



>> Above, the Council logo is displayed proudly on a banner at the start of the Iditarod race in Alaska.

At right, Local 1348 member Nathan Schroeder with his son, Gavin, and father, Vern, at the start of the race.



Nathan Schroeder: Council helps him live his Iditarod dream

Local 1348 millwright Nathan Schroeder of Chisholm, Minn., is no stranger to cold and competition. As a dog musher he's spent many hours on the back of a sled, encouraging his dogs to go farther and faster. That drive has taken him to three championship wins in the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, and to his second appearance at the world-famous Iditarod race in Alaska this past winter.

"Every day since I was 12 I envisioned myself racing the Iditarod," Nathan admitted. "I've spent decades building my dogsled team and getting ready to race."

Last year, Nathan placed 17th in the Iditarod and was named Rookie of the Year. This year's Iditarod started with a field of 78 mushers and Nathan began the race with 16 dogs. He placed 24th in the nearly 1,000-mile, nine day race.

Nathan said he is dissatisfied with his performance in the race, and is already itching to go back in 2016.

"I'm not trying to impress anyone but myself," he said. "The drive to do this, to want to be better, is strong."

One challenge to being able to live his dream is having the

financial ability to travel to the event, feed and outfit his dogs, ship supplies to Alaska, pay the \$3,000 entry fee, haul his team and more.

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— NATHAN SCHROEDER
Local 1348

This year, Council delegates voted to donate \$10,000 so

Nathan could compete in the Iditarod. If you followed his race, you often saw Council logos on banners, clothing, trailers and more. Other Locals donated money as well, including Locals 548 and 1348.

When he's not racing, Nathan works in the mines on the Iron Range and rears three children with his wife.

For more information on Nathan's racing adventures, go online to www.horseshusky.com. 