured as of right now, are as follows:

**Valentine Contractors** has all the masonry work at the Hall of Fame (South Stadium), Stark County Jail Addition and The Massillon Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**Ameriseal** has Massillon Waste Water

Treatment Plant, Hall of Fame, McKinley Monument and Lake Elementary.

**Rohr Masonry** has Lake High School Addition and Renovation, Navarre Water Treatment Plant, and the First North Building.

**Sidley Precast** has a couple of members working at the Hall of Fame.

**Lencyk Masonry** has Lake Elementary School.

**Coon Caulking and Restoration** has work continuing on the Hercules Building and various other smaller projects in our jurisdiction.

**TDR Builders** has some brick work at St. Paul's in North Canton and a couple of other small projects.

**Stanley Miller Construction** has the Marcs Store and Alliance Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**Masonry Contracting Corporation (MCC)** was awarded the masonry at Kent Stark Fine Arts.

**C.R. Holles Masonry** has the Global Training Center at Walsh.

**Kapton Caulking** will also have a couple of our members employed at the Hall of Fame.

Carrollton School should be coming out for bid sometime in the spring. Dover City School is also moving forward. I have been told that Hammond will be the



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 6

From left to right: President Steve Stanojevic, 50-year member Larry Blaz, Recording Secretary Dave Ertle, Vice-President Josh Moss, and Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Fether.

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

Construction Manager on this job.

I will continue to keep you updated as I learn more.

## RECOGNITION



Local 6 would like to thank **Larry A. Blaz** for his now more than 50 years of dedicated service to the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.

Larry is a third-generation Bricklayer. He has a son (**Dustin Blaz**) who is also a member of Local 6, making him a fourth-generation. That's a lot of years!

On a personal note, I had the privilege to work for Larry years ago. I still recall how well-orchestrated his jobsite was. Everything seemed to fall right in place.

This was no accident, Larry made it happen. His professionalism and dedication to the Union and the contractors will always be respected and admired in Local 6.

## IN CLOSING

Always be aware of your surroundings regardless of how routine you think your job is.

Safety should be a priority for every one on the job. ■

## LOCAL 7 OH



**Akron,  
Ohio**

Noah Carmichael

Hello Brothers and Sisters: I hope that you are all doing well.

After a brief February tease of spring, March brought us cold temperatures, snow and ice.

A few jobs have been muddling through the winter, with members working when the weather permits.

However, the work outlook for the spring looks very promising.

Meincorp will be starting the veneer on Case Elementary, and Lencyk will be starting ditch work at Ellet High School soon.

It looks like Crowe will probably be doing the masonry on the Woodridge High School addition and new Elementary School.

Wischt will start back at the Children's Hospital Ronald McDonald project, and also will be doing the Streetsboro Middle School project.

Upcoming projects being bid include: Stark State College, Children's Hospital Considine Building, Summa Hospital and Akron General Emergency room addition.

If everything goes well, it should be a good year for work in the area.

As always, if you want more information about each specific project, please attend the monthly union meeting.

## DRUG SCREENING

I have recently noticed a trend in missed appointments for random drug screens and annual testing.

I know everyone is busy and a lot of us are just throwing mail out inadvertently without really looking at it. I am guilty of this too.

However, if you receive a letter from Mobile Medical Corporation, please open it and read it carefully. It will either be a notice that your annual drug screen is due, or it will notify you of a random test.

You must take the test prior to the date listed, or it automatically fails!

If you receive a notice, call me, Mobile Medical at 440-895-8358 or visit their website facility locator at: <http://mobmed.com/> to schedule a test.

Don't let this simple task hold up your paycheck!

## LOCAL PENSION

There have been a lot of questions concerning the Local 7 pension fund, and there has also been a lot of speculation.

While there isn't enough space in this publishing to explain everything that is going on, there are a few ways to get the facts.

Here is a link to a lot of useful information on the Local 7 Rescue plan website: <http://www.bricklayers7rescue.com/>.

There is a frequently asked questions portion of the site, as well as a link to contact someone if you have further questions.

I would also like to take a moment to

thank the pension trustees for all of their hard work and effort.

Being a trustee is often a thankless task, but I would like to recognize your efforts, and offer our appreciation.

## LOCAL MEETING



The next union meeting will be on April 10 at 7 p.m.

We have a raise coming up in June and the negotiating committee will discuss the upcoming wage allocation with the body.

It would also be a good time to discuss upcoming work and connect with your fellow union members. Hope to see you all there!

## ORGANIZING UPDATE

This year looks like a good opportunity to get some former members and new craftworkers into Local 7.

If you know anyone who is a good Bricklayer, PCC, Tile Setter, or Stone Mason, have them contact me.

I will be doing some recruiting on my own, but if you come across anyone looking to get a raise from what the non-union is paying, send them to the Local union office.

Most importantly, if you know of any hard-working young men or women who are interested in serving an apprenticeship, have them contact the office at 330-253-5173, or send me an email at [ncarmichael@oadc.net](mailto:ncarmichael@oadc.net).

Thanks for the help, and remember, we are all organizers!

## GET WELL SOON

We would like to extend a special greeting and best wishes to former Business Agent, and Life Member of Local 7; Brother **Dan Collins**.

We hope you feel better and look forward to seeing you at a meeting real soon. Thanks for all your dedication and continuous involvement Brother Collins!

## IN CLOSING

I am looking forward to this working season, and I hope you and your families have a prosperous and healthy start to the year!

