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AGC of Minnesota
MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the legislative and economic strength, image and well-being of the Minnesota construction industry by adding value in all that we do; consistently maintaining our core values of skill, responsibility and integrity.

ARE YOU GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

By Jane Sanem, Director, Member Services

Membership in an association is not cheap. It's a commitment of your money, and sometimes even more valuable, your time.

Below is a checklist of what's available to you and your employees because you are an AGC of Minnesota member:

Employment Page – Members can post employment ads free of charge. The employment page is one of our most viewed website pages. Your ad will reach the audience you want to reach – and it's free.

Committees – Currently, there are 25 committees, covering a wide variety of topics. From the Labor Negotiations Committee/Fringe Benefit Trustees to the Legislative Committee, and the Safety and Health Committee to the Construction Leadership Council, your interests are covered.

Affinity Programs – It pays to be a member! Current discounts include: Verizon Wireless, Goodyear Tires, and Staples. Members receive discounts on AGC forms, events, and programs. Member discounts are also available through AGC of America.

Company Membership – All employees are eligible, and encouraged, to be involved in AGC.

Networking – The Annual Meeting and quarterly member meetings, the golf outing, sporting clays, and working on a committee are

all ways to interact with other members, have fun, and maximize your membership.

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CEO REPORT AND COMMENTS

By Dave Semerad

Where does the economy go from here?

Construction employment decreased by 11,000 between June and July 2010, while the industry's unemployment rate hit 17.3 percent, according to the most recent federal unemployment data. The third month of construction employment decline, despite the stimulus, reflects overall weak demand for private, local, and state funded construction. See the table below for the most recent Minnesota construction jobs picture.

As stimulus projects begin to wind down and private, state, and local demand remains flat, where does the industry go from here?

Construction continues to suffer from unemployment rates nearly double the national average, reflecting a continuing slide in demand for construction.

Since July 2008, construction employment has declined by a total of 1,591,000 jobs, a 22 percent decline. Even though the industry accounts for four percent of the non-farm workforce, it has experienced 23 percent of the total job losses over the past two years.

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GOLF TOURNAMENT

The weather was perfect (unlike last year!), the golfing was good, and everyone had a great time. Many thanks to everyone who supported our tournament – golfers, hole sponsors, raffle item donors, door prize donors, and raffle ticket purchasers.

2010 Golf Tournament Sponsors

Aerotek
RJ Ahmann Company
American Engineering Testing, Inc.
Association of Women Contractors
Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
Blanski Peter Kronlage & Zoch, PA
The Blue Book of Building & Construction
Boulay, Heutmaker, Zibell & Co., PLLP
Carciofini Company
Corporate Connection, Inc.
Faegre & Benson, LLP

Gephart Electric
Graham Construction Services, Inc.
HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.
Hardrives, Inc.
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iSqFt
J. Knutson & Associates, Inc.
LarsonAllen, LLP
M & I Bank
Orion Search Group, Inc.
Rachel Contracting, LLC

Seaton, Beck & Peters, PA
Sharrow Lifting Products
TEMP-AIR, Inc.
Tiller Corporation
Union Construction Workers'
Compensation Program
VEIT
Wells Concrete
Wells Fargo Insurance Services
Yocum Oil Company, Inc.
Zurich



CHASE PROGRAM RECOGNIZES JE DUNN WITH A FREE LUNCH

On July 20, the Construction Health And Safety Excellence (CHASE) program, a safety partnership between AGC of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, recognized JE Dunn Construction Company for its outstanding safety performance. The free lunch, sponsored by AGC of Minnesota and the Minnesota Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) program, provided a catered lunch to 65 employees at their jobsite at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. JE Dunn was randomly selected for this “CHASE free lunch” recognition event. Since its inception in 2004, the CHASE program has grown to 18 participants. For more information about CHASE, contact Dan Hannan at 651-796-2192 or dhannan@agcmn.org.



