

North Carolina Masonry News

The Newsletter of The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

March 2024

Vol. 50 No. 1



NCMCA's 50th Year Anniversary Celebration & Annual Convention is April 11-14, 2024 in Colonial Williamsburg, VA



**THIS ISSUE
SPONSORED
BY:**



NCMCA's 50th Year Anniversary Celebration & Annual Convention will be at the The Williamsburg Lodge in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Thursday, April 11 kicks off with " Welcome to Colonial Williamsburg Reception at 6:00 PM. Friday and Saturday are filled with many new events. Masonry Showcase will be held on Saturday. NCMCA wants to give a HUGE shoutout to all of the sponsors. The convention would not be possible without your support. Thanks so much!

OUR MISSION... **BUILD** THE NEXT GENERATION OF MASONS



191 BRICKS IN 15-MINUTES FOR \$1,000!

Congratulations to 18-year-old JR. SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Champion, Mason Ridenhour (left)! Standing proudly behind his prize-winning wall with his mason tender, Wyatt Trexler, Mason is a third-year apprentice in the family business, Ridenhour Masonry of Salisbury, NC. In addition to taking home \$1,000 for his amazing craftsmanship, Mason took ownership of the title, "Worlds Best Jr. Bricklayer" as well as a \$500 Blaklader certificate and a loaded Marshalltown tool bag.

At SPEC MIX® our mission is to support masonry training and apprentice programs to help build the next generation of skilled masons. To Learn more about the JR. SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 program contact your local SPEC MIX representative.

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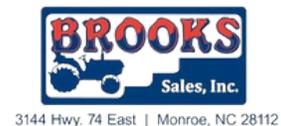
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well, spring is upon us! Our 50th Year Celebration and Annual Convention is right around the corner on April 11th-14th in Williamsburg, VA. The convention is currently sold out and we have full slate of Sponsors, so thanks to you all for supporting our Annual Convention and looking forward to seeing each of you there. Our Annual Board Meeting on Friday morning will be full of exciting news and updates including our progress with CMU Checkoff, so don't miss out.

Spring High School and Skills USA contests are underway starting with the SouthWest Skills USA qualifier that was held on February 24th in Rowan County. Please check out the event calendar on the NCMCA website for upcoming events, dates at times. The contest season will culminate for our apprentices on May 18th with the Sam McGee Memorial Apprentice Contest at Adams Products in Asheville, NC and for our high school vocational students in the North Carolina Skills USA contest in Greensboro on April 23rd and 24th. The NC Skills USA winner will represent North Carolina at the National Skills USA contest June 25th-28th in Atlanta, GA.

This convention will be bittersweet for me personally as I will welcome incoming President Cliff McGee with the McGee Brothers Company at our convention banquet on Saturday night. My two years as president have passed with many objectives left incomplete, but I am excited about the next two years under Cliff's leadership as President. I believe we are in sure and safe hands.

Hope everyone has a safe and successful Spring and see you at the Convention.

Bo

PRESIDENT ELECT CLIFF MCGEE'S EXCITING THINGS... "CLIFF NOTES"



- #1. The fact we are celebrating our 50th year.
- #2. The convention, sounds like it is going to be our biggest and most well attended ever.
- #3. New Members, it seems like several times a month NCMCA is sending emails welcoming new members.
- #4. The energy and enthusiasm in the association.
- #5. Chapter revitalization, I have been able to attend several meetings with a couple of different chapters and love what I see. I can't wait to visit all of the chapters in the coming months.
- #6. Workforce Development, NCMCA is investing more into to this than I think ever and it appears to be paying off.
- #7. Masonry Contest, this kind of ties into Workforce Development. Seems like all of the contest that NCMCA is involved in are generating a lot of excitement.

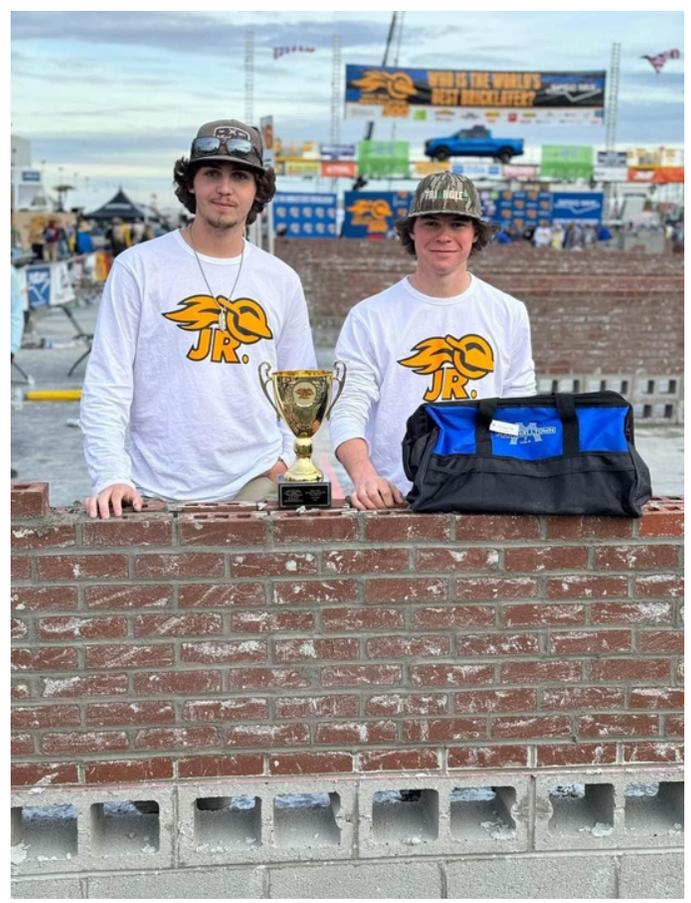
NC FINISHES STRONG AT THE WORLD OF CONCRETE IN LAS VEGAS, NV IN 2024!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cade Huntley brought home the win on January 24th at "Masonry Madness" in Las Vegas as part of the World of Concrete. Cade is the new MCAA Masonry Skills Challenge 2nd year Champion! Cade works for NCMCA member Huntley Brothers in Mint Hill, NC.



