The last few weeks have been extremely busy at both the District Council Office and the Northern Training Center as we prepare for three different events that will all take place here on Oct. 21.

In addition to holding the Bi-Annual OH-KY ADC Convention, we will also host an apprentice contest and finally, an Open House event to show off our two new buildings.

While all these event preparations were taking place, construction continued on our new office headquarters.

At this point, we are close to finishing the exterior and plan to begin work on the interior soon.

Our new office building sits perpendicular to the already-completed Northern Ohio Regional Training Center, which opened its doors to its first apprentice class on Sept. 11.

When we moved onto this site in January 2016, we asked our members for patience and understanding, as the decision to purchase this particular piece

See MESSAGE on page 2.
THE IMI UPDATE:

By Tom Elliott

With the Ohio Building Code adopting a requirement for Tornado and Storm Sheltering effective Nov. 1, Public Building Types and “Group E” Educational Use Buildings in Ohio will be required to include storm shelter safe rooms per the ICC 500 codes in the design – either as a separate detached building or as safe rooms within the building.

Some exceptions to the new codes are: Group E day care facilities, Group E occupancies-accessory to places of religious worship and buildings meeting the requirements for shelter design in ICC 500.

All states within the 250-mph wind zone area will be required to conform to these codes, and the entire state of Ohio as well as Northern Kentucky falls within this zone.

This should greatly reduce the metal stud construction trends we are seeing in our schools.

With the emphasis back on masonry in the schools, we will need to maintain our excellent craftsmanship, not only in the masonry finishes, but on the structural elements as well.

The reinforcement steel and grouting plays an integral part in forming these shelters and will need to be installed as per the design. If you would like to receive training/upgrading in grout certification, contact me via email.

KNOW OUR CRAFTS

A few quick questions to consider (answers at the end of the article):

Q1. What is the minimum air space required by code in a cavity wall – regardless of the backup wall system?
   a) 2”  b) 1”  c) No minimum

Q2. Large-format tile has at least one side greater than ____?
   a) 12”  b) 24”  c) 15”

Q3. Mortar makes up approximately ____% of the wall facade on a modular brick veneer.
   a) 12%  b) 20%  c) 35%

IN CLOSING

The IMI is a strategic alliance between the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and their signatory contractors to promote quality union masonry construction.

If you would like additional information on the IMI or any of the training we offer, you can contact me at: telliott@imiweb.org.

You can also register on the IMI website: www.imiweb.org.

THE ANSWERS

Here are the answers to the three questions:

Q1. b, 1”
Q2. c, 15”
Q3. b, 20%

MCAA MASONRY SKILLS CHALLENGE

We will have a great opportunity for all our members and the public to check out the NORTC on Oct. 21 from 8:30 a.m. until about 4 p.m. when we host the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Masonry Skills Challenge.

The MCAA Skills Challenge is a competition of masonry apprentices in first-, second- and third-year skill levels, which provides the contestants the opportunity to showcase their masonry talent.

Contestants from four states will be on hand for the friendly competition to determine the top masonry apprentices at each level. This exciting competition spotlights our industry’s finest apprentices and focuses attention on careers in the masonry industry.

These apprentices will be tasked with having to build a project they have never seen before. This means there is no way to practice the surprise design, and they cannot consult their instructor, employer or anyone else during the competition.

Each project is designed around the skills developed in their apprenticeship. The competitors will be challenged to use both in-class and on-the-job education and craftsmanship in order to finish the project within the designated time.

The apprentices have three hours to complete their projects with event materials donated by our signatory contractors.

I want to thank all of our MCAA sponsors for donating material and to all who are donating their time to volunteer for the event.

If you plan to come to the Open House on Oct. 21, we ask you to help recognize the apprentices who have taken our trade to heart and want to be the best in their fields. As an industry, our future will one day be in their hands.

IN CLOSING

Fall is here, and that means the cold winter weather will follow.

I hope every member who wants to work is doing so. Now is the time to make the last push for a good paycheck before many of our projects are put on hold.

If you are on the bench, contact your field representative and ask about opportunities with your Local or in other parts of the District Council.

As always, remember to stay safe on the jobsite.
In addition, during the Open House we will be hosting the annual MCAA Apprentice Contest at the new training facility.

This contest will showcase some of the best apprentices that Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and West Virginia have to offer. The winners of each category (first, second and third-year apprentice) will automatically be qualified to travel to Las Vegas to compete in the national MCAA Apprentice Contest at the annual World of Concrete Convention.

Good luck to all the apprentices who will be competing this year.

ELECTION REMINDER

I feel the need to remind every OH-KY ADC member that we have an election for the elected officers (Director, Secretary-Treasurer and three Vice Presidents) of the OH-KY ADC.

Ballots were mailed out on Oct. 6 and those members who want to vote are asked to promptly return their completed ballots.

All ballots must be received by the OH-KY ADC by the morning of Oct. 30. Any ballots that arrive after the morning of Oct. 30 will not be counted.

I have attended several meetings not only in my home Local of Local 3 (Toledo), but also meetings around the state, and I have heard the membership complain about not having a vote.

Well, this is your opportunity to vote. There will be specific instructions on how to fill out your ballots, along with directions for returning your ballot to the post office.

It is your Constitutional right to pick the people who will lead your Union for the next four years, and I hope that each of you takes this responsibility seriously.

Please return your ballot as soon as possible.

IN CLOSING

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, your membership will be dropped.

