

North Carolina Masonry News

The Newsletter of The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association, Inc.

December 2003

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This Issue Sponsored by



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50th Anniversary State Fair Winners Pictured with NC Department of Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry are the winners of the 2003 NC DOL State Fair Masonry Apprenticeship Contest. (Left- right) Rodney Hamrick, Beam Construction, Third Place, Josh Morrison, McGee Brothers, First Place, Berry, and Johnny Dover, Beam Construction, Second Place. This year's contest marked the event's 50th Anniversary.

Morrison Wins at the Fair

RALEIGH- Twenty-four contestants from thirteen firms participated in the 50th Annual NC Department of Labor State Fair Masonry Apprenticeship Contest in Raleigh during October. The contest's 2003 champion is an eighteen-year-old apprentice with McGee Brothers Company in Monroe, Josh Morrison.

Four past fair champions were on hand for the anniversary celebration: Cody Alward, (2002) Jarrett Allison, (1997) Ryan Shaver, (1992) and William Sanders (1975). Sanders is the masonry instructor at Smithfield-Selma High School and brought his students to the fair to tend the contest.

Morrison had a score of 142 out of a possible 180. Rounding out the top-ten, in order of finish, were Johnny Dover, Beam Construction Company (141,) Rodney Hamrick, Beam (140,) Jamie Salas, Brodie Contractors (140,) Dustin Sneed, Alward Masonry (140,) Nicholas Morgan, Helms Masonry (139,) John Williams, Beam (138,) Dallas Caudle,

H & H Masonry (137,) Kevin Greene, McGee Brothers (137,) and Macy Williams, Brodie Contractors (131.) Predetermined scoring categories were used as "tie-breakers."

Top finishers received cash and tool prizes. All the contestants received tool prizes and a commemorative "50th Anniversary" engraved trowel from the Department of Labor and Marshalltown Tools. NC Commissioner of Labor Cheri Berry, Interim NC Agriculture Commissioner Lee Cobb, Jr. and NCMCA President Red McAdams made the award presentations.

New champion Joshua Williams Morrison is a senior at Central Cabarrus High School in Concord and is a third-year masonry student of instructor Todd Hartsell. He is the son of Johnny and Linda Morrison, Midland, NC, and has been with McGee Brothers for two years, apprenticing with his brother

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Danks Burton, President-Elect
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Glenn Sipe, First President 1974-75
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John Cramer AAI, Insurance Consultant
TriSure Corporation, Raleigh, NC

Fred McMahan CLU, Insurance Consultant
McMahan Insurance, Lexington, NC

Lynn Nash, Executive Vice President
Hickory, NC



At the Fair President McAdams (left-right,) NC DOL State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest Head Judge Doug Burton, NC Department of Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry and Contest Chairman Calvin Brodie.

A Word from the President

As the year closes, most of us start to think about resolutions we want to make for the upcoming year. Let me make a suggestion for a New Year's Resolution for NCMCA members; *become more active in your Association!*

Being a member of NCMCA is a good thing. Even if you never do anything more than pay your annual dues, you are making an important contribution to the industry. Just flip through the pages of this newsletter for a sample of all the things this Association does to promote and serve the masonry industry. Everyone benefits from NCMCA, non-members, members and inactive members alike.

But if all you do is pay your dues, you're missing a great deal of what NCMCA has to offer. Participating in local meetings and Association activities is where you get to know your fellow contractors and masonry professionals. Attending meetings is where you learn new things and pick-up the latest news of the business. Being present is how you provide your input into the agenda and the priority list for NCMCA. Good attendance makes the meetings more valuable to everyone.

It's amazing to me that so many of our local

chapters suffer from low turnout at their monthly meetings. I'm told that "local chapters" are somewhat unique to North Carolina compared to other masonry contractor associations around the country. The concept is a strength of our Association. Improving attendance at local meetings needs to be a priority, not only for the leadership of NCMCA, but also for every member (and potential member) who has a stake in the Carolinas' masonry industry.

In 2004, resolve to make NCMCA stronger by becoming a more active member. Everyone brings ideas and talent to the table. The more folks who participate, the more we can accomplish. The best way for you to do your part is by being present at your local chapter meetings.

On a related subject, take a look on pages four and ten of the newsletter. Be sure to note the volunteer and sponsor lists for recent activities. Thanks to these folks, we had a very successful golf tournament in September and the 50th Annual NC Department of Labor State Fair Masonry Contest in October was one of the best ever.

I hope you have a safe and happy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas, friends!

- **Red McAdams**



December 2003

The Quarterly Newsletter of
**The North Carolina
Masonry Contractors
Association, Inc.**

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CPCC Donation Metrolina Chapter President Chris Bruner (left) presents a check for \$1500 from the chapter's fall golf tournament proceeds to instructor Preston Gist of Central Piedmont Community College to be used for the college's masonry instruction program. The tournament winning team was Jeff Butler, Pyramid Cement Products, Rick Sneed and Mac Johnson, both of RJ Griffin General Contractors. *Photo by CPCC*

Raleigh Chapter Golf Tournament
January 16-18, 2004 - Myrtle Beach
Registration deadline December 15th.
Call Doug Burton (919) 894-8511.



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Dear Friends:

It is hard for me to believe that another year has gone by. Lynn has been kind enough to let us advertise in the December issue of the newsletter again this year and it seems like it was just a few weeks ago that I wrote the article last year.

