

North Carolina Masonry News

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

March 2009

Our Thirty-Fifth Year

Vol. 35 No. 1

This Issue Sponsored by



See Page Three



Photos courtesy of the presenters

Featured at Convention CEMEX sponsors a visit from world known mentalist Robert Channing (left) at the 2009 NCMCA Convention Banquet Saturday evening April 25th. Engineer Mike Schuller (right) of Bolder, Colorado will present a program about his work in masonry preservation on historic sites around the world Friday morning at the convention, made possible by Adams Products Oldcastle.

Convention in April

The 2009 NCMCA Convention is just a few weeks away! Make sure you and your guests don't miss the fellowship and fun this spring at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach Thursday April 23 to Sunday April 26, 2009.

Hotel reservations and deposits are handled directly with Kingston Plantation and must be made before March 23, 2009 to insure that you receive our special NCMCA convention room rates. Phone (800) 876-0010 and request group code "NMA."

Contact NCMCA to have a convention registration packet emailed via PDF.

Fill out and return the NCMCA convention form to the NCMCA office. Credit card payments are not accepted, however, members in good standing may request to be invoiced. New for 2009, al Carte

registration for individual events is now possible, however, best value is still full package registration. (Spouse or guest attending as a member company representative should register at the "member/representative" rate.)

The 2009 NCMCA Convention starts with a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday afternoon followed that evening with the "TriSure Welcome to the Convention Party" featuring DJ and entertainer Sam Bigby.

Friday morning, Adams Products Company sponsors a presentation by international masonry expert and engineer Michael Schuller, talking about his adventures with masonry restoration on historical sites around the world. Schuller offers 20 years of see "Convention" continued page nine

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Gary Manning, President
Manning Masonry, Williamston, NC

Larry Kirby, President Elect
Kirby Construction Services, Conover, NC

Ashlee K. Moore, Secretary Treasurer
Koontz Masonry, Inc., Lexington, NC

Wayne Starr, Chairman of the Board
Gates Construction Company, Mooresville, NC

Danny Bowman, Central Vice Pres.
Bowman Masonry Inc., WinstonSalem, NC

Jimmy Simmons, Eastern Vice Pres.
Simmons Masonry Inc., Fayetteville, NC

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

Glenn Sipe, First President 1974-75
Glenn W. Sipe & Son, Conover NC

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

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

Lynn Nash, Executive Vice President
Hickory, NC

A Word from the President

I want to take this opportunity to formally announce some leadership changes at the state level. Mike Rogers, who was serving as president-elect has decided to step down due to other obligations. I want to thank him for all of his service to the Association for the past years. I also want to wish him luck and the very best in everything he has planned in his future. Mike will continue to be a big part of our Association, but just not at the state level leadership.

So this left the Association with a vacancy in its leadership.

With the help of senior leadership, we decided to ask Larry Kirby to step up into the President-Elect slot and he graciously accepted.

This left us with a vacancy for the Secretary-Treasurer's slot. Again, with the Board's help, we spoke with different members of the Association and had a few candidates that were willing to serve. After discussion, Ashlee Koontz Moore was asked to serve and she graciously accepted.

Ashlee is very excited about serving and I feel she will be a true asset to NCMCA.

I want to say thank you to everyone that offered to serve and thank you to everyone that helped to resolve the vacancy in leadership. It just proves that when unexpected things happen, we all come together and do what is best for the Association.

Ashlee's position is pending Board approval in April, but she has agreed to start serving now.

I hope you all join me in wishing Larry and Ashley great success in their new positions.

By now, you all should be receiving your registration packages for the upcoming convention in Myrtle Beach.

I want to encourage all of you to try and make time to attend this year's convention.

A lot of planning and preparation has gone into this year's convention and we need as many in attendance as possible.

This is a time to interact with your counterparts from around the state. There are wonderful educational sessions, a lot of entertainment, and our annual Association Business Meeting planned.

At the January Board meeting, it was requested of the local chapters to report on the health of their local high school masonry programs. You will be able to get information from the convention you can take back home to help support your local



Gary Manning

high school programs.

Again, I encourage you to go ahead and sign up for the convention and come spend some relaxing and educational time with others in the masonry business.

I must thank all of the sponsors that have stepped up to support our convention. Without the sponsors, it would not be possible for NCMCA to provide such a great event. So please, when you see reps from the sponsor companies, be sure express your gratitude to them.

I also want to go ahead and remind you of the apprentice contests that will be coming up soon. The NC SkillsUSA masonry contest will be in April at Greensboro and our own Annual Apprentice Masonry Skills Contest is May 16th at the new Adams Products Company facility in Dunn.

If you can help with either of these contests, I urge you to contact Apprenticeship and Training Committee Chairman Larry Kirby and let him know how you can help.

On behalf of all NCMCA members, let me say "congratulations" to Tyke Mangum for winning the Las Vegas SpecMix Bricklayer 500 last month! Last year's winner, Garret Hood, finished second this year. An amazing accomplishment for these two young men and for McGee Brothers Company! We all should be proud of what these North Carolina masons have done. We were represented well, and congratulations to both of them.

McGee Brothers Company deserves their own thanks for their continued work with apprenticeship and for the support they offer these young masons.

