

North Carolina Masonry News

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

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This Issue Sponsored by



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Upton Award President Danks Burton (*left*) presents the *Eleanor Flowers Upton Award* for long-term exemplary service by an associate member to Freddie McMahan, with wife Betty, at the April NCMCA Convention banquet.

Upton Award Presented

NCMCA has presented longtime member Freddie McMahan the Association's prestigious "Eleanor Flowers Upton" award. Named for NCMCA's first executive director, the award is presented to recognize "Long-term exemplary service to NCMCA by an Associate member."

In the thirty-one year history of the Association, the award has been presented a total of only seven times, counting McMahan's recognition at the NCMCA's annual convention at New Bern in April. Mrs. Upton and husband, Bob, were present at the banquet and participated in the presentation.

Freddie Clark McMahan owns and manages McMahan Insurance and Employee Benefits of Lexington, NC, a firm he started in 1988. He has been active in NCMCA since the early eighties and is responsible for the creation of the very successful health and benefits portion of the NCMCA Insurance Program.

McMahan was introduced to NCMCA by Koontz Masonry for whom he had been providing insur-

ance coverage.

Born and raised in the Reeds Community in Davidson County, he is a 1966 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is married to Betty. He is a former high school teacher and basketball coach and received his "Chartered Life Underwriters" certificate from the American College in 1990.

NCMCA President Danks Burton, in making the presentation, noted not only McMahan's important contribution to the Association's insurance program, but also his active participation in almost every NCMCA project and event. "Freddie has never missed a chance to support an NCMCA activity with both his time and his financial contributions," he said.

Previous Upton Award recipients Danny Batten, Jimmy Wall, Eleanor Upton and John Cramer were in attendance at the banquet.

At the award presentation, McMahan responded, "This Association and the people in it are very special to Betty and me." (*See letter, page 5*)

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Wayne Starr, President Elect
Griffin Contractors, Morganton, NC

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TriSure Corporation, Raleigh, NC

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

Lynn Nash, Executive Vice President
Hickory, NC



Convention Speakers NCMCA President Danks Burton (*right*) welcomes David Biggs (*left*) of Ryan-Biggs Associates and Ann S. Wolter, former executive director of the Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute as speakers for the 2005 NCMCA Convention held the end of April in New Bern. Biggs presented "Masonry Aspects of the World Trade Center Disaster" based on his work as a member of the official team of engineers that studied the disaster. Wolter discussed the programs of RMMI, including masonry contractor certification, a program presently being discussed as a possibility for NCMCA.

A Word from the President

Dear Fellow Members,

Here at NCMCA, the Memorial Day Weekend means that we can breathe a sigh of relief. By no means is our work done for the year, but the pace slows down a bit. This winter and spring have been full of activities – board meetings, VICA contests, Conventions, Apprentice Skills contest and planning meetings for each of these projects. There has been plenty of activity on the local level as well.

The 2005 NCMCA Convention has been described as one of the best ever. To the convention speakers, the sponsors, and attendees thank you for making it all possible.

At the convention we heard from David Biggs, PE who served on the Government's 9/11 task force to assess the World Trade Center collapse and the damage to surrounding buildings. The presentation and slide show were most interesting, and the solid performance of masonry in the structures surrounding the Trade Centers made us all proud.

We also heard Ann Wolter, the Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute. She provided us with an insightful program about RMMI's promotional efforts and masonry contractor certification program.

During the Saturday night convention banquet we presented the Eleanor Upton Award to Freddie McMahan of McMahan Insurance & Employee Benefits. We were fortunate to have Eleanor with us to help present the award. This award is presented to an associate member who demonstrates exemplary service to the Association over a period

of years. This was the seventh time we have presented the award since 1981. Please congratulate Freddie when you see him.

There were many social events at the convention (Welcoming Party, President's Reception, and Annual Banquet) to go along with a few rounds of golf. These events provide us all the opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and network with our peers. A great time was had by all.

A new event was added for the convention this year that deserves to be recognized and that is the Spouse's Luncheon. A good lunch was served, welcoming gifts for all were provided, door prizes for many, and a trolley tour of New Bern was enjoyed. I expect this to become a regular event for future conventions due to the overwhelming success. Thanks to my wife, Joanne, and Linda Starr for coordinating this event.

The big topic of discussion at the convention was masonry contractor certification. This subject brought a lot of debate from numerous individuals with many good questions still to be answered. We have established a committee to further investigate to determine if masonry certification is right for us. Contractor certification is about continuing our education in managing a successful masonry business and recognizing those that make the extra effort to be a legitimate masonry contractor. Please let us know your thoughts and opinions on this matter by talking with one of the committee members: Wayne Starr, Gary Manning, Doug Burton, Gary Joyner, Ashlee Moore, Danny Bowman, Lynn Nash and myself.

