

North Carolina Masonry News

The Newsletter of The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

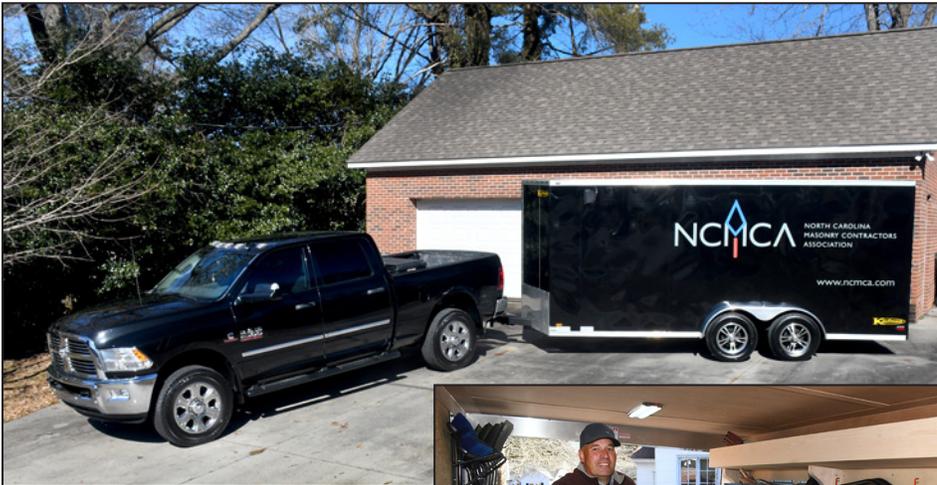
March 2021

Vol. 47 No. 1

This Issue Sponsored by



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Hitting the Road NCMCA's Mobile Training Unit is now in service and fully equipped for student and apprentice training and for masonry competitions across the state. Ryan Shaver provides a fifteen minute video tour of the trailer at this YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/vpncE0igcPI>

NCMCA's New Mobile Training Unit

After much research and planning, NCMCA's new mobile training unit is ready to hit the road. The seven by sixteen foot dual-axle Kaufman trailer was delivered to the association in January.

NCMCA's Workforce Development and Training Coordinator Ryan Shaver has worked with member firms and friends of the association to furnish the trailer with everything needed to conduct student and apprentice training, and to serve as a mobile headquarters for masonry competitions of all kinds. The trailer is wired with outlets for operating saws, mixers, and other tools, and to serve as an "office" with computers and printers. The trailer has a marine battery and is equipped with a generator.

The trailer has a small-batch electric auger mortar/grout mixer furnished by SPEC MIX. Shaver



worked with EZG Manufacturing to design a rolling training rack that folds for storage in the trailer.

NCMCA's three-year old workforce development initiative in general, and specifically the training trailer, has been a very popular project with NCMCA members. Association members and industry friends have stepped up in extraordinary fashion with financial and "in kind" contributions.

Page 12 of the newsletter includes a list of members and friends who have made the trailer possible.

See "Trailer" continued on Page #12

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Kent Huntley, CME, Chairman
Huntley Brothers Company, Monroe, NC

Danks Burton, CME, President
Pinnacle Masonry, Cary, NC

James "Bo" Black, CME, President-Elect
Carolina Masonry Unlimited, Willow Spring, NC

Clifton H. McGee, CME, Sec/Treas
McGee Brothers Company, Greensboro, NC

Doug Burton, CME, Eastern Vice Pres.
Whitman Masonry, Raleigh, NC

Brandon Hartsell, CMP, Central V Pres.
Gates Construction Company, Mooresville NC

Don Caldwell, Western Vice Pres.
C & R Masonry, Candler, NC

John Cramer AAI, Insurance Consultant
TriSure Corporation, Raleigh, NC

Pete Schantz RHU, Insurance Consultant
Mountcastle Insurance, Winston-Salem, NC

Lynn Nash, Executive Vice President
Hickory, NC

Ryan Shaver, NCMCA WDTC
Mount Pleasant, NC



The Quarterly Newsletter of
**The North Carolina
Masonry Contractors
Association**

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Andy-the-Cat Productions

2021 Convention Canceled

At the January Board of Directors meeting, the decision was made to cancel the 2021 NCMCA Annual Convention & Business Meeting that was to be held at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach at the end of April. Leadership determined the pandemic precautions necessary to conduct the meeting would result in unacceptable curtailing of traditional convention events and activities.

The convention is not being rescheduled for later in 2021 because the 2022 convention at Greenville, SC comes early in the year March 24th.

NCMCA will be returning to Kingston Plantation at the end of April 2023.

A virtual "Annual Business Meeting" is planned for Wednesday April 28, 2021. Details to follow.

New Membership Directory

The deadline for placing ad orders, providing copy for display advertising and for updating company listings in the next NCMCA membership directory is May 24, 2021.

Some 1,600 copies will be distributed to members, instructors, potential members, architects and industry friends across the country. The four-color directory will be in the mail by late July or early August.

Watch for an advertising order form coming to your "in box" soon. Advertisers make the directory possible!

Thank you Manning Masonry for providing the great picture of East Carolina University stadium additions featured on the cover of the last edition of the Annual NCMCA Membership Directory.

Thursday April 1, 2021 is the deadline for submitting photographs to be considered for the cover of the next issue of the directory. Submitted photographs should be professional quality, high resolution, and vertically/"portrait" oriented. Photographs should feature projects constructed or under construction by NCMCA masonry contractor members. Any recognizable people in the picture must be identified and provide permission.

Welcome New Members

Western Specialty Contractors

Dave Sturdevant (R4)
www.westernspecialtycontractors.com
Charlotte, NC
Recruited by Ryan Shaver

Masonry Cosmetics

Norine Handley (A1)
www.masonrycosmetics.com
South Bend, IN
Recruited by Danks Burton

Benchmark Pressure Washing

Aaron Ritchie (A1)
www.benchmarkpressurewashing.com
Concord, NC
Recruited by Ryan Shaver

Message From the President

This year is getting off to a great start here at NCMCA. 'Just completed our January board meeting and big plans are in the works for convention, SkillsUSA contest, apprentice contests, regional events, certification classes, golf tournaments, etc. To say things are busy and happening here at NCMCA is an understatement. *Oops!* Wrong year. This was the opening paragraph of the letter I wrote some fifteen years ago in my previous term as President. (Don't go looking in the archives for my letters



Danks Burton

fifteen years ago. I'm making this up.)

What is your association up to at this time? Our board meeting was virtual, SkillsUSA is canceled, as well as the convention. We haven't held a certification class or in-person chapter meeting in twelve months. Still to be determined is whether we can successfully hold the Sam McGee Memorial Apprentice Skills Contest in May.

One encouraging point - Ryan is working every angle possible to get in front of apprentices to encourage and coach them; his efforts are much appreciated.

I think we all miss the opportunity to network and socialize with industry folks that our events provide. Hopefully this will change soon. I hope everyone has plenty of work and you are optimistic about 2021. I also hope you and your family are healthy.

Thanks for your continued support of NCMCA.