Rueben Avina Rodriguez brought home 3rd place in the MCAA Masonry Skills Challenge 3rd year in Las Vegas. Rueben works for NCMCA member Manning Masonry Inc. in Williamston, NC.



Mason Ridenhour and tender Wyatt Trexler from East Rowan High School brought home the win of the Spec Mix JR Bricklayer in Las Vegas with a total brick count of 191 after deductions.

LYNN NASH IS STARTING OFF THE NORTH CAROLINA MASONRY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION GOLDEN 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR BY HIGHLIGHTING SOME MONUMENTAL EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE EXISTENCE OF NCMCA. EACH MONTH THROUGHOUT 2024 WE WILL HAVE ARTICLES THAT WILL SHOWCASE THE HISTORY AND FOLKS THAT HELPED NCMCA GET TO WHERE IT IS TODAY. PLEASE ENJOY THIS YEARLONG SERIES WITH OUR SECOND ARTICLE, "A TRADITION OF STRONG LEADERSHIP"
NCMCA Golden Anniversary Celebration Series – January 2024

In the Beginning...

In the late nineteen-sixties a few masonry firms in the Hickory-Morganton area began to investigate and to use advanced, newly innovated equipment such as automated scaffolding and reach forklifts. To learn more about the new way of doing things, Glenn W. Sipe and his sons of Glenn W. Sipe & Sons, and Ivey Griffin, Jr. of Griffin Masonry, as it was called at the time, had attended equipment trade shows of the Masonry Contractors Association of America (MCAA) encouraged by their mutual sales representatives at Contractor Sales & Service.

At the same time, several of these Hickory-Morganton area firms began evolving into "turnkey" (or as it is sometimes called, "lump-sum") contractors, a radical idea at the time. These firms performed masonry contracting that including purchasing their own materials instead of being paid by the hour or by the unit, as was the custom of the day.

Realizing their common interests, Mr. Sipe and Mr. Griffin along with a few of their competitors, including Jerry Eckard, Howard Rowe, Bobby Matthews and Carl Moser, and a few supplier representatives, began meeting informally over dinner occasionally. Howard Rowe once reminisced about how "We'd meet at Mull's Restaurant, eat prime rib, drink George Dickle, and talk about the hard times."

Mr. Sipe recalled how one of the early projects of the group was to lobby brick (and later concrete block) companies to begin "strapping" brick for delivery so the contractors could begin making the best use of their new equipment. He related that on one visit to press a brick manufacturing company owner for the change to strapping, the executive told Mr. Sipe he could see no good reason to make such an expensive change to his company's operation and had no plans to do so, which Mr. Sipe said at the time, was utilizing "pack-haulers" for delivery. (One "big old pack of bricks" that had to be broken down and stacked on pallets in order to be handled by forklifts.) That day, Mr. Sipe, now representing some of the largest masonry contracting companies in the southeast, warned the executive of the increasing buying power the lump-sum masonry contractors, saying, "If I ran a brick company, I'd package each brick like a cake of soap if that's what the customer wanted." Of course, "strapped brick" are now the industry standard, perhaps at least in part thanks to Glenn Sipe and the Western Carolina Masonry Contractors Association.

By the early seventies, the group was meeting regularly and in a more formal manner. Several members of the group were regularly participating in MCAA conventions. Soon, the Hickory-Morganton contractors successfully applied to become the Western Carolina Chapter of the Mason Contractors Association of America, the first MCAA chapter in the southeast and the first chapter made up exclusively of open-shop companies. (Records are not clear when or why the formal affiliation as a chapter of MCAA ended although NCMCA has always aligned with and supported most of MCAA projects and initiatives. Traditionally, many NCMCA member companies are also members of MCAA.)

By the early seventies, masonry contractors in other areas of the state had also begun meeting on a regular basis, often with representatives of the Western Carolina Chapter in attendance. The early leaders of the local groups included Robert Merrill of Merrill Masonry in Brevard, Belton Koontz of Koontz Masonry in Lexington, Richard Robertson of Robertson Masonry in Burlington, Red Brookshire of Brookshire Masonry in Charlotte, and Thomas Butts of Thomas Butts Masonry in Greenville. As with the Western Carolina group, turnkey/lump-sum masonry and equipment evolution were among the most common issues bringing together the participating companies.

In April of 1974, the consolidated local groups successfully incorporated to become the North Carolina Mason Contractors Association. (The name was eventually changed from "Mason Contractors" to "Masonry Contractors.") Glenn W. Sipe would serve as NCMCA's charter president. 2024: NCMCA's Golden Anniversary.

In the photograph:

Top row, left to right, Howard Rowe, Carl Moser, Sr., Robert "Bob" Merrill, Jerry Eckard, and B.E. "Bobby" Matthews. Seated, Glenn W. Sipe, left, and Ivey Griffin, Jr. These NCMCA "Founding Fathers," now all deceased, met in Hickory in July of 2000 to talk about the Association's early days. An audio recording of that session is held in the NCMCA archives. The picture includes three past state NCMCA presidents and two members of the NCAA Masonry Hall of Fame. Can you name them?



Article written by Lynn Nash

NCMCA Golden Anniversary Celebration Series – February 2024

Please enjoy this yearlong series with our second article, "A Tradition of Strong Leadership"

From the start, The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association has benefited from strong, farsighted volunteer leadership; individuals who believe in masonry as a building material of choice, a great career opportunity, and as a rewarding lifestyle; people who have sacrificed time and often dipped into their own pockets to do the work of leading an association for which they obviously have a strong commitment and that they hold in high regard.

Lots of individuals, both contractor and associate members, have contributed to the success of NCMCA but there is a particular group who definitely stand out for their commitment to the Association and to the industry. They are the twenty-five masonry contractor company executives/owners who have stepped up to be president of NCMCA, sometimes more than once. (NCMCA bylaws require officers and board members to be masonry contractors.)

Now days, the term of NCMCA president is two years but the commitment is actually at least eight years. When on track for the presidency, an individual serves two years as secretary-treasurer, two years as president-elect/apprentice and training committee chairperson, two years as president, and then two years as Chairman of the Board. For most NCMCA presidents, they entered the eight-year cycle after terms as regional vice presidents and usually also having served as local chapter officers. Quite a commitment!