NEW MEMBERS

Amundson Life Construction LLC (Affiliate)

Bonnie Bakkum Amundson
2080 Heron Ave. N.
Oakdale, MN 55128
(651) 779-0458
www.amundsonlifeconstruction.com

Company Profile: A Coach, a Trainer, a Speaker - I have a hands-on background of approximately 30 years in the construction industry in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, a B.S. in Construction Management, and certification as a Master Life Coach Practitioner. My expertise is that of a career and business coach as it relates to transition and corporate culture – my niche is companies and individuals connected within the construction industry. My mission is making the workplace one that is both productive for the company and enjoyable for everyone within that company.

Infinity Access, Inc. (Specialty Contractor)

Mada Skare, Office Manager
2395 Capp Road, Suite #A
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 646-9626
Fax (651) 646-2164
www.infinityaccess.com

Company Profile: **Infinity Access, Inc.** provides innovative custom-engineered fall restraint and fall arrest solutions. We are the best single-source provider of dependable continuous worker protection. Our systems adhere to the most stringent engineering and regulatory standards, meeting or exceeding all guidelines governing such systems. We specialize in erection and design of scaffolding, swing stage debris chutes, shoring, window washing equipment, fall protection, and any other high reach needs.

Midwest Construction Group (Affiliate)

Michael McHugh, President
1311 Russell Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55411
(952) 393-4400
Fax (612) 866-6149
www.mcg-mn.com

Company Profile: **Midwest Construction Group (MCG)** is a collaboration of minority subcontractors who share business practices and procedures to assist clients in meeting minority goals on projects. We not only deliver a premier product, but deliver a professional management team as well.

Rabuse Law Firm, P.A. (Affiliate)

Dwight G. Rabuse, Principal
2520 University Ave. SE #202
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 825-7777
Fax (612) 825-3977
www.rabuselaw.com

Company Profile: **Rabuse Law Firm, P.A.** is a Twin Cities law firm with a local and national construction law and commercial litigation practice.

Ti-Zack Concrete, Inc. (Specialty Contractor)

Chris Hartwig, V. P.
39352 - 221st Ave.
LeCenter, MN 56057
(507) 357-6463
Fax (507) 357-6096

Company Profile: **Ti-Zack Concrete, Inc.** was established in 1999 as a corporation specializing in concrete flatwork, primarily sidewalks and curb and gutter. As our company has continued to grow, we are still focusing on sidewalk markets throughout the country, with emphasis on ADA upgrades. We have recently added a division specializing in highway/heavy and bridge repair. This work consists of but is not limited to PCC pavement repair, crack and joint sealing, and various types of bridge joint repairs.

VIC'S Crane & Heavy Haul, Inc. (Affiliate)

Carol Hickman, Owner
3000 - 145th St. E.
Rosemount, MN 55068
(651) 423-2317
Fax (651) 423-7402
www.vicsco.com

Company Profile: **VIC'S Crane and Heavy Haul, Inc.** is a family business, owned and operated by the Vic Wenzel family since 1951. **VIC'S** has been committed to providing our customers with reliable and competitive service, state-of-the-art equipment, and technical expertise. Located in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area, we provide hoisting, crane rental, and heavy haul transport and trucking services to the greater Midwest and are expanding into the rest of the continental US. **VIC'S** also offers decades of experience in the craning and moving industries. Our pride in workmanship shows in our certified workforce as they bring to you, the customer, service you can trust to be both safe and cost-effective.

2010-2011 MN/DOT LETTINGS

August 27, 2010	May 20, 2011
September 24, 2010	June 10, 2011
October 22, 2010	June 24, 2011
November 19, 2010	July 22, 2011
December 17, 2010	August 26, 2011
January 28, 2011	September 23, 2011
February 25, 2011	October 28, 2011
March 25, 2011	November 18, 2011
April 22, 2011	December 16, 2011

AGC NEWSLETTER

Constructive Comment Newsletter is published quarterly for members of Associated General Contractors of Minnesota, a statewide trade association of general contractors, specialty contractors, and affiliated suppliers involved in the construction of buildings, highways, heavy industrial, and municipal utility projects. Founded on Wednesday, December 11, 1918, by six contractors meeting at the Minnesota Club in St. Paul, AGC of Minnesota is a chapter of Associated General Contractors of America and American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA).