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

In my usual fashion, I will leave you with a quote, as food for thought:

*“With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men (and women) that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the human race, for the developing of character in men (and women) than any other association.”* – Clarence Darrow

I believe the reason that unions have done so much, is because they are made by, of, and, for the people. And you are the people. ■

## LOCAL 7 KY



**Ashland,  
Kentucky**

**Richard “Willie”  
Moon**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters: Spring is upon us, once again, and the cold weather will soon be behind us, with plenty of work on the books or soon to start.

The new control room at Marathon will be set to start sometime in April, and work is still going on at Boyd County Junior High. There will be an increase in manpower on this project in the coming weeks, with Paul Blazer High School and ACTC soon to start as well.

The Pikeville Medical Center may be pushed back a month or two, but is still a go. Bids are still out on other work, with more projects to bid as well.

Apache is still performing the fireproofing and maintenance at Marathon.

## BE WORK READY



I encourage everyone to check their drug and OSHA 10 cards to see if they need updating. Most projects that you are called out for will require these cards.

If your cards are not current, please contact the Union Hall at 606-327-5411 so we can get everyone updated as soon as possible.

## CONDOLENCES



I would like for everyone to keep the Griffith family in their thoughts and prayers.

We lost Brother **Brian Griffith** in March. The Griffith family has a rich history in BAC Local 7 KY.

Brian will be missed by many.

## IN CLOSING

Remember, “safety isn’t expensive, its priceless.”

Continue to be vigilant about safety on and off the job. ■



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 7 KY

Union Brothers Michael Tussey (left) and Carmen Moon (right), volunteering on the dugouts at the new Senior League Baseball Field in Boyd County, Ky.

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS



Local 8 Member Rickey Bell working on installing a door frame as Construction Manager Wayne Dabelko assists at Quinby Park.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 8

President Kurtz swears in Justin Umholtz as an apprentice bricklayer at the Local 8 March Meeting.

## LOCAL 8



Youngstown,  
Ohio

Brian Collier

Greetings Brothers and Sisters: Many of our members have gotten a good start on the work year as the winter weather has been accommodating.

Projects that were not finished in the fall are under way again and new projects have started as well.

### PROJECT STATUS



A.O. Construction and Restoration is working on exterior and foundation renovations on the Old Stambaugh Building being converted into a Double Tree Hotel in Downtown Youngstown.

DeSalvo Construction has resumed work at Marion Commons in Youngstown as the framing is complete with an early start on the veneer of brick, manufactured stone and cultured stone, which was to begin in the spring.

DeSalvo is also the low bidder on the masonry for Champion K-8 School.

KC Kraft Masonry has done more work in the form of a loading dock at the new Barnes and Noble book store on the YSU Campus, which will be a nice brick job soon.

Lencyk Masonry is working on OUPS in North Jackson, Cardinal Fire Station and Canfield Acres in Canfield, Tiffany Plaza in Boardman, and Elmwood Assisted Living in Hubbard, with work left to do at the Youngstown City Annex. They will soon start University Edge Apartments at YSU and the Boardman Fire Station.

Tervo Masonry is still working steady on the Niles Water Treatment Plant.

Villano Construction should start foundations on Lakeview School in Cortland soon.

### SPECIAL THANKS



Thank you to **Rickey Bell** for helping cut in two handicap

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

accessible doorways and setting door frames on the shelter house at Quinby Park on the West Side of Warren.

Rickey donated two Saturdays of his time working in February on the Warren Neighborhood Initiative, an organization dedicated to renovating and preserving neighborhoods throughout the city.

## STEWARD ROUND TABLE



On March 10, **Dan Musacchio**, Field Representative for Local 16 Mentor, brought nine of his local members to meet with 14 Local 8 members for a Steward Round Table Discussion.

The meeting consisted of an interactive discussion prompted by Dan as he led the group through everything from familiarization with our Local Collective Bargaining Agreements, to scenarios accompanied by steward experiences, to finally discussing how to deal with serious labor relation situations that arise on job sites.

Having personally been a steward and union officer for over 20 years I was surprised and humbled to find situations described where I really had to think before I reacted.

As Dan and the Steward Group make

their way to the Locals throughout our District Council, I encourage dedicated stewards and members to attend and participate.

Dan does a first-class job. The fellowship alone made it worthwhile.

Thank you to all who participated.

## DIRTY SANDWICHES, NOT AN APPETIZING THOUGHT

A few months ago I heard an interesting phrase used by the former President of the Western Reserve Building Trades Council, Don Crane.

*Continued on page 12.*



Dan Musacchio speaks to the Steward Round Table Group at Local 8.



Group photo from the Steward Round Table Discussion at Local 8.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 8

# Apprentice sees worker struggles in country of Georgia

During the last week of February, third-year apprentice Vitaliy Kusmiy attended a week-long conference to discuss workers' rights and union organizing in the county of Georgia. The following is an edited version of his report on the experience.

To read his entire recap of his trip, visit the OH-KY ADC website blog or use the following link: <http://wp.me/p4SbmR-yB>



**Kusmiy**

My name is Vitaliy Kusmiy, I am a third-year Bricklayer apprentice with Local 5. I was invited by the American Solidarity Center to participate in a week-long conference to

see the plight of workers in the country of Georgia and discuss the importance of unions and workers' rights.

During the trip, we visited many cities, including Tbilisi, Chiatura, Zestafoni, Kutaisi, Batumi and Tkibuli.

The conference was led by the American Solidarity Center. Our first stop was a meeting with the Georgian Trade Unions Confederation (GTUC) Youth Activists.

The purpose of the GTUC is to bring awareness to the rights of workers, equality and safe work environments.

The GTUC has been using social media, including YouTube and



The Country of Georgia is located just east of the Black Sea, in between the countries of Russia and Turkey. Georgia declared its independence in 1991, in the early stages of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Facebook to expand their brand to change perceptions.