These individuals have served as NCMCA presidents. As was possible, they were invited to provide comments about their terms and a few of them did:

Glenn W. Sipe* 1974–1975 Glenn W. Sipe and Sons, Conover. Mr. Sipe was inducted into the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Masonry Hall of Fame in 2012. As NCMCA's first president, "The Glenn W. Sipe Presidential Service Award" for past presidents is named in his honor/memory.

Richard Robertson* 1975–1976 Robertson & Son Masonry, Burlington. President Red McAdams says of Mr. Robertson, whom he worked for as a young man, "Richard was 'old school.' Wheelbarrows. No forklifts. He was a good man and good to work for."

Belton Koontz* 1976–1977 Koontz Masonry, Lexington.

Bob Merrill* 1977–1978 Merrill Masonry, Brevard. Mr. Merrill was posthumously inducted into the MCAA Masonry Hall of Fame in 2019. Upton Associates of Raleigh was retained to manage the Association during Mr. Merrill's term as president.

Ivey L. Griffin, Jr.* 1978–1979 Griffin Contractors, Morganton. His son Alan writes, "My Dad was a Regional Vice President for the MCAA for a number of years, but couldn't move up the officers' ladder because he was a non-union contractor." (Alan would change that.)

Red Brookshire* 1979–1981 Red Brookshire, Inc., Charlotte. One of two past presidents named "Red."

G. Alan Griffin 1981–1983 Griffin Contractors, Morganton. Son of President Ivey Griffin, Jr., Alan was the first president of MCAA from North Carolina (2004–2006) and the first MCAA president from a non-union company. He is also noted for having served as secretary/treasurer of the Western Carolina Chapter for more than thirty-one years. Mr. Griffin writes, "I remember the first NCMCA state convention I attended was at the Grove Park Inn. Eleanor Upton had just recently been hired and organized the event. I only attended the Saturday night banquet. I was young and not interested. The next thing I recall was I was President! It was difficult to get members to serve as officers and I don't even recall serving as Vice-President. I was 28 years old, the youngest NCMCA President ever most likely! Of course that was 40+ years ago so much of it is a blur. I did my best to come across as professional. We were all business owners and I wanted to bring respect to our industry. As I reflect over the years I appreciate most the long lasting friendships and business relationships that were developed and continue to this day."

Dickey Robertson 1983–1985 Robertson & Sons Masonry, Burlington. Son of President Richard Robertson.

Charles "Ray" Holyfield* 1985–1987 Holyfield Masonry, Haw River. Mr. Holyfield, working for The Riverton Corporation, was awarded what is now called the Eleanor Upton Award in 1981, the first time the Outstanding Associate Member Award was presented.

Gary Joyner, CME 1987–1989 & 2012–2014 Joyner Masonry Works, Greenville. First president to serve twice. Mr. Joyner was inducted into the MCAA Masonry Hall of Fame in 2022, particularly noted for his dedication to the success of the MCAA Masonry Foundation.

Danny Batten* 1989–1991 Consolidated Masonry Systems, Garner. Mr. Batten, working as a representative for Lafarge Cement, was awarded the Eleanor Upton Award in 2001.

Calvin Brodie, CME 1993-1995 Brodie Contractors, Raleigh. Mr. Brodie was inducted into the MCAA Masonry Hall of Fame in 2023. Mr. Brodie writes, "Prior and during my tenure I served as the Chairman of the association's NC Masonry Contractors Apprenticeship Contest held annually at the North Carolina State Fair. With Harry Payne, Commissioner of Labor, the Association was given full management and operational control of the State Fair Apprenticeship Contest, and it continues today. The Association also began to foster a stronger relationship with OSHA."

Doug Burton, CME 1995-1998 Whitman Masonry, Raleigh. Brother of President Danks Burton. Chairman of the Masonry Certification Board of Governors since the program's inception in 2006. Doug writes, "Early in my term we decided we needed and were ready to hire a full time person to manage our association and easily selected Lynn Nash for the job in September 1997 and we were off and running to the top of the masonry associations in the country. David Sigmon with Master Masonry in Hickory was to be my successor but was diagnosed with cancer and was unable to serve his term. I served an additional year to facilitate the transition to Freddy Koontz. The Sigmon Family scholarship was started during this time for David, his brother Dwayne and his son Randy, which continues to this day, funding the masonry design scholarships we have conducted at North Carolina State University and Appalachian State University for the past 24 years. Past and future presidents during my term that were actively involved in advancing all the association business were Alan Griffin, Gary Joyner, Danny Batten, Calvin Brodie, Freddy Koontz, Danks Burton, Wayne Starr and Larry Kirby - it took us all and more to push us forward."

Freddy Koontz, CME 1998-2000 Koontz Masonry, Lexington. Son of President Belton Koontz.

Hugh Townsend 2000-2002 Hugh Townsend Masonry, Granite Falls.

James "Red" McAdams 2002-2004 McAdams Masonry, Burlington. Mr. McAdams says, "My time as president gave me the opportunity to get to know Sam McGee working with him in meetings and contests. That was really significant for me."

Danks Burton, CME 2004-2006 & 2020-2022 Pinnacle Masonry, Cary. Has served twice. Brother of President Doug Burton. The NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Program was developed and adopted during his first term. Danks writes, "I became the president for the first time on our 30th anniversary at the Grove Park Inn in Spring 2004, taking the reins from Red McAdams. In January 2005 leaders in our industry met with Boney/LS3P Architects in Charlotte to discuss the 'lump sum masonry specification.' This was the beginning of our journey towards a masonry certification program. The program was introduced at the 2006 convention and has been very successful, continuing to educate many masonry professionals 18 years later. I started my second term as president in 2020, taking over for Kent Huntley, without any official ceremony as our conventions in 2020 and 2021 were canceled because of COVID. During this term we started the process of selecting NCMCA's next Executive Vice President with the pending retirement of Lynn Nash in May 2023. I'm very thankful for the opportunity to work with many influential people in the masonry industry both in NC and around the country. This includes masonry contractors, association executives, educators and suppliers to our industry. I probably wouldn't have had these opportunities had I not served as an officer for NCMCA. Thank you!"

Wayne Starr, CME* 2006-2008 Gates Construction Company, Mooresville. Shortly after Wayne became president, the first NCMCA Certification Program classes were presented.