Your monthly dues can be paid several ways: Mail them to OH-KY ADC, 8497 Leavitt Road, Amherst, OH 44001, by calling 1-800-442-0497, or you can have them directly withdrawn from your bank account.

BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

LOCAL 3

Toledo, Ohio

Matt Aberl

As summer comes to an end, I would like to update you on our current projects, as well as your work opportunities as part of the membership.

The work status looks good for now, but it will get a little tight as winter comes upon us.

Liberty Center, Defiance and Eastwood schools are complete.

Projects are beginning to line up for 2018.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

In August, Director of the International Masonry Institute Tom Elliott and I awarded a University of Toledo student a scholarship for his hard work in engineering.

We are always very excited to work hand-in-hand with the University of Toledo to recognize bright, young minds and introduce them to our craft.

MUCH APPRECIATION

Thank you to all members who showed up to the Labor Day parade. We had a decent turnout and hope for even better in the future.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Dave Harnica for donating his time, vehicle and trailer to help our retired members enjoy the parade as well.

DUES REMINDER

As always, I would like to remind all members that paying your dues is an important part of membership.

If you fail to pay your dues, you are subject to a reinstatement fee. Your dues are important, as they go toward funding supportive services and benefits for you and your family, now and in the future.

This includes your health insurance, access to legal representation, work opportunities and pension.

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

Not only will you then have to pay the reinstatement fee, but you jeopardize your health insurance and other benefits.

Because we know life can get busy, dues can be paid in several easy 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.
SHARE CONTACT INFO

If you had any changes in phone number, address, marital status, etc., please let me know by calling 419-478-1818. It is very important that I have updated information so that I can help you as efficiently as possible.

I have a number of documents marked return to sender, so if you think your information may not be up to date or you think you should have received something, please call as soon as possible.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 on matters of business, but it is also your opportunity to voice your opinions and concerns.

Meetings are also a great time to meet your fellow members and make new friends.

IN CLOSING

Local 3 administrators and I would like to wish you all a happy holiday season as Thanksgiving draws near.

We hope you will all be safe and enjoy your time with your loved ones.

Finally, this year’s awards banquet will be held on Dec. 14.

As we start the fall season, work on the East Side of Local 5 is in full swing and looks to continue into the winter months.

Our contractors have many of our members on the Cleveland City Schools, working to get them under roof by the time winter hits.

Valentine Contractors is working on the Sunbeam; Fullerton and Oliver Hazard Perry PreK-8 Schools.

LMR has crews working on the Whitney Young Leadership Academy and the Barbara Booker PreK-8 School.

Miencorp, in conjunction with Dunlop & Johnston, are working on the William Harper Rainey PreK-8 School.

Foti is scheduled to start the Waverly PreK-8 School in mid-October.

Zavarella Brothers are still going strong at the Pinecrest Development at I-271 and Harvard Road in Orange, while Foti is continuing work on the Forest City Mixed Use project on West 25th Street and Detroit Avenue.

These are just a sample of the projects that will continue through the year on the East Side.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

We have many new members that joined our Local this year: 44 total, with 19 entering as journeyman and 25 as apprentices.

Take the time to welcome these new members to our Local 5 family.
members to Local 5.

That being said, Local 5 is still looking for more Bricklayers and PCCs to man up the projects for the remainder of the year. If you know someone who has experience, please have them call the Local 5 office and leave their information so we may contact them.

The Local 5 Pension trustees have approved Local 5 retirees to come out to work through Nov. 30.

Contact Dennis Rahe at the Local 5 office if you are interested, and we will let you know which contractors are in need of manpower.

NEW CONTRACTORS

This year, we also have had many contractors become signatory through either Local 5 or Statewide agreements.

I would like to welcome Nero Brothers Construction, Masonry Contracting Corp, Cleveland Building Restoration, Mike Kennedy Construction and Marra Services to our Signatory Contractor list.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

I would like to take the time to remind all members to continue to keep your monthly dues and drug card current.

With the amount of work that is ongoing and the work that is coming up, the last thing I want is to have a member removed from a project for an expired drug card or because they were dropped for non-payment of dues.

IN CLOSING

Please continue to work safe and be aware of your surroundings on job sites.

Dear Brothers and Sisters: The Labor Day picnic was a huge success and even though the rain showed up, we did not let that stop us from enjoying our event.

It was a great opportunity to network with fellow members. I feel fortunate to have been able to connect with those who attended.

To the members who were unable to attend, there will be additional opportunities for you to network.

Be sure to attend the next Local 5 meeting to stay in the loop of relevant information.

GREAT SEASON!

Congratulations to the Local 5 softball team. You had a wonderful season!

LOOKING BACK

I would like to take a moment to reflect back on all the work and accomplishments we have achieved in the last few months.

I cannot believe how fast the time has passed. I’ve had the great pleasure of meeting many members, and for those I have not yet met, I am looking forward to that opportunity.

For those I had the chance to talk with, I shared that we would have a great deal of work available in coming months. That work is here, and I’m glad to report that we are at a full go here in Local 5.

We currently have a significant number of projects out in Lorain, Medina and Cuyahoga counties.

With manpower spread across these areas in high-volume, we also have Brothers down at the mill and in restoration.

A few highly anticipated examples of projects include: North Olmsted High School, Norm King at Oberlin College, Metropolitan (Crocker Park/Westlake) and West Bay Plaza.

