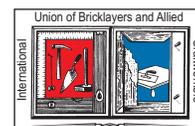


INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS  
LOCAL 9 PA - SERVING ALL OF WESTERN PA



# BAC in Touch

*"The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling, but in rising again after you fall."*  
- Vince Lombardi

*"When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him: 'Whose?'"*  
- Frank Lloyd Wright

Published by and for the Members of BAC Local #9

Prepared by **Bill Greer**, Vice President/Recording Secretary and **Tom Auman**, 2nd Vice President

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Fall 2012

## Message From The President . . .

First of all I truly hope all of you had a great summer. Work in our jurisdiction has been pretty good over the last several months and work for the next few months looks promising. While we can't guarantee anything, rest assured we are working hard every day to make sure we get an opportunity to bid on every project in western Pennsylvania.

The coming year will also bring some challenges to us, we will start contract negotiations for several of our trades, including Brick, Stone, Tile and Terrazzo. We anticipate some very tough negotiating sessions with the respective associations due to the weak construction atmosphere. However, we will continue to fight for what's best for the membership of Local 9. As the process moves along we will keep you updated at Chapter meetings and through future newsletters.

The most important endeavor we have in the next few weeks is the upcoming State and Federal elections. I have never been more concerned with the outcome of an election as I am now. No matter what your party affiliation is, we must elect the leaders who will protect our interests, and our interests are the issues that put money in YOUR pocket and food on your table! While I have never set out to offend anybody, I must state the obvious right now; the majority of the republican party do not believe in our core issues (prevailing wage, organizing and workers rights). Just this past Spring the Republican majority passed a Bill shredding our unemployment benefits starting in 2013. Governor Romney stated he will push for a national "Right to Work" Bill and outlaw Project Labor Agreements as soon as he takes office. Now I ask you; is this really the kind of leadership that working men and women like us should vote for? As a Union member myself I say, "Hell No". I know for a fact that the PA legislature has several Bills prepared for debate this winter that will decimate our wages and our organizing ability. Please remember what the PA Legislature has done to us this year when you go to the polls this November, and finally, while we may not all be satisfied with the progress President Obama has obtained; he has earned the opportunity to finish the job! He will and has always supported the rights of UNIONS and working men and women in this country! And remember, Mitt Romney has pledged to destroy what we have worked for in the last 100 years.

As always, I consider it a privilege to serve "you" the membership of Local 9, and will continue to strive for the betterment of our Local. I have my staff working harder than ever to procure employment for our members and I know with hard work and dedication we will soon see better days!!!

As always my door is always open!

Fraternally,  
**David "Bucky" Donkin**



## PCC & Stone Masons

Work for the PAC Stonemasons and PCC has been pretty steady over the summer. These crafts have had full employment since August 2012. Cost Co. and Franco have had the majority of work and have called numerous times for Local # 9 members during the summer months. There will always be a demand for confident, qualified members, so take advantage of the various training classes this year. Be sure to sign up for your craft related classes to maintain yourself as one of the best hands in the business.

Please remember that all of us working together, building, linking, sharing, lifting, pulling and supporting each other, along with help and encouragement we can accomplish anything!

Well, it's election time again and politics continues to play a very important role in the lives of our members. Please take time to review the highlights of Act 60 of 2012 (Unemployment Compensation). Also, please take the time to vote. Take advantage of your right to vote for the politicians that support unions like ours!

John Mains  
Field Rep/PCC/Stonemasons

## GREENSBURG CHAPTER

As summer starts to wind down and fall begins to set in, work in the Greensburg Chapter is slow. The steady company guys are working pretty well, but the non-company bricklayers are having a hard time getting work. It seems to be slow in all of the brick chapters except Pittsburgh. While work is slow in the Greensburg Chapter area, I have offered work to guys who are willing to travel. The Pittsburgh Brick Chapter and the Clairton Mill have many of the Greensburg Chapter members working.

**\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\*Vote\*\*\***

Another election is upon us this November. Mitt Romney and the Republican Party want us to think that they can get the economy going by being "Business Friendly". Well, what does "Business Friendly" really mean to them? Their idea of "Business Friendly" is low wages, long hours, no health benefits, no pensions, no safety rules, no environmental protection, no consumer protections, and no weekends to name a few. It seems to me "Business Friendly" means "The Rich get Richer," "The Poor get Poorer" and "The Middle Class Disappears". I believe if we want to rebuild America, we must rebuild the American middle class. To rebuild the American middle class, we need strong "Unions". It's no coincidence that the decline of the middle class began with the decline in Union membership. We see the results of this decline every day. More Americans are working in low wage jobs and are without healthcare and the means to save for retirement. Union jobs can still offer workers good salaries, pensions, and healthcare benefits that give families the economic security to send their families to college or trade schools, to invest in their communities and to have a secure retirement. This is not some 'Socialist Idea', it's the 'American Dream'- and Unions have helped ensure that more Americans have a chance to live it. If working class people are to have a share in our future prosperity, they need Unions to advance their issues. Otherwise, the voices of corporations, the rich, and the well-connected will drown out the voices of the average American worker. For Unions to remain strong, we must remain united at the ballot box. We must support each others causes and leaders and support the common interest of organized labor- the right to collectively bargain for wages and benefits. Union members must vote for their self-interest, not against it. Mitt Romney has made no secret of how he feels about Unions; he hates Unions and Union wages. I can't understand how anyone from this organization can support a man like that, and I hope you won't. So let's get out and vote! Support the "Unions" and the "Middle Class" this November.

**Glenn L. Smyers Jr.**  
Greensburg Chapter - Field Rep.

## PITTSBURGH BRICK

Allegheny County saw a slow start into summer, but quickly picked up towards mid-June. We were fortunate to have a lot of school work in our area such as Montour, Penn Hills and Moon High Schools and Quaker Valley Elementary to name a few. This trend will continue throughout the fall with big projects like Pitt dorms on Fifth, Mt. Lebanon High School, Penn Hills Elementary, South Fayette School District and an ongoing Allegheny Ludlum in Natrona Heights.