The Youth GTUC (YGTUC) is growing through word of mouth and protest rallies. They are trying to expand, providing training and seminars to grow their membership.

The last demonstration they had dealt with the issue of employers not allowing gas station attendants to sit while at work. For six days, demonstrators placed plastic lawn chairs at gas stations and held signs to make the point that attendants should be allowed to sit.

## UNION BUSTING TACTICS

At our next stop, we met with union members that work at the Ksani Glass

Manufacturing Factory.

Here we learned that union leaders and union employees were not being treated the same as non-union employees.

The union leaders could only receive promotions if they agreed to leave the union. Also, only non-union employees received bonuses.

Another way this company and many others have tried to dissolve the union is through mass-layoffs. When union membership reaches around 40 percent, the company conducts layoffs focused on union employees

Despite these tactics, this union is in the process of negotiating a collective bargaining agreement to create fair policies for all employees.

## ROUGH WORKING CONDITIONS

We next met with activists of the Georgian Railway Workers New Trade Union. This union organization has held several strikes over the years in an effort to improve working conditions and compensation including overtime, raises and bonuses.

We also met with members of the Chiatura miners' union.

These miners had the roughest working conditions out of all the groups we met.

They work a 12-hour shift with no breaks for a week or two, and then they get a week off.

During the work weeks, they do not get to go home. They are required to



Ksani Glass Manufacturing Factory, where Georgian union members face constant discrimination and mass-layoffs.



A nighttime view of a tower in Batumi, the second largest city in Georgia



Despite unfair labor tactics, union workers in the Ksani Glass Manufacturing Factory are in the process of negotiating a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

sleep at company housing compounds on site.

These compounds house up to 60 employees each, have poor sanitation conditions including just one bathroom.

They have no first aid or medical staff on hand if someone gets hurt. Workers can die from an infected injury combined with improper treatment and care.

The miners barely make enough to get by, and they live in fear of losing their jobs because there are few other employment options in the area as mining is the primary industry in Chiatura.

## ON TO ZESTAFONI

We then went to the city of Zestafoni, to meet with the Metallurgy, Mining and Chemical Industry Workers Trade Union.

This group does the refining process from the mines and is owned by an American company (Georgian American Alloys, registered in Miami).

Despite being an American company, their working conditions and wages are not enough to make a proper living.

The primary reason these unions lose members is the threat of losing their jobs. Union members are discriminated and easily fired.

## NEW, STRUGGLING UNION

The union representing a mining group in the city of Tkibuli is fairly new and lacks the mechanisms and organizational skills to be effective at the moment.

Among their problems is the fact they do not have a system in place to keep track of union members, or why members may have left.

They are currently working on electing their leaders, but they really need help with training.

However, they are lucky that the current manager of the mining company is from Germany and he comes from a background of working with unions. He is encouraging these employees to form a union, and there is currently no opposition from the company.

Besides challenges with forming unions, these miners are working in unsafe environments. There are no safety organizations or regulations in place here.

Employers do not provide the proper equipment or materials to build proper shoring for the tunnels, and many employees have died. Each week several more employees are injured due to these poor working conditions.

## SLOW JUSTICE

Our next stop was a meeting with leadership and activists of the Ajara Trade Union Federation. This organization meets with workers to learn about workplace issues and then helps develop strategies to solve these problems.

This can include brochures and informational pamphlets to hand out to other workers highlighting the

workplace issues.

This group also offers legal aid to workers that have been wrongfully terminated. Unfortunately, this process can take up to three years before a verdict is reached.

And during that time, the terminated employee has nothing on which to live. There is no system to provide unemployment benefits.

## TRIP IN REVIEW

In conclusion, this trip illustrated some of the major injustices workers face in the country of Georgia, especially those that join unions.

The government plays a huge role in keeping the unions ineffective. This not only hurts the union members but the whole workforce.

These individuals are discriminated against for being in a union and face the possibility of losing their jobs.

The government is more concerned about investors coming into the country than they are concerned about the working conditions of its own people.

On top of those problems, there are no safety organizations or regulations to protect workers.

I returned home thinking that we, as union members, need to be more involved with politics. We need to pay close attention to who gets elected and what he or she stands for, because it impacts not only union members but the entire workforce in our global economy. ■

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

The phrase was “Dirty Sandwiches.”

It came up while discussing the coffee and lunch breaks we take as union craft workers.

I don't think anybody found it to be an appetizing thought.

He was referring to taking a break with a sandwich in one hand and a tool in the other.

When Don elaborated about what he meant, he was basically making the point that he did not want to see conditions long worked for and fought for by the labor movement simply disappear.

I realize that many of our members, those who finish cement for example, cannot always take a break at an appointed time because of the nature of the material they are working with.

However, I would hate to see members, for example, voluntarily giving up 20 minutes of their lunch in return for an early quit to then be rewarded by supervision throwing a batch of mortar in the mixer at the last minute and using guilt to cheat them out of the reward they were supposed to get in the first place.

I would have to say that union members in the past must have had good reason to set times and time frames on our breaks.

Please remember, union members fought and even died for the conditions we have today.

## IN CLOSING

Thank you, BAC Members, for your continued strength and support!

Let us work together to keep a good standard of living and working conditions for our families. ■

## LOCALS 9, 10, 44 & 52



East  
Liverpool,  
Ohio

Don Mays

As we move into spring, we are living and learning and hopefully working, or soon to be, under many political changes.

I hope the feared damage to our rights in the work place and our ability to make a living wage are not reality. I hope we can continue to improve instead.

I try not to be skeptical as I watch and listen to the new political leaders we chose as a nation. I'll be honest, it's hard.