Danks Burton CME
President 2020-2022



Zooming! President Danks conducted the January Board of Directors meeting "virtually." Thanks to Brandon Hartsell and Gates Construction Company for "hosting" the meeting. Presently a virtual Association Annual Business Meeting is planned for Wednesday afternoon April 28th. Details to follow. *Photograph by Brandon Hartsell.*

XP500 THIN VENEER ADHESION MORTAR

THE MIX WITH GRIP!

MASONS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA TOLD US WHAT THEY NEEDED—WE DELIVERED! Installing thin veneer masonry units is precision work that requires an adhesive mortar with superior workability—XP500 delivers 3X more boardlife than others! SPEC MIX® Thin Veneer Adhesion Mortar XP500 is a thin set adhesive formulated with high performance additives that mitigate sagging, maximize jobsite productivity and yield shear bond strengths that exceed the requirements of ANSI A118.4 and ANSI A118.15. **CALL YOUR SPEC MIX REPRESENTATIVE TODAY**



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ENGINEERING DATA (LABORATORY PREPARED)

* DUE TO THE WIDE VARIABILITY IN NATURAL STONE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND STRENGTHS, TESTING IS PERFORMED WITH MANUFACTURED TILE FORMATS.

	ANSI A118.15 REQUIREMENTS	SPEC MIX XP500 (TYPICAL RESULTS)
PORCELAIN MOSAIC TILE SHEAR STRENGTH, PSI		
AT 1 DAY	100 PSI (0.7 MPa)	>200 PSI (1.3 MPa)
AT 7 DAYS	300 PSI (2.0 MPa)	>600 PSI (4.1 MPa)
AT 7 DAYS DRY / 7 DAYS WATER IMMERSION	200 PSI (1.3 MPa)	>300 PSI (2.0 MPa)
AT 28 DAYS	400 PSI (2.7 MPa)	>700 PSI (4.8 MPa)
AT 28 DAYS WITH FREEZE-THAW CYCLING	250 PSI (1.7 MPa)	>500 PSI (3.4 MPa)
AT 28 DAYS HEAT AGING	400 PSI (2.7 MPa)	>800 PSI (5.5 MPa)
QUARRY TILE SHEAR STRENGTH, PSI		
AT 28 DAYS	150 PSI (1.0 MPa)	>300 PSI (2.0 MPa)
AT 28 DAYS WITH FREEZE-THAW CYCLING	100 PSI (0.6 MPa)	>200 PSI (1.3 MPa)
	TMS 402/602 REQUIREMENTS	SPEC MIX XP500 (TYPICAL RESULTS)
CERAMIC TILE SHEAR STRENGTH, PSI		
AT 28 DAYS (ASTM C 482)	50 PSI (0.3 MPa)	>400 PSI (2.7 MPa)

SPEC MIX - NORTH CAROLINA

Steve Bell - 704-294-5231 or Marty Schiraldi - 919-592-8993





Apprentice Training Continues Jason Oliver (*masked*) and apprentice Jimmy McKinny of Boettcher Masonry were among the participants for January apprentice training at Johnson Concrete Products in Willow Spring. Training sessions for NCMCA apprentices is ongoing in the Raleigh and Winston-Salem areas and new classes are starting in the Charlotte area. Jason Oliver says, “Big things are built one brick at a time. Stay focused. Training apprentices to become brick masons, we will build great things.” *Photo by Tu Phan*

2021 school-related masonry competitions have been cancelled including the Annual State SkillsUSA Conference in Greensboro. We won't have masonry contestants competing in national SkillsUSA this year. Our hope is that our high school competitions and SkillsUSA events will return to normal in 2022.

We are still hoping our 2021 Annual Samuel McGee Memorial Apprentice Contest can take place in May. Details are pending but get your apprentices ready! With our new apprentice training program underway across the state, I anticipate a large number of apprentices and a record number of companies participating!

We are on track to take NCMCA apprentice training to new levels this year with a goal to make NCMCA training nationally recognized. Thanks for your support. I look forward to working with your apprentices!

Ryan Shaver is NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator. Reach him at ryan.shaver@ncmca.com or (704) 791-5240

From the WDTTC: Apprentice Training!

By Ryan Shaver

Over the last six months NCMCA has started apprentice training statewide. This training has been a positive new activity in such a challenging time. I feel the young apprentices that have participated in these sessions have gained valuable trowel skills and developed excitement for our trade!

In August, we piloted our first ever-training session in the Raleigh market for NCMCA apprentices.



Ryan Shaver

It has become more special than I would have ever imagined. I start each session by building a relationship with the apprentices. That may include assigning a nickname of some sort. Regardless of the age of the apprentices, it is important that they understand that our trade is for them. I share many old sayings that I learned from years on the job and share “war” stories about challenges that I faced on the job daily.

I want all the apprentices to respect the training. For that to happen, I show them a ton of respect when they arrive. Our industry could use a little more of that sort of respect on jobsites, especially for apprentices and newcomers. I hope our masons will get on board with that idea when the participating apprentices return to the job. I teach the guys how to get journeyman masons and others on the job to respect them by working hard, getting material stocked, and performing their laborer's duties so they

can then say, “Hey, can I spread mortar for you?”

I explain to the apprentices how vitally important it is to have a good work ethic and how a good work ethic will advance them toward becoming a mason at a more rapid pace!

When I hear the statement, “Kids today don't want to work,” it raises an important topic, and one I often heard said by older guys when I was learning the trade in the late eighties and early nineties. I would like to ask them, “What are you doing to change this?” I was very fortunate to have great mentors in masonry that brought me up in the trade in a positive fashion. My hope is that we can get our seasoned guys to accept the challenge to do this for our young apprentices daily. I have found that structure to training builds respect. If we show mutual respect, skills are built much faster. Try not to act like the “superior mentor.” Instead, be the structured, humorous, fun-to-be-around mentor that will foster growth. A positive attitude will get the young apprentices moving in a direction that will benefit your company's productivity!

If your young guys are not participating in NCMCA apprentice training, I have to ask, “WHY NOT?” I know it takes them off the job for a morning each month but the payback for letting them attend will be substantial!

Included in “Dates to Note” are our presently scheduled March training dates. If you and your fellow NCMCA masonry contractors would like to start NCMCA apprentice training in your area, please call me! Our new training trailer is set up perfectly for the sessions. It's on the road!

As schools are beginning to get up and running in mostly split schedules for students, all spring

Dates to Note

3/4/21 - Charlotte area apprentice training, Palmetto Brick, 4812 W Hwy 74 – Monroe

3/11/21 - Raleigh apprentice training, Wake Tech Beltline Education Center, 3200 Bush St. – Raleigh

3/23/21 - Asheville area apprentice training, Adams Oldcastle Co., 190 Meadow Rd – Asheville

3/25/21 - Winston-Salem Area apprentice training, Pine Hall Brick, 2701 Shorefair Dr NW - W-S

4/1/21 - Deadline for submitting photos as candidates for the cover of the next directory

4/8/21 - Raleigh area apprentice training, Custom Brick & Supply, 1833 Capital Blvd – Raleigh

4/22/21 - Charlotte apprentice training, Pine Hall Brick, 6400 West W.T. Harris Blvd – Charlotte

4/28/21 - NCMCA Annual Business Meeting – 1:00 PM “virtual”

4/30/21 - Land of the Sky Chapter Annual Masonry Contest, Virtual? – Details Pending

5/15/21 - Annual Samuel A. McGee Memorial Apprentice Contest – Details Pending

5/24/21 - Deadline for Ads and Listing Changes for 2021-2022 Membership Directory

6/7-6/10/21 - World of Concrete/Masonry, Convention Center – Las Vegas

6/9/21 - Masonry Madness Day - Las Vegas

6/20-6/23/21 - SCMA Conference, The King & Prince Resort – St. Simons Island, GA

1/14-1/16/22 - Annual Raleigh Chapter Murdell Golf Tournament & Bus Tour – Grand Strand

1/17-1/20/22 - World of Concrete/Masonry, Convention Center – Las Vegas

3/24-3/26/22 - NCMCA Convention, Hyatt Regency Downtown – Greenville, SC

4/27-4/30/23 - NCMCA Convention, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach

Additional details and registration forms are always available on the “Calendar” page of NCMCA.com.