The work in the Pittsburgh area could not possibly be done without the dedication of the men from our local and outlying areas. As you can see, our bread and butter in Pittsburgh is school and federally funded construction. That's why it's vitally important to have elected officials who support prevailing wage. Unfortunately for us, the majority in Harrisburg does not support our fight for good jobs and benefits. They believe we are overpaid and our benefits are dragging our economy down. What they don't know is that everything we have, we work for and nobody is giving us anything. Be careful who you elect!!!!

Have a safe fall season and please call if there is anything you need at #412-860-8398

**Timothy Wachter**  
1st Vice-President/Pittsburgh Brick Rep.

## ERIE/NEW CASTLE CHAPTERS

This year, work in the areas have been better than last year. Although still not to the level we need it to be. I have seen some busy months followed by some slow months. The Erie Chapter was slow most of the summer but has picked up recently and should be decent the rest of the nice weather months. There are indicators that jobs scheduled before the economic downturn might finally be starting next year. This includes buildings at the Erie Transit Authority and McDowell School. The chapter is still working on buildings at Edinboro University, Summit Township Municipal Building, and the Tulio Arena just finished which created work for our members. The Erie Chapter had a good turnout and a great time at Waldameer Park in August.

The New Castle Chapter was busy earlier this summer with projects in Cranberry Township and Butler County. A building at Passavant Retirement Community in Zelienople was started a couple of months ago and should continue for most of this year. There are ongoing jobs at Grove City College and at Case Ave. School in Sharon. Upcoming projects are a new VA Outpatient Clinic in Butler, a school addition in New Castle and a new Catholic High School in Cranberry Township. Also the Freeport School District recently approved the construction of a new school in Buffalo Township in Butler County which should start next year.

With the upcoming elections in the fall I believe this is a critical time for all of us. So please VOTE! It is your choice but please VOTE! I could give example after example on how I believe you should vote and why, but I want you to consider these facts when you head to the polls. At the state level the Republican controlled General Assembly and Governor gave the gas and oil industry a gift with no natural gas extraction tax to the detriment of the taxpayers. Which by the way some parts were ruled unconstitutional, and this came from a party who claims to defend the state constitution. They also spent \$13 million taxpayer dollars to solve a problem that did not exist. That is the voter ID Law based only on accusations and no real evidence. Especially when State Senate Leader Republican Mike Turzai stated that with this new legislation it should help Candidate Mitt Romney win in the Commonwealth this fall. Again this comes from a party that claims to be fiscally responsible. At the national level during the last big recession in the early 1980's, it took Republican President Reagan his second term to get the country moving forward again with the cooperation of a Democratic Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill. Together they came up with solutions to get the people working again. Our current President has had to deal with an obstructionist Speaker of the House, John Boehner, and his Republican allies in the House for the past two years. From the very first day in office Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell said that the Republicans would do every thing they could to ensure President Obama was a one term President. They say they care about you and your family but are unwilling to compromise to get people working again to cater to the very wealthy. They say they want to cut spending and the deficit but would not agree to a deal the President proposed. That deal was he was willing to cut \$2.50 in spending for every \$1 of revenue increase by taxing the very wealthy to levels before the Bush tax cuts. That truly would have helped solve the deficit problem. So ask yourself, do they really care about solving the deficit problem or is politics and winning power more important? Since 1980 most people will agree that the middle class has been in decline. During that period of 32 years, this country has elected Republican Presidents who have served for a total of 20 years and Democratic Presidents for 12 years, including the 4 years of President Obama. So with this in mind, not the campaign ad propoganda, ask yourself which party truly is to blame for the decline of the middle class and this great nation. Do I agree with every thing the Democrats stand for? No, but to me the choice is clear. God bless and please VOTE. Do it for your self, do it for your family, do it for a veteran who sacrificed his life for you to have and continue to have this right

Union Proud, Veteran Proud  
Robert Veselich  
Erie/New Castle Field Rep

# Pennsylvania AFL-CIO

## Executive Council Endorsements

### President of the United States

Barack Obama (D)

### United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr. (D)

### Pennsylvania Attorney General

Kathleen Kane (D)

### Pennsylvania Auditor General

Eugene DePasquale (D)

### Pennsylvania State Treasurer

Robert McCord (D)

### Representative in Congress

Robert Brady (D), District 1  
Chaka Fattah (D), District 2  
Missa Eaton (D), District 3  
Harry Perkinson (D), District 4  
Charles Dumas (D), District 5  
Manan Trivedi (D), District 6  
Kathy Boockvar (D), District 8  
Philip Scollo (D), District 10  
Gene Stilp (D), District 11  
Mark Critz (D), District 12  
Allyson Schwartz (D), District 13  
Mike Doyle (D), District 14  
Rick Daugherty (D), District 15  
Aryanna Strader (D), District 16  
Matthew Cartwright (D), District 17

### Senator in the General Assembly

Lawrence Farnese, Jr. (D), District 1  
Shirley Kitchen (D), District 3  
Mike Stack (D), District 5  
Vincent Hughes (D), District 7  
Judith Schwank (D), District 11  
Tom O'Brien (D), District 13  
Rob Teplitz (D), District 15  
Daylin Leach (D), District 17  
Andrew Dinniman (D), District 19  
John Wozniak (D), District 35  
Matt Smith (D), District 37  
Jay Costa, Jr. (D), District 43  
James Brewster (D), District 45  
Kimberly Vilella (D), District 47  
Sean Wiley (D), District 49

### Representative in the General Assembly

Patrick Harkins (D), District 1  
Flo Fabrizio (D), District 2  
Ryan Bizzarro (D), District 3  
Jason White (D), District 5  
Mark Longietti (D), District 7  
Christopher Sainato (D), District 9  
Jaret Gibbons (D), District 10  
Eric Schott (D), District 13