Telephone: (651) 632-8929
Fax: (651) 632-8928
Toll Free: (800) 552-7670
Website: www.agcmn.org

AGC STAFF DIRECT DIAL & EMAIL

David Semerad

Chief Executive Officer
 (651) 796-2182
dsemerad@agcmn.org

Dan Hannan

Safety Director
 (651) 796-2192
dhannan@agcmn.org

Keith Kramer

Director – Employee Relations
 (651) 796-2188
kkramer@agcmn.org

Julie Moore

Executive Assistant
 (651) 796-2189
jmoore@agcmn.org

Patricia Nelson

Office Manager
 (651) 796-2181
pnelson@agcmn.org

Jane Sanem

Director – Member Services
 (651) 796-2187
jsanem@agcmn.org

Dave Waggoner

Accounting
 (651) 796-2184
dwaggoner@agcmn.org

Denise Woods

Director – Communications & Events
 (651) 796-2186
dwoods@agcmn.org

Tim Worke

Director – Transportation & Highway
 (651) 796-2185
tworke@agcmn.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

30 AGC Sporting Clays Fundraiser, 12:30 pm Denise Woods
 Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club, Prior Lake

November

30 Transportation and Grading Forum, 8:00 am Tim Worke
 DoubleTree Park Place, St. Louis Park
30 Holiday Reception, 5:00 pm Denise Woods
 DoubleTree Park Place, St. Louis Park

2011

January

13 92nd Annual Meeting, 8:00 am Denise Woods
 The Northland Inn, Brooklyn Park

February

8 Duluth Safety Day, 7:00 am Denise Woods
 Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, Duluth

March

3 Minneapolis Safety Day, 7:30 am Denise Woods
 Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis

A schedule of AGC-related events is also available under Events at www.agcmn.org.

TOP GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Congratulations to 13 AGC of Minnesota general contractors named to Engineering News Record's Top 400 Contractors List. The list was included in their May 17 issue.

2010	Contractor	2009
8	PCL Construction Services	7
24	Mortenson Construction	22
25	JE Dunn Construction Group	24
28	Granite Construction Company	25
67	Ames Construction, Inc.	85
76	Adolfson & Peterson Construction	79
93	The Boldt Co.	86
110	Kraus-Anderson Construction Company	84
161	McGough	163
166	Lunda Construction Company	213
200	Knutson Construction Services	187
304	Weis Builders, Inc.	231
366	Edward Kraemer & Sons	--

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As we have said repeatedly the past two years, the federal stimulus did create some temporary jobs, but it also created unrealistic employment expectations that could not be realized. This has caused frustration in many communities and has unnecessarily strained relationships between organizations and community groups that need to focus on long-term economic initiatives.

Heavy and civil engineering construction – the category that covers most workers in transportation, power, water, and wastewater construction – lost 700 workers in July and has held roughly steady since last October, as federal stimulus funds have boosted construction in these categories. Nonresidential specialty trade contractors were a lone bright spot, gaining 8,000 workers in July.

With continued high retail, commercial, and manufacturing vacancy rates, and depressed state and local tax revenues, overall construction demand is unlikely to increase until at least 2011 and likely much later in many areas of the industry. The bright spot in all this is that for those owners and developers whose projects are permitted and financed, great values are likely due to increased competition and stable costs. Contractors are hungry and they are delivering projects below estimates.

Given the fact that many stimulus-funded construction projects are likely to end later this year, our state and federal policy makers must act now to pass a host of long-delayed infrastructure bills to finance new highway, transit, water, and utility projects that are crucial to our regional and global economic competitiveness.

This was the theme of a media event held earlier this summer at Cat Global Paving, Brooklyn Park. The event highlighted national and state data showing how gridlock and the lack of a six-year federal highway and transportation program are impacting employment and productivity in construction and related industries. AGC was represented at this event by Steve Sandherr, AGC of America; Tim Crennen, regional president & CEO, Knife River Corporation; Gary Sauer, president, Tiller Corporation; and Dave Semerad, AGC of Minnesota. The message from speakers at the event was clear. Minnesota and the nation cannot be competitive in the broader markets with broken-down roads, unsafe bridges, and outdated power grids.