I am hearing continuous attacks in the media, bills introduced and the usual reversal on campaign promises mostly targeting, attacking or at least negatively impacting working people, (us).

We, the District Council Staff, dig in each day to fight for us and ours, looking for opportunities to improve our conditions, increase our work opportunities and wages, preserve our benefits and make our apprenticeship and training both available and of the highest quality.

I look in the mirror and remind myself what we are fighting for when I am feeling a little beat down. The little self-sermons help to stay on track.

I think many of us do this in some form. We have to, as we feel the mileage of our years of hard work.

When I drive through the communities in these four Locals I represent, I look at the masonry structures throughout history, the craftsmanship and the members I didn't get to know.

I see these buildings and I start to lose the beat-up feelings and discouragement.

It again becomes clear that we are representing professionals. I get a sense of pride as I believe I could predict accurately the masonry, tile, terrazzo and restoration from the hands of professionals, you, our members.

Sometimes we forget we are the best trained and highest skilled in our field. Sometimes we forget we are professionals.

I see the work and talk to you, and it refuels me to keep moving forward.

This OH-KY ADC staff keeps moving forward and I am proud of the efforts and professionalism that this staff operates by every day.

As most of you know we have many new representatives and I appreciate those that have stepped up to represent and fight and to learn and improve their skills in a job that is quite different from what they are used too and most believe it to be.

We have staff communication, now District Council wide beyond any time since its inception.

I have not witnessed this since my first

experience as a Local 10 representative in 1992.

We have two regional training centers that many have yet to see.

When you do, you too will feel the pride in what has been accomplished in our apprenticeship training, Journey person upgrade and cross training and training facilities.

We are gearing up, not looking down.

We are looking at changes that need to be made and making them.

We are marketing ourselves better than I can remember since I became a BAC member.

We are recruiting new contractors. We are recruiting new contractors from within our membership.

We have members with the business mind, the skills and the want.

If you are interested, we want to help you become one of our partnered employers.

To you the members, keep representing as the professionals you are and we will never give up representing this union, District Council, and our membership.

## CONDOLENCES



Locals 44, 9, and 10 have lost some valued members.

**Paul Theisen**, of Local 44, passed away Jan. 5. Paul became a member in October 1964.

**John Eltringham**, of Local 44, passed away Feb. 8. John became a member in April 1956.

**George Kleevic Jr.**, of Local 9, passed away in August 2016. He became a member in August 1950. I apologize to the Kleevic family as I did not share George's loss in the previous Benchmark.

**Elio Lerussi Sr.**, of Local 10, passed away Feb. 20. Elio became a member in December 1982. I enjoyed my conversations with Elio and had the pleasure to work with him.

All of these members will be missed and I hope we all keep and share their memories and the stories alive for current and future members.

## IN CLOSING

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

You can call me at the Office:

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

330-382-9600 or reach me on my mobile:  
330-571-5289. ■

## LOCAL 16



Mentor,  
Ohio

Dan Musacchio

Brothers and Sisters, the work outlook in the Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties continues to grow, with several significant projects slated for a spring start.

Members and new members alike will be needed to man the projects starting in the Local. Please reach out to those you know that are skilled in our craft and have them contact me.

The simple fact is if we don't have the bodies to perform the work, the word will spread and we will begin to see other trades performing new facade systems, leaving Masonry behind.

Expect to see a massive push to grow this membership from this Executive Board going forward. Our industry depends on it, as do our pensions.

As Journeymen, we owe it to those who came before us to take the time to teach our apprentices. Respectfully, this is, after all, a production driven business, but I refuse to accept that we cannot pause for a moment and teach when necessary.

All in all, it wasn't a terrible winter. Many of you worked almost completely through, and with spring approaching, I'd expect everyone will be back to work shortly.

With that being said, please take the time and get compliant in our drug program. Over the last few weeks several members lost work opportunities due to the fact they didn't have a current drug card.

Please call me if you need to get a test set up.

### BACKGROUND CHECKS

For those of you who do work at Crystal Millennium, the new owners have

instituted a background check policy to begin this summer.

It will be done through the Gatefeed system, just as the site-specific training has been recently.

For any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to call me and we can discuss the new policy in detail.

### NEGOTIATION PREP

I'd like to thank all the members and **Director Kudela** for attending our Negotiation Proposal Recommendation Meeting in February.

It's safe to say we are of one mind concerning the matters we see as most important. The negotiations will have begun by the time you are reading this, but rest assured your concerns were heard and will be negotiated to benefit this body.

### IN CLOSING

I'd like to congratulate Brother **Keith Hocevar** who has been promoted to the position I.U. Northeast Regional Director.

Also, congratulations to Brother **Russel Smith** who will replace Keith as I.U. Regional Representative.

This is a tremendous example of the leadership we have with the District Council.

When positions need to be filled at the International level out of the entire country, they chose two from the OH-KY ADC.

We need to wear that like a badge of honor. I have no doubt both of these gentlemen will make us proud.

Work safely, look out for one another in the field and get involved with your Union. ■

## LOCAL 18 NORTH



Cincinnati,  
Ohio

Brian D. Wear

Greetings Brothers and Sisters, the mild winter has provided us better than expected work hours.

With those work hours and conditions have come a few incidents that have yielded significant injuries to three of our union Brothers.

I cannot stress the importance and awareness of working safe.

I know it is easy for me to tell you this, and it sounds like a great idea. But let's face it, we all know there are obstacles in the way, too.

It can be a stubborn, stressed-out Foreman, the contractor, other coworkers or just the job itself.

All these things can be addressed and handled. We all need to go home safe and in one piece to the families that we are supporting.