Jim Marshall (R), District 14  
Bob Williams (D), District 15  
Robert Matzie (D), District 16  
Gene Digirolamo (R), District 18  
Jake Wheatley (D), District 19  
Adam Ravenstahl (D), District 20  
Dominic Costa (D), District 21  
Eric Molchany (D), District 22  
Dan Frankel (D), District 23  
Ed Gainey (D), District 24  
Joseph Markosek (D), District 25  
Daniel Deasy, Jr. (D), District 27  
Bernard O'Neill (R), District 29  
David Tusick (D), District 30  
Steve Santarsiero (D), District 31  
Anthony DeLuca (D), District 32  
Frank Dermody (D), District 33  
Paul Costa (D), District 34  
Mark Gergely (D), District 35  
Harry Readshaw (D), District 36  
Bill Kortz (D), District 38  
David Levdansky (D), District 39  
Marcy Dubroff (D), District 41  
Matt Smith (D), District 42  
John Weigel (D), District 43  
Mark Scappe (D), District 44  
Nick Kotik (D), District 45  
Jesse White (D), District 46  
Sarah Speed (D), District 47  
Brandon Neuman (D), District 48  
Peter Daley, II (D), District 49  
Pam Snyder (D), District 50  
Tim Mahoney (D), District 51  
Deberah Kula (D), District 52  
Patrick Leyland (D), District 54  
John Petrarca (D), District 55  
Raymond Geissler, Jr. (D), District 56  
Andrew J. Gales (D), District 57  
R. Ted Harhai (D), District 58  
Harriet Ellenberger (D), District 59  
Jo Ellen Bowman (D), District 60  
Matthew Bradford (D), District 70  
Bryan Barbin (D), District 71  
Frank Burns (D), District 72  
Gary Haluska (D), District 73  
Mike Hanna (D), District 76  
Scott Conklin (D), District 77  
Richard Flarend (D), District 79  
Jerry Stern (R), District 80  
Rick Mirabito (D), District 83  
Susan Spicka (D), District 89  
Charles Comrey (D), District 92  
Linda Small (D), District 93  
Eugene DePasquale (D), District 95  
Mike Sturla (D), District 96  
Patty Kim (D), District 103  
Christopher Dietz (D), District 104  
Kelly Jean McEntee (D), District 105  
Ted Yeager (D), District 107

Kevin Haggerty (D), District 112  
Marty Flynn (D), District 113  
Sid Michaels Kavulich (D), District 114  
Frank Farina (D), District 115  
Ransom Young (D), District 116  
Mike Carroll (D), District 118  
Gerald Mullery (D), District 119  
Phyllis Mundy (D), District 120  
Eddie Day Pashinski (D), District 121  
Ronald Rabenold (D), District 122  
Neal Goodman (D), District 123  
Vicki Harman (D), District 125  
Mark Rozzi (D), District 126  
Thomas Caltagirone (D), District 127  
Eric Saar (D), District 129  
Russell James Diesinger (D), District 130  
Kevin Deely, Jr. (D), District 131  
Mike Schlossberg (D), District 132  
Dan McNeil (D), District 133  
Patrick Slattery (D), District 134  
Steve Samuelson (D), District 135  
Robert Freeman (D), District 136  
Leslie Altieri (D), District 138  
John Galloway (D), District 140  
Tina Davis (D), District 141  
Frank Fary (R), District 142  
Mark Painter (D), District 146  
Mike Gerber (D), District 148  
Tim Briggs (D), District 149  
Mike Vereb (R), District 150  
Thomas Murt (R), District 152  
Madeleine Dean (D), District 153  
Steve McCarter (D), District 154  
Joshua Maxwell (D), District 155  
Bret M. Binder (D), District 156  
Paul Drucker (D), District 157  
Susan Rzucidlo (D), District 158  
Thaddeus Kirkland (D), District 159  
Stephen Barrar (R), District 160  
Joseph Hackett (R), District 161  
Nick Miccarelli (R), District 162  
Nicholas Micozzie (R), District 163  
William Adolph Jr. (R), District 165  
Greg Vitali (D), District 166  
Rob Broderick (D), District 167  
Ed Neilson (D), District 169  
Brendan Boyle (D), District 170  
Christopher Lee (D), District 171  
Kevin Boyle (D), District 172  
Mike McGeehan (D), District 173  
John Sabatina, Jr. (D), District 174  
Michael O'Brien (D), District 175  
Mario Scavello (R), District 176  
John Taylor (R), District 177  
Scott Petri (R), District 178  
James Clay, Jr. (D), District 179  
Angel Cruz (D), District 180  
W. Curtis Thomas (D), District 181  
Brian Sims (D), District 182

William Keller (D), District 184  
Maria Donatucci (D), District 185  
Jordan Harris (D), District 186  
Joseph M. Haas (D), District 187  
James Roebuck (D), District 188  
Vanessa Brown (D), District 190  
Ronald Waters (D), District 191  
Louise Bishop (D), District 192  
Mike Strausbaugh (D), District 193  
Pamela DeLissio (D), District 194  
Michelle Brownlee (D), District 195  
J.P. Miranda (D), District 197  
Rosita Youngblood (D), District 198  
Cherelle Parker (D), District 200  
Stephen Kinsey (D), District 201  
Mark Cohen (D), District 202  
Dwight Evans (D), District 203

# Notification of Dues Increase

Effective January 1, 2013, the International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers will increase the monthly membership dues.

**A DUES SCHEDULE IS LISTED BELOW:** The dues have increased by \$2.00. Members who have already paid into 2013 will owe the \$2.00 difference for the months paid. Also, for a few years now we've have had a 'special offer' for members paying a full year of dues in one payment; pay for 11 months & get 1 free. Unfortunately, that offer will only be available until the end of 2012. Anyone paying dues until December 31st will still be able to take advantage of this special offer. Starting January 1, 2013, you will no longer receive a free month for a yearly payment.