As all of you already know, the NCMCA Insurance Program faired very well in 2003 despite some challenges for my company and for many of you. Leslie (Phillips) Eyster left TriSure at the first of the year to move to the beach and begin her new marriage and her new career in Wilmington. She was able to join us in May for the NCMCA Convention in Myrtle Beach as she wanted to see all her friends and acquaintances.

Heidi O'Connor stepped in to take on the NCMCA Insurance Program and I am confident that you will feel as I do, she has done quite an extraordinary job. Heidi has worked at TriSure for over 5 years prior to accepting this position and her new responsibilities are solely taking care of our NCMCA insurance and bonding needs. Hudson Smolzer is finishing his second year with TriSure and is building a very nice client list of new participants in the NCMCA program. I am very pleased and very proud to have such a decent and hard working person working with me.

Amerisure returned a dividend this past year to our customers of \$110,000. In addition they provided OSHA seminars and Accident Prevention seminars to our clients at no cost. The administrative fees they pay directly to the Association also hit an all time high this year. The partnership we have developed with Amerisure and the NCMCA have paid off beyond my expectations. Amerisure is an extremely solid, stable and service oriented company and I am pleased that our relationship continues to grow and prosper.

I don't think that any of us are going to regret seeing 2003 come to an end. The economy has still not quite recovered from the severe down turn that most of us experienced in 2002. However, leading indicators in our office tell us that 2004 has the potential to be a very busy year for construction and I think that better times are just around the corner. I hope all of you are able to secure your piece of the pie and have your best year ever in 2004.

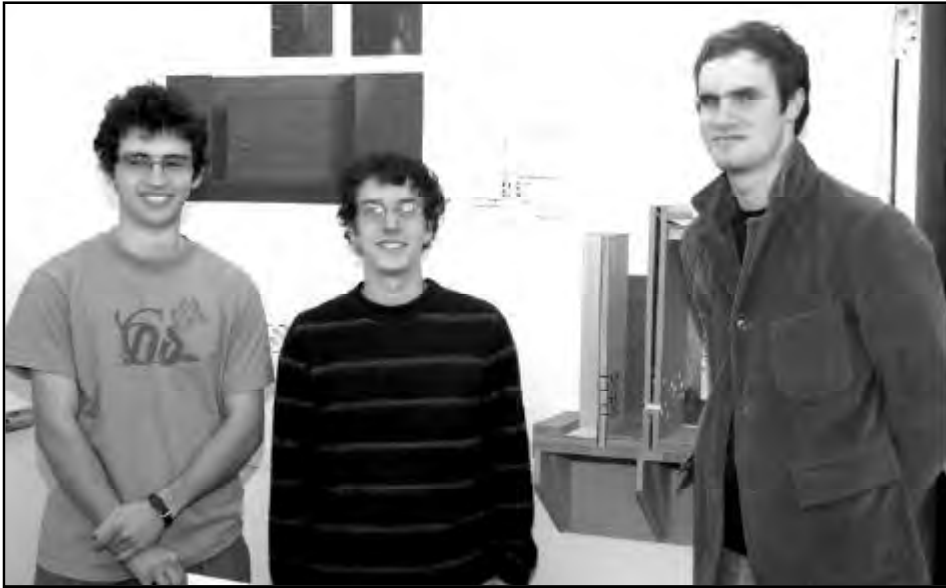
This letter would not be complete without me thanking you for your continued trust in allowing TriSure to handle your business. With all sincerity, my masonry clients are the hardest working, hardest playing, and hardest praying people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I count many of you as close friends and value the relationships we have built over the years. Thank you for continuing to allow us the pleasure to work with your company and the trust you show in our ability to represent your business.

On a personal note, most of you know that I have been involved with Habitat for Humanity for many years. This past year, many of you participated in putting in foundations and veneering houses for HPH all over the state. I cannot thank you enough. I know I have put the pinch on many of you to continue to participate and you always amaze me by agreeing to do so. Thank you. Building homes for deserving families in need is a noble and generous effort and I sincerely appreciate your using your time, talent and money to make this happen.

Speaking for myself, Heidi, Hudson, and all the folks here at TriSure, our very best wishes to you and your families for a very Merry Christmas and a New Year that brings you blessings of health, happiness, prosperity and giving. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

John L. Cramer, AAI, CIC



Sigmon Memorial Scholarship The annual masonry design competition to determine the winners of the NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship award was held during October. A team of three undergraduate students in NCSU Professor of Architecture Pat Rand's Construction System class will share a semester's tuition. They are (left-right) David Moses, Will DeWitt, and David Lehman.

Masonry Design Contest

RALEIGH- For the third year, NCMCA has sponsored a masonry design competition to determine the winners of the annual NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship award. During October, undergraduate students in North Carolina State University Professor of Architecture Pat Rand's Construction System class teamed up to design and model a hypothetical masonry headquarters building for The Masonry Society, "seeking to use masonry in an insightful way." Professor Rand, who has worked closely with NCMCA to develop the contest, is the president of the international Masonry Society.

Raleigh Chapter President Doug Burton, and Tony Lineberry, AIA of The Lineberry Group, in Raleigh, judged projects. Lineberry is a graduate of NC State and earned his advanced degree at the University of Oregon. His father and his brother are brick masons and he says this unique exposure to the trade often "helps with practical applications."