We all can be proud to say we are a part of an Association that has the two fastest masons in the country. Again congratulations and thank you, Tyke and Garrett, and McGee Brothers for representing North Carolina so well.

Thanks again to the new officers and the members that helped fill these open positions so fast, and I look forward to seeing you all in April at Kingston Plantation.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your president.

Gary Manning



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

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Welcome New Member

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We invite you to learn more about CEMEX by visiting us at www.cemexusa.com, or by contacting your regional CEMEX office:

9335 Harris Corners Parkway Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28269

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Bob Parrish Talking Safety:

Big Changes Expected in OSHA

Everyone is expecting big changes with the New Year and the New Administration in Washington. Some of those big changes may sneak up on businessmen just as the passage of the OSHA Act did almost forty years ago.

Many do not understand how a relatively short Act became such a nightmare for many businesses. The explanation is simple. We fell asleep at the wheel and did it to ourselves.

The OSHA Act did nothing more than authorize the Secretary of Labor to set safety standards for industry and put in place a program to enforce those standards. The Labor Department sent out letters to most industry associations asking for a copy of their best safety program. Many felt



Bob Parrish

honored at the request and sent out the best, most comprehensive safety program available knowing even their best company members could not hope to comply with all parts of the programs.

Labor officials looked the programs over and adopted them as a part of the new law or regulations. They did not consider either feasibility or practicality. There were a number of sections that eventually had to be changed such as the one requiring companies who provided iced water for employees not to let the ice come in contact with the water.

After much head scratching it was determined that clause was from before the time of common refrigeration when icemen cut ice slabs from frozen lakes in the winter and stored them in a blanket of insulating hay in a barn for sale and use in the spring and summer. Thus insects and other foreign matter could easily be with the ice.

The Labor Department developed a cumbersome process of hearings before regulations could be changed or new regulations adopted. It was viewed as a mechanism to protect businesses from hasty and poorly thought out new regulations. It appears now forty years later that cumbersome process is a part of the reasoning for what many expect to happen in the immediate future as a modified OSHA Reform Act is passed in Congress.

Senators Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., are pushing legislation that will put a new face on OSHA and probably shock business as much as the original OSHA Act did. They have been holding hearings and pushing for the legislation for some time but have not been able to get it through Congress. With the New Administration and

the democratically controlled Congress, the reform legislation is expected to pass easily. After all, a vote against the reform will be touted in the news media as a vote against workplace safety.

Exactly what the new Act will say and require is anybody's guess at this point. However, consultants and safety experts, who have been following the hearings closely, expect a number of changes that will not make most businessmen happy. But from the expert witness testimony and comments made by the senators, there are things that will probably be in the OSHA Reform Act.

Expect a streamlined process for developing new standards to address new situations and areas where statistics show there may be a problem with the current safety procedures. Many think the new process will only take months rather than the years now required to enact changes.

The sponsors seem to be zeroing in on the protection of Hispanic and other minority workers citing statistics showing Hispanic workers are 20% more likely to be killed on the job than other workers. Kennedy said, "Many of them are immigrants who do not know their rights, and do not receive safety training or protective equipment." He went on to add, "Exploitation of the most vulnerable workers puts all workers at risk."

Inside OSHA magazine reports, "Requiring stiffer penalties for worker health and safety violations is a huge priority for Kennedy." They also reported

criminal sanctions and enhanced penalties should be expected for accidents involving fatalities. Rights of survivors and victims would be expanded along with whistleblower and anti-retaliation protection provisions.

Under the current law violations that end up in court are misdemeanors handled in civil or administrative courts. In the future they are expected to be classed felonies and handled in criminal courts. Currently following a workplace disaster, only the top executives of the company responsible are considered for jail time and then only if they knew the conditions existed and failed to take action. This is expected to change to extend possible jail time down the line to the supervisors and foremen responsible for the operation that went wrong. Fines for willful violations resulting in fatalities are expected to increase from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Other fines are expected to increase drastically as well.

The new legislation will likely bring under OSHA's jurisdiction some 8.4 million state, local, and private sector employees currently exempt from OSHA regulations.

Both Kennedy and Murray appear to be concerned underreporting of statistical information in recent years has increased. "When it comes to the health and safety of American workers, we can't allow OSHA to just take employers at their word," said Senator Murray. "We need an agency that takes the initiative to keep businesses honest about the dangers their workers face." Kennedy said, "...OSHA can't do its job to protect these workers if it doesn't know what is really going on."

Expect a mountain of new paperwork on em-



Contest Planning NC Masonry Instructors Association President Michael Perry (*second from left*) led a Greensboro meeting in January to plan for the April 22 State and Regional SkillsUSA Masonry Contest. CCMA, BIA-SE, and NCMCA will partner with NCMIA and NC DPI for the contest at the Greensboro Coliseum. NCMCA is responsible for setup, tending, judging and cleanup for the contest. Volunteers are solicited and can contact NCMCA Training and Apprenticeship Committee Chairman Larry Kirby for details: (828) 465-0667. Setup begins at 9:30 Tuesday Morning April 21, 2009.

employee training and safety activities to be required. Companies employing Hispanics and minorities can expect even more detailed paperwork requirements.