Gary Manning 2008-2010 Manning Masonry, Williamston.

Larry Kirby, CME 2010-2012 Kirby Construction Services, Conover. Mr. Kirby writes, "I think I am the last active masonry contractor from our original group, the Mason Contractors Association of Western Carolina. That tells you how old I am getting. During my term as president, I have many proud memories. I really remember going through the first certification classes with Mr. Sam McGee, Bob Gates, and many others and that has turned into lasting friendships. The eight-year commitment passes so quickly because of the great people around you that help in every way. May the NCMCA continue for many more years to come."

Ashlee Koontz Moore, CMP 2014-2016 Koontz Masonry, Lexington. First "third generation" president. Granddaughter of Belton Koontz and daughter of Freddy Koontz.

Robert H. Gates, CME 2016-2018 Gates Construction Company, Mooresville. Acting on a need recognized many years earlier, the Gates administration defined and filled the position of NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator. Mr. Gates writes, "During my tenure as President, I was proud of the fact that the association continued to grow from the economic downturn of several years earlier. We were able to increase contributions and more than exceed our budget during this time. We also introduced a new logo for NCMCA. After many previous years of discussions, we decided to hold our convention in Charleston, SC. That turned out to be a huge success. We also formed a committee to interview and hire our WDTC. At the end of my term, we hired Ryan Shaver. I was pleased that contributions flooded in to support this new position. I was both honored and humbled to serve as this association's president. I gained new friendships as well as strengthened old lasting friendships."

Kent Huntley, CME 2018–2020 Huntley Brothers Company, Mint Hill. Mr. Huntley won what is now called the Samuel A. McGee Masonry Apprentice Skills Contest in 1986, the only NCMCA president to ever do so. He will become MCAA Chairman in 2026.

Kent says, “One month before my term as president began, NCMCA hired Ryan Shaver as Work Force Development Coordinator. Our members quickly embraced Ryan and our WDTC program flourished from the start. During my tenure, it was fantastic to see this agenda being promoted and supported. NCMCA has continued to push the boundaries with this program and many other programs. In this infancy period of WFD, our members supported the program, both monetarily and with giving of their time to attend masonry contests, recruit talent from local high schools and continue to grow our Association! COVID entered my last year as President and for the next two years we were unable to hold our annual conventions. NCMCA continues to emerge from the two-year hiatus stronger than ever! I am proud to have been a small part to have helped lead NCMCA to the heights it has achieved!”

James “Bo” Black, Jr., CME 2022–2024 Carolina Masonry Unlimited, Willow Spring. Current President. President Black writes, “My most notable achievement in my service to the NCMCA has to be the friendships that have developed during my time serving. An eight- year commitment is hard to fathom and hard to plan for. Being able to serve and depend upon all the people that I have been blessed to serve with has made this task easier to handle. In the Raleigh Chapter as a small masonry contractor, I was made to feel welcome and accepted by Doug and Danks Burton and Calvin Brodie. Fellow masons who recognized and accepted me. Danny Batten played a special role as a mentor to me, and I am forever grateful for this. He saw and appreciated things in me that I still strive to achieve. I worked for Calvin Brodie as a subcontractor and to this day appreciate his mentorship. Larry Kirby and I developed a friendship that lasts till today. Without these relationships and the lasting changes, they have made in my life and business I would not be the man and business owner I am today. My friendship and brotherhood with Tim Manning have been an anchor to my business and personal life. The current NCMCA Board of Danks Burton, Cliff McGee and Tim Manning are men who I call upon regularly and consider friends. The NCMCA is far above and beyond any other organization in this respect. Being a part of the strong tradition of NCMCA leadership has formed me and will without a doubt be one of the most significant accomplishments of my life. Without a doubt, these relationships have been the most important thing I have gained from my time in the NCMCA.”

*** Known to be deceased**

Each of these individuals has left their positive mark on the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association. At the same time, most all of them have at one time or another expressed the sentiment that, despite the sacrifices often required to do the job, being the president of NCMCA was a time of personal and professional growth, and, as President McAdams noted, an opportunity to work with and learn from some of the finest and most respected people in the masonry industry. All have suggested that the opportunity to be president of NCMCA is an opportunity that should not be missed.

NCMCA expresses great appreciation to our past presidents for making the Association’s Fiftieth Anniversary a reality.

Article Written by Lynn Nash



Three Past Presidents and a Future President From the April 2009 Annual Convention, left to right, Doug Burton (1995-1998,) Freddy Koontz (1998-2000,) Gary Joyner (1987-1989 & 2012-2014,) and future NCMCA president (?) John Burton.



Hall of Fame Induction NCMCA President Larry Kirby (2010-2012) introduces inductee Glenn W. Sipe (1974-1975) at the January 2011 MCAA Convention “Masonry Hall of Fame” banquet in Las Vegas.

Three Presidents Left to right, Ray Holyfield (1985-1987,) an unknown successful contest participant, Alan Griffin (1981-1983,) and in the right corner, Bob Gates (2016-2018.) Location and date unknown. Photographer, unknown.



ADAMS AN OLDCASTLE COMPANY TO HOST ANNUAL SAM MCGEE MEMORIAL CONTEST



NCMCA's best apprentice masons will compete in Waynesville, NC, Saturday, May 18th for the Annual NCMCA Samuel McGee Memorial Apprentice Masonry Skills Contest. The McGee contest champion earns the right to represent North Carolina in the Annual MCAA Las Vegas International Apprentice Skills Contest at the World of Concrete in Las Vegas. Everyone who competes will win cash and tool prizes. Sponsorship donations are needed and are greatly appreciated, please send to NCMCA, PO Box 308, Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124. Registration will be ONLINE, we will send an email when the registration form is ready. DEADLINE IS MAY ! for all registration forms. Location is at Smoky Mountain Event Center (Formerly Haywood County Fairgrounds) 758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville, NC 28785.

In Memory of Mr. Charles Newsome

Eulogy written by Judy Johnson: Speaking on behalf of the Johnson family, for whom Charles worked for many years as Manager of Johnson Concrete Company and Carolina Stalite.