Thank you for your support of NCMCA. Have a good summer and be safe.

- **Danks Burton**



The Quarterly Newsletter of
**The North Carolina
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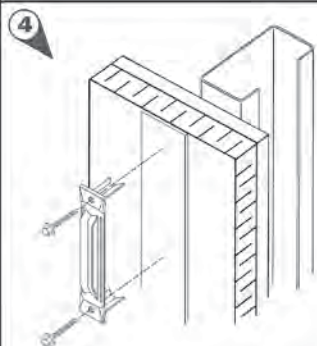


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Morrison/McGee Brothers Win Skills Contest

GREENSBORO- Twenty-year-old Joshua Morrison of McGee Brothers Company in Monroe is the new NCMCA Masonry Apprentice Skills Contest Champion for 2005. Morrison finished first in a field of thirty-one apprentices from eight NCMCA member firms at the May 21st contest held at Pine Hall Brick in Greensboro.

Morrison won what very well may be the toughest apprentice contest in the nation. This year's contestants included Dallas Caudle who won a Silver Medal in the 2004 SkillsUSA National High School Masonry Contest and who will compete in that contest again in June as the 2005 North Carolina High School SkillsUSA Champion. Also competing was Cody Alward who is a state and national high school masonry and post-secondary education champion and who won the 2002 NC Department of Labor State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest. Several other contestants previously placed well in various apprentice contests, including Morrison himself, who finished "First Place" in the 2003 NC Department of Labor Annual State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest. Morrison also competed at the NC SkillsUSA Masonry contest at Greensboro in April, winning the right to represent North Carolina in the National SkillsUSA Post-Secondary Education Masonry Competition in Kansas City this summer.

Rounding out the top-ten from the top were Dallas Caudle of McGee Brothers, S. Juan Minguel Chaves, Brodie Contractors, Raleigh, Joaquin Castro Lopez, Old North State Masonry, Charlotte, Justin Flinchum, McGee Brothers, Jose Santos, Gates Construction, Mooresville, Grant Hartsell, McGee Brothers, Jesus Ramirez, Gates Construction, Cody Alward, Alward Masonry, Rockwell, and Marco A. Gracia, Gates Construction.

Top-ten scores ranged from 157 to 169 points out of a possible 180.

Contestants were given two hours to complete a predetermined project later scored for "plumb," "level," "square & range," "measurement," "correct design," "manipulation," "tooling and neatness," "full joints," and "production." NCMCA State President Danks Burton of Pinnacle Masonry in Cary served as head judge.

Morrison lives at Midland, NC and is the son of Johnny and Lita Morrison. His interest in masonry began in Concord as a sophomore at Central Cabarrus High School, a student of masonry instructor Todd Hartsell. Josh's foreman at McGee Brothers Company is Craig Reeder who says of Morrison, "I'm very proud of Josh. Kids his age usually don't have his work ethic. He's talented and willing to do what's required to reach the goal, what ever it is."

Reeder is also foreman for Josh's older brother Chad. "They are both very successful," he says.

Company President Sam McGee says, "The contest is a good opportunity for our guys to come together with peers from other companies, and even peers within our company they may have never met, to measure how their skills compare with each other." McGee added that the contest is "just a fun day."

McGee Brothers Company began in 1971 and presently has about 1200 employees including 700 masons. "Masonry Construction" magazine lists the company as the largest masonry contractor in the United States.

Morrison is single and says he enjoys a variety of activities. He plans to work for McGee Brothers for the rest of his life. "I wish they'd hurry up and give me a crew of my own," says Josh.

As the contest winner, Josh was presented the "David R. Sigmon Award" for top score, \$600 in cash (traditionally matched by the employer,) an MK Diamond masonry saw and a wheelbarrow full of tools.

NCMCA members provided approximately \$10,000 worth of tools and cash, which was divided among all the contestants. Members also donated equipment, labor and materials.

Contest Chairman and Association president-elect Wayne Starr of Griffin Contractors in Morgantown expressed appreciation to host Pine Hall Brick, the NCMCA Triad Chapter and to all of the sponsors of the contest for helping to make the event a success:

Host / Major Sponsor: Pine Hall Brick. Materials: CEMEX, The Quikrete Companies and Pine Hall Brick.

Financial Sponsors: \$1000- Brick SouthEast and CEMEX.