Only time will tell what the new OSHA Reform Act will include. However, don't be surprised if all these items and more are a part of the legislation. You can follow the history and progress of the proposed legislation by searching the Internet for Ted Kennedy OSHA.

Bob Parrish is a safety consultant for McGee Brothers Company in Monroe and for Shelco, Inc., Columbia. He is a former OSHA compliance officer. Reach Bob at (980) 229-7936.



Kirby

Moore

Mike Rogers Resigns, Replacements Named

Citing obligations including Chairman of the Transylvania Board of Education and his calling to church ministry, Mike Rogers has resigned his position as NCMCA State President Elect.

President Manning has reluctantly accepted Mike's resignation and, on behalf of the Association, has wished Mike much success in the ministry.

Michael J. Rogers Masonry, Inc. will continue to be a member of NCMCA.

Pending Board approval, President Manning has announced Larry Kirby will move up from the position of Secretary-Treasurer to the position of President-Elect and Central Piedmont Chapter President Ashlee K. Moore will be the new Secretary-Treasurer for the remainder of term 2008-2010.

New officers will be elected at the 2010 convention in Atlantic Beach, NC.

Letters

The following are from NC State University students who won the 2008 Sigmon Design Scholarship:

Dear (NCMCA),

I would like to extend to you my sincere appreciation for your contribution to both the College of Design at North Carolina State University and myself. The Sigmon Memorial Scholarship is a great honor for me and it has made my family very proud. This is the first scholarship I have ever received which gives me a newfound confidence and drive to excel as I pursue a degree in architecture. My limited experience in the architectural and construction fields

has revealed to me the importance of masonry as a material and convinced me to continue to discover and celebrate its potential. You have truly helped to establish a strong foundation for me to build a career upon and I will never forget it. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
David A. Skoog

Dear (NCMCA),

I would like to express my gratitude and that of North Carolina State Universities College of Design by thanking you and the NC Masonry Contractors Association, Inc. for your support of higher education with NC Masonry Contractor's Association Competition / Sigmon Memorial Scholarship. As one of the winners for the 2008-2009 school year, I am elated to receive this generous award. I rely on financial aid, grants and student loans to support my financial needs. Receiving this scholarship will help relieve some of my financial burdens with summer tuition and provide assistance for me as I pursue my degree in architecture.

I transferred to North Carolina State University from St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida in the fall of 2006 to complete my degree in architecture. Though I had lived in Raleigh for six years prior to pursuing opportunities in Florida, I am glad to be back and love the possibilities that the state of North Carolina possesses in the field of architecture by the means of preservation work and

new construction. I hope to apply the knowledge I gain here at North Carolina State University to benefit the community by focusing on the architectural needs of universities and educational institutions.

Thank you again for your generous contribution to North Carolina State University, the community and most of all to myself. It is of great importance in the world today that investments are made in the advancements of others pursuing a higher education and a dream. My dream is closer to becoming a reality with yours and the NC Masonry Contractors Association, Inc. support and funding of this scholarship.

With Sincere Thanks,
Michael Gron

NCMCA,

I would like to express my appreciation for the role you played in awarding my team with the North Carolina Masonry Contractor's Association Scholarship at Pat Rand's October masonry design competition. This was a great opportunity for me and an honor to have won. The finances provided by scholarships such as the NCMCA are extremely beneficial for the education of myself as well as other students in the college of design and I thank you for that. I look forward to applying the experience of this competition in my future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Corey Baughman



Carolina Still the Champs! For the second year in a row, North Carolina has claimed the top spot at the SpecMix Bricklayer 500. Tyke Mangum of McGee Brothers won the contest with 990 brick laid in one hour. Garrett Hood of McGee Brothers, who won the 2008 contest and thus earned a bye for the 2009 contest, finished second. Shown, left to right, Garrett Hood, Megan Hood, Kevin Hallman, tender for Hood, 2009 Champion Tyke Mangum, Courtney Mangum, and Tyke's tender, Dan Hallman. (Interesting note: Megan is Clete Huntley's youngest daughter and the aunt of Courtney, Clete's oldest granddaughter. Mr. Huntley is one of the original McGee Brothers. Kevin Hallman is Dan Hallman's uncle. Dan is also Clete's grandson.) In addition to other prizes, Tyke won \$5,000 and a 2009 Ford F-250 4x4 pickup. The February 4th contest was held in Las Vegas as part of the World of Masonry.

January Board Meeting Report

The Board of Directors on January 7, 2009. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Treasurer Larry Kirby, presented a financial report. Total assets as of December 31, 2007: \$610,609.16 including liabilities." \$588,622.04 was in interest bearing accounts. Kirby compared ending-year assets end of 2007: \$612,938.00; 2006: \$525,707.81; 2005: \$473,655.71; 2004: \$431,276.95; 2003: \$443,862; 2002: \$363,355; 2001: \$312,143. Liabilities: \$59,631.39. 2008 operating expense approximately \$211,700. (Compare approximately \$170,000 for 2007; \$157,500 for 2006) We ended 2008 with a loss of approximately \$15,000 versus a surplus/profit of \$61,940.50 in 2007. Executive Vice President Lynn Nash projects a loss of approximately \$69,000 for 2009 based on an estimated decrease in all revenues of approximately 18% and a slight rise in expense, mostly due to the expense of a new employee.