I ask all of you to take the time needed to look at what you are doing. Is the foot run safe? Is the scaffold tied? Is the walk plank split?

These are all contributing factors that can do us in. No one wants to get hurt, none of the contractors want injured workers.

This has to be a team effort.

### STEWARD TRAINING



Training for Union stewards is going to start up again in Local 18.

This is something that will benefit everyone in the union. Trained competent stewards handle situations and get results.

I need your help in making this happen. Please sign up and take the class, even if you are not currently interested in performing the duties.

You can gain from the training through understanding the process of resolution and collective bargaining.

We need members to step up. Your union will not exist without you.

Shoot me a text or a call to let me know your interest.

### IMPORTANT MEETING



The current collective bargaining agreement for Local 18 is set to expire June 1.

It's possible you will get this newsletter before our April union meeting, which is when we will have our typical wish list meeting.

This happens on April 17. A mailing

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

will be sent with that information.

Also, in case you have not heard, the new sweatshirts are in. They look nice.

Please make it a point to stop by the Hall and pick them up.

I cannot hit every job like Santa Clause and deliver.

You can pick them up after work, or here's an idea, pick them up at a union meeting.

## WORK STATUS



The 2017 work load is looking busy. Many of the contractors have work on the books well into the coming year.

This is an updated list of projects that will be keeping our Local busy:

Ballyshannon Middle School in Boone Co. Ky., Weisbrod; Miami University Dorms (2), Weisbrod; Blue Ash Park, Jess Hauer; Williamstown WWTP; Flach Brothers; GE Evendale Mechanical Power Station, Jess Hauer; Campbell Co. Athletics Field, Weisbrod; Cincinnati Library Restoration, American Façade; Various Hamilton County Repairs, American Façade; Middletown Schools, Weisbrod Masonry; UC Shoemaker Center, Jewish Hospital, Jim Hauer Masonry; Berry Elementary, Hummel and Houston Brothers; Duke Energy at Dana, American Façade. ■

## LOCAL 18 SOUTH



**Cincinnati,  
Ohio**

**Jeff King**

Spring has arrived, and with the days getting longer we find ourselves having renewed energy.

Winter was relatively mild in our area, but Mother Nature sure did make her presence felt in the last couple of weeks.

Whether the winter is mild or severe, it is always refreshing to see things green up and spring flowers blooming.

The work outlook in the area looks very promising for the remainder of the year, and with having a mild winter, some

of our restoration contractors have gotten an early start on their projects.

## BE WORK READY

With work being busy in the area I want to encourage everyone to be "work ready" when you get the call. That includes:

1. Have a current drug screen.
2. Make sure you have an OSHA 10-hour card.

It is our job as union trades people to be ready to go to work when that phone rings.

Part of the BAC Code of Conduct reads: "I will come to work on time prepared to give my employer a fair day's work for a fair wage, and will work to the highest standards."

Historically, there has always been a difference between quality of work and degree of professionalism that a union tradesperson presents compared to his non-union counterpart.

We as union members need to continue to hold ourselves to the highest standards of our trade.

## SAFETY REMINDER



Unfortunately, we have had a couple accidents where our members have been hurt on the job.

This is something that you never want to have to report, however, it should be a reminder to everyone as to how dangerous our jobs can be.

We are all responsible for job safety. We need to partner with our employers to make sure we create the safest worksite conditions possible.

Please lookout for yourself and your Brothers and Sisters, and report any unsafe conditions.

We wish a speedy recovery to our injured members and hope to see them return to work soon.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

## ORGANIZING UPDATE

We need more people!

Man-hours are up, but our membership numbers have not significantly changed. We are reaching out to high schools and job fairs to recruit, but we really need your help!

Do you know someone interested in joining? Please contact a Field Rep.

We are accepting applications for a pre-apprentice program.

## NEED HELP?

If you have a drug or alcohol problem, or if you could benefit from counseling, the International has a Membership Assistance Program.

Please call 1-888-880-8222 to find out what services they offer. Help is just a phone call away.

## IN CLOSING

Have a safe and healthy spring! ■

## LOCAL 22



**Dayton,  
Ohio**

**Shawn Herzog**

Brothers and Sisters: Another winter has passed. As far as the work goes, it was a much slower winter than the previous year.

But spring looks to be promising with the work that contractors have landed.

The big projects include the remainder of the Urbana High School, and the start of the Urbana Pre-K – 8 School, which should start in April.

Local 22 members could possibly be performing the work on the Pre-K – 12 Northridge School that should also start in April.

## CONTRACT STATUS



For your information, the Local 22 Brick and PCC contract expires May 31.

Negotiations for the contract should begin within the next month.

## CONDOLENCES



Local 22 Executive Board and Members would like to send condolences to the families of **John Robert Murphy, Jerry Chaney** and **Michael**

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

**Finster**, for the loss of their loved ones.  
May our thoughts and prayers be with them.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Don't forget the date: Aug. 19, at noon. That's when the annual BAC Local 22 picnic will take place at the Polish Picnic Grounds on Needmore Road.

I Hope all members and their families can come out and enjoy some food and drinks.

## LOCAL 36



Cleveland,  
Ohio

Matt Neeson

Hello Brothers and Sisters: As we approach spring, the jobs have started to pick up.

The mild winter has provided some extra hours across the BAC Trades. This

is good news for us, as it has kick started the 2017 work season. Lots of jobs have been able to move ahead at a faster pace.

If you look around, you'll see more construction going on in Cleveland and surrounding areas, putting us in a position to step up and handle it.

That's what we have been doing with four new contractors to work for and an additional 30 new members. We are answering the call.

Of the 30 new members, seven are apprentices. Let's show them how to be productive members and welcome them into the work force.