Everybody Wins with Masonry Competitions

By Brian Carney

Editor's note: Nowhere do folks take masonry competitions more seriously than here in North Carolina! But the rest of the country is catching on. For a broader perspective, NCMCA invited Brian Carney to share thoughts with North Carolina Masonry News. Carney, along with Nick Blobowiak, conceived and developed the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500® back in 2003 -

If you ask a mason if they see themselves as an athlete, most will say “no.” But if you ask a mason if they compete with other masons while building a brick or block wall, most will say “yes!” Whenever there is skill involved, competition takes place. Although it's never been considered a competitive sport like football or baseball, today the masonry craft is ripe with competitions that are tailored to masons of all ages and fortes.



Brian Carney

High school students and masonry apprentices go head to head in state and national SkillsUSA competitions and the MCAA's Masonry Skills Challenge. Similarly, more experienced masons get to choose their battle based on the type of units they typically install. Blocklayers have the MCAA Fastest Trowel on the Block, and bricklayers have the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500®. The beauty of all of these contests, no matter who is wielding the trowel, is that in the end the Masonry Industry wins every time!

Competitions Create Craftsmanship

Craftsmanship is the backbone of masonry. The pride and passion masons dedicate to their work is what distinctly separates it from other trades. The rise of competitions across North America not only makes masonry more visible, they inspire masons to continually increase their level of workmanship and strive for excellence. With all the media coverage, industry buzz and the celebrity-like recognition of award-winning masons, the message is clear; craftsmanship is king.

North Carolina has a rich history of decorated masons. In 2008 and 2010 Garrett Hood won SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 World Champion title, while Matt Cash followed suit in 2017. The torch is being passed on to up-and-comer Grant Helms who in 2018 won the NC State Fair Masonry Apprentice competition before taking top honors in the 2019 National SkillsUSA Championship. These are just a few of the state's many well-known and respected trowelers that are raising the bar and motivating their peers.

As a young bricklayer working for McGee Brothers, who is known for developing award-winning

masons, Cash was driven to up his game. “Several masons around me had either won state championships or the National SkillsUSA—that lit a fire in me. Not only did I want to be faster, I wanted to be the best mason on the wall!” In time those goals became reality and ultimately put him in front of a world-wide audience when he served as the bricklaying expert of the CBS network's reality program “TOUGH AS NAILS.” To set the stage for the challenge, the show's host, Phil Keoghan, called on the expertise of Cash to teach the 12 competitors how to lay brick. When the program debuted in July of 2020 over 4 million people saw an abbreviated version of the Bricklayer 500 and the talent it takes to be a mason.

Whether on a jobsite or in a contest, today more than ever, block and bricklayers know there is no room for mediocre performances when constructing buildings and legacies. This is when pride comes into play. Masons are proving it's more than a trade, it's a highly skilled, coveted craft that continues to inspire building owners, developers and designers to specify masonry.

Competitions Create Careers

Building a workforce takes time, strategy and tools—especially marketing tools. To effectively promote careers in masonry and capture the attention of young minds, today's recruiters need resources that sizzle. When a sixteen-year-old kid sees a video of a bricklayer winning a \$60,000 truck and a pile of cash with thousands of fans celebrating the victory, it

is a powerful pitch to the teenager. The explosion of YouTube highlight reels, livestream broadcasts and social media coverage of the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500, Fastest Trowel on the Block and Jr. Bricklayer 500 competitions are leveraged by masonry instructors across North America and beyond.

Whether it's for motivation or teaching technique, many training programs have integrated these digital resources into their classroom curriculum. “For years I've used the Bricklayer 500 as a way for my students to ‘meet the masonry industry’—it's important they realize it extends far beyond the classroom. The kids see the videos and they get excited about working harder and the opportunity of competing one day to showcase their skills,” says Rodney Harrington of West Rowan High School.

Masonry competitions are also being parlayed into a wide variety of industry events. In 2019 the NCMCA's Ryan Shaver worked his magic to create Masonry Education Day. By partnering with association members, suppliers and 28 high school instructors, Shaver put together an event that drew well over 600 high school masonry students from around the state. They arrived by bus load to attend learning sessions hosted by product manufacturers before the kids packed the bleachers and wrapped the competition arena to take in some bricklaying action. In the undercard event they saw 10 of their classmates compete in a Jr. Bricklayer 500 contest followed by the grand finale—the North Carolina SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 regional competition. In

“Carney” continued on Page #9



2010 Was Three Years in a Row! In February 2010, North Carolina and McGee Brothers Company celebrated winning the SPEC MIX Las Vegas Bricklayer 500 for the third year straight with Garrett Hood's win in 2008, Tyke Mangum's win in 2009 and Hood's repeat in 2010. Pictured, North Carolina's 2010 BL 500 contestants, top left to right, Gary Chappell, Sr., Hood, and Mangum along with their tender/coaches, bottom left to right, Lamal O'Neil, Kevin Hallman, and Dan Hallman.

January Board Meeting Summary

The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association (NCMCA) met in January via "Zoom" virtual conference. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Treasurer Cliff McGee reported assets as of 12/30/2020: \$739,831.27, not counting unrealized investment gains. (Assets ending 2019: \$657,202.22.) Liabilities of \$86,066.79. \$503,751.85 originally invested with Morgan Stanley (September 2015.) Value as of 12/30/2020: \$676,581.01 including accrued interest. Unrealized gain as of 12/30/2020: \$172,829.16 (Was \$131,310.71 in December 2019.) \$141,390.05 was received for the WDTC fund in 2020. Total received since spring 2018: \$327,150.00. The total includes two \$20,000 grants from the MCAA Masonry Foundation and proceeds from a fall fundraiser of \$6,140.05. Annual operating expense for 2020: \$272,671.13, down from \$286,603.31 in 2019.

Pete Schantz reported on the benefits program: "Both group and individual health insurance have been greatly affected by Covid-19 Pandemic on several fronts. While some changes are temporary, others will remain part of the industry permanently.

"Health insurance carriers will cover COVID-19 vaccines that are FDA approved for emergency use authorization at no cost. The vaccine will be allocated, distributed and administered to the public in phases based on availability determined by federal, state and local government authorities. The first wave of vaccines will go to frontline health workers, members and staff of senior living facilities and individuals with two or more chronic illnesses. Even after receiving the vaccine, you must continue following COVID-19 preventive safeguards. This includes wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds and washing your hands often.