As there are many additional projects developing, I would like for you to keep in mind that safety is number one concern. Whether you are on or off the job, it is imperative that protecting yourself is on the top of your list of priorities.

NEW SILICA STANDARDS

I’d also like to share a reminder that with it being September, the silica standards will now be enforced.

It’s expected and important that we are following all protocol so that we don’t cause unnecessary monetary fines to our contractors.

Contractors will keep me in the loop on how we are doing with this initiative.

PREPARE FOR WEATHER

As we approach the fall, we’re looking forward to the winter months with the majority of projects starting late in the season.

Please keep in mind it’s no different from what we have experienced in the past. A best practice is to always keep extra clothes in your vehicle for the possibility that you need them.

IN CLOSING

I’d like to say thank you to you all for making this union what it is. It is because of your daily efforts that we have achieved our successes.

The fact we are able to help our contractors accomplish these difficult tasks is an amazing thing.

I have always been proud of being a union Bricklayer, and I appreciate that I am now able to see your union Bricklayer pride reflect in your work.

For new members, I would like to welcome you to the Bricklayer’s Local 5 Union as a new brother or sister.

Remember, united we will stand, side-by-side, to achieve our common goals.

LOCAL 5 WEST

Cleveland, Ohio
Jairo Cabrera

LOCAL 6

Canton, Ohio
Justin Gartrell

Fellow Members: Local 6 and the surrounding areas continue to have a strong and steady flow of work as we go into the fall months.

I have never experienced such a demand for Bricklayers as I have in the last eight or nine months.

The only thing I see slowing us down is the cold weather that will...
be knocking on our doors shortly.

Let’s hope we have another mild winter like last year.

ORGANIZING UPDATE

With all the work our contractors have and what will be coming out for bid in the near future, we need new members – journeymen and apprentices.

If anyone knows of someone who is interested, please have them get in touch with me.

We are still in need of Bricklayers; Pointers, Caulkers and Cleaners (PCC); Tile Setters and Cement Masons.

I encourage all our members to help organize.

As we bring these new members in, we should also be taking the time to explain to them the advantages of being in the Union.

Let them know that we collectively bargain with our contractors in order that we may have a livable wage and a benefits package; wages that will sustain a family, and benefits that will provide health insurance and allow our members to retire with some dignity and respect at an age where they can still enjoy life.

WORK STATUS

Valentine has started at the Carrollton School.

Rohr and Lencyk are still moving forward on the Lake Schools.

Hoiles has several members at the Walsh Global Training Center.

MCC still has work at Kent Stark Fine Arts and the Be-First Project.

Bice and Son Masonry will be brick veneering the Century Bank in Coshocton.

Angelina Stone and Marble have some work at the Dennison School.

Rohr took over the Wildlife Center in Massillon that was started by the non-union.

Also, the Hall of Fame will be continuing with work on the hotel.

With the exception of Carrollton and the Hall of Fame, several of these jobs will be finishing up by the time this newsletter reaches you.

In addition to the contractors that were mentioned above, I would also like to say thank you to Stanley Miller Construction, Beaver Constructors, Buckeye Caulking, Amerisaleal, Coon Caulking, TDR Builders, Gary Burns Masonry, R. G. Smith, Ram Construction, Kapton Caulking, Minerva Tile and Remodeling, Batton Wake Enterprises, Resco Products, Koch Knight LLC, Selinsky Force, Lou Ritenour Decorators, Youngstown Tile & Terrazzo, Rosati Construction, Warren Guillard and all of the BAC Members who work for these contractors for their service and dedication to the Masonry Industry.

REMINDERS

If anyone is out of work, you need to let me know. I will do my best to get you back out.

Monthly meetings are still on the third Tuesday of every month, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Please do not forget to pay your monthly membership dues.

IN CLOSING

As always, work hard and work safe!

Hello Brothers and Sisters of the labor movement!

I hope that you all are well and enjoying the good amount of work that is happening in Northeast Ohio this year.

In the economic system that we play in, we all know that there are times of boom and times of bust, recession and recovery.

It seems like the recovery gets shorter each time and the recessions last longer.

So, work all that you can and try to save a few acorns for the long winter – because we all know that winter is coming (yes, a Game of Thrones reference).

In the economic system that we play in, we all know that there are times of boom and times of bust, recession and recovery.

It seems like the recovery gets shorter each time and the recessions last longer.

So, work all that you can and try to save a few acorns for the long winter – because we all know that winter is coming (yes, a Game of Thrones reference).

IN CLOSING

As always, work hard and work safe!

Hello Brothers and Sisters of the labor movement!

I hope that you all are well and enjoying the good amount of work that is happening in Northeast Ohio this year.

In the economic system that we play in, we all know that there are times of boom and times of bust, recession and recovery.

It seems like the recovery gets shorter each time and the recessions last longer.

So, work all that you can and try to save a few acorns for the long winter – because we all know that winter is coming (yes, a Game of Thrones reference).

IN REMEMBRANCE

We would like to give special recognition to a member who passed away on Aug. 23.

Brother Ralph Adlesic joined Local 7 OH in April of 1939 at the age of 20. He was a faithful member for over 78 years!

I had the pleasure of delivering Ralph’s 75-year service plaque to him along with Ken Kudela and Fred Hubbard.

Ralph was still a very lively and strong-minded old Bricklayer when we visited him – even at 95 years old!