We met Charles in 1968 when Dad hired him—truthfully, maybe it was the other way around. During that first year Charles experienced three of life's major stressors: he got married, he moved to a new town, and he began a new job. And all this happened with his usual calm and steadiness.

These qualities exemplified Charles as he put his talents into the development of Johnson Concrete and Stalite. We needed sales; within six months we were sold out. Dad commented that he couldn't think out loud because Charles would get it done!

Dad was followed by FIVE Johnson women! and Charles encouraged and mentored each of us. When Starling was approaching her first job, she was considering Chicago. So, what did Charles do? He reminded her of Chicago's minus 12-degree weather, and he sent her a picture of a brand-new company car that could be hers in Salisbury! She ended up going anyway, but he laid the foundation

for her to come back a few years later. Johnson Concrete recently passed 75 years in business; Charles was here for 50 of them! During Charles' tenure five different production sites and their sales were added. And during his last years with Johnson Concrete he was instrumental in passing a landmark bill through Congress which will impact the development of our industry for years to come. He represented JCC and our industry with professionalism and integrity. He accomplished these feats. But he will no doubt be most remembered by positive impact he had on the lives of a great many individuals. In fact, that's why we are here. He was always a really nice guy with a genuine and deep concern for others. He will be missed.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Elim Masonry, LLC Javier Ortiz (R1) Raleigh, NC	CrewTracks Erin Laird (A3) Layton, UT	Quick Headers, LLC Scot Kelly (A2) Huntsville, UT
Master Layers Construction, LLC Jayson Rivera (R2) Sanford, NC		Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. Mike Brooks (A4) Hauppauge, NY
Advance Residential Concrete Mike Groenewald (R2) Garner, NC		Alas Masonry, LLC Elvis Zavala (R1) Clayton, NC

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- March 13 - Certification Class/Module 4, 73 & Main, Mt. Pleasant, NC**
- March 15 - 42nd Annual Top Trowel & Line Burner Contest, Goldsboro, NC**
- March 25 - United Academy- Aerial Lift, In the Field Training, Greenville Location**
- March 26 - United Academy - 8 HR. Fall Protection, In the Field Training, Greenville Location**
- April 11-14 - NCMCA's 50th Year Annual Convention, Colonial Williamsburg, VA**
- April 20-Land of the Sky Masonry Contest, Smoky Mountain Event Center (Formerly Haywood County Fairground)**
- April 23-24 - SkillsUSA Masonry Contest, Greensboro, NC**
- May 8 - Certification Class/Module 5, 73 & Main, Mt. Pleasant, NC**
- May 18-Sam McGee Memorial Apprentice Contest, Asheville, NC**
- June 12-Certification Class/Module 6, 73 & Main, Mt. Pleasant, NC**
- June 25-28-Skills USA Nationals Masonry Contest, Atlanta, GA**
- June 26-29-SCMA Convention**
- July 15-CTE Masonry Instructors Summer Conference, Greensboro, NC**
- July 24-Certification Class/Module 7, 73 & Main, Mt. Pleasant, NC**
- August 25-29- MCAA's Mid Year, Park City, UT**
- January 17-19, 2025 - Murdell Golf**



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CHAPTER NEWS!

Land of the Sky Chapter

The Land of Sky has a busy couple months ahead of us. We are meeting on March 19th at Wild Wing Café to finalize the plans for our 25th annual high school masonry skills contest at Haywood County Fairgrounds taking place on Saturday, April 20th. We welcome anyone that is able to come and help operate the contest as well as help judge this contest. We will briefly discuss plans and what the needs from the local chapter are going to be for the upcoming Sam McGee contest that will be held in Asheville on May 18th for the first time ever. The Land of Sky is excited to host this contest. We are looking forward to being in Williamsburg in just a few weeks. Ryan Shaver, along with Adams Old Castle was able to come and offer a presentation to the students at Reynolds High School as they are preparing to offer a masonry program in the upcoming semester. The Adopt-A-School program is doing well in our region. We have been visiting with the local schools and helping the instructors with material donations, working with the students, and talking to the students about how masonry could be a great career choice for their future. There are several students in the region that have been hired and working with local contractors during their school breaks and summers.

Metrolina Chapter

The Metrolina Chapter is pleased to announce Michael Teague's appointment as Treasurer and Secretary of our chapter. Michael, a Masonry Sales Consultant at Oldcastle APG-Adams, brings invaluable expertise to these roles. On Feb. 22nd, William Roberts, Sales Manager for Sakrete/Amerimix, delivered an informative presentation on Masonry Mortar and Grout Testing. Thanks, William, for your insights!

Our next meeting is scheduled for either Wed, March 20th, or Thurs, March 21st. I'll confirm details soon. Metrolina members will be well represented at the annual NCMCA meeting in Colonial Williamsburg. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Central Piedmont Chapter

Central Piedmont Chapter will have our next meeting at Logan's Roadhouse at 1300 Bridford Parkway in Greensboro on May 13th. We will have a social hour beginning at 5:30 with the meeting to follow at 6:30. An educational speaker will be announced at a later date. We are also having a golf tournament on June 20th at Stoney Creek golf course in Greensboro. We will be having a shotgun start at 9:00, hopefully we will have everything finalized and can give more details at the convention. Can't wait to see everyone in Williamsburg.

Western Chapter

The Western Chapter had a meeting on February 13, 2024. There were 5 members in attendance, including Lynn Nash. We will be having another meeting in April, 2024 and we will have a discussion regarding our support for the Caldwell County High School masonry contest, which will be held May 2, 2024.

Raleigh Chapter

January was busy...The Raleigh Chapter met on January 8th at Cantina 18 in Raleigh. Ryan Shaver gave a presentation on the Checkoff program and shared how funds are allocated and distributed. He is working diligently to promote masonry within our state, as well as around the country. Thank you for your hard work, Ryan! Donnie Howard with Argos recently moved to Florida to take another job. He held the role of Secretary for the Raleigh Chapter for 16+ years. His dedication and contributions to our Chapter and our Association will be missed. Thank you, Donnie! With Donnie moving on there was a vacancy for his position. At our January meeting, Paul Elder with Custom Brick & Supply was elected and accepted the role of Secretary. He will be a great asset to our Chapter, and we are thankful for his willingness to serve. The Murdell 2024 Golf Trip was held on January 12-14. The tournament raised over \$11,000 for our Chapter which brings the total to \$135,000 since it began 24 years ago. These funds have gone directly towards masonry promotions. Special thanks to Doug & Danks Burton for their commitment to putting together such a successful trip each year. Also, thank you to all the participants and our associate members for their added contributions. Murdell 2025 will be held January 17-19. Mark your calendars. In March, Ben Boudreau with Steel Technology will be giving a presentation on Delegated Design and how it relates to masonry contractors.

