

THE BENCHMARK

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This Newsletter is intended for Members Only

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Recruit 3 new members = \$500 for you

By Ken Kudela



We are halfway through a year none of us will likely forget.

In many regions of our District Council, the year began with a promise of plenti-

ful work, especially as the weather allowed us to get on jobsites a little earlier than years past.

Unfortunately, this year has also been marred by the coronavirus pandemic.

As you are all aware, this virus changed our lives, and also how we go about doing our jobs and conducting union business.

Some of our members were fortunate enough to be able to work in March, April

and May. Others, were not so fortunate and like millions of other Ohioans, had to depend on the Unemployment Fund to make ends meet.

With the state now in the midst of its reopening plan, many jobsites are busy once again.

As we prepare for what I hope is a busy second half to 2020, we are also presented with a great opportunity.

The pandemic has helped highlight the need for jobs with livable wages. Jobs that also provide good family health insurance and retirement benefits.

Our proud union offers all that, and more.

Now more than ever, we need all members to help recruit new members to join our union as soon possible.

As members get back on jobsites and slowly (and safely) begin interacting with

[See MESSAGE on page 3.](#)



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 39

Local 39 member Michael Collins Lambert is presented with a \$500 check from Director Ken Kudela and Secretary-Treasurer Don Huss from the Organizing Incentive Program.

An important reminder: Solidarity has no borders

By Danny Musacchio



Solidarity: *Unity (as of a group or class) that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives and standards.*

With all that is going on in the U.S. at this very moment I really wanted to touch on the parallels between the current civil unrest and trade unionism's revolutionary history.

Labor's rebellious past should remind us that true change does not

come by our master's grace. The hand of change is forced through rebellion and solidarity.

It's inspiring to see working class people banding together against an authoritarian institution that no longer protects or serves. Law enforcement serves Capitol not citizens.

It was not very long ago they were spilling blood of would-be union members for Capitols sake.

The poor communities of this country have fallen victim to the militarized shift of policing, coupled with systemic racism right before our eyes.

Countless examples of unethical behavior, abuse of power and murder have been streamed into our homes for decades.

While we may be sympathetic, we take no action, and the aggressors continue to operate with impunity.

This is a line in the sand moment for our nation, and Labor needs to stand in solidarity with all protesters. Cherry picking what brand of activism makes us comfortable only makes us complicit.

Maintaining our focus on solidarity, let us explore current events in our own backyards.

Recently Local 5 and Local 18 sat at the negotiating table, both came out on the other side with strengthened contract language and a cost of living wage increase well above the national average.

[See SOLIDARITY on page 4.](#)

THE SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Don Huss



Hello Brothers and Sisters of the Ohio/Kentucky Administrative District Council.

I hope this edition of the Benchmark finds you well. Summer is finally here and with any luck at all, most of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that just because Ohio and most of the other states have re-opened, this is not time to let your guard down.

The largest fear that we face at this moment is for a second round of infections and a spike in cases that could lead to another shut down.

We need to continue to practice good hygiene, utilize our personal protection equipment and keep as much social distance between ourselves and co-workers as possible.

It is my hope that a vaccine is created, tested and approved as soon as possible.

It was reported to the District Council that most of the projects throughout the jurisdiction continued to work as essential through Governor DeWine's "Stay at Home" order.

The fact that construction was deemed "essential" just proves that what we do for a living is a major part of the local, state, and national economies.

The "Stay at Home" order was tricky for most of us. Every person had to make a personal decision whether to report for work or stay at home.

Regardless of which decision was made, I would like to thank every BAC member for each of your decisions.

If you stayed away from the job, you very well may have helped control that spread of this disease.

If you went to work, you played a major role in keeping our economy afloat and you should be proud of that.

On behalf of the OH-KY ADC Executive Board, I would also like to express our sincere condolences to all the families that were affected by this terrible pandemic.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families that have lost loved ones that passed because of the COVID-19 breakout.

WE NEED TO GROW

Most of the Field Reps. have reported that work is at the very least remaining steady and most jobs are expecting to begin adding more workers as we emerge from the "stay at home" order.

If history repeats itself, I would expect for the Reps. to start reporting that they are out of members to send out to jobs, and that they are at full employment.

That will be great news, but it also tells us that we need to continue to grow the union membership with not only new apprentices but also new journeyman level workers.

I would like to congratulate **Michael Collins Lambert** from Local 39. He is our first recipient of the \$500 reward given to members for recruiting at least three new members.

Please see Director **Kudela's** article for more information on this program.

NEGOTIATING UPDATES



The COVID-19 pandemic has also put us behind in negotiating all the contracts that were due to be re-negotiated.

The Local 22 (Brick) agreement was extended for 30 days. The Local 5 (Brick) agreement was extended, but has since been settled.

Local 18 (Brick), Local 3 (Tile), and Local 22 (Tile) have all been settled at the time of writing this article.

Please call your Field Representative for the details of the respective settlements.

I would like to personally recognize the negotiating team and the members of Local 5. After contract talks broke down at the end of May, the Local 5 negotiating team decided to call for a strike to gain a better contract.

The strike lasted three days and when the dust settled the contractors agreed to give the members of Local 5 a fair pay increase and some much-needed language changes that were long overdue.

Without the support of the Local 5 membership, the strike could have been a huge failure.

Congratulations to all the members of Local 5 for holding strong and keeping the solidarity that allows us to be a strong Union.

STAY IN TOUCH

Please remember to stay in touch with your Field Representative. Even though we are a little behind of where we normally are at this time of year, work will begin to pick up and your Field Rep. will need to have members ready to go to work at a moment's notice.

I can tell you from experience that when those calls come in to the Union Hall, the Field Rep. will start filling those jobs with members that have called him recently and consistently.

If you are currently out of work, or find yourself laid off, be sure to call the Union Hall to see if anything is starting or if any contractors are looking for people to go to work.

One more piece of advice that I would like to give the membership. If you call the Union Hall or your Field Rep's. cell phone and you get a voice mail, make sure that you leave a message to call you back.

I occasionally get calls from the members saying that they cannot get ahold of their Field Rep.

When I ask them if they have been leaving messages, more times than not the answer is no.

Please don't assume that the Field Rep has your name and number stored in his phone or that he was able to determine who called him from caller I.D.

In this day and age of the telemarketer, it is always better to leave a message or send a text to him asking him to call you back.

DUES REMINDER



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 at 8497 Leavitt Road, Amherst, OH 44001; by calling 1-800-44-0479; pay online through the BAC Web Portal; or you can have them directly withdrawn from your bank account.

IN CLOSING

Have a great and safe summer. ■

THE IMI UPDATE:

By Tom Elliott



Sisters and Brothers, I hope this finds you healthy, safe, well and working.

While the environment around us is changing and the craftwork we perform requires us to be hands on and onsite, we have options for learning at home.

I want to make you aware of a few of the online learning possibilities that we, as B.A.C. Craftworkers, have at our disposal – at NO COST.

These can be found at the IMTEF website (www.imtef.org) and the B.A.C. website (www.bacweb.org), and you can do from home.

In addition to OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 courses, you can do at your own pace from home, IMTEF has recently partnered with Saylor Academy and you can also access a variety of online professional development courses for free, all while earning credit.