Rest in Power, Brother Ralph!
Greetings Brothers and Sisters: As of October 2017, I will have been serving the membership as Field Representative for three years and Financial Recording Secretary for 26 years.

Although it has not been without challenges, thank you for all the support you have given me.

You all have been most encouraging and helpful. Please keep up the good work.

PROJECT STATUS

We are still having a good working year into the fall, and hopefully this winter as well.

DeSalvo Construction is well under way on the Champion K-8 School.

KC Kraft Masonry finished the Barnes and Noble book store on the YSU Campus, utilizing over 90,000 modular bricks.

Lencyk Masonry still has work left on Tiffany Plaza in Boardman, the Boardman Fire Station and various other jobs around the area.

OUPS in North Jackson, Elmwood Assisted Living in Hubbard and University Edge Apartments at YSU are complete.

Tervo Masonry is working at Enclave on the YSU Campus and has finished the Niles Water Treatment Plant.

HMH Restoration has started some stone work on Saint Columba Cathedral in Youngstown.

Mike Coates Construction is starting the brick veneer on the new shooting range at the Air Base in Vienna.

THE SKILL OF BRICKLAYING

One day when I was about 5 years old, I accompanied my father to a business in the area where we lived.

While we were there, my father pointed out a Bricklayer to me building a brick planter on the front of the office where we had gone.
I remember my father getting my attention and saying, “You see that man? He has a special skill. His hands know where to put every one of those bricks.”

Being a child, it did not dawn on me at that time how that statement would affect my future or how personal that statement was to my father, a very accomplished welder.

Years later, ironically, I joined Youngstown Local 8 as a Bricklayer Apprentice with his words of wisdom still in mind.

As my skill improved, I started to scrutinize the masonry work that had surrounded me for years. Work I had never noticed.

One such example was a concrete block basement entrance my father had added to our family home.

My father, God rest his soul, was a skillful and talented man. However, I could finally see where he had struggled with the skills of something for which he did not have the proper training.

In the end, I do not offer this story as criticism for Dad, but rather praise. He was honest enough to admit his faults and conveyed to me the value of learning a skilled trade.

His words changed my life.

I must be honest as well. Although I have since learned to weld through our union and have even passed two certification tests, I am still not half the welder that my father was.

Thank you, Dad, for the life lessons!

Thank you also to the hundreds of BAC Members who trained me. I have learned tangible skills from all of you.
REMAINDER

Call me to update beneficiary designations on the IU Death Benefit, Pensions, Security Plan, Health and Welfare or your Personal Care Account.

I have had a few situations in the past where I believe that our deceased members may not have necessarily still wanted the person listed to be their beneficiary, whether because of social issues or perhaps a death.

As always, I respect the personal lives and privacy of our members, but I leave it up to our members if they need to change something.

IN CLOSING

Thank you, members for the loyalty that has made our trade union successful.

MUCH APPRECIATION

Thank you to all our members for helping the Local reach out to those in need. This includes the following charitable projects: United Way Day of Caring – Help Network Suicide Prevention Hotline Building, Dylan Smith Eagle Scout project – “A Sign for Ellsworth Park” and “A Home for Jamie” – a foster child who got a liver transplant and the foster family that needed extra space to accommodate Jamie’s three siblings.

Most of you have my mobile number and office phone number, but I have added the information below.

WORK STATUS

The Harrison Central School should be working by the time this report is printed.

The Convent in Steubenville continues, as well as the Columbiana Water treatment plant.

The OU campus in Athens has considerable prospective work on the books, and we are working to create work for us there.

SEEKING APPRENTICES

We are working to add youth to our membership rosters with new apprentices at this time.

So far, we should have three new apprentices in Local 10, and two in Local 52.

LOCAL 10 ELECTION

Local 10 has a Local officer’s election coming up, with nominations Nov. 1, and the election date would be Dec. 6, if any offices are opposed.

If any of you have questions regarding the Local 10 election process, please call me.

OH-KY ADC ELECTION

There is also an Ohio-Kentucky ADC election.

The office of Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and three Executive Vice-Presidents are the elected offices affected.

Ballots were mailed out on Oct. 6 and those members who want to vote are asked to promptly return their completed ballots. All ballots must be received by the OH-KY ADC by the morning of Oct. 30. Any ballots that arrive after the morning of Oct. 30 will not be counted.

For every member, it is important to exercise your right to vote. I hope we show a great response.

LOCALS 9, 10, 44 & 52

East Liverpool, Ohio

Don Mays

It’s a great opportunity to reach out to you all during a time when work has been good in most areas.

This is also a time to reach out to those trowel trades people that may want an opportunity to join the union.

Just about all of us know someone with skills in our trades. We are asking you all to reach out to them.

If they are productive and skilled with their tools, I would like to talk to them.

Brothers and Sisters: What a busy season we are having!

It’s inspiring to see the employment levels as high as they are for our members.

When traveling anywhere through our Local, or the greater Cleveland area for that matter, the landscape resembles what it was like in the early 90’s when work was literally everywhere.

The one obvious difference is that there are fewer of us doing this work at the moment than there was 20+ years ago.

Many of our members sought other forms of income to support their families when the economy turned in 2007-08, which is completely understandable.

Some have returned, but many haven’t. As a body, we need to encourage those who haven’t to come home.

It’s all of our responsibility to be organizers, and the testimony of rank-and-file members carries more weight than you may believe.

September seems to be the month that everyone suddenly recognizes the season is drawing to a close, and there will be days lost to seasonal weather.