\$550- Raleigh Chapter. \$500- Boral Bricks, Eastern Chapter, Gates Construction Co., General Shale Brick, Hydek Inc., and Terry Masonry.

\$400- Metrolina Chapter. \$250- Motsinger Precast Products, P & D Precast, Triad Chapter, TriSure Corporation, and the Western Chapter.

\$200- Cason Builder Supply, CCMA, Kirby Construction Services and Pettit Construction Company.

\$150- Bat Masonry, Brodie Contractors, Robert O. Helms Co. and Simmons Masonry.

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Tools & Misc.: MK Diamond, Triad Industrial, Esroc Cement, Tucker-Kirby Company, United Rentals and World Diamond Source.

Special Thanks to Anchor Manufacturing for Donating the NCMCA Mortar Mixer.

The 2005 Contest committee was Wayne Starr, chairman, Danks Burton, head judge, Triad Chapter President Randy Terry, Central Piedmont Chapter President Donnie Stroud, Monica Clendenin, Leland Eckard, Ron Griffin, Sabrina Beck, Flake Steele and Lynn Nash.

Contact the NCMCA office if your firm is interested in hosting next year's Skills Contest Saturday May 20, 2006.



Top Five Joshua Morrison of McGee Brothers Company in Monroe (*third from left*) is the new NCMCA Masonry Apprentice Skills Contest Champion for 2005. Left to right, Third Place Finisher S. Juan Minguel Chaves, Brodie Contractors, Second Place Finisher Dallas Caudle, McGee Brothers, Morrison with the "David R. Sigmon" Award, Joaquin Castro Lopez, Old North State Masonry and Justin Flinchum, McGee Brothers.

Open letter to the NCMCA

When President Danks Burton stood up to present the Eleanor F. Upton Award at the NCMCA Convention in New Bern, I was sitting at a table with my wife Betty and some other good folks after dinner. I have always felt that this special recognition given to an associate member derives its significance from the individual for whom it was named, Eleanor Upton.

I must be honest and tell you that I had often thought about how it would be to receive the award, but I never felt that would happen because there are so many others who probably deserve it. So I wasn't paying very close attention as President Danks gave the bio of the recipient. The mention of Davidson County made me listen a little more attentively and then when he said that the person started a career in the insurance business in 1978, I muttered something to Betty like "what the heck is going on here?"

If I had ever thought I would actually be receiving the Upton Award, I no doubt would have had something prepared to say. But I didn't. I know I said a few things about how important relationships are, and that is true, but I would have also said more about the significance of the award arising from its name sake – Eleanor Upton – and what she has meant to the NCMCA over the years.

When I met her the first time in the late 80's, she was like an overly protective mother to the Association and its members. She was and still is a no nonsense business woman, but beyond that she is genuinely a nice lady.

If I would have been expecting the recognition, I would have been prepared to say some things about Eleanor as well as Lynn Nash and many others whose relationships I will always cherish in this association. This association and the people in it are very special to Betty and me.

Even at age 62, there are some unexpected things that can make you feel very good and at the same time very humble.

Thank you. - *Freddie McMahan*

NCMCA State Golf Tournament

The Annual NCMCA State Golf tournament will be Thursday afternoon September 22, 2005 at The Challenge at Hide-Away Farms in Graham. Bill Reed, Arrow Equipment, will once again chair the event.

Tournament proceeds fund the Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Fund at the NC State College of Design and other NCMCA projects. Registration and sponsor solicitation forms will be mailed in August. For information, call Bill Reed (919) 669-6093.

The first one-hundred golfers to register receive a cool "Masonry" cap, so don't let that registration form lay on your desk for too long!



Mountain Contest The Land of the Sky Chapter held its annual high school masonry contest at Waynesville in April. Left to right, 1st place finisher Brian Jones, NCMCA Western Regional Vice President Mike Rogers, Instructor Stan Haynes and 2nd place finisher Jonathan Epley, all three of McDowell High School. A total of 12 students participated. Tuscola High School students Aaron Warlick and Cody Caldwell finished third and fourth, respectively. Jones went on to claim the Western Regional trophy at the NC SkillsUSA masonry competition in Greensboro, which earned his school's masonry program a \$1000 check from NCMCA, CCMA and Brick SouthEast.