JOURNEYMEN	\$17.00	CONTRACTORS	\$26.00
SUPPORT	\$17.00	DISABLED	\$10.00
IMPROVERS	\$13.00	COUNTY WORKERS	\$26.00
APPRENTICES	\$13.00		
RETIRED	\$13.00	40 YEAR RETIRED	-0-
INACTIVE	\$13.00	50 YEAR LIFE	-0-

IF YOUR CARD NEEDS REPLACED DUE TO ERRORS, LOSS IN THE MAIL OR BENEFICIARY CHANGE, THERE WILL BE A CHARGE OF **\$1.00** TO COVER COST OF AN ADDITIONAL CARD. LOCAL 9 PAYS FOR THE INITIAL CARD FOR EACH MEMBER EVERY OTHER YEAR.

IF YOU ARE A **JOURNEYMAN AND ARE PLANNING TO RETIRE**, PLEASE WRITE A NOTE TO OUR OFFICE AND NOTIFY US OF THE **MONTH YOU ARE RETIRING** AND THE **LAST DATE OF WORK**. YOUR NOTIFICATION WILL ENABLE US TO LOWER YOUR DUES AMOUNT AT THE PROPER TIME.

AS STATED IN THE LOCAL 9 CONSTITUTION, IF YOU THINK YOU QUALIFY AS AN **INACTIVE MEMBER** (NOT WORKING IN THE TRADE BECAUSE YOU HAVE CHANGED OCCUPATIONS DUE TO **PERMANENT** CAREER MOVE OR DISABILITY), YOU CAN WRITE TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND LET US KNOW YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. YOUR LETTER WILL BE REVIEWED AT THE MONTHLY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AND YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE OR MAIL AS TO YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE INACTIVE STATUS.

IF YOU THINK YOU QUALIFY FOR **DISABLED** DUES, THERE IS A FORM THAT WE WILL SEND TO YOU THAT MUST BE FILLED OUT BY YOUR DOCTOR AND RETURNED. WE WILL SEND THE FORM TO THE INTERNATIONAL AND WILL NOTIFY YOU OF THEIR DECISION.

**WE REGULARLY RECEIVE MAIL BACK BECAUSE OF BAD ADDRESSES. PLEASE KEEP US AWARE OF ANY ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES. CALL THE OFFICE OR SEND A NOTE WITH YOUR DUES.**

IF YOU REQUIRE A BENEFICIARY CHANGE PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE TO HAVE ALL NECESSARY FORMS SENT TO YOU.

B.A.C. LOCAL 9 PA

## Work Outlook in Johnstown Chapter

Work has been picking up quite well in the Johnstown Chapter of Local 9 PA. It's a shame that summer is winding down just when all the work is breaking. At least it should keep members busy into the winter months.

Smith Masonry has a couple jobs. Mt. Aloysius College is building a new Convocation Center. It's just getting started and there is an abundant amount of work in brick, block, stone and granite. It should be a long job employing approximately 30 members. They are also working on the Hollidaysburg Treatment Plant. It's not a real big block job but will keep a few members working for a while.

Harris Masonry is just starting phase 2 of the Huntingdon School revitalization.

Darr Construction has a couple jobs; One is a remodeling job, transforming an old building into a Martella Pharmacy. They also have the Conemaugh Township School job. This started out big, 16 million, but the scope of work is not really clear since it has been cut to 5-6 million. This job is just getting started.

Marsa Inc. is working on a new building in Cambria County, it is a Nursing Facility at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ).

Keener Construction is working on a brick & block addition on the Everett School. This should keep some members working through November.

Lawruk Construction seems to be picking up small jobs all over Altoona. It's hard to keep track of the odds & ends they are working on.

Fabcon is working on a new building in Altoona. It will be a Retail Drug Store.

Jobs up for bid are; The Conemaugh Valley School, under a PLA bid in October and the Camtran Busing Authority, a \$20 million project, will work on a PLA bid next year.

If you have any questions regarding the jobs in the Johnstown Chapter, please feel free to call me.

**Jody Niel**  
Field Rep./Johnstown Chapter

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

There are several Scholarships available throughout the year for members and their families. In order to receive scholarship applications that come to our office, please call 412-825-0923 and give your name & address. I will mail out all applications I receive to everyone on the list. The applications generally show up in our office early in the year. All I ask is that you call and take yourself off the list when you no longer are looking for scholarship information.

**Anyone who has children who are Juniors this fall, please don't forget to take advantage of the Bates Scholarship. (information below). Many people miss it because they don't start looking for scholarships until the kids are Seniors.**

**\*\*\*The Bates Scholarship** is offered by the International. It usually is available around November and is offered to children or step-children of members who are **JUNIORS and have taken the "PSAT" in October**. Information is available on line: [www.bacweb.org](http://www.bacweb.org), select **Member Benefits**, then **Education**, and finally **Bates Scholarship**.  
(The member's **6 digit IU number** and local of Membership, **BAC Local 9 PA** must be provided) Please call if you have any questions.

Thank you!  
Mary T. Pegg

# IMI UPDATE

## NEW TECHNOLOGIES = INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES

Traditional masonry is the mainstay of our existence. Conventional materials such as brick, block, tile, etc. are certainly the "bread and butter" of the masonry industry market share. IMI is very conscious of this and makes promoting the tried and true methods of masonry design and construction a top priority.

Recently many new products and systems have emerged, several of which are or should be considered masonry. When an element is included in our wall or flooring system, it is imperative that it is installed by the bricklayer/tile setter. Not only does this concept create "single source responsibility" for the assembly, but also can provide huge amounts of man hours for the BAC contractors and members.