"A great benefit to remember during this time is Telehealth. Most carriers include this benefit with your health insurance. This benefit allows members to call board certified physicians 24/7, 7 days a week for every day illness, pay a copay for the call, pay a copay for the prescription, pick it up at their pharmacy and avoid going into the doctor's office.

"The Stimulus Bill includes temporary special rules for FSAs that was signed in December. The Act provides temporary special rules for health and dependent care flexible spending accounts (FSAs) that give employees additional time to use these funds.

"Small Group Update: In the 1-50 employee market BCBSNC and UnitedHealthcare are by and large the only options on a fully insured basis. Aetna as of January 1st entered back into the small group arena on a fully insured basis. However, coverage is only available in certain counties within NC. There is no coverage outside of NC. Cigna also provides options on the self-funded platform. The Blue Select network with BCBS is no longer available in either

segment (Small or Mid-Large) as of January 1st and BCBS has allowed dual option in the small group segment with no groups size limitation.

"Mid-Large Group update: The Mid-Large group market continues to be a competitive market between carriers. Many more options are available in the 50+ employee market. BCBSNC, United-Healthcare, Aetna and Cigna continue to offer both fully insured and self-funded options. Individual Third-Party Administrators also continue to offer a multitude of options for groups who prefer self-funding arrangements.

"Individual Market: 2021 Open Enrollment for individual plans ran 11-1-2020 through 12-15-2020. Billing statements may be delayed for January if members changed plans or carriers. While this is not uncommon at open enrollment, it may have affected more consumers this year given the volume of members making benefit adjustments.

"Mountcastle continues to manage several groups, individual, Medicare supplemental, life, dental, vision and disability policies for NCMCA members. We greatly appreciate our partnership and look forward to a great 2021. We are here to help! Please contact us for assistance with any and all employee benefits issues."

TriSure's John Cramer reported on the Association liability and workers' compensation program: INSURANCE-

Welcome to Ground Hog Day. This past year has not really changed and it seems my report is pretty much a "rinse and repeat" of previous reports.

It has been 4 months since I last reported to the NCMCA and we are in the 9th month of Covid lockdown. Through the lockdowns and a historically ugly national election, the construction industry has remained strong. There does seem to be some trailing off at the end of 2020 and expected through Q1 of 2021. Hopefully we will see momentum reappear in Q2.

Masonry contractors are continuing to subcontract more work than in previous years. I cannot stress enough the importance of proper written agreements with Subcontractors. Make sure your company has properly reviewed subcontract agreements and/or purchase orders in place.

Experience Mods continue to fluctuate wildly. One claim can easily push a client in excess of 1.00. We will continue to emphasize the importance of Early Return To Work and Light Duty programs for our clients and demonstrating how this reduces their mod.

OCIPS/CCIPS and Sub-guard continue to impact our volume. We do not see an end in sight to these programs. We have been working with clients to advise on key issues with OCIPS/CCIPS-

1. General Liability ONLY OCIPS AND CCIPS are a growing trend and mandatory to participate.

2. Workers Comp should never be in one of these programs if at all avoidable. You lose control of your employee's claim and your future Experience Mod.

3. YOU MUST ENROLL ALL YOUR SUBS! If you fail to, you are in breach of contract and most likely totally UNINSURED!!!!

4. When in doubt, call me!

2021 - Key things to protect your company and future insurance costs:

- PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEAR MASKS IN PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES. No one really knows when the vaccines will be available to all. .

- Safety, Early Return/Light Duty programs.

- Written sub contract agreements on every job or blanket basis with proper risk transfer. (Additional Insured Status, Waiver of Subrogation and Primary/Non Contributory wording as a minimum. KEEP CURRENT CERTIFICATES THAT HAVE RISK TRANSFER WORDING.

- No texting and hands free driving policy and enforce it.

- Train on Silica, Scaffold/Fall Protection and Powered Lift Truck.

We sincerely appreciate the support and participation of the NCMCA and please do not hesitate to call us for assistance.

President Danks acknowledged the great contribution, both financial and otherwise, provided by our insurance partners.

Workforce Development & Training Coordinator Shaver provided a review of WDTC activities:

"Since the September meeting, I (Shaver) have been busy across the state. With COVID with us, we have still been able to enact a few new programs that will be on point when we get back to normal!

"Apprentice Training- Raleigh has been our trial area. We started this training in August. Since then, we have had training once a month in Raleigh and we have 7 companies with 21 Apprentices attending. The young men have benefited greatly and their skill set has increased after each session. We have had two apprentice training sessions in Winston Salem and have more scheduled for January. My goal is to have these statewide this year in various markets.

"Apprentice Coordinator- ApprenticeshipNC has named Danny Boykin as our Masonry Representative for Apprenticeship. I have worked with Danny for a number of years and his background is the Construction Industry. Danny will now help us on our documentation of Apprentices and has the knowledge and skillset to understand our scope of work. When we get back to normal, Danny and I will be around to visit with all of our masonry contractors and help with any apprenticeship needs!

"Masonry Programs- With schools mostly being virtual this year, I have had to go to the schools that are doing a split schedule with students not on campus every day but maybe twice a week. I have not had any problems gaining access as long as I follow the guidelines that have been set. I have taught the masonry class in Swansboro multiple days while they were in between instructors. We were able to get a new instructor hired at North Lenoir HS and I

have been there twice helping him get adjusted and taught his class a day and let him observe me. We have a new instructor at Richlands HS and I have been able to be with him and help him secure the materials needed for a new tool room that he has built. I spent time with Robeson Career Academy and helped the instructor present online classes. Columbus Career and College Academy has been relocated to Southeastern Community College campus and we have helped Mr. Mason get settled into a new facility and get his award winning program back going. I have been able to plant a new program in Lexington after multiple meetings with the school administration. We will be looking for an instructor soon to start this program in August. We have also been able to plant a new program at Wake Tech that will start in September. We have done a great job working on videos that our instructors have been able to use virtually.

“Other state’s visiting- In the fall we had multiple folks from around the country reach out to us about learning the programs that are in place in NC for masonry training. I had a group from Lang Masonry in Ohio come down and shadow me for three days. I have been on multiple zoom meetings with California, Florida, Texas, and Tennessee to name a few. The work that has been done in NC has spread across the country and we are seeing a real upward shift in the effort that needs to go into training.

“Fundraiser and Training Trailer- We are well on the way to putting together the first of its kind, which is a true dedicated Masonry Training Trailer! We were able to raise a good amount of the funds by putting in a slab foundation one afternoon in September in which all the materials were donated as well as 25 men showing up to provide the labor. We have had multiple masonry contractors and suppliers donate as well as tool contributions that have come from across the country. We are waiting for the trailer to be finished and is being custom built to fit the needs of its purpose. My goal is to have this trailer ready to go by February and be able to launch its path with the apprentice training statewide. When the public schools get back to a normal schedule we will be at a different school daily!

“Masonry Contest- Since we have not been able to have any masonry contest in NC, I was able to go to SC and help with the Spec Mix Bricklayer 500 regional. We had several member companies represented as well as young apprentices from NC in the Junior contest. A good day for all and hopefully we will be back on pace this year for all of our contests!