Nash said, "With almost all the figures in, it appears we ended 2008 with a deficit of a little over \$15,000 versus a surplus of over \$60,000 in 2007. 2008 is the first year we have ended with a deficit since I began working for NCMCA in late 1997. A \$69,000 loss is a frightening number, but I think it's realistic. Income may prove better than I project and expenses might be less, but at very best, the 2009 deficit is going to be a big number. Frankly, with the crystal ball so foggy, I'm not prepared to say my figure won't possibly be even larger. I have big concerns about convention participation and renewals. We have true reserves of about \$425,000. That's certainly the good news. But that doesn't sound like a lot of money if we start depleting it to the tune of \$70,000 per year. Hopefully 2009 is an exceptional situation, but even when things turn around, I have a concern about our ability to ever again put money into reserves. Maintaining a rental office and an extra employee, I don't foresee expenses decreasing anytime soon. We need to proceed with caution."

Board Chairman Wayne Starr observed that dues revenue in 2008 did not cover even half of operating expense. Land of the Sky Chapter President Gary Kitchen inquired about the trend in membership numbers. Nash said the 188 we ended 2008 with is not the lowest number we've ever had (that was 181 reported in January 2006,) but noted NCMCA's largest number of renewals are due in March and April. "Renewals in the spring will tell the tale," he said.

Freddie McMahan presented a report on NCMCA health insurance and benefit programs, saying, "We currently have 9 groups in the NCMCA Association Health Plan with Trustmark and Harrington Health. These groups generate a premium of \$540,000 total, if they all stay on the books for one full year. This premium has decreased slightly.

"Now, a brief word about the administration difficulties we experienced with the buyout of Fiserv

Health now Harrington Health which is owned by United HealthCare. We feel that we have achieved about 85% to 90% of our goal to correct those problems. We have a very experienced and professional individual assigned to the NCMCA that has made a tremendous improvement in the claims administration. However, if you have problems, let us know.

"If you have any questions about the NCMCA plan or would like to have further discussion as to the problems, successes and outlook for the future, we can return to this subject after I report on the non-Association part of our health program.

"There are 12 groups (a loss of one) insured in the NCMCA that are not part of the NCMCA Association Health Plan making a total of 21 insured companies under the NCMCA umbrella. The majority of these groups are insured with BCBS and so far, since our last report, those groups have had very slight increases and a couple with decreased renewal rates. We have difficulty moving these groups to any other carriers because of the low or decreased renewal rates. In the majority of cases where the carriers we are quoting against have a large or a max-rated renewal rate increase, we can compete very well.

"The remaining covered groups within this group of 12 are insured with United HealthCare and Wellpath. The total premium for this block of business, if on the books for a full 12 months, will be about \$1.7 million. Four of these 12 groups account for 80% of that total premium."

John Cramer of TriSure, the NCMCA Insurance Advisor for Workers Comp and General Liability, was present to discuss the current state of the market for Workers Compensation and Liability insurance. Cramer says he felt confident that 2009 would be a relatively stable and flat market for masonry contractors without any significant increases or decreases in premiums. There are some indications that 2010 may be the beginning of a tightening market with masonry contractors feeling the first increases after five years of decreasing rates.

Cramer offered to the NCMCA that TriSure will gladly provide training and/or safety training the Association's members desire. Cramer and Tim Hayes are currently in the process of up-dating the Scaffold Safety Training Program. He said he would be contacting NCMCA members to come to their jobsites to take pictures.

Cramer offered to talk with any members about ideas or programs that are needed or desired that TriSure can provide.

President-Elect Mike Rogers led a discussion on apprenticeship and training, reporting that the annual NC SkillsUSA Masonry Contest is April 21 and 22 at the Greensboro Coliseum. Rogers noted the problems presented because the SkillsUSA Contest is the same week as the NCMCA Annual convention. He asked for volunteers, especially from among the

local chapters around Greensboro. He noted the extraordinary participation of the McGee Brothers at recent SkillsUSA competitions. Rogers reported Adams Oldcastle in Dunn would host the Annual NCMCA Masonry Apprentice Skills Contest on May 16th. Rogers expressed concern about the number of participants for the May 2009 contest, given the downturn in the economy.

Calvin Brodie is once again chairing the 56th Annual DOL State Fair Apprentice Masonry Contest October 19, 2009. He said only 18 participated in the 2008 contest and he expects a small number again in 2009.

President Manning led a discussion of his school masonry vocational training initiative. Manning sent an email to 107 of the state's masonry instructors inquiring about their respective programs and what assistance NCMCA might provide. Only 4 responses were received and all four said their programs are doing well. (Weatherly, Drye, Hartsell, Kidd) Doug Burton suggested other chapters follow the Raleigh Chapter's lead by holding a "school night" inviting instructors and students to a chapter meeting. CCMA's Paul LaVene suggested including administrators, based on interest he sees from school officials at the NC School Boards Conference in which NCMCA, CCMA and BIA participate. Kitchen added that Land of Sky Chapter members regularly visit schools and pay for meals when instructors attend meetings.

Nash said instructors are included on NCMCA mailing lists and he knew of several local chapters that include the instructors when meeting notices are sent.