Eastern NC Contest Adams Products Company hosted its 24th Annual High School Masonry Skills contest for eastern NC high schools in May at their plant in Kinston. Left to right, plant manager Parrish Hoffman presents this year's winners, Kinston High instructor Greg Rouse with his student James Wilson who finished second, Pender County High instructor Roland Dixon with his student, first place finisher Antonino Hernandez, and South Wayne High instructor Alonzo Thomas with his student Daniel Diaz, who finished third. Pender High School won the "team" competition. With his first place finish, Hernandez, 18 and a senior, claimed a \$500 cash prize. He enjoys soccer would like to attend NC State to pursue a career as an architect.

Thanks Convention Sponsors!



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Convention Meetings Report

NCMCA held a board meeting and its annual business meeting at the New Bern Convention in April. The following is a summary of those meetings.

Secretary/Treasurer Gary Manning presented financial reports. As of 4/25/05 assets totaled \$519,483.33. (This figure include liabilities of \$52,063.69) \$64,694.06 is in the regular checking account and \$430108.02 is in interest bearing accounts. \$20,325 is in "accounts receivable." Assets at the end of 2004: \$431,276.95,

Heidi O'Conner of TriSure reported that premiums in their program stand at \$2,738,258 and were at \$2,781,509 in January. 43 firms are participating. Since April 1998, the program has contributed \$338,000, including a total of \$24,156 in 2005. Harvey Wasner of Amerisure presented a check for \$11,787 at the convention event sponsored by Amerisure and the NCMCA Insurance Program.

TriSure's John Cramer said the workers' comp market is stable but the program has been showing some "heat." Overall, Cramer says our performance is good but the program has experienced some "severe shock losses" which have damaged the program's profitability. The program is working on ideas that will allow more flexibility to bring new customers into the program. Amerisure had some nervousness about losses and about certain types of masonry firms. The new arrangement will allow the program to extend outside of Amerisure for masons that do not fit the program profile. The administration fee will now come from TriSure and Amerisure. TriSure will continue to build the program, do more recruitment and attract new providers. Cramer said his report was not meant to be negative and he is looking forward to attracting new business to the program. There will be possibilities for new products.

Cramer says he will provide scaffolding "competent person" workshops later in the summer and will need to visit jobsites to obtain photographs to use in the sessions. He invited members to make him aware of scaffolding situations that would be good to photograph.

Freddie McMahan reported that 17 groups are participating in the NCMCA health and benefits program. Premiums stand at \$1.3 million. Since 2001, the program has provided NCMCA with \$66,042 in management fees, \$4,100 was presented in January 2005 and another check for \$4,100 was presented at the annual meeting. Total contribution for 2004 was \$13,860. The average rate increase for group renewals has been about 20.6% with the lowest renewal rate being a decrease of -3.1% and the highest being an increase of 51.9%. The higher percentage increases usually are a result of ageing of the group's insureds. A majority of the groups that had increases altered their plan benefits at renewal and/or changed carriers by way of the "shopping" process to lower the

rate increase. In a few cases the increase was erased completely. McMahan says we will continue to see a trend for new products that attempt to address the high cost of health care coverage. Many will feature higher deductibles and no co-pays. McMahan says everyone should continue to encourage their employees to take more responsibility for their health care utilization. They must make better decisions on how they use the plan.

President-Elect Wayne Starr reported on apprenticeship and training. NCMCA's 2004 Skills Champion, Jaime Salis of Brodie Contractors competed in the MCAA International Skills Challenge at Chicago. Salis placed "third" in the category for third year apprentices. John Nero from Ohio finished "first," followed by Chris Pruitt of Tennessee.

Wayne Starr reported that NCMCA participated in the April NC SkillsUSA State Conference at Greensboro. Some 87 students participated in the masonry skills competition. Dallas Caudle of Central Cabarrus High School was a repeat winner and will represent NC in the national contest in June. Caudle won the silver medal at the national contest in 2004. Rounding out the top five finishers were Josh Kimrey and Mason Widenhouse of Mount Pleasant High School, Devin Lowder of West Stanly High School, and Kevin Greene of Central Cabarrus High School. Nash told the board that NCMCA will participate with CCMA and Brick SouthEast to provide cash awards to schools and students who won state and regional recognition at the Greensboro contest. NCMCA's portion of the cost will be about \$3,600.

Starr provided details of the NCMCA Apprentice Skills Contest to be held at Pine Hall Brick in Greensboro. Nash recognized Quikrete for volunteering to do the mortar for the NCMCA Skills Contest and for supplying (and mixing) the SkillUSA Contest earlier in the month.

Starr reported that Bob Parrish of McGee Brothers Company produced a DVD video featuring NCMCA members explaining what they look for in potential employees. Lynn Nash, Larry Kirby, Danks Burton, Doug Burton, Calvin Brodie and Sam McGee provided interviews. The video was made at the request of the state's high school masonry instructors.