•”NCCER- At the last board meeting we discussed me taking the Master Trainer Course and NCDPI also helped financially with this. I have taken the Master Trainer course as well as other certification courses in December with NCCER. Over the last few years as I have been in the schools and we have successfully started a Pre-Apprenticeship program, I have noticed that the students are getting credentials

in the curriculum but industry is not recognizing them. I am working on getting revisions made to the performance task that match what the masonry contractors are needing in the field daily. My goal is to have multiple masonry contractors and their key people certified across the state to either be an instructor or be a performance evaluator on the job. This will tie us into young folks like never before and will be another model across the country.

“I thank each of you for the opportunity you have entrusted me with, which is to promote an industry that has been so great to me! Please call if you need anything from me!” - Ryan Shaver

Shaver gave an update on the new training trailer, which should be in service by February. He expressed concern about limitations that will be imposed for selecting a student to compete at National SkillsUSA, saying presently the plan is for the state masonry champion to be selected with a written test. Several alternatives to selecting masons by written test were discussed. The consensus was that, with Ryan’s experience and expertise, he should work with NC SkillsUSA and the masonry instructors to determine the best way to proceed and how NCMCA should be involved.

The Training Committee says the Sam McGee Memorial Apprentice is still on the calendar for May15, 2021 at Adams/Oldcastle at Colfax.

President Danks called the board’s attention to pledges and contribution to NCMCA’s workforce development initiative, noting that eleven new firms had joined in the pledge drive during 2020. He commended all the firms participating and singled out five firms that contributed \$10,000 or more in 2020: Gates Construction Company, McGee Brothers Company, The Raleigh Chapter, Adams/Oldcastle, and The Masonry Foundation.

Chris Mitchell provided a golf committee report. The date for the 2021 tournament is the fourth Thursday in September, which is the 23rd. The 2020 tournament cleared \$13,265.54, half of which will go into the scholarship fund.

Certification program report. Statistics:
 651 individuals, 98 firms have participated
 136 Certified Masonry Professional (CMP)
 50 “Suspended” CMP
 48 “Expired” CMP
 44 Certified Masonry Executive (CME)
 25 “Suspended” CME
 22 “Expired” CME
 21 Company Certifications (in good standing)
 4 suspended firms
 7 expired firms

Consensus was to hold off restarting the certification classes until they can be resumed with “in-person” instruction, anticipated to be midsummer 2021. “On-line training” is now acceptable for continuing education credit. Nash noted the “honor system” component of utilizing on-line training.

Safety Committee Chairman John Cramer re-

ported: “Commissioner Cherie Berry has retired and moved to Ohio to be close to family. On January 1, new Commissioner Josh Dobson has taken office. Commissioner Dobson (R) is from McDowell County, received his Masters in Public Administration from App State. He has served in the NC Legislature since 2013. At some point, it would be nice to invite the new Commissioner to meet with the NCMCA.

“Require masks. Older people, have health issues, have diminished immune issues, are at significant risk. Please mask up and use social distancing.

“AUTO SAFETY – We encourage all contractors to implement a strict no-texting and no emailing and HANDS FREE ONLY while driving policy.

“NEW SILICA STANDARD – Make sure you are modifying your work processes to stay within Table 1 Guidelines! As of this date, we have not heard of any masons having any inspection issues. Please let us know if you do.

“SCAFFOLDING – Make absolutely sure your Competent Person training is up to date and documented. Make sure you have written documentation of inspections of your scaffolding every day and after moving or set up. Have your scaffold all clearly tagged for use or service and signed off daily. Most of all, make sure all ladders, bracing, mud sills, footings, base plates, railings, access points and fall zones are perfect on every job, every day.

“OSHA FINES AND PENALTIES- Employers will continue to feel pressure and see an increase in the number of fines from inspections and Serious Violations they are charging against employers. There is much less negotiating for the removal and/or reduction of fines. If you feel it is wrong or unfair, chances are you will have to go through a full hearing. We encourage all our masons to call us immediately if they have an inspection with violations and to discuss their rights and alternatives.

“VERIFY that your subs have full safety programs and are enforcing and following them at all times.

“ENROLL YOUR SUBS IN OCIPS AND CCIPS WHERE YOU ARE REQUIRED!!!!”

MCAA Regional Vice President Gary Joyner, MCAA Secretary Kent Huntley and MCAA Chairman Paul Oldham reported on Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) activities and The Masonry Foundation. The Foundation is within \$300,000 of achieving its five million dollar goal. The MCAA mid-year meeting was in Indiana during September.

The 2021 convention was set for April at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach. After much discussion, the board voted to forego a convention in 2021 because of ongoing public health concerns and because of the restrictions on conducting traditional convention events. Cliff McGee pointed out that rescheduling the convention for the fall would mean only a few months separation between conventions. The 2022 Convention is set for March 24 to March 26 at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Greenville, SC

Central office report: As of 12/30/2020, mem-

bership stands at 144, unchanged since September. The number was 139 in January 2020. The Sigmon Memorial Scholarship fund holds \$20,263.09.

The present list of 18 NCMCA "Distinguished" and "Leadership" member firms:

Brodie Contractors* Carolina Masonry Unlimited*
Cherokee Masonry* Edgar Boettcher Masonry*
Gates Construction* Huntley Brothers Company
Joyner Masonry Works* Kirby Construction Services*
LPS Enterprises* Manning Masonry*
McGee Brothers Company* Mountcastle Insurance
Pinnacle Masonry* Roanoke Cement Company
Rush Construction* TriSure Corporation
SPEC MIX* (new!) Whitman Masonry*

These firms voluntarily pay as "Leadership Members" (double normal dues) or "Distinguished Members" (double dues and maintain MCAA membership*)

Brandon Hartsell provided a Central Region and Metrolina Chapter report:

"We are so very lucky to be placed in an area where masonry is promoted the way it is. 2020 has been an odd year for many. Even if we do not agree as a society, we all have one thing in common. This pandemic has affected us all. No matter our race, gender, political affiliation, spiritual belief, or area of work, we all have been affected. We are all fighting as a nation and world to put this mess behind us. If the pandemic has taught us nothing else, it has shown we can work together to make a better nation and world for us all. Will we all agree? No. This is what makes us stronger. We disagree respectfully and build from our differences. It sounds like I am running for office, I know. The point is this. If we will simply keep our mouth closed and listen to our neighbor, and receive the same return gesture, this nation and world would be a better place.

"No one knows what the future holds. This world and situations can and do change in the blink of an eye. I do know one thing. Sometimes it is hard to stay positive. Very Hard. Some days I struggle. But I know if I stay positive, others will follow. We must put differences aside and work as a team. The team is stronger than one. Now is the time to focus on "Your Team." Have faith in the Man above. Tend to the field. Be a leader and train others to do the same. Do not over focus on a problem. Help find a solution. Do your job and do it well. I assure you; others will notice when you stand firm and positive in times in which are uncertain. I live by this method. I work by this method. I run the chapter by this method. All situations pass. It is how we mature, develop, and lead once we come through the darkness that defines our character.

"I look forward to working with the NCMCA to advance our industry into the future. Change is all around us. From the national level to the state and local levels, we have positioned NCMCA to be the leader in the masonry industry. I know the Association will remain solid and become more in tune with the Industry of tomorrow. 2021, here "We" come!