The contractors beef up the payroll and jobs resemble anthills crawling with workers.

But what happens when there is no one left to call? What happens when developers, general contractors and architects see firsthand that there really may be a labor shortage?

I’ll tell you, plain and simple, what happens.

They stop building with masonry.

As a Union have one thing to offer: bodies. That’s it.

We’re not supplying anything other than manpower. It’s long overdue that we take
The work outlook in Local 18 has been plentiful this year. All of you have been hard at it, making as much time as possible.

That is the best option, as winter will be here before too long.

By now you should have received the notification for the Local 18 election. We will have an election for all of the Local Union Offices, delegates to the associated Building Trades and AFL-CIO.

The nomination for the negotiating team will also be up for grabs. That is a tough one to fill. Not many people want to sit across the table and argue with the boss for a raise.

I ask if you are considering any of these positions, or have been thinking about getting involved, to please do so.

We all could use a fresh outlook on things, and participation in this labor movement is going to be the only thing that keeps us alive.

I have noticed the number of willing participants has dropped off in the recent years.

Give it a thought, we could use you.

HEALTH AND WELFARE NEWS

As many of you have noticed, whether it be in the news or in the communications from our Heath Plan Administrator, health care costs are rising.

That being said, we will be experiencing changes to the Ohio Bricklayers Health and Welfare Plan.

The most noticeable will be for the ones who are on the family plan. Yes, it's frustrating. But with the changes, there are positives that may save you money in the long run.

Hard to believe, I know. Our plan is losing the Grandfather status.

What does that mean? The annual gynecologist checkup visit for the wife is covered, preventative medicine is covered, birth control and most typical children's vaccinations are covered.

These are all costs that were not covered under the old plan. Please take the time to read the upcoming literature you will be receiving.

This will be full of useful information that will help you understand the changes.

As many of you know, we have been suffering through changes in the process of our administrator. This is affecting all of us.

IN CLOSING

If you have any concerns or issues regarding eligibility, dollar bank or coverages, please call me and I will help.

Until we meet again, Brothers and Sisters.

LOCAL 18 NORTH

Cincinnati, Ohio

Brian D. Wear

Another change of season is here, and the cool fall breezes have arrived.

Our area had a very busy summer of work. The outlook heading into fall and winter continues to look promising.

MUCH APPRECIATION

A big thank you goes out to everyone who worked hard to make Local 18's family picnic a huge success!

Once again, picnic day was one of the hottest days of the year, but the heat did not stop those in attendance from having a good time.

‘ORGANIZE TO SURVIVE’

I recently attended the Local Leaders Conference hosted by the I.U. in Baltimore.

I learned a lot and came away from the event energized and confident that the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers will continue to be there to support our Brothers and Sisters in the trades.

The main theme that I took away from the Local Leaders Conference is our urgent need to organize.

The economy has finally recovered from the worst recession in history. This is good news, right?

It is, but the problem is our membership numbers have not increased at the same rate of recovery as the economy.

Members that we lost during the economic downturn have not returned.

Why? This is a simple question in which there is no simple answer.

There are many reasons why we as union members find ourselves in the position we are in today.

This article does not give me the time or space to explore these issues, so I would like to look at where we go from here.
Most of you have heard the slogan, “Organize to Survive.”
This is more than a slogan: This is the harsh reality of our collective future.
Most people think of organizing as the responsibility of a paid field representative or organizer.
I encourage you to look at organizing in a different way. Everyone could, and should, be an organizer.
When in a classroom setting at the conference, we were asked how we came into the union?
About 90 percent of the respondents said they joined the union through a family member.
Then we were asked how many of your children are getting into the trade? No one raised their hand.
Traditions have changed and the way people join the BAC has changed, so it is our challenge to look at the way we organize people into our union and develop fresh new approaches.
As my friend and mentor Fred Hubbard has told me on many occasions, “Work is the best organizer.”
Work is good, so I ask you to please help grow our union.
Go forth and multiply!

NEW APPRENTICES
We have added some new apprentices again this year.
Brothers and Sisters, it is very important to work with them.
They are the future of our Union, and we need every one of them.
I ask for all journeyman to mentor these apprentices.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Reminder that union meetings are always held on the first Monday of the month, starting at 8 p.m.
If the first Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting will be the following day (Tuesday).
I hope everyone can make it a point to participate in these meetings.
This is your Hall and your Union!

APPRENTICE SUCCESS
Journey workers and contractors, we have seen a lot of new apprentices over the past few years.
I would like to ask that we lead, teach and mentor them through their four years of apprenticeship.
They have more hours on the job site than they have in the school, therefore it is going to take both places in order for them to succeed.
Brothers and Sisters, we are losing too many apprentices before they are able to complete their school.
We need to work together to change this if our Union is going to survive and grow.
They are the future of this Union, and all of us benefit. We need all of them to succeed.
Apprentices, it is your duty to go to work every day on time and be willing to listen and learn.
At the end of the day, we all go to work every day to make a fair wage and go home with our dignity.

ANNUAL PICNIC
Local 22 had its picnic on Aug. 19 at the Polish Picnic grounds.
I hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves.
Turnout was better than the year before, but once again, I hope we can get more participation next year.

We will try to have the picnic on the same weekend every year going forward. That weekend will be the third Saturday of August.