Calvin Brodie reported that the 2005 NC Department of Labor Masonry Apprentice Contest will be Monday October 17th at the State Fair Grounds. Once again, local NCMCA chapters and members will be solicited to donate cash and tool prizes.

John Cramer provided an OSHA and Safety report. He continues to monitor developments with the silica/silicosis issue with the assistance of his wife Jill, a former labor attorney. He said state officials "don't even know what to tell her" about the need for masonry contractors to have a basic silica awareness program. Cramer says he doesn't see the need to develop such a program if we don't need it, and

even expressed the concern that over-eagerness to develop such a plan might raise concerns with officials to a degree that wouldn't happen otherwise. He acknowledged that MCAA has a much greater concern about the issue than he has. Cramer will continue to monitor the issue.

Doug Burton gave a report on the NC State/Sigmon Memorial Scholarship project for architectural students. The fourth contest was held last fall and will be conducted again in 2005. He reported that the board voted to send \$10,000 to the Masonry Executives Council, of which Nash is the chairman, to support their "MasonrySystems.org" website project. NCMCA contributed \$30,000 to the project in 2004.

Nash reported the 2004 State Golf Tournament raised \$7,356.86, half of which went into the Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Fund. The 2005 tournament will again be chaired by Bill Reed and will be September 22 at "The Challenge" in Graham.

Nash provided a convention report. The 2004 convention made \$3,377.50 on total income of \$50,018.75. Total participation for the New Bern convention was 144, counting children, staff and special guests. That is off from previous years. He expressed concern about the drop in attendance. Nash recognized the convention sponsors who are providing \$13,800 and said he projects the convention should make about \$6000 on total income of about \$47,000. His goal would be for the convention profit to at least equal the amount of the sponsors' donations. The 2006 convention will be at Kingston Plantation April 27 to April 30. In 2007, the convention will be at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Hilton Head April 26 to April 29. Tentatively, the Convention is to be at the Grove Park Inn April 24 to April 26, 2008.

Nash reported that membership stands at 190 members: 72 associate members, 3 Life Members, and 115 contractor members. Member retention and recruitment needs to be a board and member priority. The Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Fund contained \$11,719.02. Nash said the 2004-05 directory cleared \$3,387.33 (less \$450 still outstanding.) Nash recognized recent Association newsletter sponsors and expressed appreciation that these firms make the publication possible at no expense to NCMCA.

Chapter reports: Central Piedmont – Chapter Treasurer Ricky Sutphin reported the chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month in Winston-Salem (except for July.) They have \$9,224 in the treasury, including a small certificate of deposit. He distributed fliers promoting the chapter's annual Danny Koonts Memorial Golf Tournament.

Coastal – No report. President Danks said the chapter is struggling.

Eastern Carolina – President Randy Manning reported the chapter has \$7,583 and they meet the last Tuesday of each month in Greenville, NC. They need to boost attendance and are seeking new members.

Sandhills – President Mike Lanier reported they meet the last Tuesday of each month with 8 to 10 attending, usually with 3 to 5 masons present. They have \$7,100, which they are debating how to spend to best serve the local masonry community. President Lanier presented a \$6,500 check for the executive office fund to VP Gary Joyner. President Danks acknowledged the donation and noted that the Association’s newest chapter has donated \$11,500 to the fund in just two years’ time.

Land of the Sky – Western Regional VP Mike Rogers reported the chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month in Arden. Attendance has been sporadic. They have \$2,500 and are aware that they are behind on their chapter donation to the executive office fund. They have a fundraiser planned for later in the year. They held their sixth annual high school masonry contest in April at Waynesville with 13 participants. Members donated over \$1000 in cash and prizes.

Metrolina – Chapter Secretary Brooke Steele reported they meet the second Tuesday in Pineville. They have \$10,000 banked and also complain of sporadic attendance. They are looking for good programs. The chapter is recruiting members for the Central Piedmont Community College Masonry Program Advisory Committee.

Triad – Chairman Red McAdams reported they meet the first Wednesday at Maria’s in Burlington. They have about \$3000 and plan fundraisers later in the summer with a golf tournament in June and by installing foundations for Habitat for Humanity. President Danks recognized the Triad Chapter, in particular President Randy Terry, Kent Huntley and Red McAdams for their exceptionally hard work at the Greensboro SkillsUSA Masonry Contest. President Danks pointed out that the contest wore out its welcome with the Western Chapter in Hickory, and given that the contest will be in Greensboro for a few more years, it will probably wear out its welcome with the Triad Chapter too.