"Central Piedmont Chapter Update: Congratulations to our new Officers!! Welcome. Hard work lies ahead. This Chapter is helping to revamp the association. Chapter Officers Chris Ellis CMP, President, Carlos F. Vega, Vice-President, Angie Puckett (S), & Nick Ferrucci (T), have made some changes which have put new life into their Chapter.

"Metrolina Chapter Update: 2020 was odd. We made it. We are essential and very fortunate. How do I address an Association and Chapter which has been dormant like the Bermuda Grass in Winter? Simple. Patience. I fertilize it. Tend it. Make sure the weeds stay away. Build on the good foundation we had prior to the cool down. And prep the soil for its return. And come next year, we will be back and stronger than ever. In comparison, the current pandemic is like the grass. Recently, a neighbor asked, "Why is your grass dead?" The response simply is this. It is not dead Ma'am, it is dormant. "Why do I see you out here putting products on it?" I am preparing for the future. The Association is the same way. We were very strong prior to early 2020. If you have not noticed, many are doing things behind the scenes to keep the Association moving forward in this awkward time. I like to think of it as tending the field. What we do now during this slower time in everyone's lives, will shape our Industry and Association of tomorrow.

"We have done a few things in 2020. I look forward to seeing you all in person soon.

1. 4/28/2020; NCMCA Metrolina Chapter ZOOM Meeting: This was nothing formal. This meeting was simply to keep us close during a time in which we find ourselves "Social Distancing."

2. 5/15/2020; Metrolina Chapter hosts Check-In with Shaver prior to his brain surgery that took place on May 19th in Charlotte. An opportunity to let Ryan know his friends were with him and holding he and his family in our thoughts.

3. February 2021 – Metrolina Silent Online Auction: Stay tuned. Details are forthcoming.

"Closing: Finally, I would like to thank the Metrolina Chapter Officers; Greg Huntley (VP) and Carson Grief (Secretary) for helping me to honestly be able to say, there is no "I" in the word Team! When we travel to other parts of this Country and your State is recognized as the Standard, you know you belong to a Strong Organization.

"Triad Chapter Update: Chapter Officers are Red McAdams (P), Randy Terry (VP), Todd Horner (S), & LB Faulkner, (T). This Chapter meets the First Wednesday of each month at Maria's Cafe, in Burlington.

"Closing: I would like to thank everyone who has helped with each Chapter above. We will only remain a strong organization if we work together. When we travel to other parts of this Country and your State is recognized as the Standard, you know you belong to a Strong Organization. Thank you to everyone for all you do! Thank you, Brandon Hartsell"

Western Carolina Chapter President Larry Kirby

asked that the chapter's 2020 \$3,000 office pledge be credited from the new chapters checking account.

Mike Rogers reported the Land of the Sky Chapter held its annual Christmas Breakfast. The chapter provided \$200 each to three area needy families. Part came from chapter funds and part from donations raised at the breakfast. Chapter President Gary Kitchen's mother passed in early December.

Nash reported on the status of chapter finances incorporated into the NCMCA office as the end of 2020. The plan was for all local chapter checking accounts to be closed and the funds consolidated in the new checking account by the end of the year however the year's extraordinary circumstances make it necessary to extend the deadline. The local chapter's choices were to file paperwork to reinstate each local chapter (Federal tax identification and annual filings) or consolidate the funds in the NCMCA office to be administered by the NCMCA office.

The NCMCA Federal tax identification number should have never, and can no longer be used with financial transactions that are associated with local chapter bank accounts. The number can only be used for local transactions that take place by way of, and are accounted for in NCMCA bookkeeping.

Each chapter now has funds in the NCMCA account generated from local chapter fees collected by NCMCA on behalf of the local chapters with membership renewal payments for 2020 and with funds from closed local accounts. As of 12/30/2020, the chapter checking account held \$59,152.35

Local chapter treasurers receive a report at the end of each quarter with the status of their chapter funds and a spreadsheet of local fees paid to the chapters during that quarter. Additional status reports may be requested anytime.

Debit cards to draw from the chapter checking account are being distributed to each chapter. The chapters may spend funds in the account using the debit card or may request a check be issued from the NCMCA office.

Southeast Concrete Masonry Association President James Cain provided update on SCMA and National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) activities including an extensive update on the National CMU Check-off program.

President Danks set the next meeting of the board for Wednesday April 28, 2021 and thanked Brandon Hartsell and Bob Gates for arranging and hosting the meeting with Gates Construction Company's "Zoom" account.

NCMCA Annual Business Meeting Planned "Zoom" Session

1:00 PM Wednesday April 28, 2021

**All members in good standing
are invited to participate**

*Details will be e-mailed
to member companies*

“Carney” continued from Page #5

the end it was a full day of fun and excitement that undoubtedly reinforced everyone’s commitment to a career in masonry. Thanks to the NCMA and Shaver, this model is now working in several markets with great success.

Competitions Create Unity

The MCAA’s mantra, “Together we are stronger,” are words to live by. To win a tug-of-war contest every member of the team must dig in and pull at the same time. The same holds true for our team and the reason why we need to capitalize on masonry competitions to unite and energize our industry. As never before, mason contractors, instructors, producers and associations are pulling together, versus working independently, to overcome challenges and celebrate what is arguably the greatest craft.

Much like the die-hard bikers that gather annually in Sturgis, South Dakota, masonry enthusiasts have designated Las Vegas and the World of Concrete as their rally point. The event is called Masonry Madness Day and each year the crowd gets bigger and bolder. It’s the only venue in the country where a person can set eyes on four high-caliber masonry competitions, back-to-back, for five straight hours. A full spectrum of masonry students, apprentices, mason tenders, blocklayers and bricklayers all step into the arena to become the national champion in their respective field. Family, friends and fans hang banners and cheer non-stop to squeeze the best workmanship from their favorite mason. It’s truly an amazing spectacle and the reason it’s called “Masonry’s Biggest Party!”

What’s most impressive about this party is the energy and message Masonry Madness Day delivers keeps working after the party. There’s no hangover, only a fire that’s fueling our industry to work harder and be better. When the grandstands empty, the spectators leave Vegas with a greater appetite to participate in workforce development initiatives. Suppliers are inspired to donate materials and equipment. Contractors spend more time mentoring young masons. Masonry associations and instructors work together with school administrators to open more training programs.

Craftsmanship. Careers. Unity. It’s clear that masonry competitions are making a tremendous impact on the strength and future of the industry. They’ve created a movement that’s working as a call to action for masonry’s membership—and we should all be thankful it’s taking place.

The question is who should we all thank for this wake up call? Who’s responsible for elevating the importance of high-quality craftsmanship, the need for workforce development, and unifying the industry for masonry’s prosperity? It’s the masons themselves! It’s the infectious pride and passion they devote, every day, to their work and the craft that’s empowering us all to act. We all know that without masons, there is no masonry! It’s fun to watch them

compete, but it’s far more rewarding to watch them construct buildings that are the landmarks and monuments of today and tomorrow.

The next time you have the opportunity to attend a competition and support masons, remember that your contribution will pay it forward to a stronger, more competitive masonry industry!

Brian Carney is Vice President/General Manager of SPEC MIX and is a member of the Mason Contractors Association of America’s “Masonry Hall of Fame.” Reach Brian at Brian.Carney@specmix.com (651) 994-7120 extension #3

Member News

Land of the Sky Chapter President Gary Kitchen lost his mother December 3rd. Martha Kitchen was 73 and lived in Hendersonville.