Most current wall systems incorporate some sort of air and/or vapor barrier. These control layers can be fluid applied, expanding foam, or sheet membranes. In the ever evolving tile industry, new products to control moisture, vapor, and shrinkage are introduced almost on a daily basis. Again, these come in a variety of mediums.

Given that our contractors ultimately are responsible for the entire assembly, it is critical that these components be applied by their installers.

Rain Screen walls continue to increase in popularity, particularly in the healthcare and university fields. These systems typically are connected with a metal rail track, or channel assembly to the backup substrate. It is important to remember that all of these "pieces and parts" are the work of the mason contractor.

Adhered veneers, while not new to the industry, also seem to be gaining ground. Manufacturers often require weather resistive barriers, drainage plane units, and flashings to be incorporated into their specifications.

Although some of these newer technologies may not be installed in Division 4 of project specifications, IMI works very hard to educate the Architectural, Engineering, and Construction Management communities that these are masonry products, and should be installed by the trowel trades.

So if you are asked to put your trowel, hammer, caulk gun, or grout float aside on a project for a screw gun or possibly spray hose, please keep in mind that these new products carry along with them much needed man hours for the unionized masonry industry. There have been many examples over the years of other trades turning their back on a "new product", only to see it become the norm. Let's not let that happen to us.

The goal, as always, is to continually create work opportunities for the BAC members and contractors.

Tom Nagy, Area Director  
International Masonry Institute  
1-800-IMI-0988  
tnagy@imiweb.org



# LOCAL 9 AT WORK AND PLAY



**Jerry Claar & Randy Powers @ Charles Cole Hospital (Warren Chapter)**



**Joe Lester, Jason-Jobber-Kamer, Todd Deitman @ Indiana Animal Shelter**



**Jerry Weirick (L) and Mike Croll (R) at Case Ave. School Etzel Masonry**



**F: Sam Vescovi, Terry Sipe  
B: Joe Smith BA, Robert Mansfield, Ray Mincin, 1975 apprentice contest Harrisburg.....**



**BAC New Castle Chapter at the Hermitage Labor Day Parade**



**Jeff Evans & Frank Kusler @ First United Methodist Church (Clarion Chapter)**



**Cody Kinkead @ Connellsville High School**



**Tony Ficcarri & Jimmy Anderson**



**David Donkin Jr and Todd Petrusky**



**Labor Day Colors**



**Labor Day Picnic**



**Matt Keslar @ Connellsville High School**

# LOCAL 9 AT WORK AND PLAY



**Mike Spisak @ Martellas Pharmacy (Johnstown Chapter)**



**Mike Slobodnik (L) and Steward Nick Hoover (R) at Passavant Retirement Community Kusler Masonry**



**Sgt at Arms Scott Lang (L) Grandprize winners John Bailey (Center L) Retiree Dave Bretz (Center R) Erie Chapter Chairman Dennis Learn at Waldameer Picnic**



**Glenn Wilson @ United Methodist Church (Clarion Chapter)**



**Jeff Scott @ Charles Cole Hospital (Warren Chapter)**



**Norm McDowell @ First United Methodist Church (Clarion Chapter)**



**Labor Day Parade**



**Labor Day 2012**



**Bill Benish & Steve Kaylor**



**Tracy Carner & Scott Eperthener**



**Josh Kazar**



**Jack Peters & Tony Trentini**



**Brian Pryor**



**Tim Gump, Dennis Dally at the Mega Meeting'**

## Take good care of yourself from

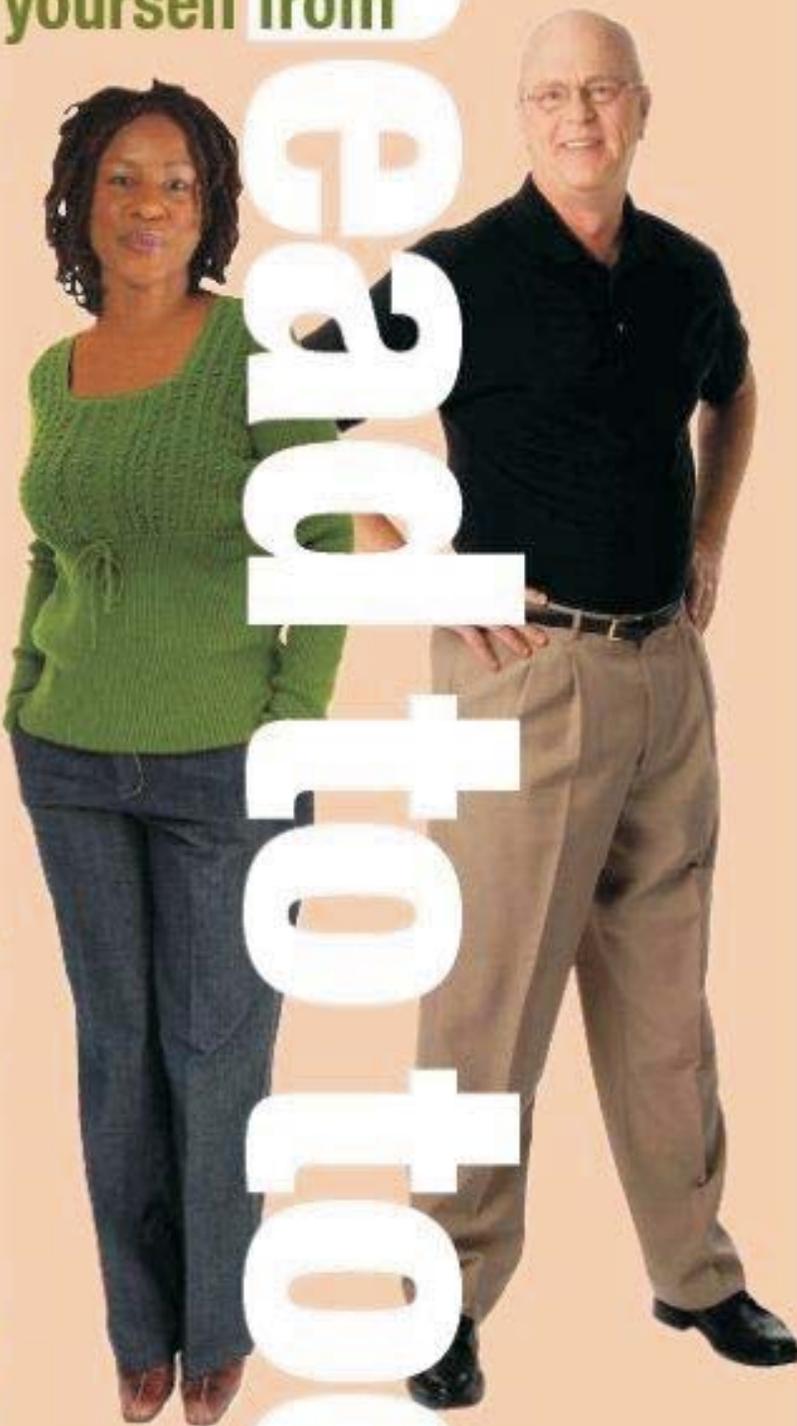
Taking good care of yourself includes seeing your doctor for regular checkups and screening tests.