You will be able to work at your own pace to build skills in areas that matter to you, while working toward a college degree from the comfort of your own home.

Some of the classes offered include:

- Leadership and Teams
- Introduction to Management
- Managing Employees
- Time and Stress Management

- Customer Service
- Foundations of Real-World Math
- Algebra
- Geometry

Additionally, the IMI has a variety of webinars available at the B.A.C. website under the heading “Webinar Series for Members.”

Some of the topics you will find are on structural masonry, masonry restoration repairs, tornado and storm shelter design, exterior tile installation, cleaning of historic masonry structures, Building Information Modeling (BIM) Tools for Masonry and gauged/porcelain tile installation, just to name a few.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. ■

Message

Continued from page 1.

people away from our homes, I wanted to remind everyone the District Council Recruitment Incentive Program is still available.

Each time a current member brings in three new members to our District Council, the OH-KY ADC will reward the current member with a \$500 check.

In May, **Michael Collins Lambert**, from Local 39, became the first member to qualify for the incentive. I was proud to present him with his \$500 check on May 21.

In order to qualify, each new recruit must be someone who receives a new International Union number. The new number can be a journeyman, apprentice and/or improver.

New members must pay the full initiation fee, as follows:

- The journeyman’s fee is \$350, plus three months of window dues, for a total of \$419.
- The apprentice fee is \$50, plus three months of window dues, for a total of \$102.80.
- The improver’s fee is \$175, plus three months of window dues, for a total of \$239.80.

Having more members allows our contractors to be more aggressive in going after more work opportunities, and when

we recruit from non-union contractors, we hurt their ability to compete. It’s a win-win situation.

JOBSITES DURING COVID-19



The coronavirus has impacted our lives in many ways – including on the jobsite.

In this edition of The Benchmark, some of the reports from our Field Representatives discuss how our Locals and District Council are working with our contractors and general contractors to keep you safe at work.

By now, you should be familiar with the new jobsite safety protocols.

If you go to a jobsite and COVID-19 safety guidelines are not in place or not being followed, please call your Field Representative.

Along those same lines, if you do not feel safe at work, call your Field Representative and they will investigate.

We take the health, safety and wellness of our members very seriously. You are an essential worker, not an expendable worker.

If you do feel sick, please stay home. Do not be the person who passes COVID-19 to his fellow union Brothers and Sisters or to other tradesmen and tradeswomen on a jobsite.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS



As you will read in Secretary-Treasurer **Don Huss’s** report, we have been busy with contract

negotiations with Locals across the District Council.

The negotiating process has been hindered by the pandemic, but we are back at the table, and so far, have seen some positive results. We hope this can continue.

MONTHLY UNION MEETINGS



With each passing week, our Locals are hopefully getting closer to having in-person monthly meetings.

Please be on the lookout for communications from your Local regarding your next in-person union meeting, and rules regarding how those meetings will look a little different.

Once meetings resume, we ask all attending members to follow all the established safety protocols. This will likely include social distancing, wearing masks and limits or a ban on food.

IN CLOSING



Please stay safe this summer. As the weather heats up, remember to watch out for signs of dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

If you feel you are developing heat exhaustion or heat stroke, or see someone else struggling on a jobsite, speak up immediately. ■

Solidarity

Continued from page 1.

The aforementioned results came not from the contractor's generous nature, but from the removal of manpower or impending work stoppages.

Make no mistake, the only reason contractors come to the bargaining table is because the union controls the market and the supply of skilled workers.

To those of us who have been through a COMET class, this is not a groundbreaking revelation. However, to others, these activities may appear foreign and contentious.

With that said, the obligation to educate the body falls on union leadership. Considering how many members reached out with questions, there is a resounding need to cover this topic.

Here is a crash course in bargaining and negotiating that will, with any luck, engage and teach, hopefully answering questions along the way.

In future publications, we can dig deeper into negotiating and discuss the consequence of not reaching an agreement. At the risk of putting too much on the plate, we will cover the steps that lead to negotiations and ethics of a trade unionist honoring a strike.

Many of you have heard my view of the employee/employer relationship. The union workforce sells their time to contractors for negotiated wages and agreed upon working conditions.

To facilitate that, we need a living document that changes with the times supporting the workforce's needs appropriately.

Long before contracts or negotiations are thought about, we hold local elections. It is at this time rank and file delegates are elected by their peers to represent their interests at the bargaining table in conjunction with the Local's staff representative(s), the State Financial Secretary and the State Director.

As the contract expiration draws closer, the Local will call for a recommendations meeting, where the body can voice its concerns so that the negotiating committee can take those issues or ideas and draft them into proposals.

At that meeting, the Local's president will call for a motion for a Strike Authorization vote.

In my opinion, this is the life blood of collective bargaining.

When the body comes together and decides how and for how much they are willing to sell their time, even at the risk of losing hours, only then do we become a force the contractors will recognize and agree to meet with.

Soon after that, following strict timelines, the Local will reach out to the contractors' association and the Department of Labor to formally file its intention to negotiate.

Approximately a month prior to contract expiration, both bargaining units will meet to hash out what will be the new working agreement.

This will include everything from the length of the new contract, wages year by year and proposals for working conditions.

Labor and management are two separate bargaining units. When you joined the Union, you signed an authorization for representation card, and have periodically been asked to update it.

This is you assigning your bargaining rights to your Local leadership and becoming a member of our bargaining unit.

Contractors, on the other hand, can choose to join an Association and bargain together on behalf of management, but not all contractors belong to associations, nor are they obligated to do so.

This is where most of the confusion occurs, when negotiations stall and jobs begin to shut down.

Inevitably the question arises as to how some jobs can be forced to cease work and others be allowed to continue to work while the Local is on strike.

Very simply, association contractors are the bargaining unit. If a new agreement cannot be reached and the current one expires, we are devoid of a contract and will not work without one.

The contractors, who do not belong to the association are essentially free agent companies who have the option of either working at a projected wage rate during the strike, or they can wait until the contract is settled before returning to work.

The contractors who choose to continue work are provided with what is called an Interim Agreement to remain working.

The negotiating committee will determine a projected wage per hour that will be paid in addition to the most recently expired contract wages, with the understanding that when the contract is settled, they will fully comply with the new agreement.

While all this is taking place, all BAC members need to stand in solidarity. As we have already stated, navigating the terrain during a strike, is in some cases, new and other instances confusing to lifelong members.

It is important to understand what we will call the ethics of trade unionism.

There is a rich history of union involvement in the Appalachian region of our country.

Our ranks have historically been filled with family. Member organizing was often overlooked as children followed their father's

footsteps keeping our rosters filled.

The immigrant population flocked to the unions, bringing a close-knit sense of community. These two factions created a familial mentality within our organization.

The dinner tables were classrooms for prospective union members. Fathers taught sons and daughters the values of the union, establishing clear dos and don'ts, leaving little room for interpretation.

Union integrity was hardwired into generations of workers, with a clear delineation between labor and management.

Slowly, the tides changed. Egocentricity replaced the ideology of the collective body. That self-importance, coupled with a societal push for higher education, essentially vilified blue-collar workers and the trade schools they attended.