As we head into the fall elections, our choice should be clear: Elect candidates who are 100% committed to putting Americans to work today rebuilding our economy, or be prepared for our economy to stumble in gridlock and power outages.

The focus of these initiatives should be the creation of a stable policy environment that provides meaningful tax incentives for hiring workers. In this uncertain economic and political environment, it is easy to see why some businesses have invested more in equipment than in hiring workers.



Tim Crennen (Knife River Corporation) speaking at the Cat media event

Minnesota and Metro Area Construction Jobs (June 2009 – June 2010)					
Area	June 2009	June 2010	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Jobs	Rank/337
Statewide Construction	102,500	92,200	- 10%	- 10,300	
Statewide Construction*	106,900	97,100	- 9%	- 9,800	
Duluth Construction*	7,100	6,900	- 3%	- 200	83
Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington Construction*	61,200	52,800	- 14%	- 8,400	302
Rochester Construction*	3,700	3,300	- 11%	- 400	254
St. Cloud Construction*	4,700	4,600	- 2%	- 100	65
* includes mining and logging					

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Dylan VanAvery has joined **Mortenson Construction** as quality engineer.

Hardrives, Inc. acquired **Tower Asphalt, Inc.** Management and administrative functions will be located at Hardrives' home office in Rogers. Hardrives also purchased **Terra Services**, an erosion control and landscape service company.

Opus Northwest Construction, LLC has reorganized and is now **Opus Design Build, LLC**. **Craig Larson** has been named V.P.

David Dahlmeier has joined **Bassford Remele, PA**.

Kraus-Anderson Companies named **Tim Asgrimson** chief financial officer for **Kraus-Anderson Construction Company**, KA Realty Company, and other KA companies. He succeeds Tom Dunleavy, who retired.

Dave Adolfson, Adolfson & Peterson Construction chairman emeritus and founder of Construction Career Training Program (CCTP), received the Governor's "Best Practices Award" for "helping improve the lives of people in need." Commissioner Joan Fabian, Minnesota Department of Corrections, presented the award to CCTP for its accomplishments in assisting more than 300 former inmates get meaningful jobs in the past seven years.

Doug Jandro has rejoined **Kraus-Anderson Construction Company** as vice president of business development.

M. A. Mortenson, Jr., chairman of **Mortenson Construction**, received the Lifetime Achievement award for the Ernest & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2010 Award in the Upper Midwest Region.

Congratulations to **Susan Rani**, president of **Rani Engineering Inc.** Susan is one of Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal's 2010 Minority Business Award winners.

Four AGC members have been named to Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal's Top 25 Minority-owned Businesses list. Congratulations to **Thor Construction, Inc.** (#1); **Shaw-Lundquist Associates, Inc.** (#3), **Bald Eagle Erectors, Inc.** (#17), and **Mtec Electric, Inc.** (#23).

Congratulations to AGC of Minnesota members recognized with Governor's Safety Awards at the Minnesota Safety Council's annual Safety and Health Conference: **Adolfson & Peterson Construction, APi Electric Company, APi Group, Inc., Bay West, Inc., Blattner Energy, Inc., Carl Bolander & Sons Company, The Boldt Company, BOR-SON Construction, Inc., Corval Group, Inc., Cretex Concrete Products, Egan Company, Fabcon, Inc., Flint Hill Resources, LP, Hancock Concrete Products, LLC, Jorgenson Construction, Inc., Knife River Corporation-North Central, Kraus-Anderson Construction Company, 3M Company, McGough Construction, PCL Construction Services, Inc., Parsons Electric, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., VEIT, and Xcel Energy.**

Ryan Richardson, field engineer, and **Dan Dustin**, district HSE manager, have joined **PCL Construction Services, Inc.**

DISTANCE LEARNING INITIATIVE UPDATE

The AGC of Minnesota distance learning initiative has been in place for nearly a year and is serving the membership well. Two activities associated with the initiative are webcasting and on-line learning.