SERVICE AWARDS
On Nov. 18, there will be a Holiday and Service Awards Party, starting at noon.
All members are welcome to come to this event. It will be held at the Local 22 Union Hall, 3366 Successful Way in Dayton, Ohio 45414.

LOCAL 22
Dayton, Ohio
Shawn Herzog

Brothers and Sisters: Summer has passed and fall is here.
We had a slow start going into the summer in Local 22 jurisdiction, along with the rain. Fall looks very promising for Local 22.
All the contractors have work, and everyone is working.
Local 22 still has room to grow its membership. We have added a few new members and apprentices this year, but there is room for more.
Anyone who knows anybody that is looking to join our Brotherhood and Sisterhood, please pass along my information to them.

LOCAL 36
Cleveland, Ohio
Matt Neeson

Hello Brothers and Sisters: Another season has gone by, and we will be trading in the hot for the cold.
Yes, that old four-letter word will be making a presence soon: S-N-O-W.
I hope everyone had a great summer! Work has been good and more jobs are being bid on as I write this article.
Talking to the contractors, they are telling me there is work well into 2018, and the bidding is not stopping.
The demand for quality Tile Layers has never been so high in all my years in the business.
Local 36 and its staff have been working feverishly to supply the demand for our contractors.
So far, we have grown by 43 new members, with 14 being apprentices.
It’s good to see all the new blood come into the Local.
With all of our members getting older, we definitely needed some young blood to fill in the spots of our retired and soon-to-be-retired veterans of the trade.
I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again, if you happen to work with or see any of our new members, let’s show them how to be a productive part of Local 36.
We need them to continue to grow and thrive to keep the movement alive.
CITY ELECTION

Speaking of movements, the political arena is firing up again and we are looking at a close race for mayor.

Let’s take a look at who has helped build this city up in the last several terms, and keep in mind who is helping to put money in our pockets.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

As the holidays approach, Local 36 and its staff would like to wish you a great Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Party on Dec. 1 at the Insulators Hall, 1617 East 30th Street in Cleveland.

WE NEED PICTURES

Our anniversary is fast approaching, and Local 36 is looking to get as many pictures as we can.

If you have any on your phones or old photos, get them to us so we can view them at our party.

“Save-the-date” and RSVP tickets will soon be sent out with the date, time and location of the event.

BROWNS GAME

Our annual football outing was a great success, with all having a good time enjoying the food and beverages.

We would also like to thank Chef Jeremy Slivka for cooking us all of the food at our functions.

It’s never been a disappointment, just full bellies and smiles.

Thanks again!

LOCALS 39 & 45

Portsmouth, Ohio
Heath “Luke” Henry

Brothers and Sisters: Another summer has come and gone, and fall promises that winter is right around the corner.

I hope you all had a good, productive summer and had some time to enjoy your lives with family and friends.

LABOR DAY PARADE

In spite of some bad weather, we had a great turnout for the River Days Parade in Portsmouth.

Thanks to all the members and their families who showed up and marched with us!

We had a huge cookout/tailgate party with the Tri-State Building Trades during the parade line up.

Some local politicians stopped by to hear our concerns (and we had plenty) and ask for our support.

The cookout was open to all, and we drew a pretty large crowd of people from all different backgrounds.

Once the parade started, we passed out a ton of candy for the kids and passed out bottles of water for anyone who was thirsty.

We lost our buddy Cowboy (Keith Montgomery) about halfway through, but he did catch up to us before the end.

We had a great time and I encourage all of you to come out next year and make this thing bigger than ever.

It really does help to bring some notoriety to our Local Union, it and shows good will to our community.

I want to thank Director Ken Kudela and the gentlemen at SOKYRTC for allowing us to use the BAC truck again this year.

The BAC truck has been a big hit for us. We always have people stopping by and asking questions about the pictures that are on it.

That gives us a good opportunity to explain to them all the different types of work that we do.

WORK OUTLOOK

It’s been a decent year for both Local 39 and Local 45.

We are still working at Miami Trace High School with Central Masonry.

Central also has a job coming up at Adena Medical Center in Chillicothe.

Fosbel and Flour continue to work at Suncoke Energy.

ARC has some work coming up at the Altivia Chemical Plant.

With fall outages coming up at the power plants in Gallia County, you will need to make sure that you have an up-to-date LEAD card and at least have an OSHA 10-Hour.

They are requirements at both Kyger Creek and the Gavin Plant.

If you need help with either, please get in touch with me.

IN CLOSING

I would like to encourage all of you to come out and support our Local meetings.

Your attendance and participation is vital to the strength of our union.

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

Local 45 meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

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

LOCAL 40

Mansfield, Ohio
Matthew R. McClester

Work in Local 40 has been steady throughout the summer, and with work in the surrounding areas, it has been a decent year for the membership.

We have some projects still in the bidding process this fall, and we are starting to see projects come out for next year, so hopefully work should continue to progress through 2018.

Members should continue to keep OSHA-10 hour certifications and drug testing up to date to be eligible to work on projects.

VOLUNTEER WORK

We hope to continue our volunteer work with the Richland Early American Center for History (R.E.A.C.H.) group.

They have started setting logs at their cabin in South Park and plan to start the chimney/fireplace this fall.
Please let me know if anyone is interested in volunteering with this project.

**SERVICE AWARD WINNERS**

Congratulations to our Service Award winners this year.

- 25 years: Andrew Studer.
- 40 years: Fred McLaughlin Jr., Joe Tobias and Harold Gordon.