Thanks to Oldcastle’s Brandon Roberts, the NCMA pickup truck now has a nice toolbox mounted on it.

In December, the NCMA Masonry Contractors Association Masonry Contractors Certification Board of Governors approved Justin Helms of General Shale Brick in Raleigh as a “Certified Masonry Professional” (CMP). Congratulations to Justin for his accomplishment.

Ray Ratchford died on December 4th as a result of complications from the COVID virus. Ray was retired but had worked for several NCMA member firms and was active in a number of masonry associations. Ray was 77 and lived in Belmont.

John A. Heslip died November 22nd. Mr. Heslip was the first executive director of the Masonry Institute of Michigan and was Executive Vice President and later President of the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) where he worked from 1984 until his retirement in 1995. He passed surrounded by his family in Chapel Hill at age 88.

Oldcastle’s Byard Stevens says his daughter has landed her “dream job.” Elle Stevens says, “I am happy to share my next step in my career on the Hill. I will be continuing my time with Congresswoman (Carol) Miller (R-WVA-3) and her team as a staff assistant. I have been blessed to have had an amazing internship experience with her and her staff, and cannot wait to start this next chapter.”

Bart Hardison, CMP has taken a position with Mattachione Construction Company. Bart will be tasked with business development.

At the Land of the Sky Chapter’s December Annual Christmas Breakfast, the chapter arranged to provide three needy families in the area with financial assistance using funds from the chapter’s treasury and contributions collected at the breakfast.

The December issue of MCAA’s “Masonry” magazine includes a four-page feature article about Carolina Masonry Unlimited apprentice Maria Torres. (Page 36.)

The National Concrete Masonry Association

(NCMA) has a new podcast series. Use this link to hear Johnson Concrete’s Starling Johnson-Kaklamanos’s interview with retired NCMA Hall of Fame member Charles Newsome:

<https://ncma.org/podcast/>

TriSure’s John Cramer continues to recover from surgery he underwent in November.

Master Masonry’s Leland Eckard underwent extensive surgery for melanoma at Christmas and continues his recovery.

A tragic early morning single vehicle accident New Year’s Day impacted several families in our masonry community. Jody and Mitzi Little lost their twenty-one-year-old son Shadd, grandson of Midge and the late Sam McGee. Billy and Shelia Smith lost their 19-year-old son Garrison. Sheila is a cousin to NCMA Chairman Kent Huntley. Injured in the accident were the Smith’s 17-year-old son Zane; Travis McGee’s son Errol, 19; Ed Huntley’s son Rex, 21; and Gwen (McGee) and Jason Allen’s son Rome, 19. The six young men had headed out early to go duck hunting.

Quite a number of our masonry community members have suffered with COVID sickness to one degree or another. Most have reported they have or are recovering but unfortunately, the virus has claimed the life of some, including former NCMA First Lady Robin Huntley’s grandmother. Even among those not infected, the virus continues to make hardships for families and individuals, including isolation for older folks and others particularly susceptible to infection, along with economic and business repercussions.

Retired Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association (now SCMA) President Paul LaVene’s wife Jeniene died January 13th as a result of an unexpected rapid illness. She was 75. The LaVenes live in Oklahoma.

Robert Crawford is a past president of the NCMA Land of the Sky Chapter. In January his crew was involved in a tragic accident on a jobsite in Hendersonville. Three men were seriously injured and one man was fatally injured. Robert was not hurt. Chip Gould and Cason Building Supply have established an account to assist the families. Chip writes, “The Robert Crawford masonry employee fund has been established at First Bank N.C. Any branch should be able to accept a donation to that account. If anyone would prefer, they can make a check to the fund and mail to Cason Building Supply, 203 W King Street, East Flat Rock NC 28726. Attn: Chip Gould.”

Nineteen-year-old Grant Helms of Helms Masonry just passed the exam for his NC General Contractors License. Grant won the NC State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest in 2018 and as a junior at West Rowan High School, won the National SkillsUSA Masonry Championship in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic robbed him of the opportunity to defend his national championship title in 2020 as a high school senior.

Floyd Allison, Jr. passed away January 23rd after

battling serious illness. Mr. Allison was the masonry instructor at Iredell County Career Academy & Technical School in Troutman. He was from a family of masons and had worked for Gates Construction Company and Pyramid Masonry during his career. He lived in Catawba and was fifty-one years old.

Bobby Matthews died January 31 at age 92. Mr. Matthews was an early participant in the Western Carolina Chapter of the Mason Contractors Association of America, the precursor of NCMCA. He later went on to start B.E. Matthews Construction Company, a successful building and development firm based in Conover.

Retired North Lenoir High School masonry instructor Thurman Davis, Jr. lost his wife to COVID January 24th. Gloria Jean Davis was 59 and lived in Kinston.

The Charlotte Business Journal reports Jeremy Eudy will head the newly created restoration and renovation division at Old North State Masonry. Eudy has twenty-three years experience in the industry, having begun masonry training at age fourteen. He won what is now called the NCMCA Samuel A. McGee Memorial Apprentice Skills Contest in 1997 and holds "Certified Masonry Professional" status in the NCMCA Masonry Contractors Certification Program. The new Old North State Masonry division will offer all aspects of renovations and restorations, including caulking, waterproofing, color corrections and staining, patching, in-fill, and more.

Christian Rogers, Michael J. Rogers Masonry, is

engaged to marry Molly Staley on May 15th.

By the fall, Mike and Mark Simmons plan to be retired, closing down their company, LPS Enterprises, when ongoing projects are completed. Mike says they will be selling equipment in the months to come including several reach rough terrain forklifts. To learn more: (919) 269-2999. Mike and Mark both earned "Certified Masonry Executive" (CME) status in the NCMCA Masonry Contractors Certification Program.

Custom Brick & Supply Company is celebrating the firm's sixtieth anniversary this year (1961 - 2021.)

The January issue of MCAA's Masonry magazine includes two articles featuring our North Carolina folks. Apprentice Jennifer Key is interviewed for the "Generation NXT" article (page 42) and NCMCA's Ryan Shaver is one of three individuals interviewed for the story "Working Across the Generations" (page 44.)

Three NCMCA past presidents represented North Carolina at the February MCAA Annual Meeting in Florida. Kent Huntley is MCAA's Treasurer, Gary Joyner is an MCAA Regional Vice President, and Calvin Brodie is MCAA North Carolina State Chairman.

Kenny Jackson of Kenny Jackson Pressure Washing in Fayetteville lost his wife February 17th. Elizabeth Ann Jackson was 66.

Raleigh Chapter Secretary Donnie Howard's brother Ryan died on February 17th. Ryan Howard was 39 years old and a charter fishing captain out of

Savannah. Donnie says, "Notable to North Carolina, he was the angler for the Second Place team in the 2017 Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament, pulling in a 506 lb blue marlin."

East Montgomery High School masonry instructor Sean Hassell's father passed away on February 19th. Ander LeRoy Hassell was 77 and lived in Mt. Gilead.