- Webcasts - involves broadcasting live video and PowerPoint presentations through a personal computer via the Internet. This is a very effective way of reaching members in greater Minnesota who would otherwise spend more time coming and going to a meeting than attending the event. Audio is received via a normal telephone line conference call. AGC of Minnesota events where webcasts are being used include monthly safety committee meetings, seminars, and the Supervisory Training Program (STP). Webcasts are "the next best thing to being there."
- On-line Learning - allows AGC of Minnesota members the ability to provide new hire or refresher training to their employees 24/7 at a location of their choice. These awareness level courses suit employers well, especially for regulatory required compliance training. Continuing education units (CEUs) are also offered. A full library of over 100 courses is available, including safety, employment law, environmental, and others. Whether you want to purchase one class at a time or enroll your entire workforce, an available learning management system (LMS) can help manage your training tracking - no more Excel spreadsheets! Download a demo or request a free pilot program to evaluate the value to your company. Go to www.agcmnonline.com to view the AGC of Minnesota portal.

If you have questions about webcasts or on-line learning, contact Dan Hannan at 651-796-2192 or dhannan@agcmn.org.

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Directory – Probably your best Yellow Pages ad, and it's free. The annual directory includes your company profile and up to five specialty areas. Do you review your listing every year? Production of the 2010-2011 directory has just begun. Take time now to make the most of your listing.

Website – Besides the directory, your company profile and specialty areas are listed on the AGC website. Because of your website listing, your company can more easily be found by prospective clients. The website also includes Hot Topics, registration for events and safety training, legislative and labor updates, archives of the Weekly Update and newsletter, general information about your chapter, and contact information for AGC staff members.

Weekly Update – Do your key staff members receive the emailed Weekly Update, or do you have to forward it to them? Anyone from your company can be added to the Weekly Update distribution list. The Weekly Update keeps you informed about events, trends, and what is impacting the industry in Minnesota and nationally.

Newsletter – Sent by email every quarter, the newsletter includes member profiles and announcements, photos, recaps of recent chapter events, calendars of upcoming events and Mn/DOT lettings, recognition of STP graduates, listings for new members, reports from CEO Dave Semerad, and much more. Employees from all member companies are eligible to receive the newsletter.

Safety Services - Is your safety director part of the Safety and Health committee? It's a great way to find out the latest and greatest on safety. Do your employees attend the annual Safety Day in the Twin Cities or Duluth? Safety Day is committee driven. Help shape Safety Day by being on the committee.

AGC of America – Membership in AGC of Minnesota includes membership in AGC of America. It broadens your horizons.

Legislative Updates – Like it or not, members need to understand the political process and how what happens at the Capitol affects them, their businesses, and their families. The Legislative Committee helps shape our agenda for each legislative session. Tim Worke's Legislative Previews and Legislative Summaries explain in layman's terms what to expect before the session begins and, after the session ends, what actually occurred.

These are just a few ideas to get the most out of your membership. Watch upcoming newsletters for more.

2009 TOP PROJECTS

Finance & Commerce has published their Top Projects of 2009. Twenty-seven projects were included – fifteen built by AGC of Minnesota members. Besides being “the year of the stadiums,” the other theme for projects was sustainability. It's clear from this year's Top Projects that architects, engineers, and contractors are embracing the idea of green building like never before. Congratulations to all honorees.

Amcon Construction Co. - Windsor Plaza, Eden Prairie

Graham Construction Services, Inc. - Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail, Big Lake to Minneapolis

JE Dunn Construction Company - Carleton College, Residence Halls, Northfield

D.J. Kranz Co., Inc. - Maple Grove Hospital

Kraus-Anderson Construction Company - Coloplast North American Headquarters, Minneapolis; Regions Hospital Level I Trauma Center, St. Paul

McGough Construction - Markim Hall, Macalester College, St. Paul

Mortenson Construction - Brushaber Commons, Bethel University, St. Paul; Saint John's Solar Farm, Collegeville; Target Field, Minneapolis; TCF Bank Stadium, Minneapolis