Western Carolina – President Hugh Townsend reported the chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at Bennett’s Barbecue in Conover. They have \$10,000 in the bank and attendance has been off a bit.

Raleigh – President Ron Williams reported the chapter meets the first Monday of each month with about 30 usually in attendance. At their next meeting, Doug Burton will conduct a discussion of bringing architect Chris Huckabee to the Raleigh area to present his program about total masonry school construction to school officials and designers. President Ron presented VP Joyner a \$3000 check for the executive office fund.

Old Business: Freddie McMahan made a presentation outlining the national benefits program he and his associates have prepared for MCAA. The program was adopted by the MCAA board at a meeting earlier in the year. Details can be reviewed on the MCAA

website beginning early May. McMahan emphasized that the NCMCA program will not be penalized because of the MCAA plan. He also plugged the MCAA legislative conference scheduled for June 26 to 28, 2005 in Washington, DC. Among the items to be discussed is the possibility of association health care coverage legislation.

New Business: President Danks told the board that, in a continuing response to a meeting with LS3P/Boney Architects in January, he has been reviewing certification program material from various states. After reviewing NCMCA’s history with the lump-sum spec and other means of pre-qualifying masonry contractors, he opened the floor for a discussion of the possibility of certification for Carolina masonry contractors. Ann Wolter from the Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute answered questions about RMMI’s certification program and told the membership that certification should, in her opinion, be implemented for the sake of education, not for an advantage in the market place. 23 of some 40 masonry contractor members of RMMI are certified.

In discussion, Wayne Booth expressed support for certification and promised financial backing for such a program. He considers this a “great opportunity... a time to look into the little end of the funnel.” Jerry Eckard compared an effort to implement certification to the Association’s earlier effort to get licensing for masonry contractors, saying he felt this was a better deal. Danny Batten asked if NCMCA has checked to see how the block and brick producers feel about a certification program. Larry Kirby continued the thought and asked who else we need to consult about their opinion, i.e. Homebuilders Association, AGC and AIA. Nash noted that Paul Boney had volunteered his service to help promote masonry certification to AIA members. Joyner asked Nash to contact RMMI member firms

to ask their opinion of certification. Cramer asked if certification would raise the legal bar and have possible undesirable legal ramifications for certified masons. Could the program be liable? Wolter opined that certification for NCMCA would compare with a degree offered by a university. “A client could sue an Oxford graduate but couldn’t hold Oxford University liable for the graduate’s incompetence.” NCMCA or RMMI certify that the contractor has taken the course, passed the exam and completed the requirements for certification. “That would be the extent of it,” Wolter said. Joyner asked, “Does Boney want this certification or do we want it?” Brooke Steele asked if certification would be a means to give the public better quality masonry or would it be a means to take away the responsibility of the architects and engineers to insure good workmanship? “Could this be an easy out for the architect?” Cramer said certification “might cause the architect to become the artist and the mason to become the professional. Not necessarily a good idea.” Several other members offered thoughts both pro and con. Wolter suggested that administering a certification program would probably require adding clerical staff to the NCMCA office. She says it is a long process to get a “critical mass” of masons certified and to get owners and architects to insist on certified masons. Several school districts, municipalities and architects, mostly in the Denver area, always include the spec. The spec does sometimes get “broken.”

No consensus was developed. President Danks named the following committee to study certification and make a recommendation at the September board meeting: Chairman, Wayne Starr, Gary Manning, Ashlee Moore, Ron Williams, Danny Bowman, Doug Burton, Gary Joyner and Lynn Nash.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday September 7, 2005 at a time and place TBA.



Salis Competes at MCAA 2004 NCMCA Apprentice Masonry Skills contest champion Jaime Salis (*right*) of Brodie Contractors had a “Third Place Finish” at the MCAA Skills Challenge for third year apprentices. Pictured with Salis at the April contest are MCAA President Alan Griffin (*left*) and Calvin Brodie of Brodie Contractors. Finishing “First” was John Nero, “F, B & S Masonry” of Stow, Ohio, followed by Chris Pruitt, “Masonry Specialist,” Chattanooga, Tennessee. The contest was held in conjunction with the CSI “Build America” show and the annual Mason Contractors Association of America “Masonry Showcase” at McCormick Place in Chicago.