This shift led to the rise of the company man mentality. Union affiliation became an inconvenient necessity for good paying jobs.

Toss in a political agenda working behind the scenes to weaken collective bargaining and organizing rights, and we have the current state of organized labor.

What does this have to do with solidarity you may ask?

As our ranks declined over the years, the staunch union workers that survived the Depression, saw the need for a collective voice and together built this country. They handed the torch down to a generation that did not attend those kitchen table lectures.

We currently find ourselves in the exact economic conditions of the Great Depression, 25 percent national unemployment and historic national debt, all teetering on an inflated market that in no way reflects the actual economy.

Yet this generation bought into the lie that the unions have run their course and are no longer necessary.

It is this belief that gives way to thoughts of going to work while your union is on strike, because you know you won't get caught.

It is this attitude that self-justifies the actions of member managers who push subordinates to betray themselves and their union during strikes and demonstrations.

Striking and demonstrating are protected concerted activities, that the ruling class have been chipping away at since their inception.

Nothing will deteriorate us faster than the selfish behavior of a few. Unions have never been more necessary and will not be truly embraced until they no longer exist.

The actions of the few can shift the direction of change. If it is truly your desire to be part of a strong union, be an example to your Brothers and Sisters and be a strong Union member.

All the collective bargaining in the world means nothing if the workers refuse to abide by what has been negotiated for them. ■

BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

LOCAL 3



Toledo,
Ohio

Matt Aberl

I know we're all excited that summer is here, but please be aware of heat exhaustion and its dangers.

If you begin to feel a throbbing headache, dizziness, weakness, cramps, nausea, trouble breathing, you stop sweating, or have unexplainable fatigue or chills, be sure to get the attention of the steward, foreman or other safety representative immediately.

With the COVID-19 virus still going around, it is more important than ever to make sure you are staying safe and healthy.

RENOVATION UPDATE



In more exciting news, the renovation of the Local 3 Union Hall has made a huge step toward completion.

Our large meeting room has been finished! We hope to see you at meetings so that we can show off our work.

We send a huge thank you out to all of the wonderful members who donated their time and talents to this project.

It couldn't have been done without your help and support.

DUES REMINDER



Please remember that paying your dues is an important part of membership. Your dues are

important, as they go towards 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 and will have to pay a reinstatement fee.

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.

If you would like to set up an automatic withdrawal, please let me know. ■

LOCAL 5 EAST



Cleveland,
Ohio

Gary Browning

Good day to all of you. I hope in this time you and your family are safe and well.

Things have been quite overwhelming in regard to this epidemic and the protests we are living through.

The East Side and Downtown still moves strong, with a vast amount of work in planning, bidding and awarded to our contractors.

This creates high demand in our Local for our highly skilled Brothers and Sisters. It seems we skipped spring, and summer has hit hard the first week of June. Make sure you keep hydrated!

WORK STATUS



Here are some high-profile projects in planning: Sherwin-Williams World Headquarters, Sherwin-Williams Research and Development Campus, The nuCLEus Building, Cleveland/Amazon Distribution Center, Cleveland /Public Square mixed-use development, The Bluff of Seven Hills and Richmond Heights/Bell Oaks at Richmond Next Development.

Projects out for bid include: The Illuminating Building at 75 Public Square, Cleveland Hts./Top of the Hill Project, Brecksville/ Broadview Hts. K-5 School, Fairfield/W. 11th Apartments and Battery Park Apartments.

There are a lot more projects coming up, too.

We are looking for more manpower. If you are not working or know someone who is interested in becoming a skilled tradesperson, please contact **Jairo** or myself.

MUCH APPRECIATION



I would like to say thanks to all of you who honored the strike. By doing this, we were able to hammer down another five-year contract.

Also, I would like to say thank you to the negotiating committee for all the hard work it took to get this contract done.

SERVICE AWARDS



I would like to take a moment to congratulate these men who were recently honored for their 25 years of service: **Frank G. Walls, Dennis F. Rahe, Kenneth Sanger, Adam F. Stone** and **Paul E. Tomasek**.

I would also like to thank the member recently honored for 40 years of service: **Thomas Geraci**.



The Local 3 meeting room at the Union Hall has been completed and set up for social distancing when meetings begin again.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 3

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IN CLOSING

Remember to work safe and stay aware of your surroundings.

Also, make sure your drug free card is current, as most of the projects require it in order to work.

Remember to pay your monthly dues so you are not paying a reinstatement fee.

This can easily be done by, contacting District Council office at 440-986-3000. ■



LOCAL 5 WEST

Cleveland, Ohio

Jairo Cabrera

Brothers and Sisters, summertime is here.

This is the most promising season of the year for members to go back to work and get plenty of working hours.

The contractors and the Union need all our Brothers and Sisters to come back to work. There's a great number of projects coming up in the Local 5 jurisdiction.

Let's start by making sure every BAC member has an up-to-date drug card.

As long as I can remember, even when I was an apprentice, I was always required to carry an up-to-date drug card.

It's even more critical now since times are changing.

As a reminder, it's mandatory for everyone. If you need to schedule a drug test, please contact SCT at 1-800-204-1729 or at safetycontrolstech.com.

Special thanks to the Brothers and Sisters at SCT. They are also BAC members, so treat them with respect whenever you stop out there.

NEW CONTRACT



Nothing in life is promised. Right now, the negotiation committee has come to a mutual agreement, with our contractors, that everyone will be excited about for the next 5-year term.

Thanks to all of the BAC members, along with the contractors, for all the support throughout this process.

We couldn't have done it without you all.

I'm proud of how members and

contractors showed the Local and the negotiation committee how much they all support the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.

So, what does this mean?

Now, we must continue to work together to secure the market share and grow as a Union.

As BAC Brothers and Sisters, we must show our full support to our contractors as we have obligations to fulfill our duties with these projects.

Make sure that every time you're out there, you're giving it 110 percent on these jobs.

Contractors are asking us to consistently give them top craftsmanship.

If we cannot protect the marketshare and provide services as a Local to our contractors when we are called upon, we will be facing the reality of losing work and marketshare to non-union competitors.

Non-union competitors don't care to pay your wages and your benefits. We must continue to fight back.

Be sure to remember the reason why you decided to join the Union.

SAFETY REMINDER



Keep in mind, safety is and always will be the number one priority.

With all of this going on in the world, we don't need any other reason to lose any BAC members.

Please be safe out there.

We're looking forward to seeing you soon. ■



LOCAL 6

Canton, Ohio

Justin Gartrell

Fellow members, I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well during these unpredictable times.

There has been a lot of change in our everyday lives since the last issue of The Benchmark was sent out.

This COVID-19 pandemic has caused its share of problems, even in the world

of masonry.

And whether you believe the seriousness of this virus or not, the reality is that it has affected almost each and every one of our lives in one way or another.

I could go on and on about all of the changes just in my life alone, but what changes for me may be completely different for the next person.

One of the many things I have learned from all of this, though, is the importance of each and every worker in this country, and around the world for that matter.

Without those workers, everyday normal life can come to a screeching halt.

It was nice to see some of the average everyday working Americans get recognized for their contribution to society.

Every job is important and every worker is important.

WORK OUTLOOK



I wish I could report on some bigger projects starting in this area, but unfortunately, I can't at this time.