First place winners for 2003 are junior David Moses, III, son of David (an architect) and Maureen Moses of Boone, junior Will DeWitt, son of Maraan and Jean Dewitt of Columbia, SC, and senior David Lehman, son of Ann and Bill Boatenreiter of Charlotte. They will split a semester's tuition.

The team of Greg Melton, Brian Watson and Dan Cardwell claimed second place. Kelly Beaker, Abby Freeman and Megan Johnson came in third. The fourth place team was Joe Michael, Andrew Jamison, and Kuo Chao Tseng. Each received a high-quality masonry tool as a keepsake. Honorable Mentions went to Amber Roinick, Matt Austin, Mike Badders, Michael Innerarity and Brent Covington.

49 architectural students participated in the

project, which was a graded assignment for the class.

The NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship was created in memory of Randy and David Sigmon and is funded by donations and with a portion of the proceeds from NCMCA's annual state golf tournament.

"Fair" continued from Page 1

er Chad Morrison's crew.

Speaking about his son's victory after the contest, his father said of Josh, "He's very hardworking and has a good head. Also a hard head. This just brings tears to my eyes. It's great!"

Josh, who has previously competed in NC VICA Skills USA contests and in the Annual NCMCA Apprentice Skills Contest, had this simple advice for other would-be champions: "Practice a lot."

NCMCA past state president Calvin Brodie once again acted as chairman for this year's contest. Past NCMCA president, Doug Burton, was the contest's head judge and master-of-ceremonies. Both expressed appreciation to NCMCA members who volunteered as judges and to the firms whose donations helped make the contest possible: The Eastern Carolina, Land of the Sky, Metrolina, Sandhills, Raleigh, Triad and Western Carolina chapters of NCMCA, Whitman Masonry, CCMA, Pinnacle Masonry, Brodie Contractors, McAdams Masonry, Marshalltown Trowels, Fay Block Materials, Giant Cement, The Brick Association of the Carolinas, Lafarge North America, LPS Enterprises, Inc., 04200 Estimating, Inc., McMahan Insurance, Adams Products Company, RSC, Triangle Brick Company, Essroc Cement, Caudle Sand, United Rentals, Uzzell Masonry Service and Kirby Construction Services.

NCMCA Board Meeting
2:00 PM Wednesday January 14, 2004
Airport Holiday Inn, Greensboro



In the money! Sandhills Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Michelle Brown (center) presents the prize money to the winners of the chapter's Fall Fund Raising Raffle at their October meeting. Her father, David Brown (left) and Katie DeJarnette (right) of Hickory split the prize money when theirs were the last two tickets left "in the hat" in the reverse drawing. In addition to the raffle, NCMCA's newest chapter also raised money by installing two house foundations at Hope Mills during September. Between 40 and 50 people participated and both foundations were installed by lunchtime. The Chapter thanked Adams Products, Fay Block, Triangle Brick, Lee Brick, Essroc-Brixment and Holcim/Santee for contributing materials. Danny Batten/Lafarge North America provided lunch.

What does OSHA Say?**OSHA & EPA: What do the laws say about adverse weather?**

By Bob Parrish

In the winter season, working conditions change on our construction jobs. Rain, wind, snow, ice, and mud become major players in how smoothly our jobs progress and often adversely affect our quality, our productivity, and our accident record.

Good quality is difficult to achieve under bad working conditions when our employees must deal with adverse weather conditions.

**Bob Parrish**

EPA and the *Mud Police* are a relatively new factor affecting our jobsites. They bring requirements for silt fencing and ground water control that are new to most of us. However, they cannot be ignored. *The Mud Police* bring with them the ability to levy and collect significant fines for both the contractor and the builder. Employees already frustrated with all the new rules enacted in recent years often attach little significance to silt fencing. Employees who have been sloshing around in mud halfway to their knees most of the day are seldom concerned about tracking a little mud into the street.

All areas of the state are supposed to enforce basically the same rules. But different areas don't always interpret the rules the same way. The way local inspectors interpret and enforce the rules and regulations is critically important to those of us responsible for both cleanup and paying the fines. All contractors need to take the necessary steps to learn the environmental rules that apply to their jobs and train their employees properly. It's not a lot of fun to learn the rules from an inspector with what amounts to a ticket in his hand.

OSHA also has some very clear-cut rules and regulations that govern what we can and cannot do during periods of adverse weather.

If you are working from a scaffold or building a freestanding masonry wall more than eight feet tall, wind is a critical factor. Wind accounts for almost all the wall failures and many scaffolding problems. What does OSHA say about wind?

CFR 1926.451(f)(12) Work on or from scaffolds is prohibited during storms or high winds unless a competent person has determined that it is safe for employees to be on the scaffold and those employees are protected by a personal fall arrest system or wind screens. Windscreens shall not be used unless the scaffold is secured against the anticipated wind forces imposed.

Rain, hail, and electrical storms are pretty much self-explanatory. However, the term "high winds"

leaves interpretation to the discretion of the Compliance Officer. He was trained that a high wind is one that has gusts that rattle the scaffold. For the most part, the Compliance Officer will consider citing when the winds are such that mortar bags, and debris are blowing around the jobsite. A good rule of thumb: if the wind is bothering your employees on the scaffold or making placement of materials difficult, it is probably time to take a long break or stop for the day.