In his safety committee report, John Cramer introduced Tom Hayes who told the board that North Carolina is adopting a new crane standard. There was a public hearing on January 15th and a new law is anticipated by April or May. This will require crane operators to be certified, including signalmen and riggers. Once adopted, there will be two years to get operators certified. There is a practical and written test that "is very tough." Skanska is currently demanding the certification now. Other large general contractors will be following. Hayes said there are very few, if any training courses presently available.

Certification Board of Governors Chairman Doug Burton reported on certification. Holcim (US) Inc. has provided a second \$5,000 grant to help underwrite the expense of the 2009-2010 class series. (They supplied a \$5,000 grant for the very first series of classes. Total contribution: \$10,000.) A certification information page has been added to the NCMCA.com website. Statistics: 300 individuals, 72 firms participating. 55 Certified Masonry Professional (CMP) certificates awarded, 26 Certified Masonry Executive (CME) certificates awarded, 12 Company Certifications awarded. Burton recognized the significant contribution made by McGee Brothers in donating the use of their classroom in Greensboro

for the 2007-2008 sessions. An effort is underway to recruit non-participating commercial masonry contractors to the 2009-2010 series of classes. There will probably be a gap of a few years before the classes are presented again after 2010. Thus, 2009-2010 represents an important opportunity for class credits. 2009 should see the beginning of systematic promotion of Certification to architects and specification writers. Work has begun on specification wording. The continuing education aspect of the program will begin in 2010. "Certified" hard-hat stickers will be available within the next couple of months.

Burton presented Danny Bowman with a framed certificate naming Bowman Masonry, Inc. as an NCMCA Certified Masonry Contractor.

In his convention report, Nash reported on future conventions: Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, April 23 – April 26, 2009; and The Sheraton, Atlantic Beach, NC April 29 to May 2, 2010. He is investigating mountain resorts in NC and Virginia for 2011.

With his central office report Nash reported that membership stands at 188 members. 3 new members have joined since September, one has been reinstated and 8 have been dropped. There are presently 78 associate members, 3 Life Members, and 107 contractor members. The Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Fund held \$17,033.61. 22 firms have stepped-up for optional "Distinguished" or "Leadership" membership status, a decrease of one.

The 2008 golf state golf tournament raised \$10,576.35 with half that amount credited to the Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Fund. David McQueen will again chair the 2009 tournament September 24th at Mill Creek Golf Club in Mebane.

Chapter Reports: Land of the Sky – President Gary Kitchen reported the chapter meets the third Tuesday of the month in Skyland and they have about \$600 in the bank. CEMEX hosted a Christmas Break-fast for members after the chapter determined to make a donation to Meal on Wheels instead of having a chapter Christmas Party. Meeting attendance is down but steady. The chapter recently recognized David Bass of CEMEX for his efforts on behalf of the chapter and the masonry industry. The chapter is preparing for their annual high school masonry competition coming up in the spring. Chapter members continue to make visiting high school masonry programs a priority.

Metrolina – President Chris Bruner says the chapter has seen a correlation between good programs and improved attendance and thus is making an increased effort to provide good programs for monthly meetings. He says the chapter has lost several good members due to changes in the status of member companies.

Triad - Chapter President Anthony McIver invited everyone to attend their chapter meeting later in the evening at "Maria's" in Burlington. Paul LaVene will be presenting a program on CCMA's Residential Masonry promotion. The Chapter has about \$6,300.

Western Carolina - Chapter President Larry Kirby said they meet the second Tuesday of the month at "Bennett's" in Conover except December and January. The chapter's annual winter party (was) Saturday evening January 10th. The entire expense of the dinner is being covered by the event's sponsors: Boral Brick Company, CEMEX, Johnson Concrete Company, RBD & Associates, Southeastern Concrete Products, and Statesville Brick Company. The chapter is retaining 2008 officers for 2009. Meeting attendance is "up and down" and they most al-ways have a good program.

Raleigh - Chapter Vice President Calvin Brodie reported they meet the first Monday of each month at the Peddler Steakhouse. No meetings are held in July and December. They have \$11,000 in the bank and have enjoyed programs including CCMA's residential promotion and a Clancy & Theys program about "CM at Risk." Calvin reported the chapter's annual Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament and "fun/fund" raiser is the weekend of January 17th.

Central Piedmont – President Ashlee Moore reported the chapter meets the second Monday of each month at "The Saratoga" in Advance. They are enjoying good programs and good participation, and are planning for their Annual Danny Koonts Memorial Golf Tournament in May. They have about \$7,000.

Eastern Carolina – Gary Manning reported the chapter has lots of money and he "just figured out why; we didn't pay our 2008 chapter office pledge," an oversight he says will be taken care of. He says participation at meetings is a challenge because the chapter's membership is spread over such a large area. Fund raisers are planned for the spring.

Doug Burton cited the reoccurring theme of good programs being important for good chapter meetings and suggested chapters share information about good programs with each other. He volun-

teered Frank Werner, sitting to his left, to present a program about the National Concrete Masonry Association to all the chapters, as he has done for the Raleigh Chapter. Nash reminded everyone the monthly Leaders' Bulletin publication is useful for sharing program information.