Some of the projects that were slated to start were delayed due to the virus and shutdowns.

As we head into the later part of summer or the early fall, projects will be picking up in the Local.

We do have some smaller projects going, which seem to be keeping many of our members busy.

We also have quite a few projects bidding now, and we are hopeful that our signatory contractors are awarded this work.

Quite a few members are also traveling outside of Local 6 to find work.

Anyone not working, please call in and let me know if you're available.

REMINDERS



As we head into the hot summer months, please remember to be aware of the signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke for yourself and your fellow Brothers and Sisters.

Try to drink plenty of fluids so your body stays hydrated.

Anyone suffering from dizziness, muscle cramps, heavy sweating, nausea or vomiting should take a few minutes to sit down in a cool area if possible.

If something doesn't seem quite right for you, or that other person, get medical help.

It's best to play it safe. We want

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everyone to return home safely to their families.

IN CLOSING

As always, please remember to keep up with your monthly membership dues, and also your current drug card.

Anyone in need of a drug card can call the office.

We will be resuming our monthly meetings starting in June. Meetings are always the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m.

All members are welcome to attend. ■

LOCAL 7 OH



Akron,
Ohio

Noah Carmichael

Brothers and Sisters, I extend to you the warmest greetings in hopes your families are healthy and safe right now.

We are living in interesting times, to say the least.

As much as that might be a cause for despair for some, it is often darkest before dawn.

It is worth it to be optimistic, in hope the future born from this turmoil will be a brighter one.

A future that is full of opportunity for ourselves, our children and their children.

This will, by no means, be an easy task, but it is all that is left to do.

LOCAL NEWS

A short report on what is going on in the Local.

Well, we made it through what appears to be the peak of the COVID-19 scare, for now.

There was a slight downturn in hours for a few weeks in April and early May. It also was an adjustment for everyone to get used to the mask requirements, handwashing stations, etc.

As always, I did my best to make sure these safety measures were taken on at every jobsite; to ensure anyone working in the Local got the proper PPE; and that

contractors were using the best practices recommended by scientists and medical professionals.

There was no handbook, and no part of our contract to deal with this situation, but I think overall, it was handled by the membership and contractors well.

Should we find ourselves in this position again, we will be better prepared.

If this COVID-19 scare has taught us anything, it is that every day working people are the most important in our society.

Medical staff, construction workers, food service, grocery workers, store clerks and others all became vitally important all at once – indispensable, in fact.

Let us remember that as our working-class friends in those industries ask for better wages, better working conditions, safety measures and representation on the job, we should support them, and they us.

With that said, work has been very steady here in Local 7, and looks like it will be good again this summer.

As of June, we are currently looking to organize any non-union Bricklayers.

Members, please take advantage of the \$500 recruitment program. The money is waiting for you there, all you must do is help organize three new BAC members.

We are finalizing what we hope is the last bit of construction here at Local 7, with a new roof tear off and replacement.

It involved some mechanical work, as well as to redesign the drain system properly, and a bit of masonry work on the parapet wall.

During the past six years, we have had a total envelope restoration on the masonry here, an interior remodel and a new parking lot poured.

With the new roof installed, our home here will be like a brand-new building – something the members can be proud of.

ELECTION RESULTS



We recently had our elections in June (our first meeting back since March, due to the state mandated shut down of gatherings).

The following officers were elected and will be installed next month:

Local 7 Executive Board: **Rich Nagle** – President; **Steve Pavkov** - Vice President; **Noah Carmichael** - Secretary Treasurer; **Tom Dieringer** - Recording Secretary; and **Mike Collins** - Sargent at Arms.

Negotiating Committee: **Noah Carmichael**, **Steve Pavkov** and **Mike Collins**.

WAGE ALLOCATIONS



The new wage sheet for 2020 has been updated and is effective as of June 1.

We had a \$1.75 per hour total increase for this year.

Of that, \$0.50 went into the new annuity, bringing that to \$2.50 per hour total.

After adding another \$0.47 to the health insurance fund, and the mandatory increases, that left us with \$0.68 to go on the check.

This is pretty good considering that we have essentially created another retirement fund from scratch over the last year, are still able to lower the hour requirements for health insurance and put some money on the check.

Thanks again to the negotiating committee for getting us great increases!

FINAL THOUGHTS

It needs to be stated very clearly at this point, and over again.

There is no room for racists in our Union!

The culmination of the past month's events has been brewing, not since George Floyd was killed, not since Tamir Rice was killed or any other person that died in police custody – but for hundreds of years here.

We must look at history to see where we are going. At this point, there is plenty of evidence of white supremacy in politics, in policing and frankly, in some factions of the working class.

The only way to rid ourselves of this poisonous division is to unite with working people of all nationalities against the forces of prejudice and racism.

We, as union people, as working people, are all that we have – each other.

If this pandemic and the recent demonstrations have taught us anything, it should be when working people come together to change corruption, to demand better conditions, to demand better education, to demand equality in the wealthiest society, we can make changes that last.

Never forget how powerful we all are. That is why the ones with all the power want us to be fighting with each other – to divide among race, religion and culture.

They know if we unite as a class of working people for power, their little game is over.

They do not get to keep all the spoils anymore.

So, I ask you once more, educate yourselves and unite!

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My final words in this article will be better than I can come up with myself. They come from a man who dedicated himself to a pursuit of knowledge and freedom:

“I’m for truth, no matter who tells it. I’m for justice, no matter who it’s for or against.” – El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, also known as, Malcolm X. ■

LOCAL 7 KY



Ashland, Kentucky

Richard “Willie” Moon

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I hope this article finds everyone healthy.

With summer upon us, the work for Local 7 KY is looking good for this year.

Central Masonry is still working at Desco Federal Credit Union Bank in downtown Ashland, and will be starting the Marathon project by the end of June.

Early Construction is starting up at the AEP project in Pikeville, Ky., and should see work until September.

Advanced Restoration has pushed back the Braumburg building in Ironton, Ohio, but had picked up the Coal Grove Elementary project.

Our contractors still have several bids out and are awaiting the results on who will be awarded the projects.

REFRACTORY

RC Refractory had a several-week outage at Calgon Carbon, and still continues to perform maintenance until Calgon brings down B line for repair.

Apache’s work is picking back up at Marathon Petroleum. The plant had stopped all maintenance work during the months of April and May, but started placing our Bricklayers back to work in June and looked to almost double the maintenance crew’s manpower.

Apache will be looking to up the manpower for our fall outages in the Crude unit and SDA unit.

Marathon is also talking about having a shutdown on the Cat Cracker next year.

UPDATES

Please check all your TWIC, DISA and

Lead Cards for updates.

If you are in need of any updates, please contact the Union Hall.

Also, for all our apprentices, please contact the SOKRTC or the Union Hall for your updated schedules.

The Local will resume regular meetings starting in July, on the second Thursday of the month. Doors close at 7:30 p.m. Please be early to attend.

With work picking up in the area, our contractors have implemented new safety guidelines for all projects: Hand washing stations, 6-foot distancing and cloth face masks in some situations.

Please take them seriously for there is still the threat of this horrible virus affecting our members and loved ones.

Our world has been altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that our lives will be back to normal very soon.