If you have diabetes, you are at higher risk for several serious health conditions – so seeing your doctor for regular checkups and tests is especially important for you.

By partnering with your doctor to have the tests you need and learning about practicing good diabetes care, you can:

- **Keep your heart and blood vessels healthy** with regular blood pressure and LDL cholesterol checks.
- **Protect your eyesight** with an annual dilated retinal eye exam.
- **Protect your kidneys** with an annual microalbumin test.
- **Keep your nerves and feet healthy** by learning and practicing good foot care, and having an annual microfilament test from your doctor.
- **Have healthy teeth and gums** with daily flossing and brushing and twice-a-year dental visits.
- **Keep tabs on how well you are managing your blood glucose** with HbA1c blood tests as recommended by your doctor.

Talk with your doctor about the test schedule that is right for you and about the role of medications, diet, and exercise in helping to prevent and treat conditions related to diabetes. Also ask about other tests, unrelated to diabetes, that may be important to your health.



## UPMC HEALTH PLAN

The information contained herein is the property of UPMC Health Plan and/or its affiliates, and is intended solely for use by UPMC Health Plan employees.

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AUG HEADOTITLE 0201 10605 30-0 (M03) 08/09/2011

If you are a UPMC Health Plan member, a Member Advocate will be happy to assist you with finding a doctor and making an appointment; call 1-888-876-2756. As a member you can also talk with a UPMC Health Plan health coach about diabetes prevention or management; call 1-866-778-6073. Visit [www.upmchealthplan.com](http://www.upmchealthplan.com) to learn about healthy lifestyle programs for members.

# Social Security Statements... Check It Out...

It is a good idea to periodically check your estimated Social Security benefit. It allows you to both help plan for retirement along with checking for and correcting any errors.

Up until 2011, the SSA mailed annual Social Security Statements to everyone age 25 and over. Now, unless you are 60 or older, you need you need to request a statement. You can do so one of three ways:

1. **Website** - Go to [www.ssa.gov/mystatement/](http://www.ssa.gov/mystatement/) and open an account with Social Security to view your statement online.
2. **Mail** - You can also request you're your statement by mail by using form SSA-7004 (this form is available on the website)
3. **Phone** - Call the Social Security Helpline at 1-800-772-1213.

Your statement includes a record of the earnings on which you've paid taxes and an estimate of the benefits you will receive at various retirement ages: 62, 65-67 (depending on the year you were born), and 70. When you check your record, make sure that the Social Security number noted on your earnings statement is your own, and make sure the earned income amounts listed on the agency's records mesh with your own records of earnings as listed on your income tax forms or pay stubs.

If you have evidence of your covered earnings in the year or years for which you think Social Security has made an error, call Social Security's helpline at 800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This is their general line so is best to call early in the morning or late in the afternoon, late in the week, or late in the month. Have all your documents handy when you speak with a representative.

If you would rather speak with someone in person, call your local Social Security office and make an appointment to see someone there, or drop into the office during regular business hours. Bring with you two copies of your benefits statement and the evidence that supports your claim of higher income. That way, you can leave one copy with the Social Security worker. Write down the name of the person with whom you speak so that you can reach the same person when you follow up. The process to correct errors is slow. It may take several months to have the changes made in your record. After Social Security confirms that it has corrected your record, request another benefits statement to make sure the correct information made it to your file.

The Social Security website also offers calculators to help you determine which retirement age makes the most financial sense for you <http://ssa.gov/planners/calculators.htm>.

# Unemployment reform hits us hard!!!

The recent changes to unemployment compensation will have a profound effect on the construction industry. While we all know our work is seasonal the unemployment insurance that we all pay for is an integral part of our yearly financial planning. I have attached the highlights (or lowlights) to the Amendment below for your review. We had been very adamant when we spoke to our local legislators that the amendment as written would hurt all the construction workers in the state and potentially drive some of our best workers from the trades to look for steadier employment, therefore increasing the already growing migrant workforce.

Unfortunately we were defeated in Harrisburg by partisan politics. The vote was as follows: 129 to 67 in the House and 29 to 19 in the Senate. The Officers at Local 9 work hard to educate our representatives (Democrat and Republican) on the issues that will affect us, and most of the time we are able to keep bad legislation from hitting the floor. We will continue to be vigilant in Harrisburg this year and protect our interests as several other anti-union amendments are circulating.

Help us help you, by electing leaders who will protect our interests in the future!

Fraternally,  
**Bill Greer**, Vice President/Recording Secretary

SENATE BILL NO. 1310

PRIME SPONSOR: **John R. Gordner Senate District 27**

**SUMMARY:** Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law to address the solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and refinance the outstanding debt owed to the federal government. This legislation would take effect immediately.