The section about protected by personal fall arrest system is mute. If employees are on the scaffold, they are supposed to be protected by either a personal fall arrest system or standard guardrails. This is the same for good weather as well as bad. Windscreens? You may find the need for them on larger long-term jobs. Most of us will not have the need to deal with the extra headaches of setting up and maintaining windscreens.

Free Standing Masonry Walls are a real problem. If one blows over or falls for any reason, it is almost always serious. For that reason, OSHA will seldom let you pin them down on what is adequate and what is not. They know that once one is on the ground, you did it wrong and can be cited. They are unwilling to accept any part of the responsibility by defining "adequate." If you question this, look at the regulations covering the critical issue of freestanding masonry wall construction. It is all in one short paragraph reproduced below:

1926.706(b) All masonry walls over eight feet in height shall be adequately braced to prevent overturning and to prevent collapse unless the wall is adequately supported so that it will not overturn or collapse. The bracing shall remain in place until permanent supporting elements of the structure are in place.

That paragraph puts the total responsibility for bracing and determining when bracing is essential and adequate on the contractor and the builder and removes OSHA from the line of fire following an accident. Eight feet is the requirement. Think about it. A one-story building is eight feet. Add one course of block below the floor to the footing and you are over eight feet.

Over time a small loophole has developed in this requirement. It is called an "engineered wall." By using rebar from the footing up and filling the required cells, it is possible to stretch that requirement to twelve feet or more. But remember an engineered wall must be designed by someone competent to do so (normally a PE or an Architect) and must be built right. It does not matter that the wall is engineered if the rebar is not adequate or is not anchored in the footing or if the cells are only par-

tially filled. The engineering is worthless if the wall is not built exactly to plan.

Most Compliance Officers have little or no knowledge of engineered walls. All they know is the magic number of eight feet. If you build engineered walls, you must be able and willing to educate the Compliance Officer at your jobsite. NCMCA can help you line up training if you need it.

For the record, what are most Compliance Officers taught about high winds and freestanding masonry walls? You cannot work on or around the walls during periods of high winds or wind gusts. What constitutes a high wind? In the absence of an anemometer (to measure wind speed), a gentle breeze is probably okay, but if the leaves on trees and shrubs begin to whip around, the Compliance Officer knows you have high winds.

1926.451(f)(8) Employees shall be prohibited from working on scaffolds covered with snow, ice, or other slippery material except as necessary for removal of such materials.

Other slippery material covers a lot of territory but can be something as simple as rainwater. Snow and ice is a different story. If the Compliance Officer takes a photo of your people laying brick or block and the photo shows some snow or ice on the scaffold, you are convicted. Your employee can access the scaffold to remove the snow or ice. But he cannot do any work until this is accomplished. Remember, citations have been issued when a couple of employees were busily cleaning off the scaffold and other employees were beginning to work from the scaffold.

When our men have missed time from bad weather, they are often anxious to get back on the clock. But adverse weather conditions can draw us into conflict with both the environmental people and with OSHA. In addition, adverse weather conditions often contribute to workers compensation accidents that would not have happened in reasonably good weather.

The decision to work around rain, wind, snow, ice, and mud needs to be made by knowledgeable management and cannot be left to employees who need to get hours in to be able to pay their bills.

Bob Parrish is safety coordinator and newsletter editor for McGee Brothers Company in Monroe. He is a former NC OSHA compliance officer. Reach Bob at (704) 372-7610.

MCAA Convention

The Mason Contractors Association of America holds its annual Convention and Masonry Showcase March 21-24 in Las Vegas. A highlight for Carolinians this year will be the Closing Banquet on the 24th when our own Alan Griffin will be installed as MCAA President, the first from the Carolinas. Plan to be there! For registration information, call MCAA at (800) 536-2225 / www.masonryshowcase.com

September Board Meeting Report

The Board of Directors met in Fayetteville during September. Here is a summary of that meeting.

Financial report: As of 9/7/03 assets totaled \$433,299.7, including liabilities of \$28,477.00. The insurance fund had contributed \$62,722.42 thus far in 2003. (As of November, \$90,996.18)

Kathy Young presented the insurance report from McMahan Insurance and Employee Benefits. Currently there are 18 groups participating. The current annual premium for all groups is about \$1,300,000. Young presented a management fee check to the association for \$4,500.

She went on to report that the average renewal increase since January 1, 2003 for NCMCA member groups is 23.3%. The largest renewal for an NCMCA group was 53.2%. This was a small group with less than 5 employees and much of the increase was due to aging of the group. The best renewal so far has been a 2.8% decrease in premium for a group of about ten masonry employees. The average renewal increase for our group clients combined has been 22.89%. (This includes masonry companies as well as other business group plans.)

As far as what can be done to get a handle on insurance premium increases, McMahan, by way of Young, said, "...we cannot expect premium rates to improve significantly until we somehow get a handle on health care costs. And that means all of us, employers and employees, as well as other users of health care services, must become much more knowledgeable and involved in trying to solve the problems with rising health care utilization and rising costs. Communication to, and dialogue with, your employees is more important than ever. Consumer driven health care plans that force the user of the services to take on more responsibility for the use or abuse of the services as well as for the use or abuse of their own bodies, will play a much greater role in the future."