Eastern Chapter

Eastern Chapter had a meeting February 27th in Greenville, NC; the meeting was highlighted by the new NCMCA OSHA alliance program. Rod Wilce with OSHA was in attendance to help with Q&A. Inside the Dignity Act: Comprehensive Immigration Reform was our main topic of discussion led by local lawyer Ken Gray. Ken provided great information to all in attendance. The Eastern chapter is exploring opportunities to support ECU's construction program through scholarships. This would be huge to start tapping into other resources to develop our future workforce. We also are showcasing the 42nd Annual Oldcastle APG ADAMS TOP TROWEL LINE BURNER CONTEST on March 15th in Goldsboro. Please come out to support these kids and our industry.

MEMBER NEWS

-Charles Benjamin Newsome (Johnson Concrete Products), whose business career and enduring mission efforts, especially in Zambia, touched thousands of lives, died peacefully on December 28th 2023. He was 86.

-Trenton Michael Doane, 20, of Indian Trail, NC, son of Mike Doane (Metrolina President) passed away unexpectedly on January 7, 2023.

-Kale and Kaitlyn Hallman (McGee Brothers Company Workforce Development) were married at 60 Acres A Gathering Place on January 13, 2024.

-Raleigh Chapter Secretary Paul Elder of Custom Brick & Supply lost his father on January 25th. Herbert Hampton "Hank" Elder was 78 and lived in Aiken, SC.



-Brantley and Arden Little (Jody & Mitzi Little's son) were married at The Farmstead on January 26, 2024.

-Herman Hammer was a true icon in the construction industry. He worked for 51 years selling concrete and CMU. During his working career, Herman worked for Statesville Concrete, American Concrete, Unicon and Southeastern Concrete Products. Herman loved sports especially baseball and he was pretty good on the golf course. He never met a stranger and loved to "just sit and talk" and smile that "Herman Hammer" smile. Herman passed away on February 5th, 2024 at age 79. He will be missed by so many – his legacy lives on...

-Jody & Mitzi Little are expecting their first grandchild this September. Their son (Salem) and Natalie are excited about the arrival of their child.

-Kale Hallman won a new grill from a raffle at the Southwest NC SkillsUSA North Carolina Regional Masonry Contest

Tentative NCMCA's 50th Year Celebration and Convention Schedule in Colonial Williamsburg, VA April 11-April 14, 2024

Thursday April 11

2:00-6:00PM Registration Desk Opens (YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE THE RECEPTION)

Kubota RTV Raffle Begins

6:00-7:00 PM "Welcome to Colonial Williamsburg Reception" (Colony Room E & Terrace) Evening Free

Friday April 12

7:00-8:00 AM Breakfast on your own

7:00-8:00 AM Registration continues

8:30-10:30 AM Association Annual Board Meeting (Colony Room DE)

10:30-11:00 AM Guest Speaker (Colony Room DE)

11:00-12:00 PM Box Lunch for Golfers (Gold Golf Course)

12:00-5:00 PM Golf (Williamsburg Gold Course)

Evening Free

Saturday April 13

7:00-8:00 AM Buffet Breakfast at Williamsburg Lodge (Colony Room DE)

8:00-8:15 AM Transport to Woodlands Conference Center for Masonry Showcase

8:15 AM-12:00 PM Masonry Showcase (Woodlands Conference Center)

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch at Woodlands Conference Center (Dogwood Room)

1:00-1:15 PM Transport back to Williamsburg Lodge

1:30-6:00 PM Afternoon Free

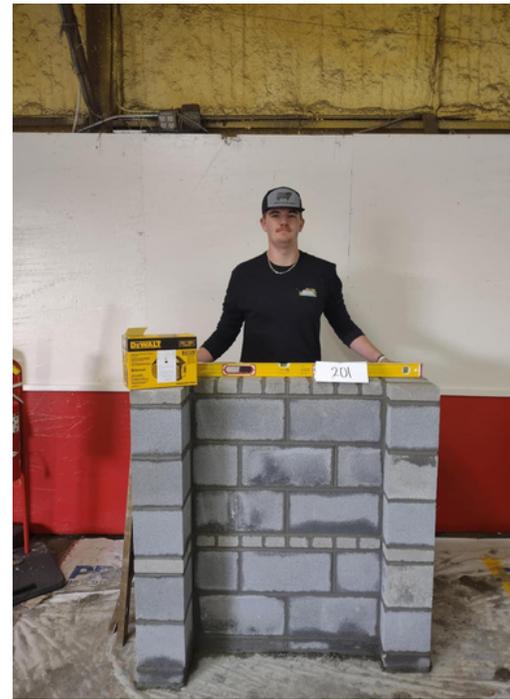
6:00-7:00 PM Light Reception (Colony Room ABC)

7:00-9:00 PM Banquet/Dinner (Colony Room DE)



Casual dress is recommended for all events except for the Saturday night reception and banquet. Business attire is suggested for Saturday evening. Name badges should be worn for all convention events. *Prior registration required.

SKILLSUSA SOUTHWEST REGIONAL WINNERS!