Dates to Note

6/6-6/8/05 The Masonry Society Spring Business Meeting – Calgary, Canada
 6/9-6/12/05 Southeastern Masonry Association 2005 Conference, Grand Sandestin – Florida
 6/17/05 Triad Chapter Annual Golf tournament, Shamrock Golf Club – Burlington
 6/19-6/24/05 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference – Kansas City
 6/26-6/28/05 MCAA Legislative Conference, Hyatt Regency, Capital Hill – Washington, DC
 7/14-7/17/05 CCMA Summer meeting, Wild Dunes Resort – Isle of Palms, SC
 7/25-7/29/05 NC DPI Career-Technical Education Summer Conference, Koury Center - Greensboro
 8/3-8/7/05 NCMA Midyear Meetings, The Coeur d'Alene Resort – Coeur d'Alene, ID
 9/7/05 NCMCA Board of Directors Meeting, TBA
 9/22/05 Thirteenth Annual NCMCA State Golf Tournament, The Challenge – Graham
 10/12-10/15/05 The Masonry Society Annual Meeting - Cincinnati
 10/16-10/18/05 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings – Cincinnati
 10/17/05 52nd Annual DOL State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest, Fair Grounds – Raleigh
 1/13-1/15/06 Annual Raleigh Chapter Golf Tournament – Myrtle Beach
 3/28-3/31/06 MCAA Convention & Masonry Showcase – Las Vegas
 4/6-4/8/06 BIA Show - Phoenix

4/27-4/30/06 NCMCA Convention, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
 5/9-5/11/06 The Masonry Society Spring Business Meeting - San Diego
 5/11-5/13/06 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings - San Diego
 6/13/06 ASTM Masonry Symposium - Toronto
 7/13-7/17/06 CCMA Summer Meeting, Crowne Plaza Resort – Hilton Head
 10/12-10/15/06 The Masonry Society Annual Business Meeting - Atlanta
 10/15-10/17/06 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings - Atlanta
 4/12-4/14/07 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings - TBA
 4/26-4/29/07 NCMCA Convention, Crown Plaza Resort – Hilton Head
 6/1-6/3/07 The Masonry Society Spring Meeting – St. Louis
 6/3-6/6/07 North American Masonry Conference - St. Louis
 11/8-11/9/07 The Masonry Society Annual Business Meeting - Pittsburgh
 11/11-11/13/07 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings - Pittsburgh



Big Hitter Golf Chairman Bill Brooks (left) awards Brooke Steele the prize for “longest drive” in the EZ Grout/Grout Hog Convention Tournament at the April NCMCA Convention in New Bern.

4/24-4/26/08 NCMCA Convention, Grove Park Inn – Asheville (Tentative)
 5/13-5/15/08 The Masonry Society Spring Business Meeting - Chicago
 5/15-5/17/08 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings - Chicago
 11/6-11/9/08 The Masonry Society Annual Meeting – Salt Lake City
 11/9-11/11/08 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings - Salt Lake City
Up-to-the-minute calendar updates on the “Upcoming Events” page at NCMCA.com.



Raleigh Career Fair Members of the Raleigh Chapter of NCMCA participated in a Carolinas AGC Construction Career Fair in March. Chapter members provided hands-on masonry experience to high school students from the counties surrounding Raleigh. Shown left to right, student “Beth,” Jaime Salis of Brodie Contractors, student “Lauren,” and Smitty Smith, William E. Smith, Masonry Contractors.

Welcome New Members

Paramount Diamond Tools

Rich Kruse (A2)
 Boca Raton, FL
Recruited by NCMCA.com

Rockcast by Reading Rock

Ray Ratchford (A1)
 Stanley, NC
Recruited by NCMCA.com

Prime Masonry Equipment

Jim Honaker (A1)
 Moneta, VA
Recruited by NCMCA.com

Spartan Forest Products

Iris O'Donnell (A1)
 Greensboro, NC
Recruited by Triad Chapter



The Rules Past NCMCA President Danny Batten (*center-left*) briefs the contestant prior to the 2005 NC Skills USA Masonry competition April 12th at the Greensboro Coliseum. NCMCA partnered with Brick SouthEast, the Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association and the NC Masonry Instructors Association to provide materials, equipment, tenders, judges and volunteers for the contest.

Member News

Long-time members **Don Thaxton** and **Ray Walls** have both taken positions as sales representatives with **Triangle Brick Company**.

Central Piedmont Chapter Vice President **Joe James** lost his father in February.

Gail Coleman, Gain & Well, lost her father February 6th in Angier. He was 90.

Greg Booth, Bat Masonry, is the new president of the Blue Ridge Masonry Association in Virginia.

Don Thaxton's father passed mid-March. Ernest Grady Thaxton was 79. The Thaxton family has suggested contributions be made to: The Cemetery Fund, Shady Grove United Methodist Church, 4129 East Hyco Road, South Boston, Virginia 24592.