Until then, please follow the safety guidelines that are in place.

IN REMEMBRANCE

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you we have lost our Brother of 20 years, **Lindsey “Aron” Jordan**, who was 49 years old, to the COVID-19 virus on March 31.

Many of us knew Aron as a stand-up Union Brother, and best friend to all he worked with.

He always loved talking to our retired members and listening to their stories of years past.

He was a loving father who cared for his family very much.



Jordan

Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. His loss was an unexpected event in our lives and we will never forget him. ■

LOCAL 8



Youngstown, Ohio

Brian Collier

Greetings Brothers and Sisters: I hope that all is well with our members and their loved ones.

I suppose that I don’t have to say it out loud, but our world has certainly changed since you received your last Benchmark publication.

Many jobs were shut down or put on hold during the uncertainty of COVID-19, however, people now are returning to work.

We can only hope and pray that things will continue to improve, but I dare not say that life has returned to normal yet.

While we are out in the world working amongst people, I hope we can do our part to stay safe and adhere to prescribed recommendations and regulations.

Yes, I realize everyone has a different opinion concerning how to safely deal with this situation.

I am exposed to enough media in my life to realize some people are completely blowing this pandemic off, while others are utilizing every resource at their fingertips to protect themselves and others whenever



Lencyk Masonry working on University Edge III at the YSU Campus in Youngstown.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 8

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they go out in public.

I am trying to use common sense about the situation, realizing that there are people that I personally know who have been infected, including my 82-year-old aunt who seems to be recovering.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that there have also been less fortunate folks close to home that fell victim to COVID-19.

Local 8 lost retired member **Mario DiLullo**.

Sadly, there was no immediate memorial service to console with family and friends.

I wish I could have said goodbye properly, as I was blessed with having the pleasure of working with Mario in the early 1990s before he retired.

Mario immigrated to the United States



Trumbull County Engineer Randy Smith, pictured second from the left, with members of his staff and Building Trades Agents showing his support for Local Hire in front of a construction site for Old Dominion Freight Line in Lordstown. Engineer Smith is a true friend of the Unionized Building Trades in the Mahoning Valley.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 8

Western Reserve Building Trades members make their stand known in Lordstown concerning local government giving tax abatements to corporations without including language to protect local union construction workers.

from Italy in the 1950s and joined the BAC, going to work building manholes which he did for years before precast became so prevalent.

Mario was the only Local 8 Member with the "MN" designation on his union card.

He was a man who lived the "American Dream," and a man I admired.

May God's grace be with his widow, family and all who have suffered through this hard time.

Please be careful out there.

PROJECT STATUS



Gillespie & Powers is finishing the furnace at Ellwood Castings in Hubbard.

Lencyk Masonry is working on the Canfield Fair Coliseum, Mahoning Valley Innovation at YSU and Medici Art Museum in Howland.

They will have some future work at the TJX Warehouse in Lordstown.

Tervo Masonry is working at Mosquito Creek Water Treatment and finishing the Sheetz in Boardman.

Youngstown Tile and Terrazzo is working at Preston Mazda and will start soon at the Eastwood Mall Event Center.

SKILLED TRADES EXPO

In hopes the pandemic will subside in time, the Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Committee is still planning the second annual Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo for Sept. 23 and 24 at the Canfield Fair Grounds.

All reasonable precautions are being reviewed.

If you know a public, private or home-schooled student from grades 7-12 from Columbiana, Mahoning, Trumbull counties, as well as some parts of Eastern Portage County and border counties in western Pennsylvania, encourage them to speak with their respective career counselors to attend.

WAGE ALLOCATION RESULTS



As of June 1, 2020, the Bricklayers received a \$1.08 raise, of which \$0.25 went to H&W, \$0.20 went to the Personal Care Account, \$0.17 went to the Industry Advancement Fund, \$0.15 went to IPFPPA, and \$0.01 went to IMI, making the new hourly wage \$29.43, and \$30.44 for Refractory.

TMT Zone 1 received a \$1 raise, of which \$0.25 went to H&W, \$0.05 went to IPFPPA, and \$0.01 went to IMI, making the

new hourly wage \$29.14 for Setters and \$26.30 for Finishers.

TMT Zone 2 received a \$1 raise, of which \$0.50 went to H&W, \$0.19 went to Local Pension, \$0.07 went to IPFPPA and \$0.01 went to IMI, making the new hourly wage \$25.50 for Setters and \$22.91 for Finishers.

IMPORTANT DATES



Unfortunately, the Local 8 Executive Board decided to cancel the April, May and June 2020 Monthly Union Meetings in response to the COVID-19 Virus.

We hope to resume meetings in July, taking the necessary precautions.

We are still planning to have the Annual Local 8 Awards Banquet, which will be held on Oct. 10.

Local 8 will send out invitations, as always, unless we are forced to cancel.

IN CLOSING

Let's remember to work together, serving and taking care of our families, our communities and our Brothers and Sisters in the labor movement. ■

LOCALS

9, 10, 44 & 52



**East
Liverpool,
Ohio**

Don Mays

We are living through something none of us have ever experienced in our lives.

Due to COVID-19, we are being checked on many of our jobsites with thermometers at the gate; required to stay 6 feet apart as much as possible; and wear a mask for a completely different reason than we are used to.

With all that confusion and frustration, we have still been fortunate in that most of us that want to work, have had work to go to.

Those that have chosen to shelter at home, have had unemployment and increased funds to make until what we hope is, safe lifestyles again.

That may take a while, so we must get used to what I guess is the new normal.

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By the time you receive this issue, things will be opened up somewhat, but the threat to us and our families is still there, until a vaccine is available. I hope we can continue with most of the safe practices.

We are working. That's important for us, as we have not been shut down like many industries. We also look to have a good work year, again, in most areas.

Currently, we need bricklayers in Locals 10, 44 and 52.

WELCOME



I welcome **Corrine Kerr** to Local 10. She is a first-year apprentice. Welcome back **Tim Simon** to Local 44.

Welcome to **Brett Burner**, a Local 52 PCC first-year apprentice, and Bricklayer **Tyler Martin** to Local 52.

WELL DONE



I congratulate and thank Local 10 member, **Cody Dailey**, for representing the Local and the union positively from apprenticeship through today.

Cody is an employee of Lencyk masonry. The picture is at the Leetonia Ohio High School Fieldhouse.

HELP US GROW

I continue to talk with apprentice prospects at every opportunity, but if you



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 10, Local 10 member Cody Dailey at the Leetonia Ohio High School Fieldhouse.

know a non-union Bricklayer, please refer them to us.

That said, I would like to repeat last article's reminder.

The OH-KY ADC membership incentive to bring in new members continues. Call me to learn about the program and assist us in growing our membership and manpower.

It is a great opportunity to help us grow and reap a financial benefit for doing so. ■

LOCAL 16



**Mentor,
Ohio**

Dan Musacchio

Brothers and Sisters, please continue to check the calendar on the website, Ohiomasons16.org, for meeting notices and event dates.

We have every intention of rescheduling the anniversary celebration once we are confident we can safely meet free of any potential COVID-19 risk.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

REMOTE MEETINGS



For the time being, log into Zoom to be a part of our monthly meetings.