Old business: Nash told the board the Association hired Mary P. Benton as Assistant Association Executive Director in September. She is working approximately twenty hours per week and continues to train in all aspects of the Association.

Paul LaVene, Charles Newsome and Laurie Brackett (Princeton Marketing) provided an up-date on the CCMA Residential Masonry promotion, beginning by expressing their appreciation for NCMCA's \$20,000 contribution to the program in January 2008. Promotion has included several successful home show exhibits, houses entered in "Parade of Homes" events, extensive upgrades to the CCMA website, and training seminars. A number of builders are now specializing in masonry framed homes, and there are completed homes in all price ranges across the Carolinas. Despite the economy, several homes are ready to start. CCMA is working on a \$75,000 matching grant with the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) to do a research project featuring a "wired" house to collect data to statistically validate energy claims for masonry framed homes. Mr. Newsome encouraged the board to continue financial support of the program at the same level as 2008. The board approved a \$10,000 contribution for 2009. Newsome commented that North Carolina is the only place in the country where producers and contractors have banded together on such a program.

New business: Doug Burton said Association programs are more important than ever in slow times and that the issue should be less about cutting programs and expense and more about how



Winter Party The Western Carolina Chapter of NCMCA held their Annual Winter Party in January. Chapter Associate member firms picked up the entire cost of the evening. Left to right, Tommy Link, Boral Bricks; Dean Moore, Johnson Concrete Company; Chapter President Larry Kirby; C.E. Moser, CEMEX; Ray Love, CEMEX; Walt Cranford, Statesville Brick; Cameron Crooks, Statesville Brick; and Herman Hammer, Southeastern Concrete Products Company.

to increase revenue. He made several suggestions. Given that the Sigmon Memorial Scholarship has more than enough money to fund the program for the next several years, Burton recommend all proceeds from the State Golf Tournament go into the general fund in 2009 and until further notice. He suggested that chapters be asked to raise their annual office pledge from \$2,000 annually to \$3,000 annually, recognizing that the small chapters might not always be able to participate at that level. He also cited our reluctance to raise dues, noting how inexpensive NCMCA membership is for even the largest companies and offered to work on a proposal for raising the dues.

The board voted that state golf proceeds will go into the general fund until further notice.

A consensus was reached to request \$3,000 per year from each chapter until further notice.

On the dues issue, there was consensus that dues need to be raised as soon as possible, but not in 2009.

In closing, President Manning, noting Vice-President Danny Bowman's observation that 2009 marks the Association's 35th Anniversary, said he was only two years old when the Association began in 1974, and said, "Thirty-five years is a pretty big deal." He recalled a Greensboro planning meeting with Association leadership a number of years ago where there was a consensus that a half million dollars in the bank should be the goal of the Association. "I have inherited a pretty good program," he said.

He encouraged everyone to keep a positive attitude despite the challenges presented by the current economy.

President Manning set Thursday April 23, 2009 at Kingston Plantation as the date for the next board meeting.

New Directory

The 2009-2010 NCMCA Membership Directory will be distributed in August.

Like previous editions, the directory will include comprehensive listings for all member firms including company representatives, local and toll-free phone numbers, fax numbers, mobile numbers, email addresses, website addresses and mailing and shipping addresses. The Association bylaws are included as well as information about local chapter meetings and officers. A directory of NC masonry vocational instruction is included. The directory will be printed on high-quality stock for the best reproduction of photos and graphics, especially full-color advertisements.

Advertising order forms will be mailed by March. For details call the NCMCA office. **Deadline for advertising copy and listing updates is May 22, 2009.**

Your project or jobsite could make the cover of the 2009-2010 NCMCA membership Directory! Submit your NCMCA/masonry-related, professional quality, high-resolution photos for consideration as the cover for the 2009-2010 directory not later than April 1, 2009. Include details. "Portrait" orientation preferred. Final photo selection is solely at the discretion of the editor.

There is no better way for providers of masonry related products and services to get their message to the Carolinas' masonry industry.

Masonry Classified Ads

Sell your surplus equipment and materials on the classifieds page of NCMCA.com. It's free! Listings are for sixty days and can be renewed.

Member News

Past State President **Alan Griffin's** daughter Sarah was honored by Quaker Meadows Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution in recognition of her "good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism."

Chris Joyner, Joyner Masonry, was among several NCMCA contractors who participated in the recent CCMA Special Masonry Inspector workshop. Chris recently passed the exam and achieved the title of Special Masonry Inspector.

The Land of the Sky Chapter made a donation to the local "Meals-on-Wheels" instead of holding a Christmas Party this December. **CEMEX** hosted chapter members for a Christmas Breakfast December 6th.

Carl Moser, one of the Western Carolina Chapter's founding members and C.E.'s (CEMEX) Dad, is recuperating from a November bout of pneumonia.

NC DPI Glenn Barefoot, who coordinates NC SkillsUSA, is recovering from five-way heart bypass surgery during the Christmas season.

In September, NCMCA member firm **LMI Builders, Inc.**, a general contractor based in Lexington was recognized in The Business Journal's annual ranking of the Triad's 50 fastest-growing privately held companies of 2007. "It's hard to believe that we started out as three guys with a rented mixer, some scaffolding and a truck," said **Joe Williams**, LMI's President.