Heidi O'Connor reported for TriSure Corporation that the premium for their program now stands at \$3,090,664 (vs. \$2,989,724 at the May meeting) with 67 participants. The program sent the Association a check for \$18,000 in management fees after the May convention.

John Cramer continued the TriSure report telling the board that \$110,000 in dividend checks, as reported at the convention, had been mailed as a rebate for those participating in the program 2001-2002. He noted that premium had increased even though participation decreased from a high of 100, "obviously because of the increase in the costs of coverage," but said the market should begin to level off.

He told the board that Amerisure will provide a workshop on proper accident review and follow-up procedure on January 30, 2004 in Charlotte and on February 27, 2004 in Raleigh. Details to follow.

He also expects the 10-Hour OSHA Course to be presented again after the first of the year somewhere in the western part of the state. Members can participate at "no cost." Cramer said he will be asking for contractor volunteers to participate in a group discussion with officials from Amerisure to review the needs of the group and to determine ways to make the program stronger. The discussion will probably take place to coincide with the January board of directors meeting.

Cramer complemented the Association on doing "basically a good job on loss control" but noted that a couple of accidents have had a detrimental effect on the program's performance. He said the incidents were the sort of events that are pretty much unpreventable.

In discussion that followed, Cramer responded to a question about the state of worker's comp in California, saying it was unlikely that the situation would become as desperate here as there, calling California's problems an "anomaly," mostly the result of unusually liberal courts.

Doug Burton asked the insurance representatives their view of proposed federal legislation to permit organizations, such as NCMCA, to shop, purchase and provide health care insurance as a group. MCAA is currently among associations lobbying for the proposal. Cramer responded, "This would be a great thing to support. You'd have more negotiating power. There's no other relief in sight."

President-Elect Danks Burton led a discussion of apprenticeship and training committee reports. Thirty-four apprentices participated at the NCMCA Annual Apprentice Skills Contest at Adams Products in May. The 2004 contest will be held at General Shale Brick in Sanford. The board voted to allocate \$1000 to help send the 2003 contest's winner, Matthew Botts of Masonry Unlimited of Cherryville, to the national MCAA contest at Las Vegas in March. (The money can only be used if the NCMCA winner participates in the MCAA contest. This perk will be promoted as part of the winner's prize package for future NCMCA Apprentice Skills Contests.) Lynn Nash noted that Leland Eckard was "99.9%" the reason our solicitations have been so successful in recent years and suggested that we keep Leland's participation on the committee in mind as we consider long-term obligations for contest prize money.

Calvin Brodie reported on the 50th Annual NC Department of Labor State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest. Brodie reminded everyone that the board in May had voted to ask each local chapter to donate \$250 to the contest. Fayetteville/Sandhills presented their \$250 donation during Brodie's report.

Nash reported that the 2004 Skills USA / VICA will once again be held at the Coliseum in Greensboro. The dates are April 6 - 8. The biggest change for 2004 will be that both the regional and state com-

petition will be held on the same day. Participants will only build one project. All the projects will be judged once to determine the top-twenty project and to determine regional winners. The top-twenty will be judged a second time to determine state winners. Nash suggested that consolidation into one day and into one set of projects might help improve participation from industry, which was a concern in 2003.

Nash reported that the NC high school VICA champion, Cody Alward of Mount Pleasant High School, went on to win the national high school championship at Kansas City during June, making a total of 18 NC gold medals for masonry. Cody and his instructor, Doug Drye, were recognized during halftime activities at a recent Mount Pleasant High School home football game. Mount Pleasant and Drye are the most successful high school masonry program in the country for VICA awards with a total of six medals. Nash and Metrolina Chapter President Chris Bruner were at the football game and participated in the recognition.

Cramer reported for the safety committee and noted only one item. A serious OSHA violation/accident now means OSHA can come on the company's jobsite for inspection anytime and as many times as they choose with no warning.

Doug Burton reported that once again this fall NCMCA will provide judging and prize money for the NCSU architectural masonry design competition in conjunction with Professor Pat Rand's program. Funds from the Sigmon Memorial Scholarship program are used for scholarship prizes for winning students. Doug is seeking to expand the competition to UNC Charlotte.

Nash provided a report on promotional activities, introducing Woody Stoudemire of Gotham Images, an advertising and public relations firm in Hickory, who has worked with NCMCA on the Association's website. Stoudemire made a presentation about promotion and advertising in general and as it might involve his company, Gotham Images, specifically. He told the board that a promotional campaign is an ongoing process and we should be prepared to commit to such a project for a number of years. Stoudemire estimates the cost for what we need would be from \$60,000 to \$350,000 per year, depending on the scope of the project. The campaign would include market research and might involve a logo update, extensive reworking and expansion of the website, banner ads on other websites, newsletters (conventional and electronic) targeted to designers and end users, updating the quarterly newsletter, including a new masthead, and offering a "canned ad" service for member firms to use in their own promotional efforts (much needed, based on what he saw in the membership directory, he said,) to list just a few of his observations.

Nash informed the board of his June meeting in Napa, CA with other state masonry contractor asso-

ciation executives. Among the discussions, was the development of a joint effort among the state associations to create a massive, nationwide effort to promote masonry as a system. There was consensus among the Napa group that manufacturers and manufacturers' associations are doing a good job of promoting individual components of masonry (brick, block, etc.) but there exists a need for more promotion of the system. The group hopes to obtain the *www.masonry.com* domain name and use that as an umbrella for a "Got milk?" type of campaign. Nash says he believes NCMCA should participate and be prepared to contribute funds to the project as it develops.