Simply go to the website calendar and find the date block for the meeting. Click the link for the Zoom meeting and it will redirect you there.

For the immediate future, this is how we are keeping up with the regular order of business.

Going forward once we can gather at the Hall for meetings, we may continue to use Zoom for members who physically are unable to attend.

This is a great tool we can use to keep the body informed and involved no matter where they are.

IN CLOSING

Stay safe and continue to look out for one another in the field. ■

LOCAL 18 NORTH



**Cincinnati,
Ohio**

Brian D. Wear

Greetings hard working essential union members. It only took a pandemic for us to be called out publicly as essential. As you and I both know, we have always been essential.

Thank you to everyone for doing their best to make it through this pandemic.

Whatever decision you made about working during the COVID-19 pandemic is respectable.

I'm not sure what side of the fence you ended up on. I'm just glad you are still here. With or without this pandemic, you have always been essential to Local 18. Thank you!

WORK STATUS



Work has continued to stay strong and bustling on new masonry construction.

The Winton Woods schools are wrapping up.

The Harrison schools are coming out of the ground.

The Talawanda School is starting.

FC soccer stadium continues to work overtime.

The parking Garage at FC has finally started to get going.

The restoration work has been slow to move. This market was impacted hard by COVID-19.

Some of the private customers have pulled back funding on projects, while other companies decided social distancing was the best practice.

The work looks to have picked up now that summer has once again skipped over spring.

NEW AGREEMENT



As you all are aware, Local 18's Bricklayer agreement has been settled.

We agreed on a three-year contract with a value of \$4.94.

The negotiating team will address the

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necessary cost of fringes, and we look to put as much as possible on the check.

This year's wage increase, effective June 1, bumped us \$1.11. The base rate for a journeyman Bricklayer is \$29.77.

Going forward, we would like to see \$1 a year toward the wages.

Obviously for this Local, the rising cost of health insurance is always a factor. Those of you that have been around know this is always concern.

Perhaps you ask why that is? There is a large portion of our Local that struggles to get the hours necessary to maintain coverage. We improved this for everyone by increasing the hourly contribution by \$0.45.

This means for a member working and enrolled in the standard family plan, you need to work 118 hours per month – or 1,416 annually.

This is the lowest amount of hours required to maintain this coverage in the last 25 years.

Our negotiating team worked exceptionally hard for every penny this year. And this has always been the case.

However, this year was just a bit better than last.

Thank you, OH-KY ADC Director **Ken Kudela**, Secretary-Treasurer **Don Huss**, **Steve Gregg** and **James Hoffman** for diligently representing the working members of Local 18.

PICNIC CANCELLED



Due to the current restrictions and public health concerns, our annual summer picnic has been cancelled.

The city of Cheviot has closed the pool, and growing concerns of a potential summer outbreak have cancelled this event.

We will keep everyone posted as to what we will do next.

T-shirts will be available in July at the Hall.

Until then, stay safe, work hard and enjoy the family. ■

LOCAL 18 SOUTH



Cincinnati,
Ohio

Jeff King

As a result of COVID-19, negotiations for our brick contract, which expired June 1, looked very different this year.

First, we were unable to have our "Wish List Meeting" because of state-mandated restrictions.

We reached out to members to see what they wanted, and did our best to negotiate their wishes in the new contract.

Up until the time this pandemic hit, I felt like we had never been in a better bargaining position to negotiate a good contract for our members.

Suddenly, as a result of COVID-19, the U.S. economy was hit with the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Our contractors have a lot of work on

the books, but because of fluid economic conditions, the jobs forecast over the next couple of years became an unknown. The new unknowns created a tougher bargaining environment.

I am happy to report as a result of the hard work of your negotiating team, we were able to reach an agreement on a three-year contract.

A big thank you goes out to OH-KY ADC Director **Ken Kudela** and Secretary-Treasurer **Don Huss**, along with **Steve Gregg** and **Jim Hoffman**, who represented the Local as the elected members of the negotiation team.

It is not an easy job to do, and they deserve our gratitude.

I also thank our contractors for recognizing the need of our members to be given a fair increase. We need each other to be successful.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

We are living through — to borrow Eleanor Roosevelt's words — "no ordinary time."

The Southern Regional Training Center was forced to close in mid-March because of COVID-19 and just reopened on June 15.

We are looking forward to having our apprentices getting caught up on missed class time in order to get back on track with the regular school schedule this fall.

COVID-19 has disrupted daily living of people around the world.

It is important we realize there are some positive lessons to be learned from this devastating virus.

First, a new spotlight has been shined on the workers who are the engine that keeps this country's economy running.

Stay Connected to the OH-KY ADC:



www.oh-kyadc.com



www.facebook.com/oh.ky.adc/



@BAC_OHKY

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It is not the Wall Street Executives, the banking industry or insurance companies, it is the men and women who build, move products and stock shelves whose labor carries this country on their sore backs.

I am proud of our members for continuing to work, providing their much-needed skills to complete projects that are essential to the communities they live in.

We have worked collaboratively with our signatory contractors to make sure the jobsites were compliant with CDC and state guidelines to ensure as safe of a working environment as possible.

Everyone understands that adding additional PPE to perform our tasks can be a burden, but protecting ourselves, our coworkers and their families must be our top priority.

If you are like me, you have grown mentally tired of this virus and the changes that we have been forced to make to control the spread of this enemy.

We just want to return to some form of “normal.” It is not time to return to “normal” yet, however.

We cannot afford to do that! We must stay vigilant! It is not over! We cannot let our guard down! Stay strong and stay safe!

TIME TO LISTEN AND LEARN

It is important for us all to look at the current unrest happening in this country because of racial injustice.

I cannot pretend to understand the direct pain inflicted by racism. However, I do think we all have a responsibility to ask ourselves what can we do about it?

At a minimum, we must educate ourselves about racial justice. This requires us to listen, learn and look inward.

Only by doing so, can we be effective agents of positive change. ■

LOCAL 22



Dayton,
Ohio

Shawn Herzog

I know the last few months have been uncertain and difficult for a lot of our members and their families.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Through this whole pandemic, work in Local 22 has been steady for the most part.

I would like to remind members to continue to stay safe and maintain social distance.

I would also like to thank those members, who have continued to work through this pandemic.

I know it wasn't easy and some experienced totally different work environments than we as construction workers are comfortable with.

MEETING SOON



Local 22 hasn't been able to hold a Union meeting since March, but we look to return to having meetings in July, with the loosening of some social distancing requirements.

Our Hall will hold around 25 people with the social distancing requirements. Masks will be required and hand sanitizer will be available.

I hope to get a decent turnout when our meetings proceed.

CONTRACT STATUS



As you all know, the Local 22 Brick and Tile contract is up this year.

As of now, there is no update on those contracts.

We hope to have them done by the end of June.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we did extend the brick contract 30 days with everything being retroactive back to the first of June.

HELP US GROW

To all members, the remainder of the year looks to be busy, and contractors are looking for some journeyman bricklayers.

If anyone knows anybody that would be interested in joining our Local, have them contact me.

