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MAY 2021

# BAC On The Wall

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 of Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC  
Quarterly Newsletter

## News & Updates

President's  
Message  
**PAGE 1**

Expect the Best,  
Prepare for the Worst:  
Training in a Pandemic  
**PAGE 2**

Introduction to  
Masonry Decay  
**PAGE 3**

Trowel Blazers and  
Leaving a Legacy  
**PAGE 4**

Announcements  
& Events  
**PAGE 5**

Apprentices  
**PAGE 6**

Survey and  
Giveaway  
**PAGE 7**



## President's Message BY SCOTT GARVIN

We are resilient. As craftworkers, the strength and durability are evident in not only the materials we use, but also in the way we work. Dealing with the cold and heat, snow and rain, the dirt, obstacles of every scaffold, the safety “man” hoping to catch you that one time you take your glasses off for a split second – all of that and then add COVID 19 into the mix. You endured the daily dangers of just working, but then you had to concern yourself with a new danger – does he have COVID, how do I protect myself and my family?

But we did it. By and large, the vast majority of the Local members have endured and come out the other side of this pandemic, in health and steadily working. For those of you who have lost friends or family, I offer my condolences.

Last year in response to the pandemic, the health funds offered a COVID benefit to encourage and assist those off work, due to infection or assisting family in this circumstance. This was even before Congress acted. We also instituted video doctor appointments to allow participants to safely “visit” their practitioners. Anticipating broader unemployment in our industry, we provided for the annuity to be available as a backstop for those experiencing long term unemployment. Thankfully, that was not the case, as we were deemed essential workers.

At the Local office, we renovated to enable our staff and members to continue to interact in a safe environment, and the phones never stopped ringing.

The JATC, training went virtual asap to maintain opportunities for our apprentices and to continue standard safety training for all. When we regained access to IMI for training in the Fall of 2020, our instructors and students worked together as professionally as expected.

In the field, our reps continued to visit and monitor area projects without missing a beat, as they were provided the necessary PPE to do so. We also provided gaiters and KN95 masks to all members last year. On April 17, we gave them out a second time and plan to do yet another round on May 15.

The biggest interruption to Local operations has been to the membership and social meetings. All Chapter and Local meetings went virtual a few months after the pandemic hit, and with few obstacles, have continued without issue and are expected to continue when we return to in person meetings. And though we haven't been able to have the 2020 Dinner Dance and Bull Roast, I am hopeful the 2021 events will happen.

Throughout all of the frustration, confusion and insanity of the last year, whether you look at it through the perspective of a construction, political or public health lens, you have been resilient. Hold your heads up, Brothers and Sisters, and know - not only is it in the materials and hands you use to build with, but also the hearts and minds with which you live.

In Solidarity,  
Scott Garvin



## Expect the Best, Prepare for the Worst: Training in a Pandemic

BY J. ANGLADA

Over the last year, the adaptability (and network connection) of every business model around the world has been put to the test. Integrating remote workflows and locating the mute button have tested even the most dedicated workers and shown who can rise above a worldwide crisis. Luckily, BAC Local 1 and the JATC are comprised of professional problem solvers; also known as masons. COVID-19 has flipped our normal apprenticeship training upside down, but thanks to the hard work and dedication of the instructors, journeyworkers and apprentices, we've been able to maintain a high standard while staying cautious of the required protocols.

When faced with adversity, the best way to help those around you is to lead by example. BAC Local 1 did exactly that, as all Locals all around the country were looking for a solution to training mid-pandemic. In just two weeks, our JATC instructors were able to transition most lessons to an online format and discussed on-site experience with apprentices in place of the normal in-person lessons. This went on for six months, until we were able to take steps towards re-integrating in-person training.

The Deputy Director of IMI watched as we took the appropriate steps to slowly get apprentices back in the training center and based off what we did, a standard was set in place for other Locals to follow. We were able to demonstrate that it is possible to still have world class training while following CDC guidelines and lead the way for other Locals to learn from.

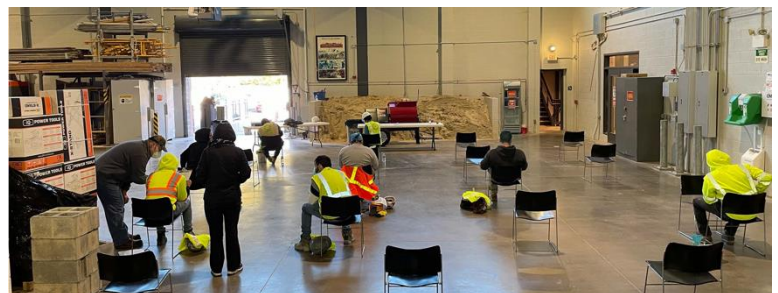
The usual provisions have obviously been in place since the beginning of the pandemic. Wash your hands, wear your mask, stay six feet apart, the list goes on. However, along with these precautions, our Instructors took on some other measures too.