We must show them the way, as we have many journeymen retiring or about to retire.

We will fill these voids with young new talent. If you run into any of our new members, take them under your wing and help make us a union that can't be stopped.

## TRAINING REMINDER



With our new training center complete, we will now have an up-to-date, state-of-the-art facility to help develop our new talent. And what a center it is!

With lots of space for all BAC Trades to learn and grow, it's nice to see that the BAC

is providing us the best available training around.

We must take advantage of all that is offered, which includes journeymen upgrades, cross training, Steward classes, foreman training, ACT certifications and more.

There are many things to help keep you working. The more you can do, the more you work. As members of the BAC, we don't just do tile. Don't be complacent, learn to grow.

Ask me if you need help. I will point you in the right direction.

Together we can do anything, and we will continue to grow and be stronger.

## WATCHING THE LEGISLATORS



The fight is still on. Don't forget, ever! There are still people who would like to see the working class beat down by placing Prevailing Wage under attack.

State Sen. Matt Huffman, a Republican from Lima, introduced a bill on Feb. 27 to make Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law optional for municipalities. If Huffman's bill passes, municipalities will no longer be required to go with the lowest and best bid, but just the lowest bid.

This would result in a sub-standard

**SAFE JOBS EVERY WORKER'S RIGHT**

**APRIL 28**

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

quality of work that will cost more in the long run. You know we like to get it done right the first time!

You know what they say, "if you lay it right the first time, you can walk all over it for life!"

## SAFETY REMINDER



With that being said, remember to work safely. We all want to go home the way we showed up (in one piece).

Our loved ones are counting on us to provide.

Don't let your guard down; safety is #1.

It's up to you to make sure you are working in a safe environment.

## BEST OF LUCK



I would also like to congratulate one of our BAC members, former Field Representative

**Russel Smith.**

He has been promoted to the International level as an IU Rep. for the North Central Region.

That makes two Ohio members to make it to that level. It just shows the quality and strength of our Ohio tradesmen.

Russell moved up the ranks as a marble mason to become a Field Rep. for Local 5 Bricklayers, now to the International.

We are all proud to have worked and known Russel.

I'm sure he will make his mark as he moves to make us a stronger union.

Congratulations Russel! ■

## LOCALS 39 & 45



**Portsmouth,  
Ohio**

**Heath "Luke"  
Henry**

Brothers and Sisters, spring is here and promises to bring longer days, warmer weather and more work opportunities for us and our contractors!

Work is finishing up at the Washington Twp. Fire Station. We were able to

keep some members on this project off and on throughout the winter as weather permitted.

The Township Trustees are very pleased with the hard work and craftsmanship that our members displayed.

Flour was granted the maintenance contract at Suncoke Energy in Franklin Furnace.

They took over for CB&I on March 6. Employees from all crafts remain the same and they are looking to expand that workforce in the future.

Hopefully that means more of our members as well.

Fosbel continues to do the ceramic welding and other refractory repairs at Suncoke. They have really picked up in the last couple of years, as the coke batteries have aged, they have required more repairs, which has increased the work opportunities for us.

## UPCOMING WORK



ARC has the AEP project in Lucasville, which should start soon.

Central Masonry has the SOMC Medical Center in Wheelersburg that will start sometime in the summer.

Advanced Building Restoration has been awarded some more work at the Riverview Retirement Center.

We have contractors bidding work at Glatfelter in Chillicothe, Miami Trace Schools, Chillicothe City Schools, Adena Medical Center in Chillicothe and several other smaller projects.

Hopefully our union contractors are successful in their bidding. If they are, it will be a busy year for us.

## REMINDERS



Please be sure you have an OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 card. Some contractors are now requiring these to be no older than three years.

If you have lost your card or want to get it updated, please get ahold of me and we will make arrangements to do so.

Also, check your drug card and be sure that it is current. If not, I have the papers required for you to go take a drug test.

Please contact me and I will get these papers to you. It takes three to five days

for the results to get back to the LEAD office, so it's best to have this done before you get the call to go to work.

Regarding dues, I know that it can be easy to forget to pay our monthly dues. A lot of us pay by phone and our cards aren't always stamped, but if you call me I can check them for you.

## IN CLOSING



I know spring and summer are busy times for all of us. With work, kids, hobbies and yard work, it's hard to make every Union meeting.

But I encourage all of you to attend as many as you can.

Your attendance is vital to the strength of our union and your voice is crucial to its direction.

Local 39 meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Local 45 meets on the second Monday at 7.

I look forward to seeing all of you this summer.

Be safe at work, at home and in your travel to and from.

If you need anything, please feel free to call me anytime at 740-624-6027. ■

## LOCAL 40



**Mansfield,  
Ohio**

**Matthew R.  
McClester**

As we begin another season of Masonry Construction, we want to remind all members to remain vigilant when it comes to safety issues on the jobsite.

Next to farming, construction remains the most dangerous occupation. Several recent jobsite accidents emphasize the need for continuous attention to all safety hazards.

Local 40 members know firsthand the safety pitfalls of Mast Climbing Scaffold, particularly Bennu after suffering the loss of Brother Al Hildebrand in 2008.

Recently, a safety hazard often overlooked caused two brothers in another Local to fall approximately 40 feet. A

# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

scaffold outrigger mounted on tube scaffold failed, causing the walk plank to fall out underneath them.

We need to continue to take the time and effort to watch out for all safety hazards, and be responsible enough to pay attention during safety meetings. It may save your life or someone else's life someday.

## WORK STATUS



For the first time since the George W. Bush-era recession, we finally have a year starting out with a good amount of work on the heels of a mild winter where there was a decent amount of work.