CONDOLENCES



Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of the Brothers we have lost over the past several months, Brothers **Howard Hallman, William Harris, Milton Rayman, Claude Castleberry, William Faught Jr., Richard Nooks, Craig Collins Sr., Larry Edwards, William Mollett and Russell Burns.** ■

LOCAL 36



Cleveland,
Ohio

Matt Neeson

Brothers and Sisters, as we move through this pandemic, I want to take a moment to thank all “essential workers” who had to work as all of this unfolded before our eyes.

As things start to open up, please look out for each other. Don't get complacent. Stay on the safe side.

WORK OUTLOOK



As we head into the busy season, it looks to be a good year for work with lots of bidding still going.

The contractors are telling me that it's been a great few years of bidding, and it's not slowing down.

The big issue is getting all of the product needed to do the jobs – with most distributions not receiving and/or shipping on time because of COVID-19.

Some projects have been delayed, but are still up and running. Be patient the call will come.

SAFETY REMINDER



With safety standards getting more stringent, we must stay calm and understand that safety is our number one concern.

We can't go to Home Depot and buy a new finger or an eye.

I want to let you know that along with COVID-19 came a more intense safety protocol, and the contractors and general contractors are not playing around with multiple warnings any more.

There is no room to balk at the safety standards that are put in place.

Your family depends on you to come home as you left.

The contractor and the general contractor want the same thing – to get home safe.

These things are for our safety. It is not to make your life miserable.

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POLITICS



This year is a major election year. You have heard this from me over and over.

Make sure you look at all candidates running, and make a choice who will have our best interests at hand.

Who is going to have our backs?

Good living wages, fair wages, medical, annuity, pension and who wants you to work for less so the money man can make money.

It takes a special boss to pay us what we get. They believe fair wages keep the manpower happy, and it does.

Well, it also takes that same thinking at the political level, too.

Keep us all moving in the right direction. We really need to look at this heavy, because if it takes the "So-Called Right-to-Work" path, it's over for us.

DUES, DRUG CARDS



Remember, when it's busy we don't want to forget about our cards.

Please stay on top of these as we move through the busy year. ■

LOCALS 39 & 45



Portsmouth, Ohio

Heath "Luke" Henry

Greetings Sisters and Brothers. With the wet spring and coronavirus, we have gotten off to slow start this year.

With the better weather and the reopening of the economy, most of us have returned to work, and are finding it to be a very busy time in our trade.

As we return to work and try to get back to normal, we need to remain vigilant and do our best to protect ourselves, our co-workers and our family members from the coronavirus.

It is pretty evident we will be dealing with this pandemic for the foreseeable future, and we can't afford to get complacent with this virus.

We need to follow the guidelines as laid out by the State of Ohio, and do our part to make our jobsites the safest in the

construction industry.

We owe it to each other and to our families to be smart and to take every precaution we can to prevent the spreading this horrible virus.

You can go to coronavirus.ohio.gov for a full list of mandatory guidelines and recommended best practices for the construction industry.

ORGANIZING SUCCESS

In January of this year, the OH-KY ADC started an Organizing Incentive Program to encourage members to get involved in organizing and recruiting new craftworkers to help grow our union.

Under this program, any member who is responsible for bringing three new members into the union receives a \$500 reward from the OH-KY ADC.

In May of this year, **Michael Collins Lambert** became the first member to achieve that goal. He was presented a \$500 check from the OH-KY ADC on May 21.

We congratulate Michael on his achievement, and encourage all of you to get involved in this program.

Organizing new members is one of the most beneficial things we can do for our trade, for our contractors and for our union.

If you have any questions about this program you can refer to Secretary Treasurer **Don Huss** article in the October/November/December edition of the Benchmark, or contact a Field Representative.

IN CLOSING

We are working to resume monthly



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LOCAL 39

Local 39 member Michael Collins Lambert, pictured here with Local 39 Field Rep Heath "Luke" Henry, was the first member to recruit three new members to the Local and receive a \$500 incentive check.

meetings for Local 39 and Local 45, and are hopeful this will begin in July.

We want to ensure these meetings will be safe and to make sure that we strictly adhere to all established safety guidelines.

Our monthly meetings are vital to the functioning of our union, and there is no real way for our Locals to operate without them.

Stay Safe! ■

LOCAL 40



Mansfield, Ohio

Matthew R. McClester

I hope all who are reading this article are doing well and staying healthy.

Although this year has been somewhat of a struggle, I think the majority of us have much to be grateful for.

My hope is we all took some time over the last couple months to reevaluate and understand what our priorities are in life.

And just think, we have a Presidential Election season to look forward to as the summer rolls along.

WORK STATUS



Work has stayed fairly steady through the pandemic, and is slowly picking up as the Stay at Home order is lifted and the weather is finally warming up.

We had a few jobs shut down for a time period due to COVID-19, but as of now, all jobs have restarted.

It is looking like another busy summer throughout the Local and District Council.

I encourage members to take advantage of the hours while they are available.

My belief is we will stay busy with work on the books and with the Presidential Election coming in November.

However, after the election and as the full effect of this pandemic is felt by our economy, along with the fact we are overdue for a slowdown, I believe we may see some diminished work opportunities in 2021 and 2022.

Some of our younger members may have the realization I had in 2009-2010, the good times in construction do not last

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forever, nor do the bad times.

Just something to keep in mind as the summer goes along and you turn down a Saturday work opportunity, you decide to stay home because it “might” rain, or you don’t answer the phone because you are making more on unemployment.

Always remember that is about “Hours Worked!”

FISH FRY RESCHEDULED



At our June Union Meeting, we decided to postpone our Annual Retirees’ Fish Fry traditionally held at the July Meeting.

We rescheduled the Fish Fry to be held at the December Meeting in conjunction with our Members’ Christmas Party.

Not knowing what the COVID-19 situation will be like in July, we decided it was not worth the risk of having a large gathering.

Our hope is by December, the pandemic will somewhat have come to an end, and we will all feel safe meeting in a large group.

HELP US GROW

If anyone knows of a non-union Bricklayer, please refer them to the Local.

We need to continue to man our jobs in order for our contractors to feel comfortable to bid more work.

And in return, the more manpower we organize from the non-union, the less ability they have to underbid our work.

IN CLOSING

I hope to see everyone on jobsites this summer, and at our Union Meetings held on the second Wednesday of every month. ■

enjoying the great outdoors, like swimming, ballgames, fishing, hiking, bicycling, golfing, picnics, barbecues, amusement parks, fairs, festivals and everything else we enjoy doing during the summer months.

Then COVID-19 came, and everything had the brakes put on it for the most part by the governor of this great state of Ohio.

For the last couple of months, we have all been going stir crazy.

Just remember, when we are opening back up and starting to get back to doing what we do, please remember to be safe, not just for you, but for the other people who might be at risk of the catching COVID-19.

Think about the people with unhealthy immune systems, like your elderly family members who might not be in the healthiest state of their lives.

Be kind and respect other people. You do not know what they are dealing with in their lives.

MEETINGS



Local 55 rank and file meetings will be starting back up in July.

There are some protocols for holding our meetings in person. You will need to wear a face mask or face covering at all times while inside the building.

You will need to keep your social distancing of 6-feet between each other.

If you are sick or have a fever, you should stay home. If you are showing signs of being sick then you will be asked to leave.