Nash reminded everyone of other promotional efforts discussed at the May board meeting and encouraged ongoing efforts: Architect/Project Recognition dinners, local AIA/CSI chapter participation by NCMCA, and restaurant gift certificates for designers who favor masonry, perhaps including home builders.

With his central office report Nash reported that membership stands at 196 members. 6 new members have joined since May and 15 have been dropped. There are presently 67 associate members, 3 Life Members, and 126 contractor members. He expressed concern about the drop in membership and encouraged everyone to maintain recruitment efforts. Other report details:

Ad sales for the 2003 membership directory totaled \$15,220.00. Profit will be approximately \$4,415.84 (not counting office time spent on the project.)

The Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Fund contained \$7,786.95 as of the board meeting.

The 2003 convention had \$43,950 in income, including \$7,500 in sponsor money from Metromont Materials, EZ Grout, Amerisure Insurance and McMahan Insurance. Expenses were \$32,172.76 for a difference of \$11,777.24. Nash credited the good return to sponsorships and inexpensive speakers ("Ironically, among the best we've ever had.")

The executive office pledge project has collected a total of \$206,250.00. A few individual companies have outstanding pledges. Nash expects to collect only a portion of that money. All chapters are up-to-date on the original \$10,000 / five year pledge.

Just prior to "Chapter Reports, Nash expressed concern that four out of nine chapters were not represented at the meeting. He reported that in his visits to local chapter meetings, he has heard "some grumbling" about board actions, specifically the extension of the chapter pledge obligation. "In light of that fact, I would have expected the local chapters to make board participation a higher priority," he said. He encouraged the Association's senior leadership to contact local leaders about the problem.

Central Piedmont: No representation and no

report. Nash reported that the chapter successfully held their Annual Danny Koonts Memorial Golf Tournament earlier in the summer.

Coastal: No representation and no report. Nash told the board that Coastal recently paid off their ten-year pledge and is among the first chapters to pay the new pledge for 2003. They recently held a successful golf tournament.

Eastern Carolina: President Gary Manning said the chapter has raised money by installing foundations but had pretty much depleted the chapter treasury making a \$10,000 payment to the pledge fund. They meet the last Tuesday of each month in Greenville and are pushing for better attendance among their members.

Sandhills: Chapter Vice President Jimmy Simons reported that NCMCA's newest chapter meets the last Wednesday of each month in Fayetteville. They are seeking more masonry contractor members (including an effort to get memberships from several masonry contractors who regularly attend the chapter meetings but who have not yet joined) and from more "home-builder" masons. To raise money, they will be installing two foundations the coming weekend and are holding a raffle for \$2000 in cash in October. The chapter has planned a Christmas Party for Friday, December 19th.

Land of the Sky: No representation and no report. Nash reported that the chapter was presently conducting a raffle.

Metrolina: No representation and no report. Nash reported that the chapter was holding a golf tournament at the time of the board meeting. The chapter held a special meeting in October with officials of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public School system. The school system has discovered a number of problems with in-place masonry walls in existing schools and is looking to NCMCA to help address the problem.



School Construction Discussed Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public School System Assistant Superintendent for Building Services, Guy Chamberlain (*left*) addressed the Metrolina Chapter during October. Chamberlain talked about masonry problems and the school system's plan to develop pre-qualification criteria for potential school GC's and subcontractors as a means to improve quality control. Chapter President Chris Bruner (*middle*) and member Joe Canitano were among those attending the meeting.

Raleigh: Chapter President Doug Burton reported that 25-30 members usually attend their meetings with 8-10 contractor members present. They have paid \$6000 to the state pledge fund in 2003 and have approximately \$11,000 in the bank. Their main fund-raiser is the chapter's annual January Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament, which they will do again in 2004. Doug says the chapter has enjoyed good programs recently including a tour in August of the NC State masonry wall research facility in Raleigh with NCSU Professor Pat Rand as tour guide. Raleigh area Habitat for Humanity is planning a 25-house effort soon and the chapter plans to do eight or more of the foundations.

Triad: Chapter President Red McAdams reported that the chapter continues to struggle, but had voted to send their \$2000 pledge for 2003 and \$250 for the state fair contest at their last meeting. They have approximately \$5000 in the bank. There was a discussion regarding Triad Chapter members who have lost their jobs or who plan to leave the business. Nash pointed out the importance of making sure upper management knows the value of their company representatives who do a good job and who are appreciated by masonry contractors and other customers. Triad conducted a gun raffle at their October meeting.

Western Carolina: President Leland Eckard said Western was also holding a gun raffle "but the tickets were sold out." The drawing was conducted at the chapter's annual cookout a Hugh Townsend's cabin on Lake James, also a fund-raiser. They expected to net \$1500 on the two events. They have about \$8000 in the bank and regularly have 25-30 attending their meetings.

President McAdams set the next board meeting for Wednesday January 14, 2004 (2:00 PM at the Airport Hoilday Inn in Greensboro.)

Member News

David Wyatt, Wyatt Masonry and Construction, lost his father, David L. Wyatt, Sr. in August.