**ANALYSIS:** Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law to:

- 1) **change partial benefit credit from 40% to 30% of weekly benefit rate**
- 2) stipulate that earnings for requalification for benefits must be in "employment"
- 3) increase taxable wage base and decrease State Adjustment Factor
- 4) change Interest Factor to bond debt repayment mechanism
- 5) increase trigger solvency percentage to 250% from 125%
- 6) enact various administrative changes, including allowing the collection of back payments through Treasury Offset Program
- 7) **change financial eligibility requirements in base year earnings (20% to 49.5% must be earned outside high quarter)**
- 8) change effective date with respect to variable credit weeks (from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2013;
- 9) permit the issuance of bonds for repayment of outstanding federal loan;
- 10) **changes maximum benefit cap to maintain annual maximum benefit at \$573 through 2019**
- 11) create an amnesty program for collection of unpaid contributions or compensation overpayment.

[www.local9pa.com](http://www.local9pa.com)

## Mitt Romney's Your Guy? Don't Be A Loser!

Take it easy. I am only trying to educate you on what you will lose if Mitt Romney becomes President - - and grab your attention in the process.

As you know, contractors are required to pay you the Prevailing Wage or what are called the Davis Bacon wages on publicly funded construction projects. The Prevailing Wage continues to be equal to the total of your wage and benefit package. Hence, if the Prevailing Wage is not required, the contractors who are party to your collective bargaining agreement ("CBA") will be easily underbid by contractors who pay their workers substantially less than you are paid. In other words, if Davis Bacon is repealed, you will no longer work publicly funded jobs such as highways, public buildings, schools, etc. **Mitt Romney has promised to repeal Davis Bacon (Prevailing Wage Rules) immediately, i.e., you lose!**

One way that your union secures work for you on major publicly funded construction projects is by entering into Project Labor Agreements ("PLAs"), which guarantee that union members will do the work regardless of which contractor is the lowest bidder. We can support a candidate who supports the use of PLAs such as Barak Obama. Or, we can support a candidate that has vowed to end the use of all PLA's throughout the country such as Mitt Romney has promised to do. Mitt Romney even goes as far as describing PLA's as unconstitutional and un-American. **If you support Mitt Romney, you lose!**

Mitt Romney has promised to make all states, including your state a "Right to Work" state. "Right to Work" legislation is very misleading by title. "Right to Work" legislation really means that your co-workers would have the right to enjoy your wages, benefits, and job protections without paying their fair share of union dues. We can support a candidate that will not and has not supported "Right to Work" legislation - - President Barack Obama. Or, we can support a candidate that will work to make sure that co-workers can cheat each other by refusing to pay for the wages, benefits, and other protections collective bargaining achieves - - You guessed it - - Mitt Romney. **If you support Mitt Romney, you lose!**

Some of you may be skeptical of the accuracy of these facts, but they are undisputable. You can watch Mitt Romney's speech to the Associated Builders and Contractors by watching the video yourself at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHEvMda0W-o> or go to youtube.com and search "Romney Endorses ABC Anti-Worker Agenda."

Often we hear the question, are you better off today than you were 4 years ago? The answer is simply yes. 4 years ago, our economy suffered its worst crash as a result of the financial industry's collapse since the great depression during October of 2008 (BEFORE OBAMA WAS ELECTED). This occurred as a result of the financial industry's incompetent collapse - - this did not occur because workers stood together as a unified voice! During 2008, we were all looking over a financial cliff and started a free fall. Today, the economy is growing and our jobs have increased.

Actually, a much better and more important question to consider is how will you be doing in 4 years if you help elect Mitt Romney? The answer is that you will be sitting home while others do your work on large publicly funded construction projects. You will watch non-union workers and/or undocumented workers do your work for half of the cost for your wages and benefits. You will lose your union and collective bargaining after people stop paying their fair share. In short, you and your family will be much worse off if you elect Mitt Romney! **If you support Mitt Romney, you will lose!**

Legal Counsel,  
Joshua M. Bloom, Esquire  
[www.bloomlayers.com](http://www.bloomlayers.com)

# RELATED TRAINING

## Apprentice Training Classes



As we start the 2012 - 2013 school year, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer (and working). Apprentice classes for the Pittsburgh Training Center will resume on Saturday September 8th at 7:00 AM. These classes are mandatory for all apprentices. If you have any questions call Kurt Keller at 412-825-0923

## RELATED TRAINING

Any member Needing OSHA 10 Hour, First Aid or Scaffold Safety Training should let me know so I can schedule them for class. Any member wanting Welding or Blue Print Reading will be required to bring a \$75.00 check payable to the JATF on the first day of class. The \$75.00 check will be refunded upon completion of the course. You must attend 80% of the classes or eight out of ten classes in order to meet completion requirements. If you do not pass the Welding Certification Test but do attend the required classes your \$75.00 deposit will be returned. If you have any questions or want to register for a class call Kurt Keller at 412-825-0923.

## Continuing Education Classes @ BAC/IMI International Training Center

October 15 - 19	JAHN Certification (Class size limited to 15)
August - October	OSHA 30 Hour
August - October	Cross Craft Training / Upgrade Training

Cross Craft Training is also available Saturdays during school hours at the Pittsburgh Training Center. Call Kurt Keller to schedule.

## ICRA - Infectious Control Risk Assessment

UPMC is mandating that all workers take an eight hour ICRA Training Class before working on their property starting November 1, 2012. November will be here before we know it. Call Kurt Keller at 412-825-0923 to schedule a class.



Apprentice Training / Safety Coordinator  
Kurt Keller

## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

This may be one of the most important and critical elections in this nation's history. I hear a lot of Republicans and Democrats say that Obama didn't have a plan. Didn't he? Or did he? Without the needed (Republican) votes, no proposed plan could pass.