**RETIREE FISH FRY**

We had another eventful Retiree’s Fish Fry at our July meeting, including a 90th birthday cake for legendary member, Jim Brown.

Thank you to the members who helped out cooking the fish, and a special thank you to Rob Cline for the donation of over 30 pounds of fresh Lake Erie fish.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

As the year winds down, we will start planning for our Annual Kids Christmas Party.

We have set a tentative date for Dec. 16. Look for registration cards to come out sometime in mid-November.

**LOCAL ELECTION REMINDER**

As much as we all dread politics, remember to become knowledgeable and vote in your Local Elections on Nov. 7.

Although there is not all the attention on this year’s Election Day, these local elections can be considered more important because of their impact on our local economies.

I would ask each member to pay close attention to your local school boards and local city/village councils. These governing bodies spend millions of dollars every year on smaller construction projects that mostly go unnoticed.

By having citizens who are familiar with local labor on these boards/councils, we have a better chance of securing some of this work.

Voters in Shelby School District should pay close attention to a levy on their ballot to build another new school, remembering they have had some serious local labor issues in the past.

**IN CLOSING**

I would ask the membership to remain vigilant in watching out for safety issues to ensure we are all able to go home to our families each day after a hard day’s work.

I would also like to remind our membership about our Membership Assistance Program (MAP) through our International Office.

The MAP has provided help since 1998 to BAC Members and their families with personal issues outside of work.

Anyone needing assistance can contact the Local office or the MAP office directly at 888-880-8222, and I personally guarantee all information will be kept confidential.

Hello fellow BAC members. We are still going strong into the fall with work.

---

**LOCALS 44 & 55**

Columbus, Ohio

Bill Hulet Jr.

“Gratitude can transform common days
Into Thanksgiving, turn routine jobs Into joy,
and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

– William Arthur Ward

Thank you for another year of hard work and dedication.

Wishing you a very Happy and blessed Thanksgiving
from the Ohio-Kentucky Administrative District Council.
There is some work coming up to go through the winter months, as well this year.
If you are off, don’t forget to call in and I can let you know where the work is.

BACK TO SCHOOL
It’s back to school, not only for the little kids in your neighborhood, but for our apprentices.
Make sure you pay attention when driving to look out for the kids walking to and from school, and also standing at the bus stop.

With the weather getting colder, Mother Nature likes to change our driving habits up and throw a wrench into it, especially the fog in the morning.
Slow down and keep your eyes on the road and look out for the animals and people that might be walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks and people need to walk on the berm.
Also, rutting season is in the air for the deer and they will be on the move.
Keep your eyes open and on the road, your hands on the wheel and your cell phone in your pocket.
Stay alert and come home alive.

HELP DEVELOP OUR APPRENTICES
Quality is what separates us from the non-union.
Take time to help out the apprentices. Take them under your guidance whenever you get a chance to teach them.
You need to be a mentor to them whenever you get a chance.
You need to remember that the apprentices of today are not like what we were when we came into our apprenticeship.
They need more nurturing, more time on the wall and less time doing “laborers work” (stocking, tending and anything else that falls under a laborer) and more time doing Bricklayers work.
I know that it’s classified as “Bricklayers work” to run the saw, rub walls, clean footers, knock tags off the wall before the vapor barrier gets put on and the insulation board gets put on, etc. And we use the apprentices to do this work as part of the training. But we need to make sure that they are getting plenty of wall time so they can get better, pick up their speed and actually hold a job as a journeyman when they get out of their apprenticeship.
This falls upon all of us to make sure that we keep an eye out for our apprentices, and we all need to speak up when we see that they are not getting wall time – not just the job steward, not just the Local’s executive board member working on the job.
This falls upon every journeyman on the job.
The more quality Bricklayers we train and get into the union as journeymen, the better it will be for us later in life.
Mentoring not only goes to the apprentices but to the new members that we have brought into the union as well.
We need to show them that we take pride in our work at whatever we do, be it laying brick, block, stone, tile or whatever the material is.
We need to make sure that we are striking our work to the top quality for which we, as union members, are known.
The quality of our work is what we are known for, and it seems that we are starting to get away from that. We need to get back to that.
If you see something wrong, bee holes that need filled after the second striking of joints, or anything else, say something to each other.
Help each other out. That is what we do.
Do not take offense at someone if they are pointing something out that you have done that needs some attention.
This also goes to the new journeymen who just came into the union as well.
We need to do it right the first time and save the contractor time and money so he can bid on other jobs.
This helps keep that punch out list that no one likes to do to a minimum and helps keep the contractor more competitive.
The more you screw up and have to go back to fix things and cost the contractor more money, the price of the next job will need to go up because the contractor doesn’t have the faith that it can be done right the first time and he needs to pad the bid for the screw ups that you might have done.
Also, some of you have been telling other Bricklayers to slow down.
I have been hearing this from quite a few different job sites.
There is no reason for you to be telling other Bricklayers to slow down. The sooner you get the job done, the better the profit is for the contractor, and the more work he should be willing to go out and competitively bid will hopefully keep you working.
This too, will hopefully keep us all busy and hopefully our Union will get larger to better help our retirements.

STEWARD CLASS
I will be putting on a Steward class in November. It will be held on a Saturday. If you are interested in attending, please contact me so I can put you on the list.
Just remember, if you are appointed steward and have the steward training on a job with four BAC members that goes longer than one month, then the District Council will pay your dues for that month, as long as you turn in your steward’s card the following month.
The Steward certificate is only good for four years. You will have to take the class over again to get recertified.