Hanson Brick and Tile has announced the appointment of Mike Donahue as the company's new president. A 17-year veteran of the Hanson organization, Donahue has served as CFO for Hanson Brick and Tile's parent company for the past eight years. He will report to Richard Manning, who previously held the position and has been promoted to president of the newly created Hanson Building Products America. Hanson also announced Richard Post will assume responsibility for North and South Carolina as vice president of commercial for the South East Region.

Essroc's Jerry Brown is a grandfather for the first time. Son Kyle, who works for **Metromont** in Spartanburg, and wife, April, brought Kylee into the world on August 7th.

Larry Kirby, Kirby Construction Services, has recovered from the serious effects of a brown recluse spider bite in August.

Former member Stan Clontz is the new masonry instructor at Hickory High School. Jesse Fox has returned to teach at the Caldwell Career Center.

Mr. and Mrs. **Bob Gates** are expecting.

For the second year in a row, Hanley-Wood Publications (*Masonry Construction*) lists **McGee Brothers Company** as the largest masonry contractor in the nation. The magazine's "Top 74" list was in the October issue.

Lightweight's Mike Weaver is a new father.

Brett Hardy at **Adams Products** has a new baby girl. Logan Michelle was born October 12th.

Past State President **Freddy Koontz** was in the hospital with a case of pancreatitis but is recovering at home and working everyday now.

Ken Duncan's (Holcim) 34 year-old son-in-law continues to improve from serious injuries he received in a motorcycle accident during the summer. He is in a rehab program and recovering at home after an extended hospital stay.

Jerry Eckard, Master Masonry, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Triangle Brick Company intends to reopen its Carpenter, NC plant and to build a new manufacturing plant at a site to be selected in the Carolina-Virginia area. The 35 million dollar investment will increase Triangle's annual production by 500 million units.

Calvin Brodie, Brodie Contractors, lost his brother in November. Roger Brodie was 52. The family has suggested memorials be made to Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, care of Brodie Contractors, PO Box 18973, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Flake Steele, Jr., retired president and chairman of **Pine Hall Brick Company** passed away October 29th after an extended illness. Mr. Steele began work at Pine Hall in 1937. He was 87. The family suggests memorials be made to First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Cherry Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, or to Barium Springs Home for Children, PO Box 1, Barium Springs, NC 28010.

Don Alward, Alward Masonry, is recovering from knee surgery.

Fifteen-year-old Dustin Carver, son of late Person High School masonry instructor Jimmy Carver and nephew of **Todd Carver (Kelly Carver Masonry)** is recovering from a serious accident Novem-

ber 17th that left him with numerous broken bones and internal injuries.

Nathan Joyner, second son of Eastern Regional Vice President **Gary Joyner**, plans to marry Jennifer in June after graduating from NC State in May.

NCMCA's Team of Ray Walls, Calvin Brodie, Danks Burton and Doug Burton won the Annual NC Skills USA Golf Tournament at Pinehurst in November.

Dates to Note

12/5/03- Land of the Sky Chapter Christmas Party, 7:00 PM Holiday Inn Sunspree, Asheville

12/15/03- Deadline to register for Raleigh Chapter Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament

12/19/03 - Sandhills Chapter Christmas Party, Retired Military Association, Fayetteville

1/14/04 - NCMCA Board of Directors Meeting, 2:00 PM, Airport Holiday Inn, Greensboro

1/16-1/18/04 - Annual Raleigh Chapter Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament

1/16-1/17/04- CCMA Winter Meeting, Charleston Place - Charleston

1/17/04- Western Chapter Winter Party, Catawba Springs Club House, Hickory

1/20-1/21/04- Brick Association of the Carolinas Forum for Brick Distributors - Greensboro

1/23-1/24/04- CCMA Production Workshop, Holiday Inn - Southern Pines

1/30/04 - NCMCA Insurance Program / Amerisure "Accident Investigation" workshop, Charlotte

2/4-2/8/04- National Concrete Masonry Association Annual Convention, Hilton - Atlanta

2/10/04 - AGC "Standard Practice for Bracing Masonry Walls During Construction" workshop, CAGC office, High Point

2/16-2/20/04- World of Masonry, Orange County Convention Center - Orlando

2/27/04 - NCMCA Insurance Program / Amerisure "Accident Investigation" workshop, Raleigh

3/7-3/9/04 - The Masonry Society University Professors' Masonry workshop, NCSU, Raleigh

3/12-3/13/04- SC VICA / Skills USA Masonry Contests, Fair Grounds - Columbia, SC

3/21-3/25/04- MCAA Convention and Masonry Showcase - Las Vegas

4/1-4/3/04- BIA Brick Show - Savannah

4/6-4/8/04- VICA / Skills USA Masonry Contests, Coliseum - Greensboro

4/22-4/25/04- NCMCA Convention, Grove Park Inn & Resort - Asheville

5/22/04- Annual NCMCA Apprentice Skills Contest, General Shale Brick - Sanford

6/23-6/24/04- National SkillsUSA Championships- Kansas City

10/6-10/10/04- The Masonry Society Annual Meeting- Baltimore

4/20-4/22/05- MCAA Masonry Showcase / Construct America, McCormick Place- Chicago

4/28-5/1/05- NCMCA Convention, Sheraton Grand Hotel - New Bern (*Note date change*)