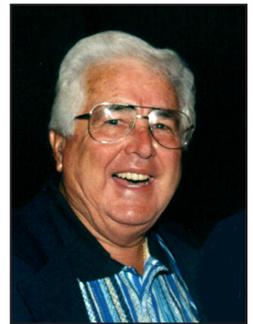
Past President Gary Joyner's father Frank turned one hundred years old on February 27th.

News from the Carolina masonry community for publication in "Member News" is always welcomed. Medical and other personal news is not shared unless the individuals concerned have confirmed their approval for publication. Send member news to information@ncmca.com or call the NCMCA office.

Ivey Griffin, Jr. Passes

NCMCA's fifth president (1978-1979) died January 22 after several years of declining health. Ivey Lawrence Griffin, Jr. was ninety-one.

In 1957 Ivey and his father, Ivey, Sr. founded Griffin and Son, a masonry contracting company. Later the company name was changed to Griffin Masonry and Tile, Inc adding tile installation to their line of business. With expansion into general contracting, the company became Griffin Contractors, Inc. in 1987.



Ivey L. Griffin, Jr.

Mr. Griffin was a founding member of the Western Carolina Chapter of the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA,) which would eventually evolve into the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association. He served several terms as president of the Western Carolina Chapter and was an MCAA Regional Vice President for a number of years.

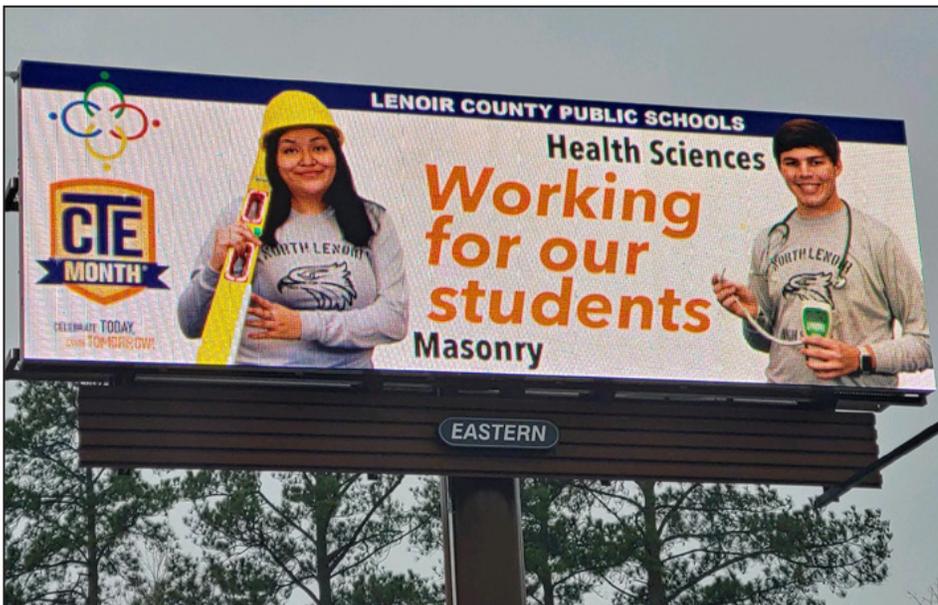
The Western Carolina Chapter awarded Mr. Griffin with the chapter's "Founders Award" in 2013. He regularly hosted the chapter for outings at his family cabin on the Linville River at Lake James.

He was a Navy veteran, a volunteer fireman and served as a county commissioner for Burke County.

Mr. Griffin is the father of NCMCA's seventh president, G. Alan Griffin, who holds the distinction of being the only MCAA President/Chairman to come from North Carolina thus far.

Ivey is survived by his wife of 72 years, Carolyn Ramsey Griffin; his children, Dr. Teresa Griffin; G. Alan Griffin and wife, Lu; Lisa Ivy Griffin, as well as grandchildren and other family members.

The family suggests memorials be made to Abernethy Memorial United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 127, Rutherford College, NC 28671.



Promoting Career & Technical Education February was "CTE Month!" Lenoir County is serious about CTE training and is using outdoor advertising to recruit students and local business to participate. The billboard features North Lenoir High School masonry student Heidi Perez-Garcia. When Thurman Davis retired as the masonry teacher at North Lenoir High in LaGrange last year, NCMCA's Ryan Shaver worked with the school administration to bring Rob Waugh on to teach masonry at the school. With almost a hundred high school masonry programs in the state, NCMCA is constantly on the lookout for individuals with an interest in teaching masonry as instructors retire or otherwise leave their teaching positions. To maintain masonry instruction in high schools, it is vital that programs are not allowed to be discontinued when a masonry instructor departs from teaching, as has occasionally happened in the past. *Photo by Rob Waugh*

Wake Tech Masonry Program Underway

Michael Moore, the Director of Manufacturing and Apprenticeship Training at Wake Technical Community College, has been working with NCMCA to begin a masonry training program at the college. NCMCA's Ryan Shaver says, "Raleigh will be a great area to start training at the community college level for new students as well as apprentices that are already working. We look forward to supporting this program and watching it grow!"

Planning is well underway and a search for an instructor has begun. If you know of an individual that would be interested in the masonry instruction position at Wake Tech, contact Ryan Shaver at NCMCA or use this link for additional information: <https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/waketechedu/transferjobs>



NCMCA at MCAA MCAA's Cassandra Stern interviewed NCMCA Chairman of the Board Kent Huntley during the broadcast of MCAA's "Masonry Strong" presentation at the February MCAA Annual Meeting at Captiva Island, Florida. Three NCMCA past presidents represented North Carolina at the meeting. Kent Huntley is MCAA's Treasurer, Gary Joyner is an MCAA Regional Vice President, and Calvin Brodie is MCAA North Carolina State Chairman. *MCAA Screensbot*



NCMCA Masonry Training Hits the Road! Thanks for Making it Possible!



“Trailer” continued from Page #1

Major Financial Contributions:

Gates Construction Co
McGee Brothers Co
MCAA Masonry Foundation
Raleigh Chapter NCMCA
Adams/Oldcastle
Brodie Contractors
Huntley Brothers

Other financial support for the Workforce Development Initiative:

Whitman Masonry
Joyner Masonry Works
Manning Masonry
Pinnacle Masonry
Carolina Masonry Unlimited
Griffin Masonry
Southeastern Contracting

EZG Manufacturing
Edgar Boettcher Masonry
McART Masonry
Michael J Rogers Masonry
Old North State Masonry LLC
Pyramid Masonry
Tucker-Kirby Company
General Shale
Custom Brick & Supply
Masonry Unlimited of Cherryville
New South Construction Supply
Southeast Concrete
Masonry Association
Rush Masonry Management

The trailer and workforce development initiative is also made possible by all the firms that support NCMCA and the masonry industry by maintaining their membership in the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association.



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See more pictures from
NCMCA events and
activities linked at the
NCMCA.com News page

Connect with the
Carolina's masonry industry!
Advertise in the next
NCMCA Annual
Membership Directory
Deadline for advertising orders
and copy: May 24, 2021

[Click here for Details](#)

“In Kind” Donations for the Trailer:

SPEC MIX
iQ Power Tools
Stabila
McGee Brothers Company
Cabinet Creations
Southeast Concrete
Masonry Association
Marshalltown Tools
Bon Tools
Gatorback
Multiquip
Brandon Roberts

**Take a YouTube tour of
the trailer:**

<https://youtu.be/vpncE0igcPI>