What is Romney's plan? I know one of his plans is to get rid of the Unions. If that happens, this country is in for a world of hurt. I'm not big on politics, and I think your vote is your choice, as it should be. When making your choice, just be sure to consider your livelihood and your future.

This election is really a big one, I hope all of you will let your voice be heard by carefully weighing all your options and making the right choice for you. Hopefully we can get this economy turned around.

**GET OUT AND VOTE!**

Jody Niel  
Field Rep./Johnstown Chapter

## UP NORTH

In opening, I would just like to say that I hope everyone had a safe and fun filled summer that was spent with family and friends. The leaves on the trees are a constant reminding us that fall is quickly approaching. I am happy to report that the job outlook for the Warren / Clarion Chapters looks very favorable at this time. Several projects in both chapters were very slow to get started, so I am hopeful that this will mean that they will run through the winter months to stay on schedule.

There are several school projects that are currently ramping up in the Clearfield County area. Harris Masonry is performing the masonry work at Clearfield High School. This is a nice size project that includes several additions and alterations to the existing building. Crist Masonry is performing the masonry work at the Phillipsburg-Osceola Area Middle School. This is another project that includes extensive addition and alteration work to be done. JC Orr is the general contractor at the Harmony Area School and will be performing the masonry work on this project themselves. This project mostly contains renovation work. Also, the Moshannon Prison in Clearfield County is moving forward at this time. Caretti Masonry is performing the masonry on this particular project. In addition to the usual required clearances for these types of projects, a mandatory 40 hour orientation class was also necessary. I really hope this is an isolated case for this type of project as far as orientation goes.

Up north in Warren County, Elwood National Forge (ENF) continues to build projects with our union contractors. Gillette Masonry and Onex have been performing work at their plant. The jobs include numerous masonry and refractory jobs at their current location in Warren PA. Gillette Masonry also is moving forward with the Beaty Middle School project and the Northwest Savings Bank project in the Warren area. A couple of nice sized refractory jobs that are on the horizon for late 2012 and early 2013 are Owens Glass (Brockway Plant) and also St Gobain Container (Port Alleghany Plant). Both of these plants are looking to rebuild the tanks at their current locations. Both of these projects should provide a good amount of man hours in both the Clarion and Warren Chapters during the winter months, providing they don't get pushed back for some reason.

In closing, I would urge everyone to exercise their right to vote on November 6, 2012. This election will truly define the direction that our country is headed in for a long time to come. Local # 9 members have always stood and fought together for the right to provide a decent living wage and retirement for their families. Let us band together in the upcoming months to continue to move the labor movement forward! Let your voice be heard on November 6, 2012.

**Tom Auman**, *Vice President / Field Rep.*  
Warren & Clarion Chapters

## *In Memory* *Latest Deaths in Local 9 PA*

### **PITTSBURGH BRICK CHAPTER**

Richard "Red" Dixon  
Charles Jackson Jr.  
Carl Zando  
Ray Ritche  
Thomas Matty  
George Klavonick  
Anthony Bruni  
George Rugg

### **BEAVER CHAPTER**

Frank J. Davis

### **CLARION CHAPTER**

Charles Bish

### **NEW CASTLE CHAPTER**

Robert Vasconi

### **ERIE CHAPTER**

James Hume Jr.

### **PITTSBURGH ALLIED CRAFTS CHAPTER**

Ray Bertocki  
Gerald Labriola Sr.  
Robert F. Stahl  
Regis Papania  
Ronald Crawshaw  
Bruno Solari

### **GREENSBURG CHAPTER**

John Garlick

**BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS  
LOCAL 9, PENNSYLVANIA  
100 KINGSTON DRIVE  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15235**



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**ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS - EVERY OTHER MONTH  
(Even Months - Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., & Dec.)**

**★ FIRST WEEK EVERY OTHER MONTH ★**

**WARREN CHAPTER (Former Local 24)**

**Joe Cheuka, Chapter Chair**

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

V.F.W. Hall

95 Wetmore Avenue • Kane, PA 16735

**PITTSBURGH BRICK CHAPTER (Former Local 2)**

**Lester Brkovich, Chapter Chair**

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

B. A. C. Local 9 Office

100 Kingston Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15235



**★ SECOND WEEK EVERY OTHER MONTH ★**

**WASHINGTON CHAPTER (Former Local 11)**

**Rick Ringer, Chapter Chair**

Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Labor Temple

1 South College Street • Washington, PA 15301

**ERIE CHAPTER (Former Local 28)**

**Dennis Learn, Chapter Chair**

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Central Labor Hall

1701 State Street • Erie, PA 16501

**CLARION CHAPTER (Former Local 10)**

**Adam VanSteenberg, Chapter Chair**

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Brookville Days Inn

230 Allegheny Blvd • Brookville, PA

**GREENSBURG CHAPTER (Former Local 75)**

**Steve Viazanko, III Chapter Chair**

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Westmoreland County Community College

Business & Industry Center Bldg.

400 Armburst Rd. - Youngwood, PA 15697



**★ THIRD WEEK EVERY OTHER MONTH ★**

**NEW CASTLE/BEAVER CHAPTER (Former Locals 17 & 7)**

**Gary MacDonald, Chapter Chair**

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

The Elk's Club

10 S. Cascade Street • New Castle, PA 15697

**JOHNSTOWN CHAPTER (Former Local 4)**

**Ray Zwick, Chapter Chair**

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Richland American Legion

390 Oakridge Dr., Richland Twp. • Johnstown, PA 15904

**★ RETIREES BREAKFAST ★**

RETIREES BREAKFAST - the 3rd Thursday each Month at 9 am

May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18

BAC Local 9 Union Hall

100 Kingston Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15235



**★ FOURTH WEEK EVERY OTHER MONTH ★**

**PGH ALLIED CRAFTS CHAPTER (Former Locals 33 & 20)**

**Ron Becker, Chapter Chair**

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

B. A. C. Local 9 Office

100 Kingston Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15235