Photo by Danks Burton

Habitat Raleigh chapter members are participating in a "Builder's Blitz" to complete 24 Habitat for Humanity homes before mid-December in Wake County. Danks Burton reports, "In a two-week time period there will be 24 foundations put in. All of them are masonry and all materials are supplied by member firms - Adams Products, Johnson Concrete, Fay Block, and Lightweight block. Many of the foundations are being installed by NCMCA member firms - Brodie Contractors, Whitman Masonry, Bo Black Masonry, LPS Enterprises, Moxley Masonry, and Pinnacle Masonry that I am certain of... The week after Thanksgiving, 24 different builders will each take a house and, at the end of the week, the house is to be complete. On Saturday the homeowner moves in. The house that Bo Black is constructing (*above*) is an all masonry-framed house with Fay Block Materials contributing all materials." Long-time Habitat volunteer John Cramer is assisting with project coordination and construction.



Masonry Research The Metrolina Chapter is joining the Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association and the Brick Association of the Carolinas by participating in a masonry research project at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte over the next several months. NCMCA member firms will provide skilled labor to construct block and brick test buildings in the structures lab. The research, as explained by UNCC's Janos Gergely, Ph. D., P.E., will "develop a simplified methodology to design the composite repair/retrofit of masonry structures." On hand in the lab for the construction of the first test building are (left-right) Gergely, Metrolina Chapter President Chris Bruner and UNCC Assistant Professor David Weggel, Ph.D.

Convention in April

The Annual NCMCA Convention and Business Meeting is April 22 to April 25, 2004 at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. Top-notch educational and entertainment opportunities are being planned to make the convention a great event for every NCMCA member and guest.

The agenda is not yet complete but highlights will include a presentation by our own past state president, Alan Griffin, who will address NCMCA as the new president of the Mason Contractors Association of America.

Also planned is a seminar by McGee Brothers' safety coordinator and *North Carolina Masonry News* columnist Bob Parrish. Bob knows safety and OSHA regulations from both sides of the issue and will provide solid (and entertaining) information to make your company safer and less likely to incur trouble from OSHA.

Architect Chris Huckabee has earned a reputation as a tireless advocate for masonry school construction. The CEO of Huckabee & Associates of Austin, Texas, Huckabee is in demand all over the country as a masonry design expert, speaking frankly about the pros and the potential problems of masonry construction. He will address NCMCA at this spring's convention.

Watch for your convention registration pack to arrive shortly after the first of the year. Plan now to attend your annual NCMCA convention!



School Board Exhibit NCMCA partnered with the Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association and the Brick Association of the Carolinas during November to provide a masonry exhibit at the NC School Boards Association Annual Conference at Greensboro. The display featured demonstrations by students from Doug Drye's award-winning masonry program at Mount Pleasant High School, including graduate Cody Alward, the 2003 VICA / SkillsUSA National High School Masonry Champion. Above, Mt. Pleasant senior Josh Grey helps Hickory City Board of Education member Nancy Meek lay a brick. Senior Dustin Sneed also provided demonstrations. The booth promoted masonry for school construction and masonry vocational instruction in public schools.

Attention Golfers

NCMCA is preparing a "perpetual" traveling trophy for our Annual State Golf Tournament. Unfortunately, there are some serious gaps in our old golf records. If you are among the winners these past eleven years, please let us know the dates, location, the team sponsor and the other members of your team. We want the new trophy to accurately include the tournament's colorful history!

Welcome New Members

Rapco Foam, Inc.

Mac McClendon (A1)

Lenoir, NC

Recruited by NCMCA.com

Carolina Paper & Bldg. Materials

Dusty Calohan & Herb Smith (A2)

Charlotte & Wilmington, NC

Recruited by Joey Barnes

Metro Masonry

Chuck Walden (R51)

Charlotte, NC

Recruited by MCI

Old North State Masonry

Joe Anastasi (R10)

Charlotte, NC

Recruited by Griffin Masonry

Post Office Box 2412
 Hickory, NC 28603-2412

This issue sponsored by:



The Winners! Chairman Bill Reed announced that the Kelly Carver Masonry team of (left to right) Craig Herndon, Ed Donohue, Todd Carver and Mack Albright won the Eleventh Annual NCMCA State Golf Tournament at Advance in September. The Carver team also won in 2000. Finishing second was the Arrow Equipment team of Calvin Brodie, Steve Sharpe, Gordon Johnson and Larry Still. Mike Johnson of the Lightweight Block team scored "Longest Drive" and Randy Beeson, Kenny Jackson, Bobby Gleaton and Larry Little had "Closest-to-the-Pin" honors. Little's drive came within a couple of inches of winning him a new Lull Forklift in the Arrow Equipment "Hole-in-One" contest. Special thanks to Danny Batten and Lafarge North America for the barbecue chicken dinner served after the tournament. Tournament proceeds fund the Annual NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship at NC State University. (See page 4)

Thanks Golf Sponsors and Volunteers!

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 (Danny Batten, Don Thaxton, Sean Varner)

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Koontz Masonry - Lightweight Block

Metromont/RMC Carolina Materials

Pine Hall Brick - Pinnacle Masonry

Thompson Masonry Contractors

Whitman Masonry - Roanoke Cement

Special Thanks

Chairman Bill Reed

Sabrina Beck, Ashlee Moore

Katie DeJarnette, Wayne Coleman

Freddie McMahan, Lee Heath