NEW MEMBER BONUS
The District Council still has a bounty for new members that you bring in until the end of the year.
Bring in a new member that has never been in the BAC Union and after he pays his dues and initiation fees, the District Council will credit you for six months of dues.

RETIREE LUNCHEON
The Retirees Christmas Luncheon will be held on Dec. 13.
Happy Hour is from 11 a.m. until noon, with lunch being served at noon.
The price for December’s lunch this year is $5.
Starting next year, lunches throughout the year, with the exception of the December Luncheon, will be $6 a person. The 2018 December Luncheon will be $7 a person.

HOLIDAY WISHES
The holidays are around the corner and will be here before you know it.
Live in the moment and love who you are with today. Cherish the time you spend together.
No one knows when our time is up on this earth.

May your holidays be joyful and your hearts be filled with love and your loved ones near.

IN CLOSING

There is always someone wanting you to make it home every night safe and unharmed.

We all do as Fraternal Brothers of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.

Always be safe.

The Labor movement means just this: “It is the last noble protest of the American people against the power of incorporated wealth.” – Wendell Phillips.

LOCAL 46

Fremont, Ohio

Tim Linder

Well, we can check off another summer in the books. This summer has been very good for all of our members to get the hours needed to build up our retirement and of course our health insurance.

I want to say thank you to all the members that filled the jobs for the contractors when they were called to work.

This is very important for us as members, because if we don’t fill the jobs, some non-union company will.

HELP US ORGANIZE

As many of you know, in our line of work, we need younger people to continue to join our union.

All of us need to look back at when we started and remember that we were once in their boots.

What I am trying to say is that we all need to be able to mentor these new members.

If we do not work to train and get new members involved, we will not be able to fill the jobs.

We, as a union organization, need to stay strong to continue to support the growth of our trade.

If any of you know of anyone who is interested in the trade, please tell them to reach out to their Local Field Rep.

The bottom line is to organize our union to make us stronger!

SERVICE AWARDS

Since the last Benchmark, many members have received membership awards. This includes:

50-year member: John Krupp.
40-year members: Aurelio Rulz, Jr., Richard Grine and Rex Henderson.
25-year members: Terry Hall, Jr. and Andrew Scholl.

I want to say again, congratulations to these members. If not for hard-working members, we wouldn’t be where we are today.

Remember, hard work pays off.

CONDOLENCES

I want to offer my condolences to the families of James Fosco, Jr. and James Schindley, two members that we lost this summer.

Also, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families in Texas and Florida who have suffered devastating losses due to recent hurricanes.

For anyone who has helped with a donation, of any kind, I want to say thank you for doing so.

MUCH APPRECIATION

Thank you to the members who participated in the Labor Day Parade this year.

We had a nice turn out. It’s been a while since we have been involved due to lack of participation.

I’d like to turn this around in the future.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

I want to remind everyone that our annual Christmas Party will be the third Monday in December at 7:30 p.m.

This is for members only, no spouses. I hope that all can attend.

SHARE YOUR STATUS

It is great that many of you worked throughout the summer with little to no time off and have made a home for the winter months with the companies you have been working with.

If you are currently available, please reach out to me, as I have had calls from contractors seeking manpower for work in our area.

If you happen to be off this winter, make sure you check out IMI or anyone willing to provide you with additional training.

Also, Local 46 could use some MSHA trained refractory workers. If you qualify, please call the Hall at 419-334-2454.

WORK STATUS

Contractors currently working in our area include: Poley Masonry Construction, Mosser Construction, Inc., Studer Obringer Construction

Stay Connected to the OH-KY ADC:

🔍 www.oh-kyadc.com

👍 www.facebook.com/oh.ky.adc/

🐦 @BAC_OHKY
REPORTS


The next few years to come are looking good for us.

Again, I would like to remind all members to periodically check in to the Local you are working in so we can provide the necessary reciprocal forms and to verify you are getting the correct pay.

DUES REMINDER

It is important that you stay current on your monthly dues. It is costing our union unnecessary time and money when we must make reminder calls and forward letters to our members.

To see if you are current, feel free to call the District Council office at 440-986-3000.

IN CLOSING

I want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Safe travels.

IN MEMORIAM

Gail Papenhagen, 3 OH
Delbert Prigge, 3 OH
Robert Reed, 3 OH
Thomas Chapman, III, 5 OH
Raymond Dicamillo, 5 OH
Ruth Gross, 5 OH
John Gulyas, 5 OH
Mark McPherson, 5 OH
Dawn Precht, 5 OH
John Snavely, 5 OH
Charles Trapp, 5 OH
Chester Wilson, Jr., 5 OH
Anthony Sacco, 6 OH
Ralph Adlesic, 7 OH
David Duke, 7 OH
Maynard Lazar, II, 7 OH
John Boyle, 8 OH
Stanley Kell, 8 OH
Mark Valva, 8 OH
Joe Buttery, 18 OH
Elwood Fenhoff, 18 OH
Gerald Louiso, 18 OH
Ronald Mcginnis, 18 OH
Lonnie Mitchell, 18 OH
James Thompson, 18 OH
Charles Lysinger, 40 OH
Jesse Wipert, 45 OH
James Fosco, Jr., 46 OH
James Schindley, 46 OH
Charles Cowgill, 55 OH
Donald Kasler, 55 OH