With some work in the Local and the abundance of work in the surrounding Locals, it should be a year where the members can get some quality work hours.

If anyone knows an unorganized Bricklayer who would like to improve their wages and work conditions, have them contact one of our Local offices.

As we were taught in the old COMET classes, it strengthens our Union and weakens the ability of our competitors to bid work when we organize the masonry workforce in our area.

## UPCOMING TRAINING



There will be several activities in the Local to get involved in this spring and into the summer.

At our last Union meeting, the membership decided to host a Stewards Training Class. We have scheduled this Class for April 15, at the Local Union Hall in Mansfield.

This Class is a requirement of the District Council in order to have your monthly dues paid while working as a jobsite Steward, and must be updated every four years.

However, it is also an opportunity for all Members to learn more about their rights on a jobsite and gives them more knowledge on how to represent our membership on the jobsite.

We will follow the curriculum set forth by the IU, while focusing on the language of our Local CBA.

Any member is welcome to attend, even if you do not plan on being a steward anytime soon. Please contact the Local Office for registration.

## VOLUNTEER PROJECT

The following two Saturdays, April 22 and April 29, we are planning to work on the stone foundation and fireplace/chimney at the Log Cabin Volunteer Project, located in South Park in Mansfield.

We will have the privilege to work under the tutelage of Instructor Emeritus **Jim Brown**.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



The next two Local Union Meetings will be April 12, and May 10. Plan to attend and be active in your Local Union.

We serve refreshments at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Before the April meeting, the negotiating committee is scheduled to meet and allocate the June 1 wage increase.

As has been the case for the last several years, it comes down to how much of the increase we want to put into Health and Welfare.

Any member's input can be passed along to the negotiating committee. ■

## LOCALS 44 & 55



Columbus,  
Ohio

Bill Hulet Jr.

Hello fellow BAC members. Spring time is in the air. Time to get out and start the spring cleaning on your property. Open up the house and get some fresh air in and clean out some of the blahs and smells from the winter hibernation season.

It's always nice to get out and start doing the gardening, pruning, general yard cleanup and get the list of what needs done on the house.

Time to play catch with your children, take them to the park, watch them play games.

Time to get out and smell the fresh air and the new season of blooming flowers and trees.

Just remember to be safe, stretch

out before exercising and take care of yourself.

Think before you do things and think what the actions will be if you make a mistake or do something that is not safe and end up injuring yourself, your spouse, children, grandchildren, loved ones or even your neighbors or friends.

All of us have been through OSHA training at one point or another. We are all professionals on the jobsites in being safety oriented.

We need to be that same way at our home when doing work on our own homes.

At home, there is no workmen's compensation to help you out if you get injured.

You could be off work and lose wages and benefits; might have problems paying your bills; you might injure yourself so bad that you can no longer work, or even worse lose your life; or your actions could cause someone else's injuries, or even worse, their life.

Your loved ones will be better off with you taking your time and being safe than not being safe and possibly getting someone injured or killed with your actions.

Just think of what you might be teaching your kids that it is OK to be unsafe.

Just remember your actions speak louder than words to a little one that wants to be a mini-you, and do everything the same way you do, even if you think they are not watching, they could be from out of your sight.

We lost a fellow union member from the AFL-CIO this past December. He was on a ladder and reached over too far to change a light bulb on his house, lost his balance, fell and hit his head on the cement walkway.

He was in a coma for a several days before he passed away.

Think before you do things, and make sure that you are safe in doing them.

Rest in peace **Dave Caldwell**.

## WORK STATUS



Looks like winter started late, which was good to get some projects finished, but not that great for getting jobs starting out of the ground.

Looks like the work will be picking up in the area. If you are off, give me a call.

Remember to keep your dues paid up.

# ORGANIZED LABOR OF CENTRAL OHIO FAMILY NIGHT

CENTRAL OHIO LABOR COUNCIL



AFL CIO

with the



JOIN US ON

**SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2017**

**Clippers vs. Syracuse Chiefs - 7:15 PM**

**FIREWORKS AFTER THE GAME!**

*Gates open at 5:30 PM*

*Come early for HAPPY HOUR from 5:30 to 6:30 pm*

*in the Right Field Plaza.*

***This offer is good for 2 adults and up to 4 Children age 18 & younger OR 4 adults to Reserved Seating for a total of just \$20!***

***Seven (7) \$500 Meijer Gift Cards to be raffled throughout the evening!***

**SEE YOUR UNION REP TO PURCHASE THIS OFFER AND BRING YOUR FAMILY TO HUNTINGTON PARK!**

[www.clippersbaseball.com](http://www.clippersbaseball.com)



# BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

We cannot turn in your union verification if you are not current in the month that you are requesting verification.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month.

Due to the Labor Day Holiday falling on Sept. 4, September's Meeting will be held the following day on Sept. 5.

## RETIREEES' LUNCH



The retirees' Luncheons are held on the last Wednesday of each month, starting at 11 a.m., except in November (canceled) and December (moved to the middle of the month on that Wednesday).

The retirees' lunch fee has increased to \$5 per person for the year.

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME



The Organized Labor of Central Ohio Family Night with the Clippers will be July 22, versus the Syracuse Chiefs. The game starts at 7:15, with the gates open at 5:30 p.m.

There will be a Happy Hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and then fireworks after the game.

Local 55 members can call and reserve your vouchers now, and then come to the Union Hall to pick them up, starting June 5 at the regular monthly meeting.

Each voucher is good for two adults and four children under 18, or for four adults.