Mike Rogers, Michael J. Rogers Masonry, is the new chairman of the Transylvania County Public Schools Board of Education.

George Oscar Woolen, who was with **Pettit Construction Company** for thirty-five years, passed away January 14th. Mr. Wooten was 79, and lived in Spartanburg. Western Carolina Chapter Secretary-Treasurer **Ross Gary** says he was "one of the best superintendents I have ever known."

J.L. Rector, Sr., retired from **Griffin Contractors** after years of service as a masonry superintendent, passed away January 25th in Rutherford College. He was 76.

Congratulations to **Manning Masonry!** Founded in 1959 by **Darrell Manning**, 2009 year marks their Fiftieth Anniversary.

Mount Pleasant High School's Doug Drye, arguably one of the most successful masonry vocational teachers in the nation, retires at the end of this month. He will be missed and will leave big shoes to fill. He and his students have made the Nation SkillsUSA Masonry six times!

Johnson Concrete's Gene Graham popped the question to Susan on Christmas Day. She said yes!

Essroc's Gene King and wife Carol are celebrating the birth of their second grandchild.

Tracy Kiser is the new Vice-President of the Metrolina Chapter.

Congratulations to **Gates Construction Com-**



Photograph by C.E. Moser

Certification Board Chairman Wayne Starr (left) and Western Carolina Chapter President Larry Kirby (right) presented Beam Construction Company's Chad Day with his CME certificate at a recent Western Carolina Chapter meeting. The third series of NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification classes began February 27th, made possible in part by a grant from Holcim (US) Inc. McGee Brothers Company is donating classroom space at their Greensboro facility for the classes. Info: (828) 324-1564.

pany and Eulalio Hernandez. Eulalio finished in fourth-place as a third-year-apprentice in the MCAA International Skills Contest in Las Vegas at the World of Masonry.

Stanco Masonry, Inc. is the latest NCMCA firm to step up to the NCMCA "Leadership Member" category.

Dates to Note

3/14/09 SC SkillsUSA Masonry Contest, State Fairgrounds - Columbia
 3/20/09 Mod 2 "Basics of Masonry Materials" Certification Class, McGee Brothers – Greensboro
 3/23/09 Deadline for Room Reservations, NCMCA Convention, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
 4/3/09 Land of the Sky Chapter High School Skills Contest, Blue Ridge Community College – Hendersonville
 4/21-4/22/09 NC SkillsUSA State and Regional Masonry Contests, Coliseum - Greensboro
 4/23-4/26/09 NCMCA Convention, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
 4/23/09 Board of Directors Meeting, 3:00 PM, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
 4/23/09 TriSure "Welcome to the Beach" with Sam Bigby, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
 4/24/09 Adams Products Company presents Michael Schuller – Myrtle Beach
 4/24/09 McMahan Insurance "President's Reception" Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
 4/25/09 EZ Grout Convention Golf Tournament, Grande Dunes – Myrtle Beach
 4/25/09 CEMEX presents mentalist Robert Channing, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
 4/28/09 Mod 3 "Mortar & Grout Testing" Certification Class, McGee Brothers - Greensboro
 4/23-4/25/09 BIA Brick Show, Marriott – Marco Island, FL
 5/5-5/9/09 TMS Spring Meeting – Herndon, VA
 5/16/09 Annual Apprentice Masonry Skills Contest, Oldcastle Adams Products – Dunn
 6/21-6/26/09 SkillsUSA 45th Annual Skills Conference, Bartle Hall – Kansas City, MO
 7/16-7/19/09 CCMA Summer Meeting, Wild Dunes Resort – Isle of Palms, SC
 8/5-8/10/09 National Concrete Masonry Association Mid-Year Meetings – Chicago
 9/9/09 Metrolina Chapter Golf Tournament, Mooresville Golf Club - Mooresville
 9/24/09 17th Annual NCMCA State Golf Tournament, Mill Creek Golf Club - Mebane
 10/15-10/20/09 TMS Annual Meeting - Chicago
 1/15-1/17/10 11th Annual Raleigh Chapter Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament – Grand Strand, SC
 2/2-2/5/10 World of Masonry, (MCAA Convention) Las Vegas Convention Center
 4/29-5/2/10 NCMCA Convention, Sheraton – Atlantic Beach, NC
 5/14-5/19/10 TMS Spring Meeting – Orlando
 10/14-10/19/10 TMS Annual Meeting – Lake Tahoe, CA
 1/18-1/21/11 World of Masonry, (MCAA Convention) Las Vegas Convention Center
 6/3-6/5/11 TMS Spring Meeting -Minneapolis
 6/5-6/8/11 11th North American Masonry Conference – Minneapolis

Win Big Money!

Johnson Concrete Company's Steve Bell is chairing an NCMCA Reverse Raffle to benefit Association masonry promotional projects. Specifically, the raffle is in support of NCMCA's contribution to the CCMA Residential Masonry initiative.

100 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. In a reverse drawing at the convention banquet April 25th in Myrtle Beach, the last ticket will win \$5,000. Preliminary drawings will take place at various times during the course of the convention.