Opus Design Build, LLC - Crest Ridge Corporate Center, Minnetonka

Watson-Forsberg Co. - Blaisdell YMCA, Minneapolis

Weis Builders, Inc. - Hilton Garden Inn, Minneapolis; Minnesota Energy Resources Corp. Center, Rochester

MN/DOT SPEC BOOK FORUM – AUGUST 20

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is currently working to re-write and update the Standard Specifications for Construction into an “active voice and imperative mood” format. The overall goal of the conversion is to produce a specification document that is clearer, easier to understand, and consistent with industry practices. Several sections of the spec book are also undergoing content changes and refinements. Mn/DOT will be hosting an industry outreach session exclusively for general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers to provide an update on the active voice conversion and to provide the industry with information regarding the process for input on proposed language changes and additions. The forum will be held on Friday, August 20, from 9:00 -11:00 am, at the Highway Federal Credit Union Administration Office, located at 840 Westminster Street, St. Paul. The draft agenda for the forum is attached. Questions about the forum and update can be directed to Tim Worke at 651-796-2185.

**ASSOCIATED GENERAL
CONTRACTORS OF
MINNESOTA, INC.**

Capitol Office Building
525 Park Street, Suite 110
St. Paul, MN 55103-2186
www.agcmn.org

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

David Semerad

THANK YOU, ALVIN E. BENIKE, INC.!

On June 17, AGC's Construction Leadership Council (CLC) had the opportunity to visit the Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center project in Rochester. Thanks to Mike Benike and the Alvin E. Benike, Inc. team for putting together the site visit on this very interesting water and energy project.



**DBE AND WORKFORCE
COLLABORATIVE UPDATE**

For more than 18 months, a large group of stakeholders, the DBE and Workforce Collaborative, has been working to bring meaningful and sustainable change to the minority and women employment and business participation aspects of the highway program. Many positive developments have already occurred and the resultant program changes have begun to be implemented.

A true Collaborative success story is the partnership between Summit Academy OIC of Minneapolis and The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49. This partnership has produced an industry-crafted, specialized heavy equipment operator training program, designed to provide more targeted opportunities for women and minorities to become operating engineers through Local 49's apprenticeship program. Students spend the first 15 weeks of training at Summit Academy OIC, learning about the highway construction industry and the basics of heavy equipment operation, combining classroom instruction and computer simulator use. The final five weeks (80 hours) are spent on-site at the Local 49 Training Center in Hinckley, where students operate equipment apprentices typically command when entering the industry.

The training gives students – many with difficult backgrounds and upbringings – the tools needed to succeed. The inaugural class of 19 students graduated this July; six have already been hired! Hiring firms were: Ames Construction, Inc., Collins Electrical Systems, Inc., C.S. McCrossan, Inc., and Shafer Contracting Co., Inc. To learn more about the program or to investigate hiring one of these graduates, call 612-377-0150 or email info@saoic.org.

Much work remains to improve DBE participation and employment inclusion levels. The Collaborative continues to meet regularly and has established an aggressive schedule for change. Prime contractor interests are well represented within the Collaborative membership; however, all general contractors are encouraged to keep abreast of the changing program requirements as they will affect the bidding process and employment requirements going forward.

A recent progress report detailing the ongoing activities of the Collaborative and the program changes made to-date has been developed. A copy of this summary is available at www.agcmn.org under Hot Topics. For more information on the DBE and Workforce Collaborative, contact Tim Worke at 651-796-2185.

**AGC OF MINNESOTA TO SPONSOR
GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES FORUM**

AGC is partnering with 20-30 infrastructure, building and development associations to organize a major party candidate Gubernatorial Forum, preliminarily scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, from 8:30 – 10:00 am at the Northland Inn and Conference Center in Brooklyn Park. Work is currently underway to secure commitments from the candidates and finalize other details. The focus of the Forum will be job creation, economic development, and infrastructure investment. Although there is no charge to attend the Forum, pre-registration will be required. Contact Tim Worke (651-796-2185) with program questions or Denise Woods (651-796-2186) with logistics and registration questions.