Let's all take a break from the daily grind and take time out to relax and take in a ball game with fireworks following the game. **See the poster on page 18 for more information.**

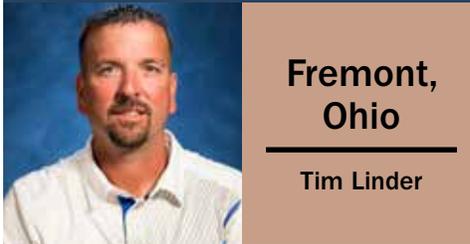
## IN CLOSING

In closing, remember, think before you act.

Someone loves you and wants you home safe every night.

All of us want everyone to come home safe and uninjured at the end of every day. ■

## LOCAL 46



Fremont,  
Ohio

Tim Linder

I just want to say to all our members that this has been a great winter for the construction industry! We have had great weather to be able to continue getting hours in for insurance premiums and pensions.

Due to the mild winter, it has been quiet at the Hall regarding members needing to file for unemployment.

As we get ready to gear up for spring, don't forget to make sure your dues are current.

For any of our members that want this time to be off, I strongly urge you to take advantage of the work that is available now, as it may not be there later.

Putting the hours in is the only way you will build your retirement.

The work forecast for 2017 is looking good with the work in the area.

We have many jobs set to begin within the next couple of months.

With that said, we need skilled craftworkers and apprentices to fill these jobs.

The work is there, it's new and experienced members that we need to get.

Keep in mind we need to welcome any new members we can get. We don't want them leaving to go work for the competition!

## MEETING REMINDER



As I do in almost every Benchmark, I want to remind everyone that we have monthly meetings that take place on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

## E-BOARD CHANGE

Since the last Benchmark, there has been a change in the E-Board.

**Steve Shively** has stepped down and the E-Board has nominated me to replace him until the next vote in November.

I would like to see more faces, old and new, at these meetings in the future so we can grow and be more effective as union members.

Just because everyone is working doesn't mean that we don't need to be active in our union meetings.

## STEWARD TRAINING



Recently, Field Reps. were trained to teach their own Steward Class so that they can, in turn, train their own members.

If you have not taken the class within the last four years, or if you are not sure how long it's been, contact me, as I have a recently updated list that I can refer to.

This training has many benefits to us, even if you are not interested in being a Steward.

It is still a nice tool to have so you at least understand your rights as a union member.

I am going to try to schedule a class to be held at the Hall sometime in April.

If interested, please call the Hall at 419-334-2454. I believe this is very important to all of you to take advantage of this training.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



On May 8, we will be having a retiree breakfast, starting at 9 a.m.

It will be held at the Hall, 1310 Siler St. in Fremont.

I will be sending a letter to the retirees with additional information. I feel we should change it up and have it at the Hall so we have ample parking and more room to visit with one another.

Hope to see you all there!

## SHARE CONTACT INFO



If I need to contact you, it is very important that I have your correct contact information.

Updates to your contact info such as mailing address and/or phone numbers need to be turned in to me at the Union Hall.

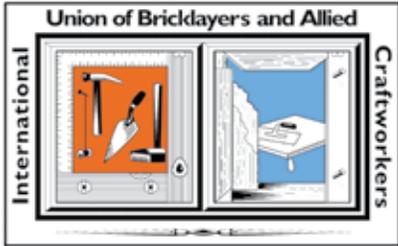
Also, make sure you contact the local Field Rep. in the area in which you are working to make sure you have a



**Ohio-Kentucky Administrative District Council**  
8497 Leavitt Rd.  
Amherst, OH 44001

Phone: 800-442-0479  
Email: oadc@oadc.net  
www.oh-kyadc.com

We are the B.A.C.  
Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers



## REPORTS

completed reciprocating form filled out.

This is the only way your funds will be sent back to your home Local so we can verify your contributions are distributed accurately.

### OSHA TRAINING



There is an upcoming job that will require a current OHSA card.

If you have not updated your training within the last three years, you will not be considered for employment on this job!

You can update your card online for a fee of \$25.

Visit the following website and be sure to select the construction training: [www.careersafeonline.com](http://www.careersafeonline.com).

### IN CLOSING

If you're looking for work, have changes to your contact information, have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me at the Hall.

Enjoy your spring and work safely! ■

## IN MEMORIAM

**Diedrich Garbers**, 3 OH

**William Hicks**, 3 OH

**Richard Johnson**, 3 OH

**Paul Jovanovic**, 3 OH

**Guillermo Quiroga**, 3 OH

**William Schick**, 3 OH

**Mark Thompson**, 3 OH

**Bernard Travers**, 3 OH

**Donald Vanderhorst**, 3 OH

**Angelo Agresti**, 5 OH

**Louis Bartolucci**, 5 OH

**Jonathan Colley**, 5 OH

**William Cowan**, 5 OH

**John Donovan Jr.**, 5 OH

**John Nemetz**, 5 OH

**Bernard Nofel**, 5 OH

**Terry Pros**, 5 OH

**Edward Stroberg**, 5 OH

**Peter Trissler**, 5 OH

**Joseph D. Volpe**, 5 OH

**Michael L. Scavelli**, 6 OH

**Don Black**, 7 OH

**David Kovacs**, 7 OH

**Roger C. Burns**, 8 OH

**Leon Chapman**, 16 OH

**Otto B. Stewart**, 18 OH

**Jerry D. Chaney**, 22 OH

**John R. Murphy**, 22 OH

**Joseph Irvin**, 40 OH

**Bill Rottman**, 40 OH

**Frank Baumbusch**, 44 OH

**John W. Eltringham**, 44 OH

**Paul E. Theisen**, 44 OH

**Frank Hamilton**, 55 OH

**Theodore J. Schenz**, 55 OH

**Emerson R. Smoot**, 55 OH