The Spring Masonry Contest Series in North Carolina was held in February at the Rowan County Fairgrounds Saturday, with 80+ students competing in four different hands-on masonry competitions! Thanks to all the material sponsors, Pine Hall Brick, Johnson Concrete Products, and Longleaf Packaging as well as all the Masonry Contractors that made this possible! Congratulations to the following winners:

Masonry Secondary:

- 1st Place: Mason Ridenhour, East Rowan High School**
- 2nd Place: Aaron Sanchez, Jesse Carson High School**
- 3rd Place: Corbin Nations, West Rowan High School**

Blocklaying Contest:

- 1st Place: Ryan Gaither, Jesse Carson High School**
- 2nd Place: Dylan Smith, West Rowan High School**
- 3rd Place: Aidyn Merry, Columbus Career & College Academy**

Masonry I Contest:

- 1st Place: Ty Sweet, East Rowan High School**
- 2nd Place: Lane Jenkins, West Rowan High School**
- 3rd Place: Levi Greene, West Stanly High School**

Masonry Tender Contest:

- 1st Place: Dakota Grinstead/Keegan Merrell, East Rowan High School**
- 2nd Place: Jayden Pope/Riley Pitman, Columbus Career & College Academy**
- 3rd Place: Hayden Morse/James Barbee, West Stanly High School**



APPALACHIAN STATE SIGMON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SENT THANK YOU NOTES TO NCMCA FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MASONRY DESIGN COMPETITION



Dear Members of the NC Masonry Contractors Association,
Thank you so much for allowing my group and me to participate in this opportunity. The process of developing this project and watching as our design, which we worked tirelessly on, was chosen felt euphoric. This scholarship is wonderful and extremely helpful for my out-of-state tuition.

I hope this competition continues for future students as well, because I think it's not only a great opportunity to benefit from the finances, but the learning experience that I received from this project was outstanding. Working as a team with my classmates and creating a project that we had put so much work into and making different designs work was much more rewarding than I could have thought.

Thank you so much for bringing my teammates and me this opportunity, and thank you for choosing us as the winners of the design completion for 2023.

Thank you, William Griffiths

Dear Members of the NC Masonry Contractors Association,

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude for allowing the students of the Building Sciences program at ASU to participate in the Sigmon Memorial Scholarship. My teammates and I really enjoyed participating in this competition and are grateful for the opportunity to be judged by a panel of experts in the field. This experience has impacted our future careers greatly and will serve as a benchmark for further projects, especially those involving any kind of masonry work.

The competition itself proved to be an excellent success due to the design problem structure and the rich experience offered by the judges. We also greatly appreciate the presence of Cliff McGee, Ryan Shaver, and Kent Huntley. Their feedback was extremely helpful and encouraging, and we continued to consider their feedback in the following architectural project. I can say with confidence that the entire studio appreciates the tremendous effort, time, and consideration that the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association gave Appalachian State University.

Sincerely,
Alexander Privado



The North Carolina Masonry Design Competition

Dear Members of the NC Masonry Contractors Association,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the North Carolina Masonry Design Competition as part of the Sustainable Masonry Design Competition. I am truly honored to have been chosen for this prestigious award, and I want to convey my deepest appreciation for your generosity and commitment to supporting students like me who are passionate about architecture.

Participating in the Masonry Design Competition has been an incredibly enriching experience, allowing me to expand my knowledge and skills in construction practices. This scholarship not only serves as a recognition of my efforts but also motivates me to continue pursuing excellence in the field of masonry design with a focus on sustainability.

The financial support provided by this scholarship is invaluable and will significantly alleviate the financial burden associated with my education. It enables me to concentrate more fully on my studies and engage in meaningful extracurricular activities related to architecture and masonry design. Your investment in my education is not only an investment in my future but also in the advancement of practices within the construction industry.

I am inspired by your commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in masonry design. This scholarship serves as a catalyst for me to continue exploring ways to contribute to environmentally conscious construction solutions. I am eager to make a positive impact in the field, and your support has reinforced my determination to pursue a career that aligns with the principles of architecture.

Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for this incredible opportunity. I am honored to be associated with the Masonry Design Competition and your esteemed organization. Thank you for believing in my potential and providing me with the means to further my education and contribute to a more sustainable future.

I look forward to the opportunity to share my progress and accomplishments with you in the future. Thank you for making a significant difference in my academic journey.

Sincerely,
Matthew Wooten Appalachian State University Building Sciences, Architecture Tech & Design



MURDELL 24 IS IN THE BOOKS!



The 35th Annual Raleigh NCMCA Golf Tournament and 24th Annual Chapter Golf Tournament took place in January in Myrtle Beach. We had 56 in attendance this year (not quite the record of 60 in 2015). The weather cooperated as usual even with a suspected forecast going into the weekend. The Capponi rule was abided by for the most part and will be in effect again next year. Our newbies performed well based on the information we gathered and will be invited back. We want to thank our sponsors and participants who made our trip a successful one financially – raising over \$11,000 which puts us at \$135,000 since the trip began 24 years ago – all of the proceeds have gone towards masonry promotions which benefit our industry – look closely at NCMCA activities and you will see how well the money has been spent.



Sponsors – Brodie Contractors, Custom Brick, White Cap, P&D Precast, EZ Grout, and Tucker-Kirby Palmetto Brick, Pinnacle Masonry, McGriff Insurance, Holcim, The Burton's, Johnson Concrete, Crocker & Reed Wall Reed, Nash Burton, Frank Werner, Whitman Masonry, P&D Precast, Hydro-Rents, and Lee Brick

Would like to thank and acknowledge all of our associate members in attendance who pay for our dinners on Friday and Saturday night – always a hit with our group each year and much appreciated.

Tony Capponi, David James, Greg Breeze and Mark Fairman were the winners on Friday.

Block team beat the brick team on Saturday.

And finally, we crowned a winner of our Sunday tournament with some familiar faces and a new one – Steve Wheeler was a first time attendee and was with Calvin Brodie, David James and Sheryle Crocker to win by 1 stroke – Calvin, David and Sheryle have now been on the winning team a combined 15 times – handicap committee has them on their radar. Finishing in 2nd place were Mark Fairman, Steve Bell, Drew Bullock and myself. Finishing a distant third were Rob Haas, Tyler Brooks, Thomas Johnson and Doug Burton Jr.

Covid and costs knocked us out of taking a bus each year but plans are in the works to try and get it back in the budget for next year – standby.