They quarantined any physical documents submitted to them for a week before filing away. Better safe than sorry. They also had to limit their classes to no more than eight per session. This change hit hard because not only did it limit how often existing students could go to classes, but it also forced the JATC to hold off on accepting new apprentices for a while. Going from an average of 75 students to 25 really slowed things down, and we were not alone in feeling the change. Contractors scaled back on the number of apprentices they would sponsor because as work slowed down, there was no justification to pay for new employees who did not have a guaranteed job to fill upon graduating the apprenticeship.

Above all of this, was the need to create a digital curriculum. In-person teaching had to be as limited as possible, so whatever could be taught on Zoom, had to be turned into presentation suitable for an online classroom. Topics like blueprint reading, safety training, and masonry theory were some of the first to get a new digital wardrobe. Math was also a lesson you had to log in to. By September, the online classes were able to be moved back to in-person as safety measures became more universally followed, but things like chapter meetings are still being held virtually. All the virtual lessons are being kept on file too in case... you know what, never mind. I don't want to jinx it.

Upon returning to in-person learning, the effects of Zoom University were apparent in some students. In such a hands-on line of work, those that couldn't get that real world experience from on-site learning struggled the most because there was no reinforcement beyond class dialogue. The JATC was understanding of this issue and worked with the students to get them caught up, but there is no denying that you truly learn masonry by watching it and talking about it online.

Through all of this, one thing has been made perfectly clear: change comes whether we are ready or not. Lucky for us, Masons are professional problem solvers and to be adaptable, is what we are trained to do. BAC takes pride in the JATC and the apprenticeship program, and watching them mold the training to rise above this unique obstacle was nothing short of impressive. If you can turn stone and clay into art, lemons into lemonade is child's play.



# Introduction to Masonry Decay

BY MATTHEW REDABAUGH

It is assumed that masonry is forever. But time, local climates and/or location have all proven to be major factors in the eventual decay of masonry.

Singularly, the one most destructive element to all masonry materials is water, via the intervention or absorption of water. The amount of water that can be absorbed in each masonry body is determined by the composition of the masonry, how porous it is, and the size of the pores in that material. The level of porosity and the size of the pores can be factors which impact the potential for absorbing and retaining water. The extremities of these factors, size and level of porosity can be defined by sandstone, travertine, and granite.

**Sandstone:** is relatively porous, with many small pores arranged in very close or tight patterns. The way in which it is formed, in successive striations or layers allowing for another very accessible plane for water to enter. In some ways the configuration of these pores are similar to those of a sponge, and thus can not only take water in easily, but can also retain large amounts of water.

**Travertine:** a limestone formed in a precipitous, wet environment where various gases become part of the process in forming this unique stone. The gases get trapped in variously sized and shaped pockets and become part of the stone. These function as large pores or voids where water can readily enter, but inversely can also readily evacuate; thus, it is very poor at retaining water. These function as large pores or voids where water can readily enter, but inversely can also readily evacuate; thus, it is very poor at retaining water.

**Granite:** an igneous material, formed of magma which is very compact and hard, has very low absorption and very minute pores. Granite absorbs water only to a very superficial level and thus is not as adversely affected by such intervention of water as sandstone is. This is one of the reasons that it is typically used as a base material and or, historically, as foundations.

If a masonry product can absorb large amounts of moisture/water/vapor, such as sandstone, it can be more susceptible to decay. Water can contain various minerals such as salts and airborne pollutants which can adversely

affect the masonry; as the water evaporates the salts are left behind where they dry and crystallize.<sup>[A]</sup> Crystallization involves the growth and expansion of salts which produces pressures of hundreds of pounds per square inch (PSI). Water in cold climates will freeze within the masonry which also produces very high psi. In either case this can cause the masonry to break, first at a microscopic level/in the pores and over time can carve out larger areas within which more moisture can accumulate and cause ever larger or greater decay/ destruction to the material.

In buildings where iron-based metals can be impacted by the absorption of water it can cause oxidation. Oxidizing metal can expand up to 9 times its volume if left to full oxidation, this too is a process of growth and expansion which is destructive to the masonry body. These masonry materials must be understood through testing and the study of material science, for example how the material is formed/ manufactured, porosity levels, absorption rates, compressive strengths et al which gives us the insight into how it should perform and thus where and how it most effectively be used in construction.