Steve's plan is for each chapter to take at least 10 tickets to sell. He will be making arrangements to distribute all the tickets before the end of the month. Please help Steve with sales and stub retrieval in the raffle project. Also, please be sure tickets that aren't being sold get redistributed to chapters that can get them to interested participants.

Our appreciation to Steve for handling this project!

Chapter Officers 2009

Eastern Carolina Chapter:

Tim Manning, President
 Watson Sutton, Vice President
 Misty Vick, Secretary-Treasurer

Sandhills Chapter:

Mike Lanier, President
 Jimmy Simmons, Vice President
 Penny Freeman, Secretary-Treasurer

Raleigh Chapter:

Ron Williams, President
 Calvin Brodie, Vice President
 Donnie Howard, Secretary
 David Bunn, Treasurer

Triad Chapter:

Anthony McIver, President
 Randall Cox, Vice President
 Gene King, Secretary
 Jay Wilson, Treasurer

Central Piedmont Chapter:

Ashelee Moore, President
 David Troutman, Vice President
 Sabrina Beck, Secretary
 Ricky Sutphin, Treasurer

Metrolina Chapter:

Chris Bruner, President
 Tracy Kiser, Vice President
 Mike Weaver, Secretary
 Terry Ward, Treasurer

Western Carolina Chapter:

Larry Kirby, President
 Phil Bracewell, III, Vice President
 Ross Gary, Secretary-Treasurer

Land of the Sky Chapter:

Gary Kitchen, President
 Steve Stout, Vice President
 Clay Wheeler, Secretary-Treasurer

"Convention" continued from front page:

engineering experience, specializing in structural behavior, evaluation and repair of masonry buildings through the world. He has conducted numerous research projects for federal agencies and private firms, including investigation of procedures for evaluation and repair of Cambodia's famous 12th century temple, Angkor Wat. Michael has over 55 publications relating to the structural behavior of concrete and masonry structures and is co-author of a book titled Nondestructive Evaluation and Testing of Masonry Structures. Schuller is one of the most popular instructors in the NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Class Series.

The Friday evening President's reception sponsored by McMahan Insurance & Employee Benefits and hosted by President Gary and First Lady Amy Manning is a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones.

Saturday morning is the Association Annual Business Meeting.

Your Convention features a special Saturday "Spouse Event" luncheon hosted by NCMCA First Lady Amy Manning.

Convention Golf Chairman Bill Brooks has arranged for an outstanding weekend of golf. The Annual NCMCA Convention Golf Tournament, sponsored by EZ Grout, is Saturday afternoon, featuring an EZ Grout Mud Hog MH-12 Mixer hole-in-one prize valued at \$6,000. Golfers should complete the separate golf registration form and include it with their NCMCA convention registration. Play golf at Myrtlewood Gold Club on Friday and Arcadian Shores Golf Club on Saturday.

Saturday night, you won't believe what you are seeing as CEMEX brings us banquet entertainment with world-known mentalist Robert Channing. Channing's E.S.P. show is amazing, riveting and clean - with a perfect blend of comedy. This dramatic yet up-beat program masterfully illustrates the strange and incredible mysteries of the mind.

Maximize the benefit of your investment in NCMCA! Participate in the 2009 North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association Annual Convention and Business Meeting!

Thanks Convention Sponsors!

CEMEX
 Oldcastle Adams Products
 TriSure Corporation
 Gates Construction Company
 McMahan Insurance
 EZ Grout
 Johnson Concrete Company
 Manning Masonry
 Tucker-Kirby Company

Post Office Box 3463
 Hickory, NC 28603-3463

This issue sponsored by:



Cool Golf The Raleigh Chapter held their 10th Annual Myrtle Beach Golf Tournament in January. Tournament Chairman Doug Burton (*left*) congratulates the winning team of (*left to right*) Gus Ward, Calvin Brodie, John McCartney and Hudson Smelcer. The three-day-tournament featured sub-freezing temperatures and 72 holes of golf at three premier Grand Strand Courses. The tournament was sponsored by Craig Davis Properties, Tarheel Commodities, and TriSure Inc.

The 2009 NCMCA Convention and Annual Business Meeting
April 23 to April 26, 2009
Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach

Deadline for room reservations Monday March 23, 2009
Phone (800) 876-0010 and request group code "NMA"

2009 NCMCA Skills Contest at Adams Products

NCMCA's best apprentice masons will gather at Adams Products Company's new facility in Dunn May 16th for the Annual NCMCA Apprentice Masonry Skills Contest.

Contestants will compete for cash and tool prizes and the "David R. Sigmon" award for top score.

Last year, Gates Construction Company took the top prize for the second year in a row as Eulalio Hernandez Diaz finished first, winning \$500, the Sigmon Award and a wheelbarrow full of tools.

Everyone who competes wins prizes.

Contest Chairman Larry Kirby says registration forms and letters requesting tool and cash donations for prizes will be mailed by early April.

Contestants must be sponsored by a contractor member of NCMCA, must supply his or her own tools, must have proper safety equipment, and must not have completed more than 6000 hours of training before the competition. Complete rules will be included with the registration blanks.

A \$50.00 entry fee is required per contestant.

Kirby expressed the Association's appreciation to Adams Products Oldcastle for hosting this year's event and extends an invitation for everyone to come enjoy the contest and the fellowship.