Murdell 25 is counting down – 17 thru 19 January 2025 – get it on your calendar and in your budget. See all then. *Written by Doug Burton*



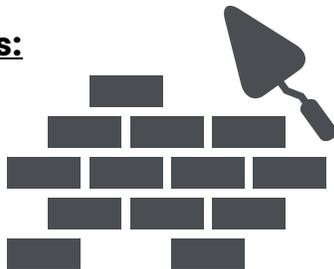
Series 11 Certification Class

Update:

Series 11 of NCMCA's Certification classes are being held at 73 & Main in Mt. Pleasant. Attendance has averaged around 80 participants. If you are interested in attending, please let us know. Each module is usually the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Classes:

- No Class in April
- May 8 – Module 5
- June 12 – Module 6
- July 25 – Module 7
- August 21 – Module 8



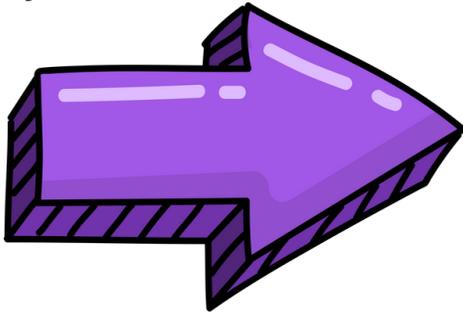
important

Training Opportunities :

Aerial Lift Certification- March 25, 2024

**8 HR. Fall Protection - March 26, 2024 at
the Greenville Location**

**Please call 704-436-8850 or email Jodi
at jodi.helms@ncmca.com**



CHECKOFF UPDATE:

Checkoff

The Region 2 Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meet in Atlanta on March 5-6th to walk through the progress being made with the six regional programs. There were roughly 30 industry people represented. The RAC also walked through over fifty questions covering areas from general oversight of programs, contractor/subcontractor roles, time allocation, quarterly & annual reporting, hitting program deliverables, possible hurdles, accounting and budgeting to full DOC compliance for all programs. Currently, the Region 2 programs are in the final stage of contract signage before being fully launched in Q2 2024. For more information: [Home\(concretemasonrycheckoff.org\)](http://Home(concretemasonrycheckoff.org)).

SCMA Conference

The SCMA 78th Annual Conference will be held at the Wild Dunes Resort – Sweetgrass Inn | Isle of Palms, SC on June 27-30, 2024. Being sold out the last four years, we fully expect this year's conference to be another one for the record books. From education on codes, carbon sequestration, hardscapes, plant safety, social media, HR, CMU Checkoff to a regional economic forecast there is a little something for everyone. Come join and bring your family for some sun and fun at the SCMA Conference! To register or more information [78th SCMA Annual Conference | SCMA \(scmaonline.org\)](http://78th SCMA Annual Conference | SCMA (scmaonline.org)).

**SCMA MODULE 5 CLASS ON
CLEANING PRODUCTS CAN BE
USED FOR NCMCA CONTINUING
EDUCATION CREDITS, PLEASE LET
NCMCA KNOW IF YOU TAKE THIS
CLASS.**

NCMCA
NORTH CAROLINA
MASONRY CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Aerial Lift Certification
16 spots available at each location for \$275.00/person
8 Hour Fall Protection
24 spots available at each location for \$200.00/person



United Academy®
powered by United Rentals



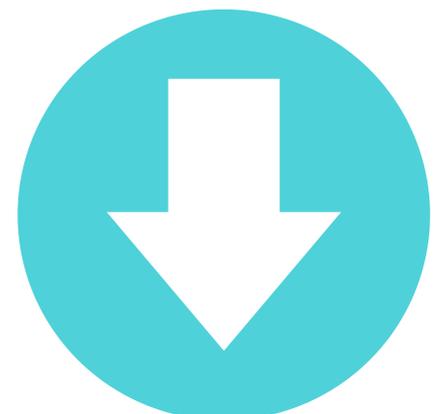
Greenville Location
Aerial Lift: March 25th, 2024
8 Hr. Fall Protection: March 26th, 2024
United Rentals
5357 NC-11
Winterville, NC 28590

ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT 8:00 AM SHARP.
PLEASE WEAR PROPER ATTIRE & PPE.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES COMING IN APRIL!
INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE GIVEN IN ENGLISH

UPDATE

NCMCA
50 YEARS



Open to all | Module #5

CLEANING PRODUCTS

March
27

8:30am – 3:00pm

\$200 per person

*Click here to
Register Today!*

Event Location

Johnson Concrete
514 Burgin Dr., Lexington, NC 27292

Presenters

Morning Session: Jake Boyer (Prosoco)
Afternoon Session: Debbie Spik (EaCo-Chem)
Heber Aldridge (Hydro-Clean)

***Proper PPE will need to be worn for this hands-on learning experience.**

Class is approved NCMCA continuing education credits

Overview

A total of 12 walls will be built and on display. 6 walls per presenter. 5 walls constructed for cleaning and 1 wall to demonstrate sealers (Prosoco) and 1 wall for staining (Hydro-Clean).

- o Wall 1 Gray Block-Mortar Droppings, Smearso Wall 4 Spec-Brik-Mortar and Efflo
- o Wall 2 Split Face-Efflorescenceo Wall 5 Clay Brick-mud
- o Wall 3 Polished Face-Graffiti Wall 6 Colored block (with 1 off color)

staining, sealer

Course Outline

8:30 am-9:00 am

Registration, name tags

- o ACM spray bar demonstration running next to registration desk.
- o Block on display showing what masonry looks like if you do NOT rinse the product.
- o Masonry products showing what block looks like if use too much pressure.
- o Block with pressure washer wand marks.

9:00 am-11:30 am

Session 1 Prosoco presentation and hands on learning. (10-minute break at 10:15)

- o Jake will demonstrate their products on the cleaning masonry and brick wall assemblies as well as hands on. Prosoco will clean half of each assembly and the attendees will clean the Other half (5 walls) – (1 wall – Jake will demonstrate sealing masonry with their product)

11:30 am-12:30 pm

LUNCH Pizza, Drinks and dessert will be provided

12:30 pm-2:30 pm

Session 2 EaCo-Chem, Hydro-Clean presentation (10-minute break at 1:45)

- o Debbi with Eaco-Chem and Heber with Hydro-clean will demonstrate their products on the cleaning of masonry and brick wall assemblies as well as hands on. Heber will clean half of each assembly and the attendees will clean the other half (5 walls) – (1 wall – Heber will demonstrate staining masonry with their product)

2:30 pm-3:00 pm

Q&A, final remarks

Please park in the designated field up the hill.
Do not park in front of the office since this is already a congested area.