The careful observation of older buildings and structures such as monuments and grave markers can be very informative regarding how the various natural stones hold up to and/or are adversely affected by the local climate conditions. Take notes, of what materials/what type of stone, its orientation or position relative to North, location on the building or structure, condition of material, note any adjacent materials and take photos and/or do sketches.

Again, this is a short/quick version in defining the causes of decay of our beloved masonry. More to come.



[A] Crystallize salt, left behind from evaporated water.

## **Trowel Blazers**

Our community of brothers and sisters take pride in the work they do on-site and the service they provide to the Union as a whole. These are a just a few of the dedicated men and women who make BAC Local 1 Maryland, Virginia and DC so great.

### **25 Years**

<b>Feb.</b>	Alberto A. Rivera	Stonemason
	Roberto R. Rivera	Stonemason
<b>Mar.</b>	Robert W. Long	Bricklayer
<b>Apr.</b>	Hector A. Sorto	Bricklayer
<b>June</b>	Francis C. McQuay Jr.	Bricklayer

### **40 Years**

<b>Jan.</b>	Edward L. Fowler, Jr.	Tile Layer
	Luciano Zito	Tile Layer
<b>May.</b>	John W. Spangler	Bricklayer/Refr. Spec.
<b>June.</b>	Mark C. Sanders	Stone Mason

### **50 Years**

<b>Feb.</b>	Julio B. Diz	Stonemason
<b>June</b>	Edwin A. Bailey	Bricklayer

## **Leaving A Legacy**

The Officers and Staff of BAC Local 1 extend their sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of the following members who have passed:

<b>01/02</b>	Donald Mills	Bricklayer
<b>02/05</b>	Raphael Zoppo	Bricklayer
<b>03/24</b>	Joseph Keller, Jr	Bricklayer
<b>04/16</b>	Carlos Portillo	Finisher
<b>04/16</b>	Louis Taffetani	Bricklayer

# **Congratulations to our Apprentices!**

We are pleased to announce the recent achievements of members who have successfully completed their apprenticeship program.

Atilio Ardaiz	Stone Mason
Gustavo Barahona	Stone Mason
Michael Clark	Stone Mason
Inmer Contreras	Stone Mason
Jose Cruz Chavez	PCC
Yobany Diaz Machuca	PCC
Oscar Granados	PCC
Alvaro Hernandez	Finisher
Sacramento Vergara	Stone Mason



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## RECURRING

MW - Welding @ 3:30pm - 7:30pm (By Appointment Only)

MTh - English as a Second Language @ 4:30pm - 7:30pm

May 1st - TMT & Finishers @ 6:30am - 2:30pm

May 8th - Brick & Stone Masons and PCC @ 6:30am - 2:30pm

May 15th - TMT & Finishers @ 6:30am - 2:30pm

May 22nd - Brick & Stone Masons and PCC @ 6:30am - 2:30pm

June 5th - TMT & Finishers @ 6:30am - 2:30pm

June 12th - Brick & Stone Masons and PCC @ 6:30am - 2:30

## SPECIAL

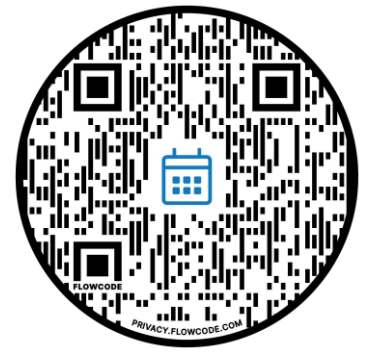
May 15th - Semi-Annual Chapter Meeting @ 9:00am - 9:30am  
- Vest and Mask Giveaway @ 8:00am - 12:00pm

June 2nd - DC Chapter Meeting @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm

June 17th - Baltimore Chapter Meeting @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm  
- Vest and Mask Giveaway @ 8:00am - 12:00pm

June 2nd - DC Chapter Meeting @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm

June 17th - Baltimore Chapter Meeting @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm



^USE THIS QR CODE TO SEE THE FULL CALENDAR^



^FOLLOW THIS QR CODE OR USE THE LINK FOR MORE INFO!  
<https://linktr.ee/bac1mvd>



^USE THIS QR CODE TO JOIN THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING^





## GIVEAWAY ALERT

**STOP BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL MASONRY INSTITUTE  
ON MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> TO RECEIVE  
YOUR FREE VEST.  
GAITOR AND PACK OF N95 MASKS!**



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!  
USE THE QR CODE BELOW TO  
TAKE OUR SURVEY AND HELP US  
BE EVEN BETTER!**



For more information on IUBAC's COVID-19 resources, visit:  
<https://bacweb.org/covid-19-resources-and-news>

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**Member Name  
Member address**



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