There will be a few disposable face masks on hand if you should forget yours, but please try to remember to bring your face masks. There is a limited number on hand.

The Local will have hand sanitizer for

members to use while at the Hall.

Our meetings will be in the back of the building for proper social distancing.

RETIREE’S LUNCH



The retiree’s lunch has been halted until August, tentatively.

Please check with **John Conner** or the Union Hall in mid-August to see if it the retirees luncheon will be starting back up, or further cancellations are required due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MUCH APPRECIATION



Local 55 would like to thank **Thomas Cannon Jr.** for all the years that he has been on Local 55’s Executive Board, and for all he has done for this Local.

As of July 1, Tom has retired as the recording secretary.

Thank you, Tom, for your years of service to our Local.

Tom is staying on Local 55’s pension as a trustee, however. Yep, he still cannot give it all up just yet.

CONGRATULATIONS



Local 55 has two apprentices graduating this year from their apprenticeship, and are now journeymen.

Local 55 congratulates **Mitch Kittinger** and **Zachary Clark** on graduating from the apprenticeship program and becoming full-fledged journeymen.

They have both come a long way since these pictures were taken at the Northern training center during the 2018 IU state competition.

LOCALS 44 & 55



Columbus,
Ohio

Bill Hulet Jr.

Hello BAC brothers and sisters. Spring is at hand, and summer is just around the corner.

That should be the time when we are



Member Thomas Cannon, Jr. retires from the Local 55 Executive Board on July 1.



Local 55 congratulates new journeymen Mitch Kittinger (left) and Zachary Clark (right).



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 44 & 55

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WAGE ALLOCATION



Local 55 is on its last wage allocation of their five-year contract.

Next year, we will be going into negotiations. I can only hope the economy is going to be this strong this time next year.

We are all tired of putting the majority of our wage allocation into fringes and not onto our checks, just so we do not have to make self-payments when we cannot get enough hours each month to cover our premium for Health and Welfare.

WORK STATUS



I hope everybody is back to work. Work is going gang busters in Columbus. Every contractor is looking for Bricklayers.

If you are sitting at home, call me and you can go to work the next day.

If you were sitting at home or still are off, everyone should realize that if you do not work, you do not get any hours put in on your benefits for Health and Welfare or your pensions.

This being said, you may run out of health insurance coverage because you do not have contributions going into your health and welfare.

Also, every pension plan has a certain number of hours you must get every year to get a full-vested credit.

This is part of the calculations you get for your pension payments when you retire.

With just about every Local I hear looking for Bricklayers, I think everybody should be able to go to work either in your home Local or even travel to other Locals in desperate need of your skilled manpower.

If you know of any Bricklayers you can bring in, remember the District Council's new member incentives you can get for bringing in three new bricklayers.

IN CLOSING

In these trying times, remember your family and friends.

Reach out and talk to them, more now than later.

With everything being shut down and people not getting to get out and socialize face-to-face, it is driving some people into loneliness and depression.

It is a good thing that we reach out and talk to each other, be it our family members and loved ones or our friends and neighbors.

Even if it is just to say, "Hi," and see how they are doing.

That phone conversation just might bring someone's spirits up. That might be the only phone call that person has had for a while.

It is in most people's nature to socialize with each other. This is something we should do to keep everybody's spirits up.

Remember the IU has the Members Assistance Program for any member or family member in need of assistance.

Here's hoping everyone goes home to their family every night safe and healthy. ■

LOCAL 46



Fremont,
Ohio

Tim Linder

In January, a raging pandemic – unleashed by a highly contagious COVID-19 virus – triggered unprecedented restrictions, not only on the movement of people, but also on a range of economic activities, which led to a declaration of a national emergency in our country.

The pandemic disrupted global supply chains and international trade.

Since March, Ohio has been operating under an Executive Order from Gov. DeWine in an attempt to slow the spread of the coronavirus so our hospitals did not become overcrowded.

Even though many businesses in Ohio were forced closed, the construction



Local 46 members working at the Nielsen refractory.

industry was deemed an "essential" business, and work in our field continued.

Although the pandemic has caused a lot of anxiety and a rise in absenteeism, the majority of our workforce has continued working with the following requirements in place:

- Ensure minimum 6-feet between people. If this is not possible, install barriers.
- Businesses must require all employees to wear facial coverings.
- Employees must perform daily symptom assessments.
- Require employees to stay home if symptomatic.
- Require regular handwashing.

Due to the face-covering requirement, Local 46 purchased bandanas and sleeves for our members, their family members and even others they work around daily.

If you are interested, and haven't received any, please call me at 419-967-5168.

WORK STATUS



Grunwell Cashero, Veterans home in Sandusky.

Mosser Construction, Fremont High School.

Shad Refractory, Lime Plant in Woodville.

Commercial Flooring, Marathon in Findlay.

Anese, Monroeville Fire Station.

In July, Peterson will be at the Tiffin Waste Water needing Bricklayers.



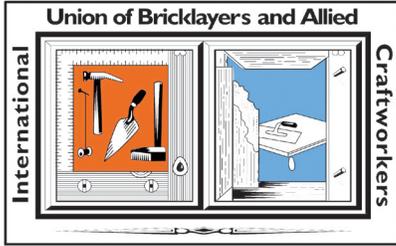
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOCAL 46
Local 46 member Ronnie Hobbs.



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



BRICKLAYERS LOCAL REPORTS

Make sure you reach out to me so we can help fill these spots with the demand being extremely high for workers.

WAGE ALLOCATION



Raises for 2020 took effect on June 1.

Health contributions now will require a minimum of 112 hours per month to cover the premium for family coverage.

If you have any issues with health insurance coverage or questions regarding coverage, please reach out to me at the office, 419-334-2454.

SERVICE AWARDS



Local 46 recently recognized 40-year member **Tim lehle** and 25-year member **Keith Jacobs**.

Congratulations and thank you for your service.

Also, congratulations to **Wyatt Broadhead** for finishing his apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman in May.

CONDOLENCES



I offer my condolences to the family and friends of **John Sammet** and **Willis Zibble**, who recently passed away.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

REMINDERS



Dues can be paid by calling District Council at 440-986-3000, or by filling out and sending in the form for automatic withdraw.

The last few monthly meetings have been cancelled due to the restriction on gatherings.

Meetings will resume once Gov. DeWine lifts the ban on mass gatherings of 10 or more people.

This Executive Order is in effect until July 1.

IN CLOSING



As we continue to learn to navigate through the next several months, I would like to wish all a safe and healthy summer! ■

IN MEMORIAM

James J. Dubry, Sr., 3 OH
Charles P. Besenfelder, 5 OH
Alexander Ferguson, 5 OH
Paul L. Gaiser, 5 OH
Philip Giordano, 5 OH
Joseph A. Hoffmann, 5 OH
Joseph M. Katkic, Jr., 5 OH
Paul A. Lamb, 5 OH
Lindsey A. Jordan, 7 KY
James K. Reynolds, 7 KY
Jonah D. Greer, 7 OH
Anton Putra, 7 OH
Mario Dilullio, 8 OH
Arthur F. Atkinson, 18 OH
Craig L. Collins, 22 OH
John E. Sammet, 46 OH
Willys H. Zibbel, 46 OH
J. B. Denson, 55 OH