Lester Williams, father of Raleigh NCMCA Chapter President **Ron Williams**, passed away March 26th in Little Washington, NC. He was 61. The family has suggest an appropriate memorial would be a donation to "Beaufort County Relay for Life," c/o Lisa Alligood, 7581 Broad Creek Road, Washington, NC 27889 (checks made payable to "The American Cancer Society.")

Former member David Moser of Hauser Rentals in Winston-Salem recently passed away.

Triad Chapter Vice President **Gary Whitesell** lost his grandmother recently.

Joseph Preston Huntley, father to **Clete Huntley, Gladys** and **Midge McGee** and father-in-law to **Don** and **Sam McGee**, passed away January 30th at age 98. A mason himself, Mr. Huntley was described as the man who started the Huntleys and McGees into masonry. And you know the rest of that story...

Eleanor and Bob Upton celebrated their Fiftieth

Wedding Anniversary May 21st.

The **Joyner** crew on "Frequent Flyer" came in "Second" in the billfish division of the "Hatteras Offshore Open" May 5-7.

Hassel Hart, retired from American Concrete in Hickory, passed away May 12th after an extended illness. He was 75.

Jimmy Harrell continues his recover from prostate cancer treatments.

Still recovering from serious health problems himself, Hanson Brick's Brad Watson's father is recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor.

Jim Porter's (Essroc) wife is continuing chemo treatments for cancer and is said to be reacting favorably.

Past President **Dickey Robertson's** wife continues her battle with cancer.

President Danks had a letter printed in the May issue of "Masonry" magazine (page 6.) Danks never received his copy...

Your local **RMC / Metromont** location is now officially "**CEMEX**."

John Cramer and his partners at **TriSure** were featured in an article that appeared in the April 22, 2005 *Triangle Business Journal*. Also, TriSure Corporation was listed as a "Premier Partner" in a recent Amerisure ad on the back page of the Wall Street Journal.

Past President **Danny Batten** lost his mother in May. Hilda Gray Braswell Batten of Selma was 78.

Land of the Sky President **Richard Lanning** has recently been given "a clean bill of health" by his doctor. Richard had bypass surgery in September.

Bill Hollifield is retiring from **Essroc Cement** after almost 29 years with the company. He and the Mrs. are building a retirement home in Pauley's Island.

Send your "Member News" and "Dates to Note" information to LNash@ncmca.com or fax (828) 324-2179



Danny Koonts Memorial Golf Tournament The Central Piedmont Chapter held their Annual Danny Koonts Memorial Golf Tournament in May at the Olde Home Place Golf Club in Winston-Salem. Finishing first in the first flight were (left-right) David Braxton, Dickie Robertson, Gary Braxton, and Neil Braxton, accompanied by golf co-chairman Ricky Sutphin (right.) "Closest to the Pin" recognition went to Tim Walser, Paul Tamer, Matthew Potts and Todd Young. Kenny Riddle had "the longest drive." Craig Koonts and R.C. Koonts & Sons Masonry supplied the chicken barbecue afterwards. Tournament co-chairmen were Sutphin, David Zenns and Ken Duncan.

North Carolina Masonry News

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This issue sponsored by:



NC Skills USA Champ! Senior Dallas Caudle (*with trophy*) a student of Todd Hartsell (*fourth from left*) at Central Cabarrus High School in Concord has repeated as NC High School Masonry Champion and will return to Kansas City for the National Contest later this summer. Representing North Carolina, Caudle finished the national contest with a Silver Medal in 2004. Rounding out the top-five in the April 12th contest at Greensboro were (*left to right*) Josh Kimrey (2nd) and Mason Widenhouse (3rd) of Mount Pleasant High School with instructor Doug Drye, Hartsell, Caudle, instructor Tim Kidd of West Stanly High School with his student Devin Lowder (4th) and Kevin Greene (5th), also of Central Cabarrus High School. Eighty-seven students took part in the masonry skills competition. West Stanly High finish all the masonry related NC SkillsUSA competitions with the most points and was recognized with a \$1000 check from the masonry industry as "NC High School Masonry Program of the Year." Regional winners were Garon Johnson of Hertford County High School, Dallas Caudle of Central Cabarrus High, Jacob Townsend of South Caldwell High, Joseph Atkinson of Pender High, Jeremiah Phillips of Northwood High, and Brian Jones of McDowell High. Caudle and Widenhouse were recognized recently at a Raleigh ceremony with Department of Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry as "Outstanding Apprentices of the year."